CHECKLIST OF ISLAMIC COINS

THIRD EDITION

STEPHEN ALBUM
INTRODUCTION

Collectors of Islamic coins have long bemoaned the lack of general literature on the subject. In particular, there has never been a general listing of Islamic coin types that could serve as a convenient guide to what exists, what is readily collectible, and what is rare. For that reason, it occurred to me back in 1992 to compile just such a listing, which could be made available to collectors and dealers at a nominal cost. In order to keep the cost to a minimum, the first edition (1993) was without illustrations, inexpensively printed from laser output, and held together by saddle-stitch binding. At first I had intended that the second edition (completed in 1997, published in 1998) would include photographs of perhaps 800-1000 coins, but after reconsideration, I decided to issue the second edition without photos and prepare a separate photo supplement that hopefully will be published within six months after the second edition of the text. In this manner I could limit the cost of the text volume, and allow those who wish to have the photo supplement to order it as a separate publication.

Alas, my intention to complete the photo volume quickly vanished. At the end of 1997 I left for Oxford, England, where I worked as a researcher and part-time lecturer at the Ashmolean Museum, associated with Oxford University, where I stayed until the middle of 2000, although I periodically came back to California to devote about two weeks each time to my coin business. Upon the conclusion of my Oxford sojourn I concentrated on the long process of resuscitating the business. Doug Nicol had left in 1999 to return to Pennsylvania and establish his own trade in genealogy. In 2001, Joseph Lang, then searching for a job in the numismatic trade, convinced me to hire him. His contribution proved so successful that in 2004 we reorganized the business as a joint partnership between us, as it remains to this day.

As these years rolled by, it seemed logical that I should abandon the idea of a photo supplement and commit my time to a third edition, complete with photos. Although my original intention was to complete the work in 2004 or 2005, postponement became the rule of law. Finally, early in 2008 I committed myself to finishing the job, hopefully by end of 2008, but delay after delay entered the picture. At last, I finalized the descriptive text on 27 July 2009, and hope to have the introduction finished within a few weeks and a PDF version (without photos) posted online in September. Most of the photos have been completed, but I will wait for about another nine months before the hardcover printed and illustrated edition will appear. As for the PDF version, it remains uncertain whether that might become available, and if so, when.

The first edition of this Checklist was intended as a convenient record of Islamic coin types, within the geometric and chronological criteria described below, together with a subjective estimation of the rarity of each type. This second edition added further information, including, for each dynasty or sub-dynasty, an indication of the most frequently encountered mints and subtypes, as well as general information on quality of strike and average preservation. Metrological data were generally not provided, except where deemed essential for the classification of types. Like the first edition, the second edition was intended especially for the beginner and the more advanced general collector, but not for the specialist, who needs detail far beyond what can be included in a synoptic guide. But for the general collector, the Checklist could serve as a basic framework from which he or she can construct parameters for assembling a collection. It should also constitute a useful reference for dealers.

For the third edition, I have greatly expanded the descriptive information for individual types and subtypes, aspiring to present more details that might help the reader identify their coins. When the printed illustrated volume becomes available, there will be more than 1000 illustrated coins. Fortunately, the internet is now providing thousands more photos, over 32,000 at www.zeno.ru.

The author and manager of that superb website, Vladimir Belyaev, has applied my appropriate Checklist number to most of the photos, and I am immensely thankful for his efforts.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This introduction has been kept as brief as possible, though I confess that it grows from one edition to the next, despite my promise otherwise. For information regarding how to read and decipher Islamic coins the work of Richard Plant is recommended (see the bibliography). However, Plant’s guide is only a beginning, and the potentially serious collector of Islamic coins should familiarize himself with the various calligraphic styles used over the centuries and should acquire at least a basic understanding of the Arabic language.

General historical information can be found in the works of Mitchiner, Album, and Broome cited in the first section of the bibliography. There is as yet no really adequate history of Islamic coinage and no prospect of this gap being filled in the near future.

Certain rather arbitrary decisions have been made in choosing what to include and what to exclude. Included are coinages from Morocco and Spain to Afghanistan and Xinjiang, from the beginning of Islam in the 7th century to the introduction of machine-struck coinage, which varies from region to region. Thus the coinage of Morocco extends to 1882, the Ottoman Empire to 1687 (when European style minting was implemented), Iran to 1878, the Caucasian khanates to 1826, Afghanistan to 1891, Yemen to 1905, and Central Asia to 1921. Coinage of India and Southeast Asia is included, save for a few Indian issues struck by included dynasties that briefly extended their power east of the Indus River (e.g., Ghaznavid, Afsahrid, Durran), and a few minor dynasties whose territories lay entirely to the east of the river in the Sind region of Pakistan (e.g., Habbarid and their contemporaries).

I have devoted a considerable amount of thought to the question of what constitutes a type. Different criteria have been used for the coinage in precious metal (gold and silver) and for the copper coinage. The two categories served different monetary purposes and were regarded juridically as distinct entities. For much of the earlier Islamic precious metal coinage, until the 11th century, most rulers issued only one principal “type” for silver coins and one for gold. These “types” can be defined more narrowly, if differences in inscription, layout and ornamentation are taken into account. Having introduced this concept in the 2nd edition, I’ve continued to expand it for this edition. Most of these types are numbered point-X, i.e., #219.1, 219.2, etc., for the silver dirhams of al-Rashid. This method enables the numismatist to identify a piece either by subtype (#219.2) of by generic type (#219). Later silver and gold coinage exhibits “types” in a more modern sense, defined either by designs, inscriptions, or metrological criteria. These criteria are more readily described in clear and concise language than are the subtypes of the pre-12th century material. Nonetheless, type distinctions are rather arbitrary, contingent on the interpretations of individual scholars. In many cases, my definitions of types have been based as much on accessibility to the relevant literature as on any inherent aspect of the coinage itself, especially for those series for which present literature is seriously obsolete.

The copper coinage (fulus) of the early period (Umayyad and ‘Abbasid) was essentially a civic coinage, with each mint producing its own sequence of types, though there were occasional attempts to regulate the copper on a regional basis. The ruler’s name is rarely cited, but names of local governors or finance directors frequently appear on the obverse. The mint’s name is listed here by mint. In general a single type number is assigned to each mint, irrespective of how many local “types” that mint might have produced. After the middle of the 3rd/9th century, copper disappears as a coinage medium in most of the Islamic world. When copper coinage reemerged, starting the late eleventh century, it was most often a regal coinage, on which the name of the ruler is usually given, without the names of local or subordinate officials. Thus most copper coins of the 11th-14th centuries.
century are listed under the issuing ruler. By the 15th century, anonymous civic copper coinage once again prevailed, especially in the eastern regions. For that reason, the later eastern coinage is listed as civic coinage by mint. An exception is the later western copper coinage, especially the Ottoman, which is listed by ruler, as determined by date or design, whether or not the ruler is named on the coin. Types of the central and western dynasties that cannot be assigned to a given ruler, for whatever reason, are noted as generic types at the end of the appropriate dynasty listings.

Rare and unusual types are sometimes omitted from this Checklist, especially donative and largesse issues. Some minor dynasties are left out, as are some petty rulers, rebels and governors in whose names coins were struck, especially from the 8th to 12th centuries. Moreover, not all types are mentioned for every rulers, especially multiple and fractional denominations. For the earlier dynasties, there are major subtypes defined by inscriptional content, but these are rarely distinguished in the listings. The roughly 5,000 listings could have been expanded to ten thousand or more. In many cases the choice to include or omit a type, or to conflate several “types” into a single entry, was made rather arbitrarily, reflecting more my mood at the moment than any fixed set of criteria.

For most dynasties, there exist no comprehensive catalogs, no general guides, no overview of what exists and what does not. As a result, many listings are tentative and will eventually have to be augmented or ameliorated. My intent here has been to produce an introductory Checklist as quickly as possible, yet at the same time making it as comprehensive and accurate as feasible under those constraints. Generally, I have erred on the side of inclusion, together with further details for identification.

as I hope that in future editions, numbering changes can be kept to an absolute minimum. As a frustrated user of many of the more common popular catalogs, whose numbering systems seem to change daily, I am altogether sympathetic with the plight of collectors and dealers condemned to renumber substantial portions of their collections every so often. Therefore, with minor exceptions, first edition numbers continue to be retained.

I have tried to include all common types, and hope that I have omitted none. For the 2nd and now the 3rd Edition I have endeavored to include a far greater representation of rare types than in the first, though numerous omissions remain. Omitted types may in general be considered very rare, though they are not necessarily high-priced. Unfortunately, some individuals will utilize the expression “not in the Album Checklist” as justification for a stiff price, an unwarranted hyperbole in all too many instances.

Some types may wrongly have been omitted, and some included types should perhaps be dropped from future editions. Comments and suggestions are always welcome, and I shall try to reply to them personally, so far as time and energy permit.

**Catalog Numbers**

The use of the catalog numbers by collectors, dealers, scholars, etc., is expressly permitted, for both personal and commercial use. Users are requested to refer to the catalog numbers as “Album numbers” or “A-numbers.” Rarities may be freely cited, but the author shall not be held accountable for any inaccuracy or for any dispute arising over the accuracy of rarity indications. Moreover, many of these rarity, or more accurately, availability factors will change over the course of time, as the result of changes in supply or demand.

For the second edition, more than 1600 additional types were added, and at least 1000 more types or subtypes have crept into this third edition. However, I have deemed it essential to retain the catalog numbers as used in the first edition, so as not to encumber the users of this Checklist with the burden of having to renumber their coins. Frustrated users of many popular catalogs are thoroughly disheartened by having to remember sections of their collection or stock. To minimize this exasperation, new type and subtype numbers have been assigned according to the following scheme:

1. Variants of previously listed types or types closely related to listed types have been given the number of the existing type plus a suffix letter, e.g., 1235A, 1235B, etc.
2. Completely new types have in general been given the number of the following listing plus a prefix letter, e.g., A1235, B1235, etc.
3. When an existing type has been divided into subtypes, the latter are indicated by “point” numbers, e.g., 1235.1, 1235.2, 1235.3. Point numbers allow the collector to decide whether to replace one coin to represent the general type or to seek examples of each subtype.

For this third edition, in a few cases it has been deemed necessary to change catalog numbers from the second edition. These changes are indicated by an asterisk (*) following the catalog number. I have tried my utmost to keep such alterations to a minimum.

In general, I have not included reference citations for individual types, especially those included either in the references given for individual dynasties, in the general references and museum catalogs noted at the end of this introduction, or in the collections of the American Numismatic Society, the British Museum and the University of Tübingen. Commencing with the second edition, for unusual types not covered by the above-mentioned references, I have tried to include at least one citation in a footnote, though not as consistently as I now wish I had. Should I ever do a fourth edition, I might consider expanding the references.

Because the new catalog numbers are alphanumeric rather than purely numeric, a numeric algorithm is needed in order to enable a computer to recognize the correct order of entries. Such an algorithm can be easily created, and a serviceable example is presented here. The following algorithm will effectively handle all catalog numbers of the second edition, and hopefully will require no modification for the anticipated third edition.

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 between 01 and 09. Thus A=01, B=02, C=03,...,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 as they are all 50 or greater. 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 there are letters both before AND after the number, contact me so that I can change the number in the Third Edition!

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 numbers 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, one should find this algorithm quite simple and easy to use. However, I would be grateful to hear of any problems encountered in its application. Until now I have only tried this algorithm on the Macintosh platform, using Microsoft Word, FileMaker Pro, Nisus and Excel, so far without any problems. I would assume it will work just as smoothly in Windows, though as a chauvinistic Mac addict I tend to feel sorry for those mired in a Windows environment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The idea for the first edition of the Checklist germinated as the result of a conversation, in which it occurred to me that I could use the hand list of the collection at the University of Tübingen, together with my thirty years of experience as both collector and dealer, as the basis of a general collector guide. Over the years, dozens of collectors, scholars, and dealers have helped me to improve my knowledge of Islamic coinage, especially novices, who always seem to ask the most challenging questions. To all these people, and to all those who have written about Islamic coins over the past two centuries, I owe a great debt of gratitude.

Since the publication of the first edition, I have received suggestions and corrections from many scholars and collectors. In particular, I wish to thank Gregory Cole and Michael Bates, both of New York, for their careful critical perusal of the first edition.

Special thanks are due to Jim Farr of Tallahassee, Florida, who has graciously accepted the thankless task of proofreading the second edition manuscript, and he located many errors and inconsistencies. There are bound to be many errors and stylistic inconsistencies remaining in the text, for which I alone am responsible.

And a special accolade to Dr. David Bivar, who back in 1964, when I was living in Tehran, took a few hours of his time to teach me the basics of Islamic numismatics! That’s where it all started.

Rarity & Value

Each listing is provided with an estimation of rarity, or more precisely, of availability, according to the following schema:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rarity Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Abundant; Readily available, often in wholesale quantities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Common; Almost always available, but only occasionally in quantity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Scarce; Usually available without long delay, hardly ever in quantity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Rare; Demand outstrips supply, and specimens, when available, are often eagerly sought.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Very rare; Seldom available. Collectors may have to wait years to locate one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>Extremely rare; Almost never available. Few collectors will ever have the chance to acquire these pieces.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In some cases, variants described in the notes to a given type are followed by their rarity in parentheses.

These rarities are somewhat subjective. What is rare for one series may be considered rather common for another, due to the vagaries of collector interest and patterns of supply. In general, poorly researched and sketchily published series are less avidly followed by their rarity in parentheses. Certain regions, such as the Arabian peninsula, Spain and Palestine, have gained a larger following, and are thus relatively “rarer” than others of which a comparable quantity are known to exist.

In a few cases, the availability indicator is followed by a question mark (?), indicating that I have been unable to determine the present rarity of the type, usually because supplies of indefinite size are known to have entered the market, even if not readily accessible. Types marked with *** are known to exist in quantity, usually in museum collections, but have not become available in the market.

How does rarity translate into price? There is no hard and fixed rule, for there are too many determinants factors. In general, average grade coins—and “average” varies widely from one series to the next—are available (silver & copper) as follows: A (under $30), C (from $10-$75), S (from $15-$200), R (from $30-400+), RR (from $75-600+), and RRR (very variable, for coins in attractive condition almost always $100+, often $1000+, occasionally $10,000 or more, sometimes a lot more).

For gold coins, the first two classes can generally be acquired for no more than $75-$500 for average coins, rarer items for somewhat more to very much more. The prices of common gold coins have become increasingly volatile, affected by the gold bullion price, which has soared from about $300 to around $1200 per ounce over the past several years, plunging to a pittance of $256/oz in April 2001 and skyrocketing to a dizzy $1217/oz on 1 December 2009, having settled at $1120/oz as I rewrite this paragraph (20 December 2009, but about $1650/oz in October 2011). Assuming the Umayyad and early ‘Abbasid dinars are pure gold — 98-99% purity is normal — the “melt” value would have increased from a miserly $35 to $166, settling at $152 today (now up to $168 on 19 August 2010, with a standard Indian mohur at $430 melt). Back in 2001, nice very fine common date ‘Abbasid dinars sold for about $150, more than four times bullion, whereas nowadays, the retail price ranges between $200 and $300, often cheaper at auctions, less than twice its bullion value. Because this is an extremely speculative margin, the retail price should increase to at least $300 or twice melt, unless, of course, the spot price of gold retreads to well below $1000/oz, which seems to be unlikely, now that the recovery from the Great Recession will proceed slowly for many years.

The spot price of silver has also quadrupled since 2001, from a paltry $4/oz to over $17/oz, briefly surpassing $20/oz in March 2008 and again in early 2010, then briefly reaching $48/oz in early 2011, finally settling at around $32/oz (October 2011). Since both wholesale and retail prices of ordinary Islamic dirhams have traditionally averaged at least tenfold the melt value, the stunning spot price increase has not destabilized their market values, as for gold. The principal exceptions are common large silver coins, such as the Moghul Indian rupees, with an average melt value now exceeding $6.

The record price for an Islamic coin was reached in Zürich in 1989 for a post-reform Umayyad dinar of the year 77, about $400,000 (about $700,000 in 2011 dollars), though subsequent sales records for that coin have been substantially less, most recently (Morton & Eden auction, March 2006) less than $250,000 for a complete set of dirhams dated 77 through 132, in effect less than $175,000 for the year 77. Furthermore, the collecting of Islamic coins is still in its infancy. New finds are constantly coming onto the market, with the result that rarities and prices must often be downgraded, though the greater availability of a previously unobtainable type often acts as a market stimulus for other related types, thus effectively heightening the overall prices of the series.

To gain a feeling for current prices, the collector must study fixed price lists and auction sale catalogs. Serious collectors are advised to keep a record of prices in their areas of interest, keying sale and offer prices to Checklist numbers, and if desired, also to specific mints, dates and subtypes. Unlike heavily traded series in ancient and modern coins, Islamic coins have little track record. Prior to about 1970, Islamic coins were only rarely individually listed by dealers, save for some gold, pictorials and other well-known rarities, but were more often just cursorily described in bulk lots. Since then, prices have shown wide fluctuations and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Moreover, the entrance or departure of one or several active collectors can seriously alter the prices. There is old joke: Two known, three

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2 More recently, a dinar of Ma’din Amir al-Mu’minin 91 (type #127K) sold for about $450,000 (where?), but despite the relatively low inflation between 1989 and 1999 this is in real terms less than the 1989 price of $400,000.
collectors, you have a winner; but three known, two collectors, throw one in the river.

Until recently, printed catalogs and handwritten notes were the sole sources of pricing information. This has been radically altered by the growth of the internet. Most of the major auction houses now post the prices realized online for everyone to view, normally filed in an archival section of the company’s website. Furthermore, there are two new general websites that each provide prices realized for hundreds of auctions. The first of these is www.sixbid.com, which not only features the results of past auctions, but posts current and forthcoming auctions and provides a convenient means of bidding in many current sales. Previous sales are held for about a year, but links are provided to each of the contributing auction houses. Access to Sixbid is free. The second is www.coinarchives.com, which has posted the descriptions, photos and prices realized of more than 750,000 coins (as of December 2009), including tens of thousands of Islamic coins offered at auction since 2001. The free version of Coinarchives offers to the public the results of auctions that took place during the previous six months. The subscription version, www.pro.coinarchives.com, provides all records since 2001.1

There are also many specialized websites that list and illustrate private collections and general reference, usually without prices or indications of rarity.

In this Checklist, the rarity indications refer to the type, not to individual mints, dates, or variants within the type (unless otherwise specified). In some series, such as the Umayyad caliphate and the Ottoman Empire, both with a long history of collecting interest, the difference in value between a common mint/date and a rare one is enormous, up to 100-fold or even more. For the Umayyad dynasty, common Wasit and Dimashq dirhams in decent condition sell for $20-$60 and extremely rare mints continue to fetch $10,000 or more (reckoned in 2009 & later). Even extremely rare dates of Wasit or Dimashq can realize far more, over $1000 for either mint dated 132. In most cases, however, the differences are very much less, particularly among more obscure series that are little collected in depth, where “rare” mints have a small premium and “rare” dates little if any.

Collectors should structure their interest in a direction that will avoid chasing the impossible. In general, most coins up to rarity R can be found with relatively little trouble within a reasonable lapse of time, though the fickle nature of hoards means that certain types might be virtually unobtainable for several years, then suddenly abound for a brief duration. Collectors seeking coins listed as RR and RRR must be prepared to wait and search, and should reckon on the frequent disappointment of missing out at auction or failing utterly to find an example for their collection. For coins of rarity R or higher, collectors should assume that they will probably have to accept coins in whatever grade is available or do without, or at least to pay whatever the price might be. Collectors driven by artistic esthetics who search solely for the finest quality and the highest grade must understand that such “perfect” specimens rarely exist. There are some exceptions, e.g., Umayyad dirhams of Wasit and Dimashq, Ilkhan coins of Abu Sa’id, Fatimid dinars of al-Mustansir, etc., but for most other series, perfectly struck examples either do not exist or are phenomenally expensive. I have never seen a well-struck silver or silver coin of the Fatimid al-Mustansir, whereas beautifully preserved dinars are relatively common.

HOARDS

Old coins are normally discovered either as signal finds or as part of a large group, known as a hoard, which can vary from just a few pieces to many thousand. One of the most massive hoard was composed of over 30,000 multiple dirhams of the Samanids, Ghaznavids and Banijurids, found somewhere in Afghanistan in 1967, with a total weight exceeding 200 kilograms (420 pounds).

The multiple dirhams were extremely rare prior to the hoard, with most known specimens in Russian and Scandinavian museums. An immense hoard of Tabaristān hemidrachms, allegedly more than 100,000 specimens, was discovered in northern Iran in the early 1960s. I had the privilege of seeing the immense hoard of more than 37,000 Sasanian drachms in the Tehran market in 1965, stuffed into piles of cigar boxes, each containing 500-800 pieces, known as “year 12” because the latest coins in the hoard were of regnal year 12 of Khusro II.

Since I began collecting Islamic coins in the 1960s I have seen hundreds of hoards. Prior to the early 1980s, hoards were usually marketed intact, largely because even the greatest rarities were incredibly inexpensive, with silver and copper coins almost never costing more than a few dollars. Thus there was little reason for a dealer to sort out the rare from the common. By the end of the 1990s, complete hoards were almost never marketed as such. The distributors selected the items they perceived as most profitable and either sold them to the dealers who might pay the highest price, or consigned them to principal auctions, mainly in England and Germany. The remainder were then sold to secondary dealers or promotional salesmen, often very attractively priced, as the principal profit was extracted from the rarities.

It is clear that newly discovered hoards can drastically reduce rarity once they appear in the popular market. They often provide types or variants that were previously unknown.

All too often, new hoards are marketed rather insidiously. For example, at first one or two specimens might be consigned to auction, in hopes that bidders would be unaware of the size of the hoard and would thus assume that the consigned items were still of great rarity. For example, in the early 1990s a large hoard of Ilkhan gold dinars was discovered, terminating with specimen of Ghazan Mahmud dated 696. A dinar of his immediate predecessor, the short-reign Baydu, was auctioned in Switzerland, fetching a sizzling bid of $8000, with a second specimen auctioned shortly thereafter, sold at about $5000. Then small groups were offered to many dealers throughout the world, at prices between $500 and $1000 each. It gradually became apparent that there was a very large hoard containing an unknown quantity of dinars of Baydu. Eventually, the retail price collapsed to about $250, though recently, largely due to the spectacular rise in the gold price (about $1378 as I write this paragraph), they now bring about $400-500. In my opinion, this hoard was deceitfully marketed. Had the size and contents of the hoard and been honestly publicized, the price would never have fallen below $500-600.

As I write this section (October 2010), a number of superb Rum Seljuk gold dinars have popped up in auctions, at first fetching over $10,000, falling to $4600 (plus buyer’s fee) by September 2010. The rumor spread that there were dozens of these coins in a new hoard, and most recently I was informed that there were at least 300 pieces, mostly Konya 648 of the Three Brothers (type #A1227, formerly RRR).

Another former rarity now increasingly common is the dinar of the Bavandid ruler Mardawij (#1530), especially of the mint of Mah-al-Basra dated 322. Although first sold at over $2000, coins of this mint & date are now virtually unsalable. My current estimate is that there are at least 150-200 in the hoard, but nobody knows just how many. And there are many more hoards that have been equally immorally marketed.

METALS

Nearly all pre-modern Islamic coins were struck in the three traditional metals, as inherited from the Roman and Sasanian Empires: gold, silver and copper, together with a few additional but infrequently used alternatives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AV Gold</th>
<th>This refers normally to fine gold, usually 90% or better. Lighter gold is known as pale gold, which is noted in the description. The term “electrum” is not used here as a description.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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Although early Islamic coinage was relatively pure (90-99%), by the 4th/10rh century, silver was often debased, especially during the years 350-620 / 960-1225.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Often debased, normally 20-40% fine. The symbol “AR” is used for silver coins roughly 40% or better. Billon jitals are usually much less than 20% fine.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BI</td>
<td>Billon</td>
<td>Used only by a few relatively late series, such as the coins of Harar in Ethiopia (not abbreviated).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AE</td>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>Refers to both relatively pure copper and copper mixed with other base metals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brass</td>
<td>Brass</td>
<td>Used only by a few relatively late series, such as the coins of Harar in Ethiopia (not abbreviated).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin</td>
<td>Tin</td>
<td>For pre-modern Islamic coins used only in Southeast Asia, thus not included here.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PB</td>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Occasionally found for medieval Islamic coins, mainly in Bahrain &amp; the Sijistan region.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>Used in Egypt for items that are traditionally classified as weights but are now believed to have also been used as jetons from the Fatimid to Mamluk periods.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are many other metals used on later modern coins, such as aluminum, copper-nickel, pure nickel, etc., but these do not occur on any coins listed here.

There are often wide differences within a single series. For example, some of the Qarakhanid dirhams began as very pure silver, then rather quickly sank to billon and eventually to pure copper, usually within just a few decades. Because there has only been limited investigation of gold and silver fineness for most dynasties, the use of AR, BI, and AE is often rather theoretical. Some types, especially AR and BI, include a rather wide fineness variation, and may need to be reinterpreted in the future. For that reason, type definitions are based on the author’s preference (and knowledge!), and on the manner in which collectors are inclined to classify them. Understandably, no two collectors or scholars would ever agree completely on the criteria for determining which variants constitute distinct types, versus which are merely unimportant variants of a single type.

Types can in fact be distinguished by quite a range of different criteria. For example, they may differ by the citation of caliphs, overlords, governors or other subordinate officials, as well as heirs to the throne. They can vary in the arrangement of portions of the inscription or in the selection of titles for a particular ruler. For later coins, after roughly 550/1150, types commonly vary by the enclosing cartouche around all or a portion of the coin inscriptions on obverse, reverse, or both. They often differ by weight standards, which were commonly reduced (very rarely increased![](https://www.stephenalbum.com/checklist/page12.html)) during the course of a ruler’s reign. The issuance of multiple denominations became increasingly common during the later period, blossoming only after the adoption of modern machine struck coinage not treated in this work. Some coins bear pictorial or geometric designs, which also changed during a reign—this is especially true for the non-dynastic Iranian civic coppers. To include every variation, no matter how minor, the number of “types” would surpass perhaps 50,000 or 100,000, far too unwieldy a number for a book intended for general use. Thus I have had to be selective in my application of these and other criteria. While some collectors will accept my idiosyncratic classification, others will disagree vehemently. Since I cannot please everyone, I have chosen first and foremost to best please myself. However, I remain open to suggestions and criticisms for future editions of this Checklist. Indeed, most emendations between the first and second editions have been in response to suggestions from others.

**CONDITION**

With very few exceptions, all coins covered in this catalog were struck by hand, from hand-engraved dies on handmade planchets. Standards of quality control varied enormously from place to place and from time to time. Surprisingly, the early Islamic silver and gold coins, from the first issues in the AD650s to the middle of the 9th century, are generally the most carefully manufactured of all, only matched after the adoption of European milling machinery, starting about 1690 in Istanbul. After the ninth century, quality control deteriorated in most regions, though frequent, almost invariably short-lived, production improvements were undertaken in various parts of the Islamic world from time to time. Perhaps the best example would be the Murabitun and Muwahhidun gold coinage (and to a lesser extent, also silver) from 450-668 / 1057-1269.

Most coins struck from about 235/850 to the end of the era encompassed by this catalog will show varying degrees of weakness of strike, irregularity of flan, and general unevenness of quality. For most dynasties I have tried to give some indication of the level of quality the collector can expect for each metal. This is merely a general indication, for in most cases, actual production quality can vary considerably from mint to mint and from year to year. Dealer lists, such as my own, do give some general information on this subject. However, for the vast majority of types listed here fully struck coins are seldom if ever available. For some series, such as the Ildezizids or the later Seljuqs of Kirman, coins with 50% of more flatness are the norm. In general, gold coins were struck most carefully, silver rather less so, billon and copper quite haphazardly.

There is also a wide range of variation in how coins have been preserved. A large proportion of Islamic gold coins saw little actual circulation and are thus with relatively little wear and damage since they were struck. Silver in many periods saw widespread circulation, depending, however, on the nature of the coinage and the economic necessities. In those cases where the silver coinage was frequently recalled and recoined, the coins had little opportunity to wear down in circulation. On the other hand, coins that remained currency for many decades, as in the case of the Mamluk kingdom, are commonly found heavily worn. This is not surprising, given that 14th century Mamluk silver hoards frequently contain coins over 100 years old.

Many extant Islamic coins from all periods and regions have survived because they have been used as jewelry or ornament. This fate is readily identified, as they are either holed, looped, or show other traces of having been mounted. The more attractive the coin, the more likely it is to have been chosen for jewelry or other decorative purposes. Special coins made for presentation or largesse were especially favored for decoration. Many, such as the late 13th century Safavids, are almost never found unmounted. Collectors should avoid the temptation to reject an otherwise attractive coin just because it has been pierced or mounted.

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4 Jitals struck in eastern regions and in India circa 1050-1300 are categorized as copper, but frequently contain small quantities of silver as required by current monetary regulations. For two alternative interpretations of this phenomenon, see John Deyell, *Living without Silver*, and Robert Tye, *Jitals*. Some jitals also include significant proportions of other metals, such as lead or antimony.

6 Although the insertion of an adverb between "to" and the verb in an infinitive construction is traditionally regarded as grammatically incorrect, modern usage increasingly accepts this aberration. As a vehement believer in the concept of linguistic evolution, I am inclined to adopt modern usages, even when technically incorrect.

7 A major exception to this rule is the jital, which despite its relatively minimal monetary value was ordinarily quite carefully manufactured, far more carefully than contemporary silver or gold amongst the Khwarizm-shahs, Ghurids and Mongols, the principal western issue of jitals.

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 5
After a short time (circa 85/704) the standard was adjusted to 7/10 of the obnoxious disregard for the intellectual pleasure of collecting. Personally, I find the very concept utterly disgusting, as an Islamic coinage medium throughout the Islamic world, replaced by such alternatives as broken pieces of fine silver coins, and later, at the end of the 10th century, by low-grade bilion coins, containing between about 2% to more than 25% silver.

Regional differences continued to grow. By the 12th century, there was no longer any resemblance among the various coinages within the lands of Islam. Increasing numbers of new denominational names came into existence. The use of fractional and multiple denominations, especially in silver, became more common. New standards of weight and alloy were promulgated and were frequently changed for reasons of monetary policy or financial necessity. Each kingdom and empire created its own coinage standards or emulated those of neighbors with whatever emendations were felt advantageous. Nor was it necessary to maintain a single standard throughout a kingdom, especially in the eastern Islamic lands. Conquerors frequently retained the local monetary standards in whichever regions they acquired. Sometimes gold and silver coinage adhered to an accurate weight standard (al marco), other times to no standard at all (al pezzo).

DENOMINATIONS

Coin denominations were rarely indicated on the coins themselves prior to the 19th century, with a few exceptions described below. Many of the names given to particular coins are purely conventional, assigned by modern numismatists seeking a convenient label with which coins could be readily discussed without confusion. In fact, we usually do not know what coins were actually called prior to the expansion of European trade into the Islamic world in the 16th century. Only thereafter are the names of the coins known with some reliability, largely based on reports written by western traders and travelers, though popular names and official names often remain irreconcilable, as was frequently the case in contemporary Europe.9

The names of denominations given here represent those most in vogue among current numismatists and may bear little relationship to the nomenclature of the time. Coinage prior to about 700/1300 is generally known under the generic names of dinar, dirham, and fals, irrespective of actual weights, which could vary not just from one region or time to another, but within a single issue of the same mint and date. After about 1300, a wide variety of denominational names came into use. Whenever those names are known, they have been indicated in the listings here.

Many older publications present weights in English grains. These can be converted easily to grams: one gram = 15.432 grains; one grain = 0.0648 grams.

In the early Islamic period, at least through the fourth century Hijri, the three principal denominational names were fals (from Latin follis) for the copper coin, dirham (from Greek drachm) for the silver coin, and dinar (from Latin denarius aureus) for the silver standard, or 2.97g. The process whereby this occurred is imperfectly understood.

1 A poignant example is the modern Iranian rial. The term rial was never used in the colloquial, where it was called either bazar or qiran. Ten rials is one toman, and all sums of 10 or more rials are reckoned in toman. Only in the banking and financial industries is the term rial commonly used. Similarly, in the United States the one-cent coin is almost always called a penny, despite the 1792 regulation that technically forbade the use of that term: it should only be called a cent.
gold coin. On occasion, fractions or multiples of these denominations were also struck. From the late 3rd-9th century onwards, in many areas the denominations referred not to actual coins but to a unit of account corresponding to a fixed weight of metal; actual coins were weighed and valued in terms of the unit of account. A great deal of confusion has arisen from the fact that in histories and documents both the coins and the account unit were often designated by the same terminology.

During the first seven centuries of Islam, dinars and especially dirhams were commonly known by an attributive name, e.g., muqaffari dirham. These names referred often to the name or title of the issuing ruler (in this example, a ruler with the title muqaffar al-din), or to some other descriptive ideology. These attributive names very rarely appear on the coins, but are often known from contemporary documents and later historical texts. The main exception is a relatively small group of late Qarakhanid, Khwarizmshah, and Great Mongol coins, chiefly their broad dinar.

In later times, many additional terms came into use, which are briefly described below. The following list is undoubtedly incomplete and does not include a plethora of terms used for minted and machine-struck coins outside the scope of this catalog. Also omitted are attributive names applied principally to the dinar, dirham, and fals. Many, if not most of these, are included in the 1879-1882 work of Sauvare, noted in the bibliographic section of this introduction.

In the following definitions, I have use AH and AD dates when referring to specific dates. AD only when referring to centuries.

Abbasi — A Safavid coin equal to four shahis (200 dinars), introduced in 996/1587 and named for the current ruler, Shah Abbas I. It became the principal Iranian silver denomination for almost 200 years.

Adil — A name for a copper coin in the 14th–16th centuries, from the Arabic word ‘adil, ‘justice’.

Ashrafi — A gold coin introduced by the Mamluk ruler Al-Ashraf Barsbay in 996/1587 and named for the current ruler, Shah Abbas I. It became the principal Iranian silver denomination for almost 200 years.

Altın — A Turkish name for the golden coin, originally a silver coin, often with a light gold coating. The Mongols introduced a silver dinar into Iran, at first as a unit of account, then from 698/1299 onwards, as a silver coin, initially weighing about 12.97g, though its weight gradually fell to Tabriz to about 0.54g by the end of the following century. The dinar has remained a unit of account in Iran ever since, though its value has become infinitesimal in recent decades.

Asper — See Azadi.

Azadi — The modern gold coin of the Islamic Republic of Iran, retaining the standard copper denomination in most of the Islamic world from earliest times.

Beşik — A Turkish term meaning a “piece of five”, used for a silver coin of 5 akçes in the 17th century (including the Giray Khans), 5 para in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Bisti — From the Persian basti for “twenty”, a Persian coin fixed at 20 dinars, originally a small silver coin struck occasionally in the 16th and 17th centuries, later a relatively large copper denomination.

Bunduqi — A gold coin of the Afawi Sharifs of Morocco equivalent in weight and fineness to the Venetian ducat, though occasionally struck at a lower weight (bunduq = Venice, cf. German Venedig).

Fals — The Arabic name for the Byzantine copper follis, it became the standard copper denomination in most of the Islamic world from earliest times. Its weight varies considerably, from less than a gram to as much as ten grams or more. In modern Arabic it is usually pronounced fis. Its plural, fulus, is a generic term for “money”. The term also means “fish scale” and was applied originally to coins of small size.

Fals — From the Arabic plural fulus of fals, used as both a denomination and as a generic term for any copper coin in Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia from the 16th century onwards. The Arabic plural fals also has the generic connotation of “money”.

Recent analysis of surviving Umayyad and ‘Abbasid dirhams in superb condition suggests that from the late 800s/1400s until at least 100 years later, the theoretical weight of the dirham was about 2.94g rather than 2.97g, thus somewhat lighter than 7 tenths of the well authenticated 4.25/4.26g weight of the Umayyad reform dirham. Further research necessary.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 7
Gümüsh — Turkish for “silver”, used for various paras and other small silver coins of the 10th to 12th century.

Kran — see Harf.

Kabir — Arabic for “large”, a Yemeni denomination of the 17th century.

Hemidrachm — “Half drachm”, used for the standard silver denomination of the Byzantine Empire.

Manat — The Azeri and Uzbek Turkish word for “coin” or “money”, from the Latin moneta.

Merti — A term used for various coins of the 10th to 12th century.

Hemidrachm — “Half drachm”, used for the standard silver denomination of early Tabaristan. It is more likely that the coin was known as a tabari dirham, known from contemporary sources as a “dirham of five”, i.e., weighing five tenths of the Sasanian dirham (i.e., drachm).

Jendag (Jendak) — A term meaning “fish scale”, applied to some rare 1/6 rupee coins in the 19th century Afghanistan because of their small size.

Jital (Arabic جَيْتَلْ) — The name of a small denomination, used mainly in India and what is now Afghanistan, ultimately derived from the silver dramma of the Shahi kings of Kabul, whose name was in turn derived from the Greek δραχμή. By the 11th century it was essentially billion, often pure base metal or nearly so. The denominational name actually appears on a few rare types (e.g., Tye 353, 358).

Kabir — Arabic for “large”, a Yemeni denomination of the 17th to 19th centuries of uncertain and apparently changeable weight.

Keshvarsetan — A gold denomination used in the last five years of the reign of Fath ‘Ali Shah (1797-1807), derived from a title granted to Fath ‘Ali several years earlier in AH1240. The term means “world conqueror”, which Fath ‘Ali was not!

Kran — see Harf.

Kharruba — Name of the carob seed, formally a weight equal to 1/24 of a mithqal. Coins of this weight and denomination were struck by the Fatimids in Sicily. The term was revived in the 18th & 19th centuries for billion & copper coins struck in Ottoman Algeria & Tunisia.

Khum (or Khamsiya) — A Yemeni denomination theoretically equivalent to one-fifth of a qafila, but in fact varying in weight (khums = “fifth”). Contemporary documents also use the term khumsiya rather than khums, and sometimes the term is said to have been khums kahin (big fifth). Also the name of a rare gold coin of the Alawi Sharifs of Morocco (usually pronounced khamsiyy in the Moroccan dialect).

Larin — A trade coin used in 16th to 18th century Iran, in 18th to 19th century Arabia, and intermittently on the western coast of India and in Brazil.

Mameluks (or Muhammadi) — A Safavid silver coin equal to two shahis, derived from the name of Muhammad Khudabanda, the Safavid ruler, and apparently conflated with the somewhat akin Gujarati denomination (mamnudi), from a local sultan named Mahmud.

Manat — The Azeri and Uzbek Turkish word for “coin” or “money”, from the Latin moneta, applied to the Rubles struck at Khwarizm during the 16th century. It later became a standard term in Xinjiang/Angor for the silver coins of the 10th to 12th century. It is now used as the currency of the peoples of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

Mangr (mangyr) — A term used in the Ottoman empire for a small denomination of copper coinage. The term derived from a Mongolian word meaning “red money”, used to describe Chinese coins that were current in medieval Mongolia.

Maydin (maydin) — A silver coin of the Ottoman empire (16th to 18th century), ultimately derived from the reignal title of the Manuk ruler al-Mu’ayyad Shaykh. The term is found with vastly differing spellings in contemporary European and Ottoman documents.

Miri — A term used under the Timurids and their immediate successors in Transoxiana, probably referring to a current accounting denomination.

Mithqal — Moroccan spelling of mithqal, briefly struck by the ‘Alawish Sharif Muhammad III as a heavy silver coin equivalent to ten dirhams, weighing about 29.3g and intended to compete with the Spanish-American ocho reales, a commonly used silver coin in Morocco, but profitable to Spain.

Muhar — From Persian mahur, meaning “stamp”, used in India from the 16th century for a gold coin of about 11 grams, where it was struck until 1949. Following Nadir Shah’s conquest of Delhi in 1737, it was introduced into Iran for several decades, and into Afghanistan until the mid-19th century.

Mumaddi — See muhammadi.

Muzuna — A Moroccan denomination for silver coins equal to 1/4 of a dirham in the 18th-19th century. It was used for some machine-struck copper coins beginning in AH1306.

Nim Mithqal — See mithqal.

Nim Tanka — “Half tanka”, found as a denomination on some rare coins of the Shaybanid ruler, Muhammad (#2979).

Nafir — Arabic for “half”, used occasionally for coins of various metals. The term is actually inscribed on Umayyad half dirhams and on some Mamluk half dirhams, later on some copper coins of Akbar in India.

Nuqra — An alternate name for the “black dirham” (dirham aswad) of the Ayyubids in Egypt, but later, during the Mamluk period in Egypt, it may have referred to a high-silver dirham of 1/8 silver.

Onluk — A Turkish term meaning a “piece of ten”, used for a silver coin of 10 akes in the 15th to 17th centuries and later for a coin of 10 paras.

Pahlavi — The name of a modern Iranian gold coin, struck from SH1305/1926 until the fall of the Pahlavi dynasty in 1357/1979. Since SH1310/1931 its weight and fineness have been identical to the British sovereign.

Panahabadi — The local term for the abbasid of the Khanate of Karakhan.

Panjshahi — Literally, “five shahi”, a Safavid denomination used from time to time in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Pashiz — A small copper coin of the Safavids, whose production continued into the 19th century.

Piastre — see qirsh.

Pul — From the Turkish, originally a generic term applied to any copper coin in Russia and Central Asia from about the 13th century onwards. In Iran, it was used for a silver coin fixed at half a shahi, i.e., 25 dinars, during the 16th and 17th centuries. The term remains in use in Iran, but may be spelled as aqsh.

Qafila — Not a denomination per se, but the Yemeni name for the standard dirham weight, theoretically 2.97g but sometimes slightly heavier or lighter. Medieval and early modern Yemeni denominations are described in contemporary accounts as fractions or multiples of the qafila. In the 20th century its weight became 1/10 of a Maria Theresa thaler, which would be approximately 2.81g.

Qaz — A Persian copper denomination equivalent to five dinars of account, used from the 16th to the 17th century and occasionally found inscribed on the coins (qaz or ghuz) of Iran and Afghanistan.

Qazbegi — A Persian copper denomination equal to five dinars of account; equivalent to 5 qaz.

Qiran (Kiran) — An Iranian silver denomination first struck in 1240/1824-1825, derived from the title sahebqeran (sahebqiran), introduced in that year by the current ruler, Fath ‘Ali Shah. It is often spelled kiran in European languages, and was thus adopted on late 19th and early 20th century Iranian postage stamps, locally printed in Iran. The term has been preserved in modern Iran as an alternative name for the rial.

Qursh (Qirsh, Ghirsh, Kuruş) — The name of a small denomination, used mainly in Portugal and Spain for silver coins, later for base metal coins, and still used in Turkey and several Arab states. The term is derived from the German term Groschen. It also has several other spellings such as piaster, or piastre, derived from an Italian word meaning “a flat metal plate”, originally applied to an Italian-American ocho reales.

Rial — From Spanish real (“royal”), used in Iran from 1204/1790 and elsewhere in the 20th century to the present time (usually spelled rial in Iran, but riyal elsewhere). The size of the Iranian rial was originally reckoned as 1/8 to 1/4, but after the coinage reforms of 1930/31 it was set at 1/10 toman and remains so to the present day. The original Iranian rial weighed 12.67g, about 7% less than the Spanish four reales, but was later repeatedly reduced in weight. The rial has remained the standard denomination in Iran, but has not been used in popular conversion, where it was called as ezar (from hazar, i.e., “thousand”, from its pre-1930 definition as 1000 dinars, even though it has
been only 100 dinars after 1930) or giran, the silver coins of 1000 dinars produced until 1930. The smallest denomination in the Islamic Republic is inscribed “10 rial”, but is universally called a toman (q.v.).

Rupi — Perso-Arabic for “quarter”, used for various quarter denominations in Iran from the time of ‘Abbas I onwards, and found inscribed on modern machine-struck coins from the time of Nasir al-Din Shah and later.

Rupi (Rupee) — Of Sanskrit origin, the term came to refer to a silver coin of 1/10 masha of silver (in the Indian weight system), about 11.52g. After the mid-18th century, many local areas had rupees slightly heavier or lighter than the canonical 11.52g. The term was introduced into Iran by Nadir Shah in 1152/1739. In English it is conventionally spelled rupee when referring to Iranian coins of Nadir and his successors in Iran (until 1212/1798), rupee when used for Afghan and Indian coins. Various lighter rupees were used in Afghanistan during the 19th century.

Semenisis — Half a solidus, q.v.  

Sequin — From Italian zecchino, the latter derived from Arabic sikka (die). An alternative term for the Ottoman sultani used by European traders.

Shahi — A Safavid term for a silver coin equal to 50 dinars of account, first coined in 907/1501. Originally weighing about 9.4 grams, it gradually sunk to about 1.15g by the late 17th century, after which it was struck only as a largesse coin, known as shahi sefīl, “white shahi”, in order to distinguish it from the copper shahi, struck from the early 19th century onwards. The denomination was last officially used for a 10 shahi coin in SH 1314/1935, but the later 50 dinar brass coin was always popularly called dāshshahi or 10 shahi.12

Shahruki — An alternate term used for the silver tanka of the Timurids and their successors. It is found in 16th century Ottoman financial records for older coins still in circulation, and was apparently the official term for the one-mithal “tank” under the early Muḥgals. The term is derived from the name of the Timurid ruler, Shahrukh.

Solidus — The standard Byzantine gold denomination, used by modern numismatists for various pre-reform Arabic gold coins struck in Syria, Iraq and Spain.

Sudaysi — “Sixth”, applied to a Yemeni silver coin initially equivalent to one sixth of the canonical dirham (thus about 0.5g) but later reduced to 0.2g or less. The coins were produced in the 9th-11th centuries, but the name is a modern term used by numismatists.

Sultani — A term for the Ottoman coin first introduced by Mehmet II in 882/1477 and struck until early in the reign of Mahmud II (1223-1255/1808-1839). The weight of the sultani derived from the Mamluk ashrafi tāms of silver (in the Indian weight system), about 11.52g. After the mid-18th century, many local areas had rupees slightly heavier or lighter than the canonical 11.52g. The term was introduced into Iran by Nadir Shah in 1152/1739. In English it is conventionally spelled rupee when referring to Iranian coins of Nadir and his successors in Iran (until 1212/1798), rupee when used for Afghan and Indian coins. Various lighter rupees were used in Afghanistan during the 19th century.

Tanka — From the Sanskrit, first used in the east in the 7th/13th century by the Sultans of Delhi & Bengal. It became the common denomination for silver coinage in Iran from late in the 14th century until the 16th, but was retain as the denga in Central Asia until the 20th century, and restored as the 21st century tengex in Kazakhstan. Some rare coins of the late Timurids and of Muhammad Shāh & Shāh-Safarli are inscribed with the word tanka. The original Indian tanka of the Sultanates weighed about 11.0g, and was the denominational name for both silver and gold coins, retained until the introduction of the silver rupee of about 10.5g circa 935/1528. The tanka was introduced in Iran, probably with Timur’s monetary reform about 792/1390 at approximately 0.2g, then gradually reduced in weight over the next two centuries.

Tenga — See tanka.

Thulth — Arabic for “third”, used for some rare Umayyad fractional dinars.

Tilla — The name of a Central Asian and Afghan gold coin weighing between 3.4 and 4.6 grams, from Persian tuloo, “gold”.

Toman — From the Mongolian word tümen for “ten thousand”. Originally a unit of account valued at ten thousand dinars, it was first struck as a gold coin under Agha Muhammad Khan in Iran in 1204/1790. See “riyal” above for the current usage of this denominational term.

Tremissis — One third of a solidus, q.v.

Uqiyā (Uqiyā) — Arabic for “ounce”, struck as a copper coin under the Zangid ruler Sinjarshah and the Mamluk ruler Hajji II, then revived as a denomination in late 20th century Mauritania.

Yek Dinar — “One dinar”, used on copper coins of the Amir of Qunduz.

Yamin — A term used for the standard silver dirhams of the Ghaznavid ruler Mahmud, derived from his title, yamin al-dawla. The term is often inscribed on the coins, usually below the obverse or reverse field.

Zecchino — See sequin.

Zer-i Mahbub — A gold denomination struck in the Ottoman empire during most of the 18th and the early part of the 19th centuries. The term means “beloved gold”. The current international gold market (2011) reveals that we all still love gold!

Zuzun — An Aramaic denomination inscribed on some very rare Arab-Armenian coins (type #E97), similar to ancient Aramaic zuz. The ancient Aramaic version is still mentioned in a song sung at the Jewish feast of Passover, referring to the purchase of a goat for two zuz.

**COUNTERMARKS & OVERSTRIKES**

A countermark (or counterstamp) is a die-struck impression stamped on an existing coin, normally for the purpose of revalidating old coins for further circulation. The countermark is normally much smaller than the host coin. It may contain the name or titles of a ruler, a mint or date, a denominational name or value, an anepigraphic symbol or image, but rarely all of these. Most countermarks on silver and gold coins were associated with a particular ruler and are listed under the appropriate reign. Countermarks on copper coins were usually not specific to a ruler, as were the host coins in general.

In the case of multiple countermarks (common in the 15th & early 16th centuries in Iran), the coin should theoretically be attributed to the latest mark. Unfortunately, one cannot always discern which of the countermarks is most recent, even when they overlap. Numismatists often prefer to attribute coins with multiple countermarks to the most interesting or rarest countermark, even when it is clearly not the latest.

Countermarking is relatively infrequent on Islamic coins. The principal episodes of countermarking comprise Iranian and Transoxanian silver and copper coins from the 14th to the late 16th centuries. Durrani & related coins in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, revalidated Byzantine follis of the later 12th century, and some Umayyad and early ‘Abbasid copper coins. Most countermarks of other periods are very rare. Countermarks are most commonly found on silver coins, occasionally on copper, virtually never on gold.

Countermarks should be distinguished from overstrikes. A countermark was usually much smaller than the coin and applied to only one side of the coin (the only two-sided countermark is type #2624). An overstrike is simply an ordinary coin for which an older coin was used as a blank; it is almost always two-sided, with designs that fill the entire flan. Overstrikes are common in many series, and can be very informative for sequencing otherwise undated issues, such as Umayyad, Ayyubid and Mamлюk fulus. Overstriking was regarded as a cost savings, obviating the need to melt down old coins in order to prepare fresh blanks.

In addition to official countermarks, there were private merchant stamps, used principally in India from the 13th century onward, both on indigenous coins and on Islamic coins imported from Iran & Central Asia. These are not catalogued in the Checklist. They are often known as “shroff marks” from the Anglo-Indian word shroff, “moneychanger”, derived from Arabic sarrf. Some collectors view these merchant stamps as damage, others as an enhancement. They are most common on silver coins of the Bengal Sultanate struck in the 15th and early 16th centuries.

Another form of “countermark” is the testmark, applied in order to determine whether the coin is solid silver or gold, and not plated base metals. There are three basic varieties, of which the most common is a nick caused by a sharp instrument, sometimes quite deeply applied. Another form is a gouge, often quite long and deep (especially on Bengali tankas). The third form is a cut at the edge of the rim. While very commonly found on Indian silver and occasionally gold coins, they are infrequent on Islamic coins, usually only on coins struck far to the east or exported to India.

Early Islamic coins, especially Arab-Sasanian drachms and Umayyad dirhams and dinars, bear graffiti scratched into one or more of the blank areas on the coin, presumably to mark ownership of the coins. While Aramaic, Pahlavi and Hebrew graffiti are well-known, most graffiti are either illegible or simple lines, wedges and crosses. To most collectors, graffiti do not detract from the value or interest of the coin.

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12 In SH 1310/1935 a new dinar equal to ten old dinars was introduced, so that the shahi was thereafter equal to 5 rather than 50 dinars.

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 9
Islamic coins were distinguished from the very outset by the presence of a clear indication of the mint where the coin was struck. The pre-reform early coinage generally followed the corresponding Byzantine or Sasanian practice of using a mint abbreviation, but with the introduction of the standing caliph fals during the year 74 / 694-695 or shortly before, the mint was written out in full in Arabic. This practice was retained until the 20th century. There are nonetheless quite a few coins which lack the name of the mint, especially coppers of the Umayyad, ‘Abbasid, Mamluk, Ottoman, and Golden Horde dynasties.

The early post-reform Islamic gold coins always lack the mint name, save for a few very rare Umayyad dinars of Irriqiyah and al-Andalus. Carving the mint name first occurred at Madinat al-Salam in 198, but the inclusion of the mint name was not standardized for ‘Abbasid dinars until 214, and for north-African dinars until the late 290s. There are exceptions, “mintless” gold and silver coins, in all periods. In particular, donatives frequently lacked any indication of the mint. And in a few areas, especially North Africa, the mint was often commonly omitted, such as the gold coinage of the Muwahhidun (Almohades) and their Merinid Hafsid successors.

As for silver, with the introduction of the reform dirham in 79 / 698-699, a standard formula for the date and mint on silver dirhams was established, bism ‘Allah duriba hadha al-dirham (dinar, fals) bi-(mint X) sana (year Y)13, “in the name of God, this dirham (dinar, fals) was struck at mint X in the year Y”, normally placed in the innermost margin of the obverse, and known to numismatists as the “mint/date formula.” As noted above, this formula was applied to gold coinage beginning in 198, and was regularly used for gold and silver until the 6th/20th century, though as always there are quite a few exceptions. Since coppers were a local affair and generally not subject to the same regulations as coinage in precious metal, there are all manner of variations for the copper coinage.

After the 6th/12th century, the standard formula was largely dropped for simpler forms, which vary extensively from region to region and from dynasty to dynasty, occasionally from mint to mint under the same ruler (e.g., Timur of the Timurids, especially on his type #2386). In Iran, Central Asia, and India, it became increasingly common, after the 6th/15th century, to append an epithet to the name of the mint. A list of these epithets (Indian mints excepted) is provided in the introduction to the Qajar dynasty (following type #2825), as the practice became almost universal on Qajar silver and gold.

Most types listed in the Checklist exist for more than one mint or date. No effort has been undertaken here to describe the mints and dates for individual types, not even to indicate which types exist with a multiplicity of mints and dates. Several types, perhaps a few dozen, were struck at fifty mints or more, and quite a few may have as many as 300 or more different mint/date combinations. In addition, there can be up to a dozen or more decorative and arrangement varieties for a single mint/date combination, particular in later times. A full listing of all known mints and dates for every type, including major varieties and subtypes, would constitute a veritable encyclopedia of Islamic coins, a task that would take a team of devoted scholars decades to complete. My estimate is that such a compendium would probably include more than 250,000 entries, representing the totality of extant Islamic coinage from the beginning of Islam to the present day. And hundreds of new varieties are discovered each year.

On nearly all Islamic coins struck before about 700/1300, the date is written out in Arabic words in full. Thereafter, the date is increasingly written in ciphers, almost exclusively so after about 850/1450. Mint names are never abbreviated, but are written out in full, except on some Arab-Byzantine and almost all Arab-Sasanian coins, which follow the pre-Islamic Byzantine and Sasanian patterns of mint abbreviations. The mint name is presumed to be authentic, although there are some exceptions, most notably the rupee of the Barakzyay ruler of Afghanistan, Muhammad Ishaq, struck at Balkh but marked Kabul in pursuance of his claim to be head of the Barakzyay kingdom (#3182). Furthermore, imitative coins sometimes continue to include a mint and date name but were struck elsewhere and later than the engraved year. Such imitative types are especially common on Ilkhan coins of Uluaytu and Abu Sa‘id.

In addition to city names, some mint names refer to a region or province, such as Misr (= Egypt) or al-Andalus (= Spain), or a province, such as Mazandaran or Tabaristan in Iran. There are nonetheless quite a few non-local mint names, such as Urdu, Bazar, Rekab, etc., which denote a traveling mint that would accompany either the royal brigade or a section of his army on campaign. Unlike modern mints, medieval mints required relatively little equipment. Even in small cities, there would have been jewelers who could prepare the planchets and something like a stump to hold the anvil. The remaining equipment, including two or three anvils and everything needed to engrave the dies, could be carried by no more than two horses or camels. David Greenhaugh sets up medieval-style mints at renaissance faires and other events in Britain, parks his car far from the event, and has one donkey carry all his minting equipment to the location.

During the 7th-9th / 13th-15th centuries, some coins bear the date in a kind of shorthand known as diwani numerals. These were essentially shorthand versions of the normal Arabic words for the numbers. They occur mainly on Rum Seljuq and Ilkhan coins, more rarely later. The forms of diwani numerals were not uniform and are often quite difficult to decipher. Many have been misread in the numismatic literature.

The date is generally authentic, at least to the extent that it indicates the year in which the die was created. Dies often remained in use until they were no longer serviceable, often several years after they were engraved. This tendency to utilize essentially obsolete dies accounts for mismatched dates on obverse and reverse, and for the existence of numerous mulings, from all periods and regions, though most drastically on the coins of the Manghits of Bukhara, where mismatched dies can be as much as ten years apart. Mismatched obverse and reverse dates are common in most series where both sides are dated (with the exception of the ‘Alawi coins of 18th-19th century Morocco, where mismatched dates are extremely rare).

Why were obsolete dies retained in service? With rare exceptions, this was simply a means of minimizing production costs: why discard a functioning tool? Unfortunately, this policy has created many situations where an incorrect combination of ruler, mint and date has encouraged historians to falsely interpret royal or political chronology. Contrary to popular belief, pre-modern numismatic information is never 100% believable! As everywhere else, “typos happen”. Engravers can sometimes enter an incorrect date, occasionally in words, more often in numerals. For a date in words, an elegantly engraved die for the mint of Bardsar in 384 is clearly dated 484, i.e., with arba’-mi’a (400) instead of thulath-mi’a (300) (type #1570.1, Treadwell-Br484). Quite frequently, the Arabic number “2” is confused with “6”, which could be a retrograde “2” and vice versa.

From time to time in Islamic coinage, coins were dated as a “series”, i.e., all coins of a particular type or set of types bore the same date, irrespective of the year in which they were actually struck.14 The best-known example of this is the metropolitan and Egyptian Ottoman coinage, especially after 886/1481, which most frequently bears only the year of the sultan’s accession, supplemented, after 1171/1757, by the regnal year of the sultan. Series dates are also found on some of the Arab-Sasanian coinage, probably on some ‘Abbasid copper coins, and on nearly all late 20th century North African circulation coinage.

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13 The word fi, "in", sometimes precedes sana, "in the months of the year", meaning "during the course of the year".

14 This phenomenon is not as strange as it might appear at first glance. Current banknotes of the United States are dated in precisely this fashion, as are modern coins of several Middle Eastern and other countries.
A few coins bear the month and even the day in addition to the year. One curious coin of the Ja’uni Qurbani of Tus (#R2347) is inscribed with the phrase, “this die was engraved on the tenth of Jumada al-Ula in the year seven hundred and seventy-eight.” Coins with month or day are more highly prized than similar coins with just a year and usually command a premium, if only as curiosities.

The months of the Muslim year are as follows:

1. Muharram 30 days
2. Safar 29 days
3. Rabi’ al-Awwal (I) 30 days
4. Rabi’ al-Akhir (II) 29 days
5. Jumada al-Ula (I) 30 days
6. Jumada al-Akhira (II) 29 days
7. Rajab 30 days
8. Sha’ban 29 days
9. Ramadan 30 days
10. Shawwal 29 days
11. Dhul-Qa’da 30 days
12. Dhul-Hijja 29 or 30 days

The Muslim calendar is based on a true lunar year, which is approximately eleven days shorter than the solar year. Thus, viewed in terms of the solar Christian calendar, each Muslim year commences about eleven days earlier than its predecessor. In other words, 34 Muslim years are approximately equal to 33 Christian years. For this reason conversion from one calendar to the other is slightly complicated. Exact conversion requires the use of a conversion chart or its now readily available software equivalent. However, there exists a simple formula that will yield an approximate equivalent.

To convert from a Muslim year to a Christian year, first multiply the Muslim year by 0.97, then add 622. For example, AH1000 can be converted by applying that multiplication, yielding 970 + 622 = 1592. In fact, the year AH1000 begins on 19 October 1591. Conversely, to convert a Christian year, first subtract 622, then multiply by 1.03.

In the past, exact date conversions were accomplished by reference to various charts, many of which were published as detailed tables which made the process relatively painless, though still requiring more than a modicum of arithmetic skill. Several readers have recommended that I include a simplified chart in the Checklist. However, in the internet age, date conversions are quickly and accurately facilitated by any number of free internet locations, my favorite: www.islamicfinder.org/HC/al/index.php. There are many other sites, easily found on the internet.

The right of sikka (see the section, The Right of Sikka) strongly recommended that the date, as well as the mint, appear on the coin. However, due to careless striking or to the tendency after circa AH300 to use dies larger than the average planchet, the date is not always visible on a particular specimen. Sometimes the date is nearly always legible, but at other times, it is only a rare specimen that shows the full date. Naturally, in the latter case, where the date is rarely visible, fully dated specimens may command a significant premium. This aspect varies greatly from series to series, and has generally not been noted in this Checklist.

**Qur’anic Inscriptions**

There are several hundred Qur’anic inscriptions found on Islamic coins. Many of these are listed and translated in Codrington’s 1904 work (see the bibliography). Here are noted and translated only those that appear frequently on many different kinds of Islamic coins. They are listed by Verse, numbered as X.Y, where X is the Surat ("chapter") and Y the paragraph. In most cases, the inscribed text is only part of the Verse.

**Verse 3:26**, Qur’anic inscription:

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Almighty Allah is the One who begotten; And there is none like unto Him.
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**Verse 3:27**, Qur’anic inscription:

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And what if Allah sought a place whatsoever place…
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**Verse 3:28**, Qur’anic inscription:

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And He is Allah, the One who сотонен al-khayr innaka ‘ala kull shayy qadir.
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**Verse 3:29**, Qur’anic inscription:

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You humble whom You will. In Your hand is the good. Verily, You are able to do all things.
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**Verse 3:30**, Qur’anic inscription:

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O Allah, possessor of the kingdom, You give the kingdom to Whom You will and You take the kingdom from Whom You will, and You endue with honor Whom You will, and You
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**Verse 3:31**, Qur’anic inscription:

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And those who hoard up gold and silver, and spend it not in the way of Allah, to whom it will never be accepted of.
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**Verse 3:32**, Qur’anic inscription:

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There is no compulsion in religion; truly the way of truth has appeared clearly from the way of error. He who wills to seek a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers.
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**Verse 3:33**, Qur’anic inscription:

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Muhammad is the messenger of God, He send him with a clear religion, that he might make it superior over all religions, even though the polytheists hate it.
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**Verse 3:34**, Qur’anic inscription:

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Truth has come and falseness has vanished, for us, and is the Best Disposer of affairs (for us)
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**Verse 3:85**, Qur’anic inscription:

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And there is none like unto Him…
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**Verse 6:159**, Qur’anic inscription:

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And who hoard up gold and silver, and spend it not in the way of Allah, to whom it will never be accepted of.
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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 11
clientage, which is somewhat akin to the European concept of vassalage in the sense that a person becomes a client to another by swearing an oath of fealty to that other person. The nisba is rarely found on coins.

**Laqab** (plural, alaqab) – Laqab is a general term for a personal title adopted by or granted to a specific individual. There are many forms of title adopted by Muslim rulers and found on their coins. In addition, there are several generic titles (not known as laqabs), of which the most common are Arabic amir, malik, sultan, Persian shah and mirza, Turkic-Mongolian khan, khaqan, qa’an. These generic titles refer in effect to an office rather than to an individual.

The earliest form of laqab was an adjectival form which was commonly understood as modifying the generic title amir (“commander”) and was invariably Arabic. Such a title was first used by the second ‘Abbasid caliph al-Mansur, whose ism was ‘Abd Allah. At first only caliphs adopted such titles, but by the later 3rd/9th century others took them as well. Still later, during the Ayyubid and Mamluk eras, such titles became the norm for secular rulers, in which case they modified either al-malik or al-sultan. Titles of this form are also invariably in Arabic.

From the 4th/10th century onwards, secular rulers commonly assumed Arabic titles as their laqab in the form X al-Dawla, X al-Din, X al-Mulk, X al-Islam, etc. In theory these titles were granted by the caliph to individual rulers, but in practice, by the end of that century, many rulers simply arrogated such titles in total defiance of the caliphal prerogative, sometimes then assuaging their guilt by sending a few costly trinkets to the caliph. Titles of this category were commonly used on coinage, often to the exclusion of the ism and other titles. In later times, from the 15th century onward, names of this category were commonly used as the ism (e.g., Nasir al-Din Shah, the Qajar ruler of Iran in the late 19th century).

From the end of the 2nd/8th to the 5th/11th century, one encounters titles of the form dhu X, “possessor of X”. Such titles are rarely found on coins, but were placed on the coinage by a few ‘Abbasid viziers, such as dhu ‘l-ri’ asatayn during the caliphate of al-Ma’mun, and later by rulers of the ‘Uqaylid, Marwanid and Mirdasid dynasties.

Turkish rulers often adopted one or more Turkish laqabs, most commonly ending with the element -tegin (loosely, “prince”, and transliterated in Arabic as takin). Such titles are especially common on Qarakhanid coins.

Normally a given ruler could only bear one laqab of any given form at any time, but it was not unusual for an individual to change his laqab upon moving from one rank to another. This practice was especially widespread amongst the Qarakhanids, to the extent that it is often very difficult to determine from the various alaqab just who might have been the issuer of a particular coin.

Post-Mongol rulers in the east were often known by an indirect laqab, usually Persian or Arabic or mixed. These essentially honorific titles were used in written histories, documents, and poetry, but almost never on the coinage.

In the Checklist, rulers are typically identified by their ism, even when that form of the name is rarely encountered on the coinage, such as most of the rulers of the Qarakhanid dynasty. The ism, often together with the nasab, is given in bold type. Additional names and titles are often noted, either in parentheses after the ism or together with the ism but in bold type. It is recommended that collectors and dealers use the boldface name to refer to the ruler.

**Rashidun** – The rashidun (“rightly guided”) are the first four leaders of Islam after the death of the Prophet Muhammad. All four are recognized by the Sunnis, but only the fourth one (‘Ali b. Abi Talib) is recognized by the Shi’ites. Their names first appear on coinage in the 5th/11th century, but only became frequently mentioned after the Mongol invasion during the early 7th/13th century, on issues of Sunni rulers, sometimes with their epithets, as noted here:

- Abu Bakr, al-Siddiq 11-13 / 632-634
- ‘Umar, al-Faruuq 13-23 / 634-644
- ‘Uthman, Dhul-Nurayn17 23-35 / 644-656
- ‘Ali b. Abi Talib, al-Murtada 35-41 / 656-661

Their names never appear on coins struck during their lifetimes.

**Shi’ite Imams** – The twelve Shi’ite Imams were named on many coins struck by Shi’ite rulers, often together with the short addition to the kalima, ‘ali wali Allāh (“‘Ali, the Friend of God”), commencing with the Ilkhan sultan Uljaytu, who converted to Shi’ism in 709/1309. The twelve Imams were cited on most of his silver and gold coins thereafter, occasionally with the epithets on the larger denominations. Later Shi’ite rulers in Iran continued this tradition, of which the latest issues were of the Safavid ruler Isma’il III dated 1167, and ironically, silver abbasis dated 1170 struck in the name of the Afsharid ruler Shahrukh at Tiflis (Tbilisi), authorized by the Christian king of Georgia, Teimuriz II.

- ‘Ali b. Abi Talib, al-Murtada 35-41 / 656-661
- Muhammad b. ‘Ali, al-Baqir 95-114 / 702-733
- Ja’far b. Muhammad, al-Sadiq 114-148 / 733-765
- Musa b. Ja’far, al-Kazim 148-183 / 765-799
- Muhammad b. al-Hasan, al-Mahdi 260 — / 874 —

‘Ali b. Abi Talib was recognized as the first Imam of the Shi’ites, who ignored his three Sunni predecessors, Abu Bakr, ‘Umar and ‘Uthman. The last of the 12 Imams, Muhammad al-Mahdi, is said to have vanished in occultation, and shall return to earth whenever God is willing.

The only one of the 12 Imams whose name appeared on contemporary coinage is ‘Ali b. Musa al-Rida (reza in Persian), who was recognized in 200 by the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Ma’mun as heir to the caliphate. Al-Ma’mun’s administration ordered the six eastern mints to include his name on the silver coins, with the title wali ‘ahd al-muslimin, “heir apparent of the Muslims”, which were struck from 202 to 205, despite ‘Ali’s assassination in 203 (type #224). This was the last significant attempt to merge the Sunnis and the Shi’ites.

**The Right of Sikka**

The coin inscriptions were one of the two juridically recognized formal expressions of the right of the ruler to sovereignty (the right of sikka). The other expression was the khutba, the right of the ruler to have his name mentioned in the Friday sermon. Since the text of the khutba has rarely been preserved, the coinage is usually the only surviving expression of formal sovereignty. Although medieval Islamic history is relatively well documented by nearly contemporary written sources, mainly in Arabic, Persian, or, for the Ottoman period, Turkish, these chronicles are generally oriented towards events in the capital. They rarely mention provincial affairs, except when they impinge directly on events concerning the ruling family. Thus the coins are frequently the only surviving documentation of political conditions in the provinces and are thus of great use to historians attempting to reconstruct the provincial configuration of pre-modern Islamic states.

Although surviving early Islamic juridical texts fail to discuss the development of the right of sikka, its codification must have occurred at some time during the early part of the 3rd/9th century, between the first attempt to uniformize the coinage under al-Ma’mun circa 204/820 and the first appearance of vassal names in 259/874, at least in the central and eastern Islamic lands. In the

16 The first ‘Abbasid caliph, Abu l-‘Abbas ‘Abd Allah, was given the title al-Saffah (“the shedder of blood”) by later historians. There is no evidence that he used it during his lifetime.

17 “Possessor of the two lights,” applied to ‘Uthman because he was married to two of the Prophet Muhammad’s daughters.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 12
west (the Maghrib and Spain), the right of sikka seems never to have been fully institutionalized, as is evident from the inscriptive content of the gold and silver coinage of the 'Alawi sharifs of Morocco until well after the introduction of machine-struck coinage under the French protectorate.

The right of sikka was applied only to coinage in precious metal, i.e., to gold and silver coinage. Copper coinage was from the beginning regarded as an essentially local affair, as a municipal coinage, not unlike the situation in the eastern Roman Empire before the reign of Diocletian, who suppressed the local civic coinages of the eastern provinces. This distinction is manifested in many ways. For example, whereas the caliph is always mentioned on Sunni silver and gold coinage from 219 to the fall of the caliphate in 656, copper coinage typically omits the name of the caliph. After about 800/1400 most eastern copper coinage tends to be totally anonymous. It is known to have been the responsibility of municipal authorities rather than of the central administration, which oversaw silver and gold coinage. Most post-800 copper coinage can therefore not be assigned to a specific ruler and was not necessarily altered upon the succession of a new ruler.

Neither the development of the right of sikka nor the role of copper coin inscriptions in Islamic coinage has been adequately studied. I espy a future dissertation or two here.

**PRESENTATION OR DONATIVE COINS**

Throughout Islamic history (commencing in the time of the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Mutawakkil, 232-247 / 847-861), coins of superior workmanship were struck for special purposes, usually for presentation by rulers to notables and visiting dignitaries. They are known as presentation coins, largeesse coins, or donatives, of which the last term is my choice in most cases. Many were of large module with especially fine calligraphy, often with pictorial designs as well. Others were small fractions, finely engraved, intended for distribution to the general populace, somewhat like the Maundy coins of England. Most of these are very rare today, though some of the later Iranian and 18th century Ottoman types are sometimes available. Lutz Ilisch has catalogued these in a series of articles that appeared in the mid-1980s.18 Because of their rarity, only a selection of these are enumerated in the Checklist.

Because donative coins usually display superior workmanship, they were highly prized for decorative purposes. Hence they are normally found holed or mounted. In the case of the 18th century Ottoman multiples and the later Islamic multiples, the recipient was expected to wear the coin as a medal of honor on his clothing. As a result, these later types are almost always found holed or mounted.

**THE “SILVER FAMINE”**

One of the most curious phenomena in Islamic coinage is the gradual disappearance of fine silver coinage from about 350/960 onwards in most of the Muslim world, often attributed to a presumed shortage of silver bullion. There is no doubt that by about 400/1010 fine silver coinage had become uncommon. In some areas, notably Spain, Syria, and much of greater Iran, billon coinage came into prominence, though its survival rate has been poor, due both to the relative instability of the alloy when buried in the ground and to a lack of hoarding, due to their relatively minimal value.19 Scholarly opinion is very much divided on both the nature and the causes of the disappearance of fine silver coinage. There are basically two opposing theories. The more traditional theory holds that there was an actual shortage of silver bullion. A more recent theory, expounded by Deyell and others, holds that there was no absolute shortage of silver, but that governments found it advantageous to replace both pure silver and pure bronze coinage with bullion coins that were in effect packets containing a small quantity of silver included within a base metal “envelope”.20 The relevant arguments are complex and controversial, and cannot be surveyed in a general work such as this. Nonetheless, common sense increasingly persuades me that debasement or abandonment of silver coins broke little or no relationship to a theoretical “shortage”.

Only in the far Maghreb (Morocco) and parts of what is now Afghanistan and Pakistan was fine silver coinage continued after the early 400s. Everywhere else, debased silver became the rule, sometimes replaced by copper or bronze. Similar debasements of silver occurred at the same time throughout India and most of Europe (England and northern Germany were the only real exceptions). It was not until 558/1163 that fine silver dirhams were once again manufactured in the traditional Middle East, commencing in the Yemen at Zabid under the Mahdids (#1081). The use of fine silver spread gradually throughout the Islamic world, into the Ayyubid lands of Syria and Egypt in the 570s, into Rum (Anatolia) in the 570s21, into India and what is now Afghanistan from the 590s, into Iraq, Iran and Transoxiana beginning in the 630s.

Thus the “silver famine” extended from the later 4th/10th to the early 7th/13th centuries, roughly 250 years. For collectors, the principal consequence is that for many dynasties and rulers, gold is the least rare, often the only type of coinage that is readily available. The billon coins, which replaced both silver and copper, are often far rarer, poorly struck when available, and usually found in worn or corroded condition. This is most evident for the Great Seljuq and some of their Atabeg successors.

**COUNTERFEITS & FORGERIES**

Fortunately, the market for Islamic coins has not yet reached that stage where counterfeiting has become rampant. When I first began collecting, in 1962, forgeries of Islamic coins were virtually unknown. By the late 1970s, a few forgeries of gold coins began to surface, especially in lots coming from Lebanon and Syria. Most of the forgeries were of common date coins, not especially skillful and rather readily detected. Forgeries of rarities were seldom encountered, except for a few of the more spectacular gold types, such as the Arab-Byzantine solidi and year 77 Umayyad dinars. By the early 1990s, rather more forgeries have been seen in the Middle East, particularly in the Gulf states, though it is generally believed that the forgeries are manufactured elsewhere and brought to the Gulf region for the explicit purpose of duping local collectors. By the mid 1990s, increasing numbers of forgeries have been emanating from Iran, including some small fractional gold coins purporting to be issues of the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Wathiq and common type silver coins of the Ilkhan Abu Sa‘id, as well as fantasy hybrids of Islamic types with Sasanian or Parthian types. Fortunately, even in 2011, most of these are of such distinctive style as to present little danger to a slightly experienced collector, but can be the bane of the neophyte.

More recently, “doctored” coins have appeared in the market, coins which have been cleaned, whizzed, tooled, polished, bleached, etc., to the point that it becomes virtually impossible to distinguish the real from the fake. A group of nine presentation type silver rupees of the Mughal emperor Jahangir were consigned to the Triton X auction in New York in January 2008, and were sent to me for authentication. I was able to declare one genuine, several fake, the rest too heavily doctored for determination. As a result, all nine were withdrawn and returned to the consignor. This has been a problem with ancient Greek and Roman coins for centuries, but now applies to Indian and some Islamic coins as well.

19 Billon coins of the "famine" era seem to have been more a replacement for copper than for silver currency, and were rarely hoarded. In general, they turn up as isolated finds, poorly preserved, as is normal for mixed-metal coinage. However, as far as their juridical status, they were generally regarded as silver coins.
20 This theory is especially well formulated by J. Deyell, Living Without Silver, pp. 1 ff.
21 But as a widespread circulating medium only from 616 onwards.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 13
Vast quantities of modern forgeries emanate nowadays from China, and increasingly from India. The Chinese forgers have been faking predominantly Chinese cash, as well as machine-stuck modern coins from all over the world, and recently (mid-2000s) some medieval Islamic coins have also been copied. Those that I have observed are mainly silk road coins, Qarakhanid, Chaghatayid, Timurid, etc., which have recently become avidly collected in China, but I would not be at all surprised if many other types will soon be forged. “Made-in-China” counterfeits are sold throughout China, usually very cheaply as “souvenirs”, often popularly collected just for fun. However, these items all too frequently wind up for sale as genuine coins, often at outrageous prices, though almost always substantially cheaper than the genuine item. All I can say is *caveat emptor*, and be especially careful purchasing via eBay from sellers unknown to you.

Collectors are advised to deal with reliable dealers, to obtain a guarantee of authenticity (usually unnecessary when a guarantee of authenticity is clearly stated in the dealer’s written advertising or brochures, usually within the Terms of Sale), and to request the option of seeking a third party opinion. To the best of my knowledge, all dealers currently active in Islamic numismatics will gladly affirm these conditions. The American Numismatic Association will also accept Islamic coins for authentication, at a modest fee. The ANA also mediates disputes between members, and for that reason alone, membership in the ANA can prove a wise investment for collectors and dealers alike. Membership information can be obtained by writing the association at 818 N. Cascade, Colorado Springs CO 80903, USA, or at their website www.money.org.

**IMITATIONS**

Aside from modern counterfeits intended to deceive collectors and tourists, there is a class of unofficial coins known as imitations, more or less contemporary with the originals, struck outside the purview of the official mint system but intended to circulate alongside genuine coins (monetary imitations). These can generally be distinguished by their poor or deviant calligraphy. They are therefore sometimes known as barbarous imitations, though in fact many are of high artistic merit. They were struck by neighboring states, private profiteers, audacious governors, etc., and usually contained the full value of metal, whether it be copper, silver, or gold. They often passed conjointly with official issues. In some cases, the identity of the issuer can be ascertained, as for example the Crusader copies from the Levant, or the Volga-Bulghar copies of Abbasid and Samanid dirhams. More typically the identity of the issuer remains obscure. Imitations occur frequently when the monetary value of a coin was substantially elevated over its bullion value, as was commonly the case in pre-modern monetary systems, especially for silver. They occur from the earliest Islamic coinage until the 19th century, with a few examples in the 20th century as well. Both precious metal and copper coinage was imitated.

Imitations are very much collectible. In a few cases they command higher prices than their prototypes, including most Russian and northern European imitations of Samanid and other early dirhams.

Another class of imitations comprises pieces made specifically for collectors. The pieces range from rather close copies of actual coins to bizarre concoctions only faintly mirroring the prototype. Until the 19th century, most of these were made outside the region where actual coins were manufactured, especially in non-Islamic lands such as central Europe or East Africa. During the 19th century base metal imitations, mainly based on Ottoman coins, were manufactured in Europe for export to the Ottoman lands, where they were sewn onto garments as decoration and are commonly called “belly-dancer” tokens, as they were often sewn onto the dancers’ skirts, principally along the hem. More recently, since about 1950, various Ottoman, Persian, and European gold coins have been imitated for jewelry or bullion hoarding. Jewelry imitations are less collected than monetary imitations, modern bullion imitations not at all.

Aside from imitations, there are also many counterfeits contemporary with the originals, intended to deceive users at the time. These are normally distinguished by debasement of their metal. Most are also stylistically inferior, though in some cases they are struck from original dies, either at official mints under the charge of unscrupulous mintmasters or elsewhere, from purloined dies. Silver and gold coins with copper cores are also common, the mouth or dies having been “coronated” or “fournée”. Contemporary counterfeits are considered collectible, though usually sell much more cheaply than genuine coins, especially in the case of gold.

**CONVENTIONAL USAGES**

There are a number of rather arbitrary conventions used for categorizing Islamic coins. As a general rule, coins are assigned to the ruler whose name appears on the coin, even if that ruler is not the actual issuer. That is a common occurrence, especially during the early reigns of a dynasty, before the actual ruler dared adorn the coinage with his own name. For example, the Tulunid ruler, Ahmad b. Tulun, ruled in Egypt from 254, but only placed his name on the coinage in 266, together with that of the ‘Abbasid caliph. Coins dated 254-265 bear only the name of the caliph and are thus classified as ‘Abbasid (except for the copper coins dated 257-259). A more instructive example is the coinage of the Muzaffarid Shah Mahmud, who flouted his opposition to his brother Shah Shuja’ by placing the name of the contemporary Jalayrid ruler, Shaykh Uways, on his coinage to the exclusion of his own; admittedly, the Jalayrid did offer military assistance to Shah Mahmud, but he never actually exercised control in any of Shah Mahmud’s lands. Nonetheless, the coins citing Shaykh Uways were conventionally classified as Jalayrid, as they were regarded by the contemporary panegyrist Salman Saveji in a eulogy to Shaykh Uways.

Anonymous coins are assigned to a ruler in two situations, when an anonymous type is characteristic of a particular ruler (as is typical for 14th and 15th century Iranian coins, for example), or where the coins are dated and customarily collected according to the ruler in whose reign the date falls. By convention, anonymous coins of the latter sort are assigned to the ruler who was on the throne at the commencement of a year, unless there is clear evidence for assigning the type to one of his successors ruling later in that year. In a few cases, specific aspects of the design or the text within a single year may permit a division of the coins between more than one ruler, for example the number of annulets in the obverse margin of Umayyad dirhams of Wasit dated 126 or the Kabul rupees dated 1258.

Rulers’ dates are given in the Hijri and Christian calendars. The conversion to Christian years is often approximate, especially in those cases where in the Hijri calendar only the year is known, without the month or day. Many dates have only been firmly established, and collectors will face a bewildering disparity in dating from one reference work to another. Even the basic genealogical works and historical chronicles often contradict one another. Careful numismatic analysis can often clarify confusing dynamic dating, especially when most coins bear mint and date.

The spellings used here are based on the assumption that most names are Arabic, except for Turkish names, which are generally rendered according to the conventions of modern Turkish. The transliteration system used is that of the Library of Congress, which is generally accepted in most English-speaking academic circles. However, diacritical signs are omitted, though I plan to rectify this in the 4th edition. French, Spanish, German, and other European transliteration systems are different. Persian names are converted according to Arabic transliteration, as that has been the traditional practice of orientalists for decades. However, I have used a modified Persian transliteration for the couples and other

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22 In her study of the Manghit coinage (cited before #3027) Burnasheva comes to the opposite conclusion. She assigns the coins to the new ruler in transition years, on the basis that the new ruler would have had to strike coins in order to grant the usual gifts and endowments expected upon accession.

23 The only exception is that the *ta marbūta* is indicated by -‘ī rather than -ḥ.
inscriptions that appear on Safavid and later Iranian coins. As a result, some names are spelled differently in the listings and in the transliterations of Persian legends. I would recommend that collectors should prefer the renditions used in the listings, as they are internationally more familiar.

In the transliteration of Arabic and Persian names, the left single quotation mark (’ or ') is used to represent the guttural ‘ayn, the right mark (‘ or ') for the glottal stop (normally, but not always, indicated by an alif), and the simple apostrophe (’) to indicate an elided alif, as in names such as Abu’l-Fath (Abu al-Fath) or Dhu’l-Ri’asatayn (Dhu al-Ri’asatayn).

These conventions have unfortunately not been uniformly adopted in the literature, with the result that the collector will find some rather confusing divergences from one reference to another. In order to deal effectively with this source of confusion, an elementary knowledge of Arabic (or Persian) is essential. I highly recommend that anyone planning to collect Islamic coins with any degree of seriousness make the effort to acquire a basic understanding of the Arabic language. Even a modest effort will yield rewards that will more than justify the time invested. I can assure you that attaining a basic knowledge of Arabic is (for me, at least) less challenging than learning enough about automotive engines to perform a basic tune-up.

**Obverse and Reverse**

Classical numismatists regard the lower or anvil die as the obverse, the upper or punch die as the reverse. This convention is, however, inapplicable to most Islamic coinage. Consequently, Islamic numismatists have devised certain rather arbitrary conventions more appropriate to their material. Unfortunately, opinion is divided in regard to these conventions, particularly for Islamic coinage struck after about 1150. The following conventions have been applied here, hopefully with some manner of consistency.

For Byzantine and Sasanian style coinages, the conventions of their prototypes have been retained. The side with the royal figure is the obverse, the other side the reverse. This same distinction is carried over to the Standing Caliph types.

The purely epigraphic reform coinage introduced in 77 Hijri can readily be categorized because the kalima is divided between the two sides. The side commencing with la ilah illa Allah is deemed the obverse, the other side, usually bearing muhammad rasul Allah, often with further pious phrases, is considered the reverse. This rule works for nearly all precious metal and most copper coinage until the 6th/12th century.

At the beginning of the reign of the Fatimid caliph al-Mu’izz (341-365 / 953-976), a major innovation took place in the arrangement of the inscriptions. All pious phrases were reserved for one face of the coin, all royal and monetary protocols for the other. While there is evidence that at least for several centuries, contemporary jurists continued to regard the kalima side as the obverse24, collectors, especially in the Middle East and India, have long taken the opposite view, regarding the side with royal information as the obverse. I have adopted the latter view as well for Fatimid and all later coinage on which the pious material is restricted to one side of the coin. This includes virtually all Ayubid and later coinage of the central Islamic lands and the Yemen, Iranian and other eastern coinage from about 1150 onwards, and all Islamic coinage of India (not included here).

Some later coinage lacks pious formulae altogether (Ottoman after about 760/1358, Iranian from 1148/1735, Central Asia from about 1190/1776, and Moroccan from 1171/1757). Normally one side bears the name of the ruler, and that side is regarded as the obverse. For most of these series, the reverse is reserved for the mint and date, but occasionally contains the continuation of the royal protocol from the obverse. For much anonymous Iranian coinage from 740/1340 onwards, especially that of the 12th/18th century, a pious inscription serves in lieu of the royal protocol and thus defines the obverse; the reverse normally bears the kalima in the 14th century, but only mint & date information in the 18th and 19th centuries.

There is one coinage where obverse and reverse cannot be distinguished, the early silver coins of Sidi Muhammad III (types #589 and 590), because both faces have identical inscriptions!

**Mulings**

A muling is a coin struck from obverse and reverse dies that do not belong together. These normally occur because a die, if still in serviceable condition, was not necessarily discarded when the information on it became obsolete. Since engraving skill was usually a very scarce talent, mintmasters were loath to throw away a usable die. Sometimes the die was recut to reflect the new information (usually the date), but this was not common practice. More typically, unless the die contained information that was politically heterodox (e.g., the name of a deposed ruler or a hated rebel), the die simply remained in service until it broke or wore out. This was especially true if only the date was obsolete, and is reflected in those series, as noted before, where the obverse and reverse dies were both dated: mismatches are usually a frequent occurrence. Less frequently, dies naming a deceased ruler might be used well after his death. It was undoubtedly common procedure to continue striking coins in the name of the deceased until new types were agreed upon and new dies manufactured. There was thus no particular reason to retire the old ruler’s dies with any great dispatch.

Three other categories of mulings exist. Occasionally, two obverses or two reverses were muled together. Sometimes, dies were purloined from official oversight and used by forgers; since these forgers did not necessarily possess matching obverses and reverse dies, they made do with whatever was available. Finally, contemporary imitations were often struck with dies derived from different prototypes for obverse and reverse.

**Brockages**

Some Islamic coins bear one normal side, either obverse or reverse, and the other side an incuse retrograde image of the same. These are known as brockages, coins that have been erroneously struck, when the previously struck coin sticks to one of the dies, leaving its retrograde incuse image on one side of the new coin. Brockages occur most frequent on very small coins, such as Habbarid dammas, later Jalayrid & Muzaffarid silver coins, and most commonly of all, Ottoman & Giray Khan akges of the 16th-18th centuries. They are popularly categorized as error coins, and collected principally by specialists in error coins. Brockages of hammered coins are usually valued less than fully struck pieces, but brockages of machine-struck coins (not listed here) are often highly prized.

**Themes for a Collection**

As a dealer, I am frequently asked by my customers to advise on building and organizing a collection. I have always recommended that the collector eventually construct clear parameters for his or her collection. Indeed, most collectors do approach their subject with a certain theme in mind, to which they adhere to with a greater or lesser degree.

New collectors often collect one per dynasty (difficult after the first few dozen), one per ruler, one per type, one per mint, one per date, or coins within a defined price range. More advanced collectors tend to specialize and collect in depth a dynasty, a ruler, a mint, a type, or a set of coins determined by their own personal-ized criteria. Others, both beginners and old hands, collect whatever coins suit their fancy, for reasons that are often difficult to express clearly in words. Beginners tend to collect quite haphazardly, unsystematically acquiring whatever comes their way.

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24 There is a tale in the Rasulid histories, dating to the late 7th/13th century, in which a qadi (judge) reads off the inscriptions on a Rasulid coin of the year 650 Hijri. He reads the kalima side first, the royal side afterwards, in a context where the narrator is comparing the quality of the newly produced Rasulid coins to contemporary Rassid coins (cited by H. Nützel, Münzen der Rasuliden, p. 30).

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 15
way at an affordable price. I myself confess to having collected in that fashion during my early coin-collecting years.

Whatever the collector may choose, it is my hope that this Checklist will facilitate his or her endeavors, making it easier for the collector to set up criteria for his own preferences by providing an elementary overview of the range of Islamic coinage. Moreover, he can use the Checklist to mark off dynasties, rulers or types, as he acquires them for his collection. In order to have room for notes and comments, a single-sided photocopy of all or part of this Checklist may prove useful, and I both permit and encourage the collectors to do so.

Thanks

I would like to thank the following collectors, scholars and dealers for their wonderful assistance for this publication. And because I was foolish to avoid listing those who provided insight for the 1st and 2nd editions, as well as the 3rd edition before I decided to assemble this list in late 2004, I apologize to those whose names I have omitted.

Accola, Richard – Whereas a few years ago he would hardly have known the difference between two Islamic coins, his growing knowledge has lead to numerous useful suggestions, especially in the Ghurid series, since his acquisition of the Spengler collection of Ghurid coins.

Akin, Alexander – Lots of assistance and commentary, especially for the 2nd edition, which would hardly have been feasible without his work.

Aravand, Muhammad Ali – Specialist in medieval Iranian coins.

Atakhodzhaev, Anvar – An important source of information for Samanid and other Central Asian copper coins.

Al-Atassi, ‘Abd al-Rahman – Provided important information from his numismatic interests.

Bates, Michael – Give him a question, and you can anticipate an encouraging reply. Thanks for the suggestions.

Belyaev, Vladimir – His www.zeno.ru website has been a phenomenal source of useful information. And he has provided dozens of helpful suggestions for the Checklist.

Cannito, Ralph – Information on many different Islamic coins, plus his posting of Samanid & Qarakhanid images on Zeno.

Cole, Greg – For copper coins and more.

Cribb, Joe – Dammas of the Habbarids and their contemporary and subsequent rulers in Sind.

Darley-Doran, Robert – The identifier of Islamic coins for André De Clermont, many important tidbits of useful information.

Dauwe, Roland – If you want to know something about coins minted at Qumm, he is the fellow to ask, thus a useful source of information.

De Clermont, André – He has reported to me many Islamic coins of the greatest rarity.

DeShazo, Allen S. – Lots of useful information, especially for Arab-Sasanian, Umayyad, Durrani coins, etc.

Dhaheri, Saeed – A collector in the United Arab Emirates who keeps begging with me questions, questions that also provide ongoing useful information.

Diler, Emine – By bombarding me with queries regarding the publication of his deceased husband Ömer Diler, she has encouraged me to think about and often reconsider or rewrite many of my listings.

Elmen, Jim – For the Giray Khans of Crimea, plus miscellaneous suggestions here and there.

Farr, James – For Golden Horde coins, and some others.

Fedorov, Michael – An enthusiastic source of information on medieval Central Asian coins. Unfortunately, I have not had the time to meticulously examine his continuing articles on Qarakhanid coinage in order to incorporate his classifications into my listing of Qarakhanid coins.

Floor, Willem – For Safavid through Qajar coinage.

Heidemann, Stefan – For Mirdasid, Numayrid, other Syrian dynasties, and miscellaneous comments everywhere.

Hinrichs, Johann-Christoph – For Seljuq of Rum.

Ibrahim, Toufiq – For Spanish coins.

Ilish, Lutz – For just about everything — what more can I say?

Ja’far, Yahya – For Madinat al-Salam and other Iraqi mints.

Jazzar, Muhammad (†) – For various early Islamic coins.

Kofman, Alex – Useful information, especially for the Ayyubids.

Kozyrev, Andrei – For 18th & 19th century coins of Central Asia.

Lang, Joseph – He keeps on pushing me to adjust this and change that, thus “forcing” me to think again, for which I am mightily thankful!

Lock, Jim – For Umayyad and 'Abbasid coins dated before about AH250.

Locke, Mike – For gold coins weighing less than one ounce (like ¼ and ½ dollar private issues of goldrush California, his #1 interest).

Malek, Hodge Mehdi – For his work on the Tabaristan coinage, his ability to decipher the Pahlavi script and his vast knowledge of the Arab-Sasanian series.

Nastich, Vladimir N. – A master of Caucasian and Central Asian coinage, who has so kindly supplied me with hundreds of corrections and additions.

Nicol, N. Douglas – Aside from his knowledge of Fatimid, Ayyubid and Mamluk coins, he has provided endless assistance for organizing the Checklist, during his 18 years in Santa Rosa and now in Harveys Lake, Pennsylvania.

Pelletier, Marc – For various aspects of Moroccan coinage.

Rasmussen, Christian – Sometimes I think he might be pestering me with too many queries, but constructing answers to his questions has significantly updated the Ilkhan dynasty listing.

Sakkal, Mamoun – His interest in the spiraled form of the kalima on Ilkhan, Timurid and related coins has encouraged him to ask me questions that have persuaded me to reconsider some of my descriptions.

Spengler, William F. (†) – Any coins of Afghanistan were his principal interest, especially Durrani and Barakzay, for which he wrote the chapters in SCWC 18th to 20th century.

Suchy, Vladimir – For Yemeni and related coins, above all his immense Yemeni listing on Zeno.

Treadwell, Luke – For the Buwayhïd dynasty & innumerable suggestions and comments elsewhere. He is now composing an extraordinary history of the Samanids, heavily dependent on numismatic sources.

Bibliography

Some familiarity with the relevant literature is essential for the study and enjoyment of Islamic coinage. While this Checklist can provide a handy first reference and a guide for assembling a collection, it is not meant as a surrogate for more detailed literature. Without photos or transcriptions of coin legends, it is altogether worthless as an identification guide or as a source for learning the Arabic script.

In this section are listed basic and general works, museum catalogs, as well as the most useful auction catalogs and dealer price lists. Special works on one or a group of related dynasties are noted under the individual dynasty. Short comments are provided where appropriate. Many of the works listed are out-of-print and virtually unobtainable. Many of those still in print are costly or difficult to obtain, especially works published in the Middle East, where good distribution systems are lacking.

Please note that I have only partially updated the bibliography for the third edition, but hope to place a revised version online within the next year or two.

Introductory Works


Krause, Chester L. & Clifford Mishler, Standard Catalog of World Coins, Iola, frequent editions, since 1966 divided by centuries. Currently, volumes are in print for the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. The listings are generally fairly accurate, but the pricing is rather haphazard, understandable in light of the sparseness of auction and price records.

Mitchiner, Michael, Oriental Coins and their Values: The World of Islam, Sanderson 1976 — the most useful single compendium, with over 2500 non-Indian coins photographed; unfortunately out-of-print, very pricey, and replete with errors.

Album, Stephen, Marsden’s Numismata Orientalia Illustrata, New York 1977 — a general reference for elementary information about the

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 16
coignages of the various dynasties, now obsolete. The pricing reflects the market of the mid 1970s and is meaningless in today’s market.

Broome, Michael, A Handbook of Islamic Coins, London 1985 — the best general historical introduction; well-produced but overpriced.

Bosworth, C.E., The New Islamic Dynasties, New York 1996 — A basic introduction to the dynasties, with useful short historical sketches and indications of which rulers struck coignages (not always accurate!).

Codrington, O., A Manual of Muslim Numismatistc, London 1904 — now outdated, but still useful, especially for the beginner. Reprints exist.


Zambaur, E. von, Manuel de génénologie et de chronologie pour l’histoire de l’Islam, Hannover 1927 (reprints: Bad Pyrmont 1955 & Graz 1971) — the most complete genealogical guide, though somewhat out-of-date in light of current research, and lacking AD equivalents; good indices and genealogical charts.

Zambaur, E. von, Die Münzprägungen des Islam, Wiesbaden 1968 (partly printed in 1943, then stored until completion in 1968) — a listing of all the mints (India excluded), with charts of all known mints and dates as of 1940, plus much valuable bibliographical material, now outdated. Unfortunately, there are many errors of both omission & commission. Out-of-print but not yet rare.

Kazan, William, The Coinage of Islam: Collection of William Kazan, Beirut 1983 (excellent text by R. Darley-Doran) — essentially a lavish coffee-table book, but useful (gold coins only). In 1996, the Kazan collection was acquired by the national museum of Qatar.

Diler, Ömer, Islamic Mints / İslam Darp Yerleri, posthumously edited by Emine Diler, J.C. Hinrichs & Garo Kürkman, Istanbul 2009, three heavy tomes weighing a total of 13 pounds. This remarkable work lists well over 1250 different mints, including India, then presents a detailed list of all reported dates for that mint which were known to Diler, with one or two references for each date, separately for the three basic metals, gold, silver and copper, and when appropriate, a footnote providing further information. The mint list fills the first two volumes. Each date (also datable or date-missing listings) is accompanied by one or two references provided as numbers, which correspond to a non-alphabetical list of references in volume 3. Also included in volume 3, filling about 330 pages, is a list of all dynasties and their rulers, with the rulers’ dates in both the Hijri and Christian calendar. The dynasties are listed alphabetically according to their Turkish spellings, and the rulers of each dynasty alphabetically, also by their Turkish spellings. The first few pages of volume 3 provide a cross-reference from English to Turkish names of the dynasties, in English alphabetical order. The work is an amazing assemblage of information, but frustrating to use.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Mayer, Leo A., Bibliography of Moslem Numismatists (India Excluded), London 1954 (2nd edition). This work is remarkably complete for everything published prior to 1953, and some information is provided each listed publication, including a partial list of the dynasties treated.


Supplementary bibliography can be found in Numismatic Literature, published semi-annually by the American Numismatic Society (and now available on line at www.numismus.org, in the Index Islamicus (published periodically) and in the supplement to the Revue d’études islamiques known as Abstracta Ismamica (published annually).

Farr, Jim, Jim Farr’s Numismatic Bibliography, a website at www.netally.com/jimfarr/jims.bibliography.htm, very useful alphabetical list of his own library, mostly books and article about Islamic coins.

Further information can be found in general numismatic bibliographies, as well as the useful Survey of Numismatic Research published about every six to seven years by the International Numismatic Commission.

MUSEUM CATALOGS

Lane-Poole, Stanley, Catalogue of Oriental Coins in the British Museum, London 1875-1890 (10 volumes) (reprint: Bologna 1967) — Still the #1 reference guide, with full transcription of all coin legends and hundreds of high-quality photographs (the reprint is of mediocre quality).

Universität Tübingen, see Sylloge section below.


Fahmy, ’Abdurrahman Muhammad, Fajr al-sikka al-’arabiyya, Cairo 1965 (in Arabic) — covers all series up to about 400 Hijri.

Lavoix, Henri, Catalogue des monnaies musulmanes de la Bibliothèque Nationale (3 volumes), Paris, 1887-1896 (reprint: Bologna 1977-78) — very important; unfortunately, the reprint is abominable, with fragile binding.

(A fourth volume of the Paris collection, Asie pré-mongole: les Saljuqs et leurs successeurs, was compiled by Gilles Hennequin, and published in 1985. Hennequin was preparing a fifth volume, to include the early Iranian dynasties prior to the Seljuqs, but it now seems likely that it will never be published.)


Nützel, Heinrich, Katalog der orientalischen Münzen, Königliche Museen zu Berlin (2 volumes), Berlin 1898-1902 — covers only the caliphate, Spanish, and North African dynasties.

‘Ush-, Muhammad Abu-l-Faraj, Arab Islamic Coins preserved in the National Museum of Qatar, Doha 1984 — covers the caliphate only. The second volume covering other dynasties has been compiled by Ibrahim Jabir Al-Jabir, Doha 1992. Not available for sale.


Sourdel, Dominique, Inventaire des monnaies musulmanes anciennes du musée de Caboul, Damascus 1953.

MISCELLANEOUS REFERENCES

(Listed here are a few items which cover a wide variety of different dynasties)


Miles, G.C., Numismatic History of Rayy (ANS Numismatic Studies #2), New York 1938 — the first major study of the coinage of one mint.


Bernardi, Giulio, Arabic Gold Coins Corpus I, Trieste 2010 — The volume covers all Islamic gold coins issued 65-334 / 684-946, listed by mint, date and variety. With a little practice it is easy to use and very useful.

Valentine, W.H., Modern Copper Coins of the Muhammadan States, London 1911 (reprints exist).

SYLLOGE NUMORUM ARABICORUM

The Sylloges is a form of collection publication, in which nearly all coins are illustrated with a high quality image, together with a brief listing. The format was first used for ancient Greek coinage in 1931. The principal advantage of the sylloges format is that a collection becomes available for study without the expense and hassle of traveling to the collection, which, especially in the case of private holdings, may otherwise be inaccessible.

Cambridge (Fitzwilliam Museum), in progress.

Jena (Universität), so far one volume has been published, Sylloge Münzen des Kaukasus und Osteuropas, by Tobias Mayer, with an introduction by Stefan Heidemann & Gert Rispling.

Oxford (Ashmolean Museum, Heberden Coin Room, including the Samir Shamma collection, on loan until April 2004), in progress, under the title Syllège of Islamic Coins in the Ashmolean. Five volumes have so far been published:

1. The pre-reform coinage of the early Islamic period, by Stephen Album & Tony Goodwin.

2. Early post-reform coinage, by N.D. Nicol, covering Umayyad precious metal and copper coinage, together with ‘Abbassid copper.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 17
6. The Egyptian dynasties, by N.D. Nicol.
9. Iran after the Mongol invasion, by Stephen Album, especially important for the Durrani & Barakzay series.
10. Arabia and East Africa, by Stephen Album.


It is anticipated that more collections, both public and private, will eventually be published in this format, now facilitated by rapidly improving digital imaging technologies. However, it is increasingly uncertain whether future publications will be in traditional book form or in electronic form, though for the foreseeable future, the book form will probably continue to predominate.

### AUCTION CATALOGS

Jacques Schulman, Amsterdam, various sales between about 1900 and the 1920s, a few later.

Busso Peus Nachf., Frankfurt, several important Islamic sales since 1971, especially important since about 1995.

Münz Zentrum (Albrecht + Hofmann), Köln, various sales during the 1970s and 1980s, especially for Iranian dynasties, including the Konstal Münz collection of Iranian coins.

Spink & Son, six important sales held annually from 1986-1991 at their Zürich subsidiary, known as Spink-Taisei. The series has been resumed in London in 1996 with an Islamic section occasionally included in general coin auctions. There have been occasional offerings of Islamic coins in their London sales from the 1970s onward. Since 1990, Spink-Taisei of Singapore & Hong Kong have included Islamic coins in their sales, but principally of Indian & Southeast Asian series.

Sotheby’s, London, approximately semi-annual sales from 1978 to the present (dedicated Islamic sales until 1984, thereafter segments of comprehensive sales of ancient, Islamic, and other coins and paper money). Replaced by Morton & Eden for coins in the early 2000s.

Morton & Eden, important auctions of Islamic coins, including the famous Umayyad dinar of AH105 referring to al-Hijaz that fetched more than $6 million dollars in 2011. A.H. Baldwin & Sons, London, significant auctions since 1996.

Arabian Coins & Medals, Dubai (a joint venture of A.H. Baldwin and André de Clermont, both of London), their first auction in November 1998, expected to become a significant player henceforth.

Christie’s, London, a few important offerings in the 1980s.

Glendining’s, London, have offered Islamic coins since the 1950s, but mostly in large lots without illustration or individual descriptions, and thus of little use for research or pricing. Last sales in the 1980s.

Peter Schulten, Köln, several sales in the 1980s. Now defunct. Schulten now handles Islamic coins for O. Künker.

O. Künker, Osnabrück, frequent Islamic lots since about 1990.

Münzhandlung und Medaillen, Basel, several important sales from 1982 through the 1990s.

Bank Leu, Zürich, periodic Islamic sales from 1982 until about 2000.

Giessner Münzhandlung (now Gorny & Mosch), München, limited offerings since the early 1990s, with some important Ottoman Empire collections offered in the late 2000s.

A. Poinsignon, Strasbourg, increasing numbers of Islamic coins since the early 1990s, with many common types rarely illustrated elsewhere.

Jean Elsen, Brussels, mixed sales including Islamic coins since the 1980s, with many illustration of less expensive coins.

Joel L. Malter & Co., Encino CA, several important sales from the 1980s and 1990s.


Alex Malloy, South Salem NY, a few offering in the 1970s, rather more since auction catalogs were revived in the 1990s. Folded in 2007.

Scott Cordry, Pacific Beach CA, a series of ten important catalogs, especially for later centuries, prepared during the 1980s. Unfortunately, for most coins, only one side is illustrated, and prices realized were never published.

Classical Numismatic Group, Lancaster PA, significant offerings since 1993 (see [www.historicalecoins.com](http://www.historicalecoins.com)). See also the entry for Seaby’s, London, in the section on fixed price lists.

Stack’s, New York NY, including their subsidiary Coin Galleries, occasional offerings of Islamic material, mainly 18th–20th century, since the 1960s. An important sale of Yemeni and other Arabian Islamic coins was held in December 1997. Limit numbers of Islamic coins continue to appear from time to time.

Noble Numismatics, Sydney, Australia, significant offerings since the 1990s.

Dmitry Markov, New York, many important Islamic coins beginning in 1994, also some fixed price lists. Their principal auction is now incorporated into the New York Sale. q.v.

“The New York Sale”, a joint auction sponsored by Baldwin’s, Künker’s, Dmitry Markov and M&M Numismatics, held each January at the New York International Numismatic Convention, with limit numbers of Islamic and related coins (see [www.thenewyorksale.com](http://www.thenewyorksale.com)).

Morton and Eden, London, formed in 2001 to supplanted the numismatic auctions of Sotheby. They offer major sales of Islamic coins, usually twice per year (see [www.mortonandeden.com](http://www.mortonandeden.com)).

Ponterio and Associates, San Diego CA, modest numbers of Islamic coins from about 2005-2008. 26 (see [www.ponterio.com](http://www.ponterio.com)).

Islamic Coin Auctions, London, their first two sales in Dubai (1999-2000), since then in London. There 15th auction will take place in March 2009. The auctions can now be viewed via [www.sixbid.com](http://www.sixbid.com) under Baldwin’s.

Farokh Todywalla, Mumbai, India, frequent auctions since 2002 (34th auction in February 2009), important for Indian coins with occasional Islamic coins included (see [www.todyauction.com](http://www.todyauction.com)).

La Galeria Numismatique, Lausanne, Switzerland, including some Islamic coins, mainly at the New York auctions each January (see [www.coins-la-galerie-numismatique.com](http://www.coins-la-galerie-numismatique.com)).

Numerous other dealers offer Islamic coins at their premises or at coin fairs, but do not issues either fixed-price or auction catalogs.

### INTERNET AUCTIONS

Since the publication of the second edition the utilization of the internet as a venue for auction has become increasingly popular, and will undoubtedly become more so in the near future (1999). A mass migration of commercial numismatic activity to the internet began around the middle of 1998. A primary reason for this is that internet illustrations of adequate quality cost essentially nothing, after purchase of inexpensive imaging equipment and associated software.

At the present, the following auction sites are offering Islamic coins.

eBay ([www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)), ongoing auctions of all manner of collectibles, in which buyers deal directly with the consignor, eBay providing just the internet framework. Islamic coins are included either with ancient and medieval coins or under the presumed country of issue (thus not always easy to find), though it is hoped that a special “Islamic” category will eventually be established. Most coins are illustrated, and illustrations of previously auctioned coins can usually be accessed. At present (1999) eBay is still struggling with the problem of policing the problem of counterfeiters and misidentified coins being offered through its facilities, but their wise policy of allowing comments about sellers to be posted on their site seems to be keeping this problem to a minimum.

Sotheby’s ([www.sotheby.amazon.com](http://www.sotheby.amazon.com)) has recently teamed up with amazon.com to offer auctions via the internet. Some interesting Islamic coins have already been offered (March 2000). Islamic coin listings can be found under the subrubric “Other World” in the coins menu.

### FIXED-PRICE LISTS & WEBSITES

The following dealers have produced fixed-price lists that are useful sources of price information and coin availability. Dealers listed as current are those that offer from time to time on this site.

CNG (Classical Numismatic Group, [www.historicalecoins.com](http://www.historicalecoins.com)) has opened an auction site beginning 30 March 2000. Islamic coins have been offered from time to time on this site.

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**FIXED-PRICE LISTS & WEBSITES**

26 Ponterio and Associates were purchased in November 2008 by Bowers and Merena in Irvine CA. They are planning to retain the auction name Ponterio and Associates and may continue to offer Islamic coins.
Islamic coins on their website, more than 60,000 listings.

I strongly urge all collectors to familiarize themselves with the latest catalog technology.

It is my own personal belief that web listings will largely replace printed catalogs within the decade.

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The collection is fully searchable by many criteria, such as ruler, mint, province, date, etc. The ANS is currently in the process of placing their entire library online as well, including all journal articles that have been noted in 140+ issues of *Numismatic Literature* (close to 100,000 articles!!!), though it will be at least a few years before the project is completed. In short, the ANS is making a wonderful effort to make its resources more widely accessible (and perhaps to cheat the airlines out of a few fares to New York!). Check [www.numisweb2.org](http://www.numisweb2.org) for more information.

By 2010 many collectors and numismatic scholars have begun to post their collections of coins or of coin photos on their own website. If the site is specific for a particular dynasty or a group of closely related dynasties, then I have listed the URL under that dynasty. Here are a few important websites that include illustrations and descriptions of many different dynasties:

- [www.eroncoins.com](http://www.eroncoins.com) – Specialist on Anatolian coins, very useful for the Seljugs of Rum, Danishmandid and other atabek dynasties, many of the Beyliks, Ilkhan, Ertendid and other post-Ilkhani dynasties, and early Ottoman sultans. In Turkish only, easy to use, excellent photos.
- [http://okaktevirtualave.net](http://okaktevirtualave.net) – A very useful list of Islamic coins, currently containing about 725 pieces, all illustrated and most accompanied by important information and commentary.
- [http://users.rcn.com/roberts/home.htm](http://users.rcn.com/roberts/home.htm) – A growing group of Islamic coin illustrations of many different dynasties, arranged conveniently, which is very easy to use.
- [http://islamiccoins.anciens.info](http://islamiccoins.anciens.info) – The Maskukat collection, a private collection in the Middle East, with at least 2000 coins listed by dynasty, pictured and described. These are mostly common types, thus extremely useful for the average collector. The site is conveniently arranged and very easy to use.

The book trade is much more advanced in its utilization of the internet than the numismatic trade. However, several coin dealers who also handle numismatic books are going online; try Elsen or Numisart (addresses above) for starters now.

### ZENO.RU

By far the most important website for Islamic is Vladimir Bel’yaev’s magnificent website, which on 31 May 2011 reached a total of 100,000 illustrated coins, of which more than 30,000 are Islamic. The Islamic coins are organized by dynasties, often broken down either by ruler or by region if there are more than a few dozen listed for that dynasty. Access is free, and it is highly recommended that the potential user becomes a member, also free. Setting up membership is very easy and takes no more than 2 or 3 minutes.

For computer dodos like myself, Zeno will at first be difficult to use, but I’ve become accustomed to the website after some practice, and some help from others. I now find it magnificent and incredibly useful. Because the site is centered in Russia, it is especially useful for Caucasian, Central Asian and Iranian dynasties, but also to Yemen, due to the resplendent work of just one contributor, Vladimir Suchy of Slovakia. Moreover, every member is encouraged to contribute illustrations and descriptions, as well as to record comments regarding coins listed by others. At present, I am working together with Bel’yaev, hoping to upload the many thousands of photos preserved from previous lists and auction catalogues.

It would not surprise me if, in the early days of Zeno, Bel’yaev had no idea just how important his website would soon become. He is to be congratulated for his creation, which will clearly soon become the “Encyclopedia Britannica”, more properly entitled “Encyclopedia Russica”, of Islamic and Indian coins.

At present (October 2011), the rapidly growing site tends to operate quite slowly, but it is anticipated that this will shortly be corrected.

### THE CHECKLIST

The Checklist is arranged by dynasty, in approximate chronological sequence, geographically organized from west to east. This arrangement has long been adopted by most cataloguers and dealers, and derives ultimately from the schema developed by Fraenkel, Sachau and others in the early 19th century. In his *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 19
New Islamic Dynasties, C.E. Bosworth continues to follow a rather similar format.

Each dynastic heading may be followed by a short bibliography and a very brief historical blurb, general numismatic information applicable to that dynasty, finally the listings of the coin types. Dynasties that were divided into clear geographically defined branches are thusly separated. When there is no clear pattern of geographic division, as for the Qarakhanids, Timurids and Buwayhids, rulers are listed in approximate chronological order; irrespective of where they ruled. Each listing is accompanied by a rarity factor and, where deemed necessary, a short explanatory note.

**CATALOG NUMBER CHANGES**

Unfortunately, in order to keep catalog numbers in the proper numerical and alphabetical order, new discoveries or the addition of omitted types have required that I change a few catalog numbers for this third edition, but such changes have been kept to an absolute minimum. Reuse of discarded numbers is described under the appropriate number. Most of the altered numbers refer to RR or RRR types.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old number</th>
<th>New number</th>
<th>Brief description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>219A</td>
<td>L73</td>
<td>Nusayr, AR ½ dirham, Rayy 168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222.15</td>
<td>222A.1</td>
<td>Mintless AV dinar, 206-210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B328</td>
<td>J1395</td>
<td>Mika’il, AE fals, Khwarizm 224-231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>353.1</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>Hisham II, AV dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>353.2</td>
<td>353S</td>
<td>Hisham II, AV dinar, Sijilmasa mint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A514</td>
<td>513H</td>
<td>Muhammad V, 899-932, AV dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1070</td>
<td>1069M</td>
<td>al-Mansur al-Qasim, AV dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1070</td>
<td>1069N</td>
<td>‘, AR sudaysi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1080.1</td>
<td>1080</td>
<td>Muhammad b. Saba’, AV dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1080.2</td>
<td>1080I</td>
<td>‘Imran b. Muhammad, AV dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1210</td>
<td>1225A</td>
<td>Kayka’us II, AE fals, enthroned emperor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1425</td>
<td>F1425</td>
<td>Nasr b. Ahmad, AE fals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1491</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Mazyadid, incorporated into type A1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1546.1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Rukn al-Dawla, divided into 1546 and 1546A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1547.1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>‘, divided into 1547 and 1547A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1547.2</td>
<td>1547E</td>
<td>‘, with engraver’s name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1570.1</td>
<td>1570</td>
<td>With overlord Fakhr al-Dawla, 380-387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1570.2</td>
<td>1570D</td>
<td>Without overlord Fakhr al-Dawla, 387-388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1692</td>
<td>M784</td>
<td>Anonymous Burid type in name of the Seljuqs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1693</td>
<td>N784</td>
<td>Anonymous Burid type in name of the Seljuqs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1977</td>
<td>1976G</td>
<td>Broad copper coin of Güyük Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2012</td>
<td>V2366</td>
<td>Timur &amp; Suyurghatmish, AV fractional dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2221.1</td>
<td>2221</td>
<td>Arpa Ga’un, type A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2221.2</td>
<td>2221E</td>
<td>Arpa Ga’un, type FA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2281.1</td>
<td>same</td>
<td>Now type B instead of type A, dated 762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2282.2</td>
<td>same</td>
<td>Now type A instead of type B, dated 761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2320.2</td>
<td>H2322</td>
<td>Hodja ‘Ali Shah, AR akçe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3032.1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>May not exist, now a note after #3032.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3032.2</td>
<td>3032</td>
<td>Haidar, double pul</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that in order to list coins in a historically meaningful order, some of the type numbers are no longer in exact order, especially those with an additional number (e.g., 1425.1, 1425.2, etc.) or those with a letter before or after the number. For example, I listed types S1160 through W1160 before H1160 through N1160, as the latter items are from Oman and I chose to keep all the Oman dynasties together. When a number has been moved a significant distance from its original location, e.g., to a different dynasty or on a different page, I have indicated the new location at the appropriate place. For example, there is a reference note between #1209 and #1211 indicating that #1210 is now listed immediately after #1225.

Under no circumstances will I totally replace the existing type numbers, starting from one up to 6000+. An overwhelming majority of readers are infinitely opposed to a total renumbering, as this would require everyone, be they collectors, dealers, numismatic writers, historians, etc., to rewrite every single one of their references (except the first five Arab-Sasanian types, #1-5). Admittedly, some of the type numbers in the 3rd edition have become somewhat unwieldy, such as the greatly expanded Muluk al-Tawa’if (#362-418), the Anatolian beyliks (#1248-1287), the substantially revived minor dynasties following the Samanids (#1486-1510), the Great Mongols (#1964-1969), the Muzaffarid & Jalayrids (#2277-2319), etc. For the fourth edition, I am considering renumbering some of these cumbrous groups, just as I chose to renumber the Qarakhanids for the 2nd edition (#3300-3499) and the Arab-Byzantine for this edition (#3500-3599). Suggestions are welcome!
Inauthentic dates are recorded for most of the more common types, either earlier or later than the correct dates in any of the above-mentioned calendars. Some may be mere typos or thoughtlessness, others perhaps the use of old obverse or reverse dies, as well as local or Silk Road imitations.

Arab-Sasanian Mint Names — (Kirman provincial mints marked with an asterisk (*) are found as solitary names before AH58, thereafter as suffixes to KRMAN)

More than sixty mint abbreviations have been reported, many of which remain unlocated or hypothetically identified. The following list of mint signatures, each followed by an estimate of rarity in parentheses, is reasonably complete, but omits names found only on Arab-Heptihalite and other coins not part of the regular Arab-Sasanian series:30

AFZWT, unidentified, known only on coins of 'Ubayd Allah b. Ziyad dated AH56-57 (R). AFZW, "may it increase", probably refers to 'Ubayd Allah, but the letter K might be an abbreviated mint name.

AHM, Hamadan, on Khurso types and of year 52 in the name of Ziyad b. Abu Sufyan (RR).

AKWLA (Aqyla), al-Kufa (formerly misread as ATRA for a putative mint in Adharbayjan (RR).

ANWAT*, undetermined location in Kirman province (RR both as freestanding mint and as suffix to KRMAN) (several various spellings have been recorded for this enigmatic name).

APR, uncertain mint, possibly, but not certainly, the same as APRS (q.v.) (RR).

APRS and APRST, Abasarshahr (R), now known as Nishapur in Khorasan province.

ART, Ardashir Khurra (on some copper coins, the mint is written out in full) (S).

AT, see ST.

AW, generally regarded as Ahwaz in Khuzestan province, but recently questioned (R).

AY, uncertain, sometimes transcribed as AB and confounded with APR, Abasarshahr, which is unlikely (Sears suggests Sus in Khuzestan) (RR).

AYPTAK, uncertain mint, perhaps Itak, the region around Abivard in Khorasan (also read tentatively as SYPTAK). In any case, a Khorasanian location is required (RR).

AYR, uncertain (RR), now believed to have been located somewhere in the region of al-Kufa in south-central Iraq (AY, AYR, and AYRAN are now regarded as referring to three different locations).

AYRAN, probably Hulwan in western Iran (R).

AYWKW: now listed as SYWKW.

BBA, "Bab" (the gate), a traveling mint presumed to have been operated by the royal entourage in Sasanian times, and by the governor’s entourage in Muslim times (R) (many earlier publications have incorrectly interpreted this mint as Balkh).

BH, uncertain (RR).

BHL, Balkh, known only on a somewhat peculiar Khurso type with a date tentatively read as AH63 (RR).

BCRA, Basra (al-Basra in Arabic) (C); issues in the name of 'Ubayd Allah b. Ziyad are the most common Arab-Sasanian coins of all.

BN*, undetermined location in Kirman province, possibly Bamum, also written as KRMAN-BN (R).

BPA, unidentified, known only for Ziyad b. Abu Sufyan, dated AH53 (RR).

Mu’awiya, type #14, circa AH52-54

Samura b. Jundab, type #9, circa AH53-54

‘Ubayd Allah b. Ziyad, type #12, circa AH55-56 (the order of the Mu’awiya & Samura issues is tentative)

In AH56 (= Yazdigerd year 45), Darabjird and its two ancillary mints, Fasa and Jahrum, resumed using actual dates, but in the Yazdigerd calendar, commencing with YE45. Nearly all later issues of these three mints retain the Yazdigerd calendar. Walker and others read the year on these coins as 41, but I believe that 43 was retained on the coins for approximately 15 years. Another example is the year 43, used on coins of Darabjird and its dependent mints (Fasa and Jahrum) for 12 years, in the names of seven different rulers or governors.29

The rarity applies only to Arab-Sasanian drachms. Some mints might be much rarer or more common, or even nonexistent, for standard Sasanian drachms.

By the gradual dispersal of his frontier garrison, Yazdigerd set off on a military expedition in the north of his kingdom in AH51 (Yazdigerd year 39-40), when the type is believed to have been struck:

‘Abd Allah b. ‘Amir, type #6, AH44-47

Khusro type, bism Allah rabbi in margin, type #5, AH47-50

Ziyad b. Abu Sufyan, type #8, circa AH50-52

The tentative order of the seven issues is as follows. Noted are the name legend, the catalog number of the type, and the approximate period in Hijri years when the type is believed to have been struck:

Although many important coins are described and illustrated, most of Mochiri’s attributions are no longer accepted.

29 The rare “Umayya” type of AH52, which appears on coins of Khurso and Darabjird, is now known to have been struck in the name of ‘Abd Allah (q.v.), resulting in its misidentification, but it served primarily to confirm the attribution of other types to the Umayyad caliphs.

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The rarity applies only to Arab-Sasanian drachms. Some mints might be much rarer or more common, or even nonexistent, for standard Sasanian drachms.
BŠ, unidentified, probably not a misspelling of BYŠ, as has occasionally been suggested (RRR). 

BST, Bust in eastern Sistan, found only on a unique drachm of Salim b. Ziyad bearing the SK mint name on the reverse, BST in the obverse margin, together with the frozen year 56 (RRR).

BYŠ, Bishapur (C).

BYW (or BYN), undetermined mint, known only for the Khusro type #4 (RRR).

DA, Darabjird (C).

DA+P, Fasa (S): the additional letter P is written either after the DA signature in the usual mint location, or to the left or right of the base of the fire-altar.

DA+G (sometimes DA+GH), Jahrum (R) (same positions as DA+P) (on one issue of Qatari b. al-Fuja’a, the mint is written out in full, DA+GHRWM, thus clinching the attribution).

Dimashq (Damascus), written out in Arabic on a special type (#D6) (RRR).

(DP, a variant of DA+P, q.v.)

DR, unidentified, possibly a careless misspelling of KR, which is believed to have been Kirman for Sasanian coins (RR).

DS, Dast Maysan, also written as DS or DSiTY (R).

(FSA is PSA alternatively transliterated, q.v.)

GD, Jayy (S).

GRM, later GRM-KRMN, “Garm-Kiran”, unidentified (R) (both as freestanding mint and as prefix to KRMN).

GW, probably Qumam (RRR), not to be confused with the much more common BN (GW is common as a Sasanian mint).

GWBR, Jur in Fars province, found only on copper (RR).

GY*, Juruf (in Kirman province) (RR) as a freestanding mint name, R as suffix to KRMN.

HBR, tentatively reckoned as Khabr in south-central Fars province, copper only (RRR).

Hims, written out in Arabic on a special type (#D6) (2 known).

HPYC*, Khabis (in Kirman province) (RRR as a freestanding mint name, R as suffix to KRMN).

HRA, Herat (R).

HWASAN, the provincial name Khorasan, found only on some drachms of the AH70s (RRR).

KRMAN, Kirman (S), frequently followed by the signature of a subsidiary mint from AH58 onwards. Sears suggests that the mint KRMN was located at the provincial capital, Shiraz.

KRMAN-ANAN, unidentified location in the province (R).

KRMAN-ANW, see ANWAT.

KRMAN-BN, see BN.

KRMAN-GY, see GY.

KRMAN-HPYC, see HYPC.

KRMAN-NAR, see NAR.

KRMAN-NAT, unidentified location in the province (RR).

KRMAN-NAW, unidentified location in the province (RR).

KRMAN-NAWGY, see NAWGY.

KRMAN-NHAT, unidentified location in the province (RR).

KRMAN-SRN, see SRN.

KWAT, almost certainly Karzin in western Fars province, known in late Sasanian times as Kobad-Khwarreh, ephemerical mint for Ziyad b. Abi Sufyan (RR).

MAT, tentative reading, unidentified location (RR).?

MR or MRW, Marw (S) (MRW on issues from AH62 onwards, MR on all earlier drachms).

MRWRWT, Marwud, in Khorasan province (RR).

MY, Mayans (R).

NAR*, Narmashir (R both as freestanding mint name and as suffix to KRMN) (not to be confused with NH). This attribution is likely but remains queried. NAWGY*, perhaps “New Juruf”, thus a possible nearby or administrative addition to the city of Juruf (RR).

(NH, now interpreted as WH, q.v.)

NHAZ, uncertain, perhaps Nahir Tira in Khuzestan province (RRR).

Not to be confused with NAR.

NY, uncertain, possibly Nihawand in central Iran (R).

NYŠ (WYŠ), unlocated, now regarded as a poor engraving of DS for Dasht, known dated AH67 (RRR).

PR, unlocated, probably to be cited somewhere in central Iran, thus probably not Furat near al-Basra, the PR mint under the Sasanians, and not to be confused with PYR (RR).

PSA (also read FSA), Fasa, found only on some extremely rare copper coins; the same as DA+P on the silver coinage.

PYR, uncertain location in Kirman province (RR), possibly identical with KRMN, as suggested by Sears. This is the only Kirman provincial mint that does not occur as a suffix to the name KRMN.

RD, Rayy (RR).

SY, unlocated mint probably in Fars province (R), almost certainly not Shiraz, as has sometimes been suggested, because the similarity between coins of SY and Kirman mints suggests a location in the easternmost section of Fars.

SK, Sijistan, the ancient Sakanast, known as Sistan in modern Persia (C).

SRCN*, possibly Sirjan or Hurjand in Kirman, mainly as suffix to KRMN (R) (formerly read as ARCN and therefore misinterpreted in several publications as Arrajan in western Fars province). When affixed to KRMN, it is occasionally shortened to either SR or SRC.

ST, Istakhr (S).

SYWKY or SYWKAN, uncertain location (RR), probably located in southern Iraq (see type #13). Also known as SYW, perhaps a shortened spelling or a different location.

TART, Taqwa (R) (TART = T=AR-T, i.e., Taqwa) as dependency of Ardashir Khurra. This attribution is virtually clinched by the discovery of post-reform dirhams of Tawwaj dated AH82.

TNBWK, probably Tanbuk in Fars province, found only on copper coins (RRR).

TSFWN, Tisfun, known in western literature as Ktesiphon, the ancient capital of the Sasanian empire, known only for an extremely rare issue of ‘Ubayd Allah b. Ziyad (RRR).

WH, Veh-Ardashir in Iraq (R) (sometimes incorrectly transliterated as NH).

WHY, almost certainly Bihqabadd in central Iraq (RR) (sometimes transliterated as NYH and mis-assigned to Nihawand).

WHYC, a mint in northern Iraq, ostensibly the treasury mint near Ktesiphon prior to the AH69s (RR), and thereafter, for a series dated AH67-73, Arrajan (RR) (extremely common for Sasanian coins). “YARY”, unknown, only on Khusro type drachms dated 39 (RRR).

YZ, Yazd (S) (Walker and others misread this signature as ZR and assigned it to Zarang). (ZR, misreading of YZ)

There are at least a dozen additional mint names, undetermined and only tentatively read, all of which are extremely rare. Several, if not most, may be contemporary “typos” or Silk Road imitations.

Please note that in conformity with Sears’ research, the denomination of the Arab-Sasanian silver coin is rendered as drachm rather than dinar, which is just the Arabized version of drachm.

The mints within Kirman province are indicated by their short name, which was added before the name KRMN. Most of the Kirman provincial mints remain unidentified.

31 “Warm Kirman”. Probably not Bamn, as suggested by Mochiri. Sears has suggested Bardasir, unlikely because Bardasir is the modern city of Kirman, far from the “warm country” at the southern region of the province. On a few coins the mint is written as KRMAN-GRM (RRR).

32 Additional reported subsidiary mints include KRMAN-AR (or SR), KRMAN-AT, KRMAN-AWAT, KRMAN-AW, KRMAN-BNBN, and KRMAN-TRA. Some of these are probably separate mints, others either alternative spellings, errors or misreadings.
Other information — Arab-Sasanian drachms are frequently found in rather excellent condition. They are usually carefully struck, without weakness, on full flans, like their Sasanian prototypes. However, they were frequently clipped down to various weight standards between about 2.3g and 3.8g, presumably in order to conform to local Umayyad or Hephthalite weight standards. The lighter clipped weights are found predominantly in western hoards, from Syria, Iraq, western Iran and the Arabian peninsula, whereas the overwhelming majority of drachms found in eastern hoards are either full weight or clipped down to the range of 3.6-3.9g.

Arab-Sasanian drachms were frequently countermarked, invariably in the obverse margin and often accompanied by a test scrape on the reverse margin that should not be regarded as damage. The various countermarks consist of animal motifs, human heads, taqhas and other miscellaneous symbols, as well as short inscriptions in Arabic, Pahlavi, Bactrian or Soghdian. The countermarks were initially catalogued by Robert Göbl in his work on the Hephthalite coinage, *Dokumente zur Geschichte der iranischen Munzen* (Wiesbaden, 1967), and were shortly afterwards analyzed and expanded by Gaube in his important work on the Arab-Sasanian coinage (noted above).

However, at least several dozen additional countermarks have surfaced in subsequent years. The countermarked types are not given separate listings in this *Checklist*, except for the Arabic words ja'iz and lillah (types #H6 and 16). All others are mostly of Hephthalite and other northeastern origins, probably none of them Islamic. Moreover, their regional and dynastic origins are little known, due to lack of provenance information and research.

There are numerous contemporary imitations of Arab-Sasanian drachms, especially of the Khusro type and of Ziyad b. Abi Sufyan, together with late Sasanian coins, almost always Khusrvo II. Mohiri has attempted to assign some of these imitations to specific religious or political factions, but his attributions are no longer widely accepted. The imitative nature of these peculiar coins, normally recognizable by their inferior calligraphy and misspelled or misconstrued inscriptions, has only been recognized since the late 1980s. No comprehensive study of these coins has yet been undertaken, much less published. When the issuer’s name includes the patronymic, it always appears in two lines, starting in the upper line, closest to the bust (with the exception of some specimens of type #6). The Pahlavi *eząf* (or *ezafe*), equivalent to Arabic *bin*, i.e., “son of”, or “he of”, at the end of the first or the beginning of the second line.

The 4 quadrants of the obverse margin are, from upper right proceeding clockwise, ObQ1, ObQ2, ObQ3 and ObQ4; those of the reverse RvQ5, RvQ6, RvQ7 and RvQ8.

Beginning about 2003, large numbers of Arab-Sasanian drachms began to reach the market, at first mainly at auction, later as wholesale groups to retail dealers. Allegedly found in Kirman province, this group has been nicknamed the “Khir airm board”, at first said to contain a few hundred pieces, but eventually estimated at between 4,000 and 8,000 specimens. Given the structure of the “board”, it seems not to be a single find but the conglomeration of several different groups, one based in Sijistan and terminating in AH84, another perhaps of Kirman origin, also bearing coins at least as late as 83, a third group of mostly Fars coins with a terminal date of about 76, and a western group, largely of the AH84 al-Basra mint, with the terminal date of about 63. While conceivably a single hoard composed of several different groups hidden together about AH84, it is much more likely the amalgamation of several newly found hoards by a collector qua investor between the 1950s and the 1970s or later. Several previously rare types turned up in substantial quantities, notably the Sijistan issues of ’Abd al-Rahman b. Muhammad (type #38A), previously fetching over $1,500, now worth $300-500 for the common Sijistan dates in (2011).

**MAIN SERIES**

### Yazdigerd type, bism Allah in margin, circa 652-668

**1. AR drachm, struck at SK (Sijistan)**

| Arabic          | RRR |
|-----------------|-----|---|
| AR drachm, bism Allah in margin, struck at SK (Sijistan) | RRR | 1 |

This and the following types (#2-3) are generally recognized as the earliest definitive Islamic coins. Nearly all coins of this type bear the frozen year 20 of Yazdigerd III (= 651/652), believed to have been struck as an immobilized date for about 15 years. Later, in the 20’s and early 30’s, are extremely rare. For the addition of the word Allah in this type, see #B6 for a related type.

**2. AR drachm, with frozen year 20 (Yazdigerd era)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>RRR</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR drachm, bism Allah in margin, with frozen year 20 (Yazdigerd era)</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Struck at three mints in Kirman province (BN, NAR, GRM), as well as Darabjird (DA) in Fars and Marv (MRTW) in Khorasan.

**3. AR drachm, similar, dated Hijri year 31 or 33**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>RRR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR drachm, similar, dated Hijri year 31 or 33</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Struck only at SY. The exact year is obscure because the digits ‘1’ and ‘3’ in the Pahlavi script look so similar. See also #F6 for a related type in the name of Khusro.

### Khusro type, bism Allah in margin (ObQ2), circa 653-670

**4. AR drachm, dated 21 to 39 (mostly Yazdigerd years)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR drachm, bism Allah in margin, dated 21 to 39 (mostly Yazdigerd years)</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Known from about 25 mints throughout Iran & Iraq. Some pieces dated in the 30’s may bear Hijri rather than Yazdigerd years. Khusrvo’s name is written as AभरŠर in Pahlavi.

### Khusro type, bism Allah rabbi in margin, circa AH47-50 / 666-670

**5. AR drachm, normally dated AH47-50**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR drachm, normally dated AH47-50</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Normally, bism Allah is in ObQ2 and rabbi in ObQ3, but occasionally, both are in ObQ2. This type is now identified as an issue of Ziyad b. Abi Sufyan as governor of al-Basra, before he was granted the governorship of al-Kufa as well. Coins dated 51 & 52 are munitions of current reverses with old obverse dies. Coins of the Darabjird region retain the frozen year 43.

This type was resumed in Sijistan during the AH80s, at first anonymous, later with the governor’s name, with the name normally in the obverse margin but in a few rare cases replacing the name of Khusro (#P75 ff.).

### Khusro “lillah” type, with lillah in margin instead of bism Allah, circa 656-670

**6. AR drachm, dated 25 to 39 (normally reckoned as Yazdigerd years)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>RRR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AR drachm, dated 25 to 39 (normally reckoned as Yazdigerd years)</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Lillah* also resembles the first two letters of the Pahlavi APD found on many drachms of Khusro II (Göbl #211). The dating of this series remains controversial, though if the dates are authentic, Yazdigerd “regnal” years are mostly likely intended. Only the issue of DA year 30 is occasionally available. All other mints and dates are at least RR. Although at least 250 specimens are now known to exist, the type was entirely unknown to Walker in 1941! I am increasingly convinced that these are local imitations with inauspicious mints and dates, produced either by the Arabs or their pro-Sasanian, Hephthalite or other opponents. The were likely produced with what could be easily read either as *lillah* in Arabic or the first two letters of APD in Pahlavi, so that they would be acceptable to everyone, especially in eastern Iran, Central Asia and along the Silk Road.

**WARNING** Modern counterfeits of the human head countermark have appeared since the 1990s. The forgery is finely detailed, usually well stamped, and applied to genuine Sasanian and, more rarely, Arab-Sasanian coins.

Several of the types listed here are potentially regarded as unofficial or imitative issues, facetiously nicknamed “FLCs”, for “funny looking coins”. These include the following groups:

**Jaiyyid**, which are types #2, 3 and 6.

**Khusro type with rabbi Allah in the margin, type #B6.**

**Khusro type with bism Allah al-qud in margin, #C6.**

-al-Hajjaj b. Yusuf, types #35.2, 35.3, 35.4, 35.5, and 36.

At present I would consider on type #B6 to be an unofficial issue, and possibly some examples of the jaiyyid types. The others seem to be official issues.

There are of course “FLCs” derived from many other official types, especially the earlier issues (until the end of ’Ubayd Allah b. Ziyad’s governorship in AH64), and the later issues of the eastern mints, mainly in the provinces of Khorasan and Sistan. While some “FLCs” are surely unofficial issues, others might be the result of poorly skilled engravers at official mints. A thorough study of these coins would be immensely complex, perhaps years of hard labor.
Khusro type, circa 668±, with only rabbi Allah in the obverse margin (ObQ2)

B6 AR drachm, struck only at Jayy (GD) in year YE37

Khusro type, with bism Allah al-malik in margin

C6 AR drachm, al-malik in ObQ3, struck only at Bishapur (BYŚ) in the year AH47

Khusro type, with mint & date in Arabic on reverse

D6 AR drachm (Dimashq AH72-74 & Hims AH72)
Drachms of Dimashq 72 and Hims 72 bear bism Allah mohammad rasul Allah in the obverse margin. Drachms of Dimashq 73-74 bear the longer form, bism Allah la ilah illa illa Allah wahdahu mohammad rasul Allah covering the entire obverse margin, the first occurrence of the full kalima on a silver coin.

Khusro type, with tabarak Allah in obverse margin

E6 AR drachm, completely blundered mint & date
The marginal legend interpretation is probable, with the long olig of tabarak. Believed to be from eastern Khorasan, perhaps circa AH70-80, possibly an issue of a pro-Muslim branch of the Hepthalities or some other local tribe.

Anonymous, countermarked ja‘iz (“current”)

H6 AR drachm, on various Sasanian and Arab-Sasanian drachms, in obverse margin

Anonymous, countermarked lillah (“for God”)

I6 AR drachm, on various Sasanian and Arab-Sasanian drachms, in obverse margin

Some examples countermarked lillah are also countermarked ja‘iz as on type #H6. Both countermarks always appear in the quadrants of the obverse margin.

‘Abd Allah b. ‘Amir (b. Kurayz), circa AH41-45 / 661-664

6 AR drachm, with patronymic
Inscribed in Pahlavi APDWLA Y AMWRAN. 38 ‘Abd Allah was the first governor to place his name on Islamic coinage, which was previously entirely anonymous, except for the posthumous retention of the names Khusr or Yazdigerd. The earliest confirmed date is AH42, which normally appears in the unusual but easily understood form, CHARTLYN rather than DWCH. Regular types are normally dated AH44 or 47, of which the latter date is presumably the result of political confusion after his abdication in 45. Those of the Darabjird region bear the frozen year 43.

7 AR drachm, similar, but without the patronymic
Inscribed APDWLA, which is now understood to refer to the governor ‘Abd Allah b. ‘Amir. Known dated AH41-44. The form of Pahlavi APDWLA is only slightly different from AOWRKY (Khusr), so that its introduction was but a subtle alteration of the text.

Ziyad b. Abi Sufyan, 45-54 / 665-673

See note to #5 for an anonymous Khusr type that was struck under the authority of Ziyad between 47 and 50.

8 AR drachm
Always citing Ziyad b. Abi Sufyan in the normal position before the bust, normally with bism Allah rabbi in margin. Dated AH47 and 50-54 (rarely 49), as well as issues of DA (Darabjird) with frozen year 43. 39 A rare posthumous issue of al-Basra (bCRa) dated AH55 is more likely a contemporary imitation of the late 50s/670s or 60s/680s.

Samura b. Jundab, circa 53-54 / 672-673

9 AR drachm
Drachms of Samura, ephemeral governor at al-Basra, were struck only at the Darabjird mint, always with frozen date 43.

‘Abd al-Rahman b. Zayd, circa 52-54 / 672-674

10 AR drachm
‘Abd al-Rahman ruled only in Kirman, and his coins were struck only at mints in that province, always without the prefix KRMAN. The patronymic is clearly Zayd, not Ziyad as given in most older numismatic references. This governor is known only from his coins and should not be confused with the well-known ‘Abd al-Rahman b. Ziyad b. Abi Sufyan, who never served in Kirman.

al-Hakam b. Abi’t-As, circa 54-58 / 674-677

11 AR drachm
Al-Hakam succeeded ‘Abd al-Rahman in Kirman, but his identity is unknown. His coins are struck only at mints in that province, always without the prefix of suffix KRMAN. The obverse margin bears the inscription bism Allah rabb al-hukm (“in the name of God, Lord of the judgment”) which suggests that al-Hakam was perhaps a Kharijite. The initial word bism is sometimes omitted.

‘Ubayd Allah b. Ziyad, 54-64 / 673-673

12 AR drachm
Coins of this governor ordinarily bear Hijri dates (54-64), except for coins of DA (Darabjird) and a few other related mints, which bear dates in the Yazdigerd era (43 and YE 45-52, of which 43 is the frozen Hijri year first introduced by ‘Abd Allah b. ‘Amir). Al-Basra (bCRa) is by far the most common mint, known for all years 56 through 64, or which only year 64 is rare. In fact the ‘Ubayd Allah drachms of al-Basra are the most common of all Arab-Sasanian coins. In all, close to 30 mints are known for this governor, of which Darabjird, Jayy, Dushit Maysan, NY, Sijistan and Istakh are reasonably common. Inauthentic dates are also known.

12A AR drachm, with Pahlavi YZRN in ObQ1, mint of AYRN and normally dated 29-32 in the Post-Yazdigerd era

A13 AE pashiz, bust right / fire altar, Istakhr and Ardashir Khurra mints, dated AH57-65 (sic)

Probably the earliest securely identifiable Arab-Sasanian copper.

al-Harith b. ‘Abd Allah, governor of al-Basra, 64-65 / 683-684

13 AR drachm
Mints of al-Basra, Dushit Maysan and “SYWKY”, known only dated 65. The Pahlavi rendering of this name HARYT-Y APDWLA is identical to one of two variants used for Khalid b. ‘Abd Allah (#24), but the coins are readily distinguished by mint, date, and ornaments. The letters t and l are both represented by the same character in Pahlavi.

Mu‘awiyah (the Umayyad caliph), AH41-60 / 661-680

14 AR drachm
Coins struck only in the Darabjird district circa AH52-54, but with frozen year 43 only. These are the earliest Islamic coins

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37 Islamic Coin Auction No.6 (2003), lot 1.
38 On some early issues, especially of BYŚ (Bishapur (BYŚ), the name APDWLA Y appears in the lower line, with AMWRAN in the upper line (RR), rather than the normal arrangement in reverse. All coins dated 44 and later show the normal arrangement.
39 One example of GW is dated year 37, probably either an error or the use of an old reverse die, or perhaps a local imitation.

40 The year on this and other DA coins with the same frozen year was interpreted by Walker as 41, but with reservations that it might also be interpretable as 43. For historical reasons I believe that 43 must be the correct reading. There are drachms of this type with inauthentic dates such as 6, 25, 26, 307 and others, either mulings, errors or imitations, either contemporary or struck shortly after his governorship. Drachms dated 49 are mulings of an obverse die in the name of Ziyad b. Abi Sufyan with an old reverse die dated 49 and intended only for the anonymous Khusr type 85. Similar, anonymous drachms dated 51 and 52 reflect an obsolete obverse die in the name of Khusr. These mulings illustrate the caution required when using Islamic coins for historical interpretation.
from any region that cite the name of a caliph, and the only known type that cites Mu'awiya.

‘Abd Allah b. al-Zubayr, rival caliph, 60-73 / 680-692

15 AR drachm, with his name & patronymic, but without caliphal title (APDWLA-Y ZWYPYRAN) Only AR (Ardashir Khurra) is a frequent mint for this type.

16 AR drachm, with his name and the caliphal title (APDWLA-AMYR-Y WRWYSYNYKAN) in Pahlavi script (without his patronymic)
The most common mint is Darabjird (DA), together with its subordinate mints Fasa & Jahrum; Istakhr (ST) and the Kirman mints (KRMAN, usually with additional abbreviation) are not especially rare. Drachms of Darabjird and its subordinate mints are dated in the Yazdigerd era, YE53-60, whereas all other mints used the Hijri calendar.

16A AR drachm, with caliphal title only (without his personal name ‘Abd Allah), i.e., merely AMYR-Y WRWYSYNYKAN, struck only at Darabjird (DA) in YE 53 and Kirman (KRMAN) in AH64

Mus'ab b. al-Zubayr, circa 66-71 / 685-690
Brother of the rival caliph ‘Abd Allah b. al-Zubayr.

17 AR drachm
Known from al-Basra 66, Dasht Mayans 67, several Kirman mints between 69 & 71, and NYS 67.
The drachm of Dasht Mayans 67 bears the name mus'ab repeated in Arabic in ObQ3, possibly the earliest example of a governor’s name to appear on a coin in Arabic.

Salm b. Ziyad, circa 61-65 / 680-684
18 AR drachm
Coins were struck in the name of this governor until the year 70, five years after his deposition, for reasons still undetermined, but undoubtedly tied to the three-way struggle between the Zubayrids, the Umayyads and the Hephthalites. His coins were struck at several mints in Khorasan, of which Marw (MRW) and Herat (HRA) are the most common, together with Marw al-Rudh (MRWWT) and Sijistan (SK) which are almost only moderately rare. Other mints are rare. See also #A91 for another alleged son of Ziyad (b. Abi Sufyan).

Many issues of Salm b. Ziyad and ‘Abd Allah b. Khazim (type #19) seem to be contemporary imitations struck to various Hephthalite weight standards between about 3.2g and 3.75g. The mints & dates on these imitative examples are now believed repeated. An engraver's typo or the use of an old obverse die is not inconceivable.

‘Abd al-'Aziz b. (Madur??), fl. 61 / 681
M19 AR drachm, struck at Istakhr (ST), dated AH61

19 AR drachm
Normal coins of this Zubayrid governor were struck exclusively in the province of Khorasan. A few anomalous issues have mint marks from other provinces, but those are either imitations (RR) or struck from purloined dies (R).

Marw (MRW) is the most common mint, with issues of Abarsahr (APRST) and the military camp mint (BBA) not especially rare.

Muhammad b. ‘Abd Allah (b. Khazim), fl. 67 / 686
A20 AR drachm, struck at Herat (HRA) in 67 only

20 AR drachm
Drachms of this governor are the first Islamic coins to bear the inscription muhammad rasul Allah, which appears in ObQ3.

‘Umar b. ‘Ubayd Allah (b. Mismar), Zubayrid governor, 67-72 / 686-691
21 AR drachm
Drachms of this Zubayrid governor are characterized by the words lillah al-hand ("praise be to God") in the obverse margin in place of bism Allah. Common mints are Bishapur (BYS) and Ardashir Khurra (ART), with Istakhr (ST) only slightly rare. A drachm of al-Basra dated AH65 has recently been discovered.

It seems not to be a muling of unintended dies. Kirman (KRMAN) 65 is also known, perhaps also a muling.

21E AE pashiz, struck only at Istakhr (ST)
Standard obverse, with name UMAR in Pahlavi to right of the bust, also with an uncertain Pahlavi word, probably GWYAN, at 4h in obverse margin.

Muqtal b. Misma', at Bishapur only, 72-73 / 691-692
22 AR drachm
The date previously interpreted as 71 should now be regarded as 73, with 70 (HFTAT) as a Pahlavi word, 3 as a Pahlavi numeric symbol. All coins bear the Arabic word bakiya in ObQ3, the only known reference to an Arab tribe on an early Arabic coin, in this case the Bakr ibn Wa'il tribe.

Humran b. Aban, at Ardashir Khurra only, 72 / 691
23 AR drachm
There are two types in this reign, same date & mint, one with (#23.1) and one without (#23.2) the name repeated in Arabic in ObQ3 (humran bina aba). About equal rarity.

Khalid b. ‘Abd Allah, circa 73-75 / 692-694
24 AR drachm
Struck at al-Basra, Bishapur and Arrajan (WYHC), of which only Bishapur is frequently available. This is the second regular issue of Arab-Sasanian coins to have muhammad rasul Allah in the obverse margin (after type #20), at all mints except Arrajan. The name Khalid is written either as HLYT or HLYD in the Pahlavi script. Both forms are used on the coins of this governor.

25 AR drachm, with al-'aziz in Arabic in ObQ3, struck at Sijistan in year 66 and 69

This is the only Arab-Sasanian coin to bear the names of both the father & grandfather of the issuer. There is also a drachm of Istakhr (ST) dated 74, but it has not been determined if this ‘Abd al-'Aziz really ruled as late as 74. An engraver’s typo or the use of an old obverse die is inconceivable.

25A AR drachm, struck at Sijistan in year 72 only

A most remarkable experimental type. The obverse is identical to #25, but the reverse has the fire altar and attendants replaced by the Islamic shahada inscribed in a Pahlavi translation. Unique.

‘Abd al-'Aziz b. ‘Abd Allah (b. Khalid), circa 71-74 / 690-693
25K AR drachm
Struck only at ART (Ardashir Khurra) and TART (Tawwaj) in 74, with “4” in the form of a Pahlavi numeral, and not 71 as was previously published by myself and others. The governor Khalid of type #24 was his brother.

Talha b. ‘Abd Allah, in Sijistan only, fl. 64-66 / 683-685
26 AR drachm
Interestingly, bism Allah is replaced by lillah talha in ObQ2.

‘Abd Allah b. ‘Ariq, fl. circa late 60s / 680s
26N AR drachm
Struck only at Sijistan (SK) and dated AH66, possibly a frozen year used by several governors who ruled in Sijistan between 66 and 72, but whose actual gubernatorial years are unknown. The patronymic name is either ‘ariq or huryq, which are written identically in Pahlavi.

‘Attab b. Warqa, fl. 68 / 687
27 AR drachm, at Jayy (GD), year AH68 only

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 25

41 Morton & Eden, Dec 2005, lot 685.
Bishr b. Marwan, fl. 73-75 / 692-694

27.1 AR drachm, caliph Orans type, struck only at al-Kufa (AH73-75) and al-Basra (AH75 only)

This remarkable coin has the portrait of the caliph, in praying position, in place of the fire altar on the reverse, flanked by two attendants in Arab dress. Coins of al-Basra (Irāk) dated 75 (Hijri) bear the full kalima, la ʾilāha illā Allah muhammad rasūl Allah (in the obverse margin, without wahdahu), which had already appeared (with wahdahu) at Dimashq in 73 & 74 (type #D6).

Some coins of al-Kufa dated 74 or 75 bear the date in the traditional Pahlavi numbers rather than words, first correctly interpreted by Treadwell in 1999. A recently discovered drachm of al-Kufa 74 bears a Pahlavi word or name in ObQ1, tentatively read as GYNGAMAN or GYGWAMAN.42

27.2 AR drachm, normal fire-altar reverse

Struck only at Jayy in 74, with the unknown name Zayd b. Abi Ziyad in the obverse margin, perhaps a local governor.

‘Abd al-Rahman b. ‘Abd Allah, fl. circa 79 / 697

A28 AR drachm, al-Kufa only (AKWLA), dated AH79 in Pahlavi numerals

‘Atiya b. al-Aswad, fl. 70-77 / 689-696

28 AR drachm

‘Atiya ruled only in Kirman province as a Kharjiite governor. Coins were struck at a plethora of local mints indicated as affixes to the provincial name KRMN. All have the formula bism Allah wali al-amr (“in the name of God, possessor of the command”) in the obverse margin.

Umayya b. ‘Abd Allah, fl. 73-78 / 693-698

29 AR drachm

Struck mainly at the court mint (BiBA) dated AH77 only, though a few extremely rare types are known from several mints in the Khorasan province. Coins previously assigned to Sijistan bear the mint name SYZSTAN, now believed to be an undetermined location somewhere in Khorasan. Sijistan in Pahlavi would be written out as SKSTAN (Sakastan).

‘Abd Allah b. Umayya, in Sijistan only, fl. 75-77 / 695-697

30 AR drachm

Coins are dated 75 and 77 only.43 All bear Arabic al-ʾizza lilah (“the glory is God’s”) in ObQ3.

al-Muhallab b. Abi Sufra, circa 75-79 / 694-698

31 AR drachm

Drachms struck at Ardashir Khurra (ART) and Tawwaj (TART) dated 75-76 also bear the name of Farrukhzad, an unknown local official (R). Except for the very rare mints KRMN-NAR and KRMN-NAWJ in Kirman province, all other mints are located in Fars province, of which Bishapur (BYSH) is by far the most common, with Darabjird and Yazd only moderately rare.

31E AE pashiz, struck at Istakhk

Derived from the so-called Anahita drachm of the Sasanian ruler Khusrū II (Göbl 218-219), but with the obverse facing portrait dressed in clothing probably reflecting some degree of Byzantine origin (Gyselen-23).

Numayra b. Malik, fl. 73 / 692

A32 AR drachm, known only from Arrajjan (WYHC on the coin) dated AH73

DeShazo has argued that the patronymic should be read as Malik and the governor be considered “possibly a son of the prominent Basran Malik b. Muslih” (ONS Newsletter-165). The governor’s name was formerly misinterpreted as al-Mughira b. al-Muhallab or Numayra b. Muslih. Subsequent research by DeShazo has clinched that the patronymic is Malik rather than Muslih.

Yazid b. al-Muhallab, at Kirman, 78 / 697

B32 AR drachm

At present, coins are known from six different local mints within Kirman province, all dated AH78. See also type #E81 for an additional issue in eastern Khorasan that belongs to the Arab-Hephthalite series.

All coins of Yazid bear the remarkable legend qawwa yazid billah “strength increases through God”, instead of bism Allah in ObQ2.

‘Abd al-Malik b. Marwan (the Umayyad caliph), 65-86 / 685-705

32 AR drachm

With a few extremely rare exceptions (Ardashir Khurra 73 and Marw 75), coins in the name of ‘Abd al-Malik were struck only at Darabjird and its dependencies, during the years 60 and 65 of the Yazdigerd era (approximately AH72 and 77, respectively).

Qatari b. al-Fuja’a, circa 69-79 / 688-698

33 AR drachm

Qatari was the declared caliph of a Kharjiite rebellious group. All have the Kharjiite slogan la hukm illa lillah (“there is no judgment except God’s”) in the obverse margin (ObQ2). His coinage was restricted to seven mints in Fars province, normally dated 75 Hijri, more rarely 76, and an extremely rare issue of a Kirman provincial mint dated 77 (KRMN-BN).44

Although there is no evidence linking the name of Qatari b. al-Fuja’a to a country name Qatar, his coins are highly prized by collectors in Qatar, and therefore fetch several times the price of comparable rarities.

Anonymous, Kharjiites, 75 / 694-695

34 AR drachm

Kharjiite issue with religious slogan in place of a governor’s name, struck only at Ardashir Khurra (ART) in AH75.

The slogan is a Pahlavi translation of la hukm illa lillah, which also appears in Arabic in its usual location, ObQ2. Probably struck by Qatari b. al-Fuja’a, very shortly before his name was added to his coinage later in the same year.

Anonymous, “Muhammad rasul Allah”, circa 82 / 701 & later

34C AR drachm, citing the prophet Muhammad in Pahlavi, struck only at GRM-KRMN (“warm Kirman”) dated “70”

The phrase to the right of the bust is MHT PGTM Y DAT, the Pahlavi equivalent of Arabic phrase muhammad rasul Allah. Stylistically, the date is much more likely 75 than its actual Hijri date. The obverse marginal inscription is bism Allah wali Allah. (ONS 178, p. 45)

34D AR drachm, as last, but with muhammad rasul Allah in Arabic, bism Allah only in obverse margin (ObQ2 as usual), struck only at Dimashq and dated AH72

Dimashq right and thanayn wa sah’in left in Arabic on reverse, with a 4th outer circle on reverse only (Peus auction 380, lot 988).

al-Hajjaj b. Yusuf, 75-95 / 694-713

A35 AR drachm, governor’s name in Arabic, the shahada bism Allah la ilah ila Allah wahdahu muhammad rasul Allah written radially in obverse outer margin, in eleven segments, dated AH76-77 (Gauje 2.2.2.4)

Struck only at Bishapur and Ardashir Khurra. An unusual example of Bishapur dated 77 is a hybrid bearing the marginal shahada partly radial and partly circular as on #35.1 (RRR). With the exception of type #36, all drachms of al-Hajjaj bear his name in Arabic.

35.1 AR drachm, governor’s name in Arabic, with the full shahada bism Allah la ilah ila Allah wahdahu

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 26

42 Morton & Eden auction 48 (March 2011), lot 3. The catalogue tried to read the name as the equivalent of “[son] of Yusuf”, which is impossible.

43 Known also crudely dated 76 (Peus 380, lot 979, date misread by the catalogue as “89”).

44 A drachm of Qatari is known dated 69 with the mint name Bishapur, but is most likely an imitation struck elsewhere, as it vastly differs stylistically from all contemporary coins of that mint.
AR drachm, similar in margin, dated 79-80

Coins published by Walker with the date 83 are actually dated 80 (HISTAT), which is normally written as HYSTAT during this period. No coins of al-Hajjaj are dated later than 81 in the Hijri era, although the Darajahj issue dated 71 (#36), if that 71 is indeed a Yazdigerd year, would date to 83/84. Mughal 47 46 38 AR drachm, governor’s name in Arabic RRR

AR drachm, similar, but lillah al-hamd in margin, dated 80 only

Coins published by Walker with the date 83 are actually dated 80 (HISTAT), which is normally written as HYSTAT during this period. No coins of al-Hajjaj are dated later than 81 in the Hijri era, although the Darajahj issue dated 71 (#36), if that 71 is indeed a Yazdigerd year, would date to 83/84.

AR drachm, governor’s name in Pahlavi (HAKAK Y YWSPA[N]) in the normal location to the right of the bust

Struck at Bishapur in AH79 and at Fasa (DA-PP) with Yazdigerd year 71 (= AH83/84). The issue of Bishapur cites a governor Farrukhuzad (FRUWZAT) in the obverse margin. 45

AE pashiz, radial inscriptions on obverse (as on #35), fire altar & attendants on reverse, known only without mint & date

Struck at the three mints listed for #35.1, plus Istakhr (ST) and Yard (Y2).

AR drachm, as vassal of al-Hajjaj b. Yusuf, radial obverse margin type, with mint and date in Arabic, mint of Jayy, AH76

Name al-bar' ibn qabisa in Arabic in reverse margin. 46

AR drachm, also as vassal of al-Hajjaj, normal obverse margin type, mint and date also in Arabic, also Jayy 76 (as type #137)

Name legend of al-Hajjaj in Pahlavi in usual location, name of al-bar' in Pahlavi in obverse margin. 47

Ubayd Allah b. Abi Bakra, at Sijistan only, fl. 79-80 / 698-699

Many coins of this type bear blundered dates apparently derived from ‘80’, presumably for several years after AH80, perhaps by the opponents of ‘Abd al-Rahman b. Muhammad, who then exercised control over most of Sijistan.

‘Abd Allah b. ‘Amir (al-Mujashi’i), temporary governor at Sijistan, 80 / 699-700

AR drachm, sk mint (Sijistan), blundered year probably intended for AH80

Inscribed in Arabic in ObQ3 & ObQ4, Allah waliya ‘abd Allah bi ‘amir, “God appointed ‘Abd Allah b. ‘Amir”, together with the name Salim in RvQ3, an unidentified individual. This type was originally misconceived as an issue of ‘Abd Allah b. ‘Amir b. Kurayz (similar to type #6).

al-Musayyib b. (Shihr?), fl. 79 / 698

AR drachm, Marw mint only (MRW), dated 79

‘Abd al-Rahman b. Muhammad, fl. 80-84 / 700-703

Traditionally known as Ibn al-Asl’ath in the historical sources.

AR drachm, governor’s name in Arabic

38A AR drachm, similar, name in Pahlavi S

‘Abd al-Rahman was at first a governor appointed by al-Hajjaj (80-82/83), then rebelled against him until his own death in 84 or 85. His coins were struck at several mints in Fars province, together with Kabib (KRMAN-HPYC) and Sijistan (SK), of which Sijistan is the only type frequently available. Since the so-called Kirman hoard reached the market in the early 2000s, Sijistan issues of this governor are no longer rare, now appearing effortlessly at auction. All other mints are at least RR. There are several obverse margin inscriptions (as o on reverse). 48

S ‘Abd Allah b. Bastam, fl. 82 / 701

AR drachm, struck only at KRMAN-GRM in 82 RRR

Standard design, with obverse margin containing bism Allah in ObQ2 and buraka in ObQ3, both in Arabic (Peus 380, lot 987).

Amr b. Laqit, in Kirman province, fl. 83 / 702

AR drachm RRR

Coins are from KRMAN-BN, KRMAN-GY, KRMAN-NAR and GRM-KRMAN, all dated 83. The Pahlavi word PYRWC, “victorious”, appears before the governor’s name, and the Arabic slogan ‘ammara Allah, “may God make prosperous” in ObQ3.

Khalid b. Abi Khalid, at Jayy (GD) in 83 / 702

AR drachm RRR

Ubayd Allah b. ‘Abd al-Rahman (al-Qurashi), fl. 83-84 / 702-703

AR drachm at al-Basra in 83 and at Kirman in 84 (KRMAN, without additional abbreviation) RRR

With the phrase anmara Allah bi ‘l-wafa (“God commanded with justice”) in ObQ2 instead of bism Allah.

‘Umarra. Tamim, in Sijistan, 84-85 / 703-704

AR drachm RRR

Anonymous, experimental types, circa 75 / 694

AR drachm, standing caliph type, without mint name, year 75 only

Bust of Khusru II on obverse, standing caliph in place of fire altar on reverse, bearing scabbarded sword at the waist, without any attendants. Mint unknown but Dimashq has been suggested; Hijri date (Gauze 2.2.2.2).

AR drachm, popularly known as the mihraj & ‘amara (“mihraj & spear”) type, without mint or date

Unusual style bust on obverse, spear under canopy on reverse (Gauze 2.2.2.5).

(M Type #40 is now listed following #45L.)

There are four additional names of officials that appear in the normal references to published examples. It is likely that several other names will be discovered, some identifiable, others uncertain.

COPPER COINAGE OF THE MAIN SERIES

(see also types #A13, 21E and A37)


Gyselen, Rika, Arab-Sasanian Copper Coinage, 2nd edition, Wien 2009. Coin designs are meticulously described, and whenever possible, weights are provided. The photos are better than in the 1st edition.


Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 27
NOTE: For copper coins citing an official also mentioned on silver drachms, see types #A13 of ‘Ubayd Allah b. Ziyad, #21E of ‘Umar b. ‘Ubayd Allah, #31E of al-Muhallab b. Abi Sufra and #A37 & B37 of al-Hajjaj b. Yussuf. The copper denomination called fals in Arabic was probably pashiz in Persian, but decisive evidence is lacking. Nonetheless, I have chosen pashiz. Most types have an average weight between 1g and 3g, with individual specimens of the same type as much as 50% lighter or 100% heavier. There are a few much heavier types, clearly noted by Gyselen. The earliest confirmed Arab-Sasanian pashiz (aka fals) is type #A13, which could not have been struck before 56/674. Most types, including probably all of the anonymous types, date from circa 70-100 / 689-719, based on Treadwell’s proposed chronology. For a more complete list of all types known as of 2008, see the works of Gyselen and Treadwell cited above. New types continue to be discovered with remarkable frequency, as is evident from the last page of Treadwell’s article, describing several types unknown to him while composing the article.

Anonymous, Khuso type, circa 680s / 680s

K41 AE pashiz, Ardashir Khurra mint (ART), very thin broad flan (about 1.4g) RR
Known dated AH65 or with obliterated date.

Farrukhzad, circa 75-79 / 695-699

41 AE pashiz, profile Sasanian bust / senmurg, Ardashir Khurra mint R
The senmurg was a mythical bird that incorporated all of the traits of all species of birds, thus representing the unity of all life. The name is a pun on the Persian words for “thirty birds”, si morgh in modern Persian. The senmurg is normally shown with lion paws and a dog’s head, not included on these coins.

41A AE pashiz, standard bust / fire-altar type, mints of Jur (GWBR), Dashf (DST) and Tanbuk (TNBK), undated86 RR

41B AE pashiz, Tanbuk type with ram right on reverse, undated RR

Mansur, dates unknown (probably circa 80-85 / 700-705)

A42 AE pashiz, winged horse / attended fire altar, Istakhr mint, undated RRR
It is likely that Mansur is either a secondary name for ‘Abd al-Rahman b. Muhammad (al-Ash’ath), who ruled 80-84 / 700-703, or a subordinate official who controlled regions in Fars as his assistant. The name Mansur also appears on some drachms of ‘Abd al-Rahman struck at Bishapur.

B42 AE pashiz, Istakhr, bust r. / praying caliph Khalid b. ‘Abbad, circa 80 / 700 RRR

N42 AE pashiz, Sasanian bust / fire-altar, mints of Bishapur & Tanbuk, undated RR

Shurayk b. al-Harith, at Istakhr, circa 90s / 710s

P42 AE pashiz, Byzantine style facing bust / text only, Istakhr mint RRR
Name in Arabic on both sides, mint name in Pahlavi atop reverse.

Aban b. al-Walid, circa 120± / 740±

S42 AE pashiz, Sasanian bust right / Arabic inscription (part of shahada), without mint or date RR
This type was formerly assigned to al-Walid I, but due to stylistic and epigraphic similarity to the newly discovered type #T42 of Yusuf b. ‘Umar, it has been reassigned to Aban b. al-Walid. 86

Yusuf b. ‘Umar (al-Thaqafi), governor of Iraq, 119-126 / 737-744

T42 AE pashiz, without mint name, Janusoid bust, flanked by the governor’s name / part of shahada, without mint or date RRR

Anonymous, Byzantine style, circa 70-90± / 690-710±

42 AE pashiz, facing bust / crowned human headed bull, Bishapur type, several variants R

43 AE pashiz, similar, but second smaller bust to left of principal bust on obverse, Bishapur type RR
This design is derived from the Byzantine gold coinage of Heraclius and his son.

43A AE pashiz, as type #43 but with cross-on-steps reverse, without mint name RR?
Several dozens of this type appeared in the market in 2005; the exact rarity uncertain. Some variations are also known, including one with text only on reverse (RRR).

43B AE pashiz, two facing busts / various reverse types, without mint name RR
Known reverses include normal cross-on-steps, patriarchal cross-on-steps, Pahlavi legend, or standing figure (as the attendant on normal Sasanian drachms) next to Pahlavi inscription. All were likely struck at mints in Fars or Khuzestan.

44 AE pashiz, similar, but Janusoid bust on obverse, Bishapur mint RR

44E AE pashiz, facing bust with cross-on-crown / cross-on-steps, undetermined date, Bishapur mint RRR

44F AE pashiz, facing bust / Allah in Arabic above DA in Pahlavi, Darabjird mint (Gyselen-15) RR

Anonymous, local styles, circa 72-95 / 691-715

A45 AE pashiz, standard Khuso style obverse with bism Allah in margin / facing winged nimbate angel, Ardashir Khurra mint RR

A50.1 AE pashiz, Arrajan mint (WYHC), bust / fire-altar RR

A50.2 AE pashiz, Arrajan mint, as last but Janusoid bust on obverse RRR

45.1 AE pashiz, Darabjird mint, profile bust / fire-altar reverse, dated 67-72 in the Yazdigerd era S
Years 67 and 68 are the least rare. All have the Arabic words baraka at R-Q7 and bism Allah at QbQ2.

45.2 AE pashiz, Darabjird, as last but winged horse reverse, dated 94 Hijri RR

45.3 AE pashiz, Darabjird, profile bust obverse & reverse, undated, with Arabic baraka before bust on obverse RR

45F AE pashiz, similar to last, but mint of Fasa (PSA) RR

45J AE pashiz, similar, but mint name is Jahrun (GARWM), apparently dated, but all reported specimens lack a clear date RR

45K AE pashiz, bust right, just the mint name on the reverse, Jahrun mint RR

45L AE pashiz, similar to #45K but Janusoid bust and unread short word above mint name on reverse, Jahrun mint RR

40 AE pashiz, reverse has woman on horseback, holding vase-like object, Kazirun mint RR

45N AE pashiz, bust right / horned man right, mint of Kazirun, sometimes without the mint name RR

45R AE pashiz, bust right / fire altar without attendants, mint HBR (Khabr south of Shiraz) to right, APSTAN (“confident”) to left of altar RRR

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 28

86 One Dashit example (Gyselen-53), is dated, probably YE64, which equals AH76/77, appropriate for Farrukhzad, whose name appears on some drachms of al-Muhallab b. Abi Sufra dated 75-76 (type #31). DST here refers to Dashit Barin in Fars province, not Dashit Mishan near al-Basra, also abbreviated as DST on its silver coins. The term dashit means “plain” in old and modern Persian, usually a dry or desert-like broad plain. There were and still are numerous locations in southwestern Iran and southern Iraq whose names start with dashit.

87 One variety exists on which the date appears to be 47, but unless this represents the FYE calendar (FYE 47 = YE 67 = AH79-80), it must be an error, as it stylistically cannot be dated 20 years earlier.
| E46 | AE pashiz, Khusro II type (bust right / altar & two attendants), *Istakhri*, undated | RRR |
| A46 | AE pashiz, bust facing obverse & reverse, *Istakhri* mint | RR |
| B46 | AE pashiz, bust facing / fire altar with two attendants, *Istakhri* mint | RRR |
| C46 | AE pashiz, bust left / Arabic kalima, *Istakhri* mint | RRR |
| D46 | AE pashiz, bust right / facing Orans figure, *Istakhri* mint | RRR |
| N46 | AE pashiz, facing bust / bust right, mint of *Kavad-Khurra* | RRR |
| T46 | AE pashiz, winged horse type of *Susa* (SW8) | RR |
| 47 | AE pashiz, profile bust type of *Susa*, representing the standing caliph as engraved on Syrian coppers | RR |
| 47A | AE pashiz, praying caliph type (Orans of *Susa*, dated 82 in Arabic, presumably Hijri date | RRR |

### 48.1 AE pashiz, profile bust type, fire altar reverse, Tabaristan mint, dated 70 or 80 (calendar undetermined)
Judging by the style and busts of this and the following type, it seems likely that all the Tabaristan coins are dated in the Post-Yazdigerd Era, thus between about AD 720 and 745. Alternatively, these dates could be read as 107 and 108, which in the PSE calendar are AD 759-760.

### 48.2 AE pashiz, Tabaristan mint, similar, but only inscription on reverse, known dated 80-95 (calendar undetermined)

### 48H AE pashiz, *Zabul* mint, royal bust ½ facing right / standard fire-altar flanked by two attendants, with mint name but undated (Gyselen-113)
Citing Tegin as Majesty Lord, hence strictly speaking a Hephthalite issue, but regarded by Gyselen as Arab-Sasanian. Inscribed year two, of unknown meaning.

### 49 AE pashiz, profile bust coarsely engraved / Pahlavi inscription with the mint name *Zaranj* above (in Arabic)

(These are listed as Arab-Sasanian (#48.1 & 48.2). Copper pashiz are presumably contemporary forgeries or unplated fourrees, and have been confirmed for types #56, 61 & 74. These may have been semi-officially struck by the state, intended for hoodwinking the population. The dates of the Tabaristan coins are clearly decipherable but some of the Arab-Sasanian issues have carelessly engraved dates.

### Coins dated before about PYE 89 maintain the standard hemidrachm weight of slightly over 2.05g relatively accurately, but later issues vary considerably in weight, from less than 1.6g to more than 2.4g, with a mean weight of about 1.96g and a theoretical standard of 1.98-2.00g.

### DABWAYHID ISPAHBADS

#### Farkhan (or Farrukhan), 711-731

| 50 | AR ½ drachm | C |
| 51 | AR ½ drachm | S |
| 52 | AR ½ drachm | C |
| 53 | AR ½ drachm, similar, but posthumously dated issues struck after the Arab conquest | R |

#### Datburjmihr, 731-739

| 50 | AR ½ drachm | C |

#### Khurshed, 740-761

| 54 | AR ½ drachm | R |

#### ‘ABBASID GOVERNORS

#### Khalid (b. Barmak), 766-771

| 54 | AR ½ drachm | R |

#### ‘Umar (b. al-‘Ala), 771-780

| 55 | AR ½ drachm, with name ‘Umar only, in Pahlavi script, PYE 120-125 | C |
| 56 | AR ½ drachm, similar, but in Arabic script | C |

#### Sa‘id (b. Dar‘alaj), 776-778

| 58 | AR ½ drachm, with name Sa‘id only, dated PYE 125-127 | C |
| 59 | AR ½ drachm, with the patronymic ibn da‘laj | RR |

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50 Very tentative interpretation of the mint name.
52 More recent research has suggested that the coins were known as dirhams, not halves, probably as tabari dirhams. There is a text reference to the Tabaristan silver coin as a "dirham weight of five", i.e., 5/10 of a mithqal, just over two grams, a weight corroborated by known specimens.
Yahya (b. Mikhnaq), 779-781

60 AR ½ drachm (name Yahya on coins) RR
Knows dated PYE 128, 129 & 130. A somewhat similar coin dated PYE 140 and often assigned to Yahya bears a “name” that is now read as bakh rather than yahya, now listed at #71E. (Type #61 is now listed after #72, due to reinterpration of the date, thanks to Hodge Mehdi Malek.)

61 AR ½ drachm, with the word Bakh (“i.e., anonymous”), 791 RR
Dated PYE 141. The word bakh looks quite similar to yahya and might have been intended to persuade the observer to read yahya, for Yahya b. Mikhnaq, issuer of type #60, of some other individual named Yahya. The second y of what would be yahya is clearly omitted (Malek #90).

Mihrayn (unidentified), 786

62 AR ½ drachm, dated PYE 135 only R
Jarir, 786-788
63 AR ½ drachm, name to right of bust (normal position for governor’s name) Dated PYE 135-137.
64 AR ½ drachm, name in outer margin of the obverse (ObQ3), AFZUT in place of name before the bust Dated PYE 135 only.

 Sulayman (b. Musa), 787-789
65 AR ½ drachm, dated PYE 136-138. RR
Coins of Sulayman have the Arabic word bakh (“good”) in a diamond where normally the royal figure would appear. The year 137 is more common than 136, and it is possible that the rare 138 is a muling of an obsolete obverse die of Sulayman with a later reverse.

Ma’add, 789

66 AR ½ drachm, name in normal position Dated PYE 138 only.
67 AR ½ drachm, name in obverse margin, overall design similar to #64, dated PYE 138 only The word AFZUT is retained in ObQ3 and the name Ma’add added in ObQ4.

Muqatil, 788-792

68 AR ½ drachm C
Only coins of year 139 are common, with 138 moderately rare; other years (129, 136, 137, 140 & 141) are very rare and probably represent mullings of his year 138/139 obverse with reverse dies of other years.

Hani, 788-790

69 AR ½ drachm, dated PYE 137-138 C
Both these dates are common; muled coins dated 136 & 140 also exist (RR).

‘Abd Allah (b. Qahtaba), 790-791

70 AR ½ drachm, with just the name ‘abd Allah before the bust & no name in the margin, dated PYE 139-1405 Ordinary ‘Abbasid coins also exist, a fals dated AH174 and a dirham of 2.08g dated AH175; only the dirham cites the governor.

‘Abd Allah b. ‘Arif, 792

As subgovernor under ‘Abd Allah b. Qahtaba.

70A AR ½ drachm, name with ‘abd Allah before the bust and ibn ‘arif in the margin (ObQ2), dated PYE 141 only RR

‘Abd Allah b. ‘Arif, as sole governor, 792

70B AR ½ drachm, with the full name ‘abd Allah bin ‘arif before the bust, dated PYE 141 only RRR
It is possibly that type #70A cites only ‘Abd Allah b. ‘Arif, thus different from #70B only by name arrangement. The presumption is that #70A cites Ibn Qahtaba before the bust and his subordinate official Ibn ‘Arif in the margin, where #70B cites only Ibn ‘Arif.

71 AR ½ drachm, dated PYE 140 only R

“Bakh” (i.e., anonymous), 791

71E AR ½ drachm, with elongated Pahlavi BAKH (“good”) in the name location Dated PYE 141. The word bakh looks quite similar to yahya and might have been intended to persuade the observer to read yahya, for Yahya b. Mikhnaq, issuer of type #60, of some other individual named Yahya. The second y of what would be yahya is clearly omitted (Malek #90).

Ibrahim, 791-792

72 AR ½ drachm R
Dated PYE 140 or 141.

al-Harashi (‘Abd Allah b. Sa’id), 802

61 AR ½ drachm, with name al-harashi on coins, always to the right of the bust, dated PYE 151 only54 RR
61A AR ½ dirham (name ‘abd Allah instead of al-harashi in the usual position right of bust), clearly dated PYE 151 only RR

al-Fadl b. Sahil, vizier, 196-202 / 811-817

K73 AR ½ drachm, kalima reverse, dated PYE year 161 (AD 813) RRR
Obverse bust as #65 of Salayman, name al-fadil bin sahil in ObQ4 and his title dhul ‘ri’ asatayn in ObQ1, both in Arabic.

Nusayr, unknown official, 784-785

63 AR ½ drachm, struck only at al-Rayy, dated AH168 RRR
Mint & date written in Arabic on the reverse, whereas the name of Nusayr is in Pahlavi at the usual name location. Nusayr’s name also appears (in Arabic) on common silver dirhams and copper fulus of various mints, including Madinat al-Salam, during the late 160s. Miles and DeShazo have argued that this individual was the eunuch Nusayr al-Wasif, who served as chief of intelligence under the caliph al-Mahdi.

Muhammad (the caliph al-Mahdi), 158-169 / 775-785

S73 AR ½ drachm55 RRR
The date ends in 10 or 7 but the full date remains obscure. Mint is the usual Tabaristan in Pahlavi, in the normal position on the reverse. The title amir al-mu’minin appears in ObQ2.

Anonymous, “AFZWT” type, 780-793

73 AR ½ drachm, with the word AFZWT, meaning “be it increased” or “strong”, replacing the gubernatorial name before the face C
Known dated PYE 125, 129-137 and 140-143. With NYWKW, “good” in ObQ3. The most common type of all.

73A AR ½ drachm, similar, but with BAKH BAKH (“very good”) in Arabic in the third quadrant Dated PYE 134 or 135; both types 73 and 73A are known for these two years.

74 AR ½ drachm, similar, but with extra circle around the obverse and reverse (Gaube #180-181), dated PYE 142 & 143 S
The AFZWT types were struck simultaneously with the named types, commencing in the last year of ‘Umar (with the exception of a PYE 125 example of type #73, possibly a muling). They have a distinctive style, with AFZWT right of the face and just GDH to the left. There is a second hairball before the bust, suggesting that the engravers did not understand what the hairball represented! It has been logically suggested that the AFZWT types were struck at a different mint than the named types.

Baldwin’s Islamic Coin Auction 5, lot 161 (Oct. 2002). To judge by the quality of a photo (rare), it is thought to be a fals, possibly a muling. (Actual date remains obscure.)

53 I am thankful to A.S. DeShazo for providing corrections to #60, 61, 70 70A and 70B, and for permitting me to utilize his information here. He has published some of this in ONS Newsletter #172, pp. 29-30. The attributions of type #70 to Ibn Qahtaba rather than Ibn ‘Arif was suggested by DeShazo but not fully accepted by Malek.

54 My thanks to A.S. DeShazo for correcting my interpretation of this date from 131 to 151.

55 Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 5, lot 161 (Oct. 2002). To judge by the somewhat vague illustration I am inclined to read the name as muhammad bin, i.e., al-Mahdi as heir apparent, and to read the date as HBCHR, i.e., “47” for AH147; a better photo is needed to confirm this.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 30
**Eastern Sistan (Sijistan) Series**

Sears, Stuart, *The later immobilized types of Sistan’s Sasanian style drachms* (completed in 1996 but still unpublished). An important work, which hopefully will eventually be published. A modest number of additional types and varieties have surfaced since this work was finished.

Coins of this series bear the usual Arab-Sasanian type (crowned bust / fire-altar with 2 attendants). Most have the name of Khusro before the bust in the Pahlavi script, along with bism Allah rabbit or other symbols, letters or names in the obverse margin. The reverse invariably bears the mint signature SK for Sijistan (modern Sistan), but the date is interpretable only on some of the earliest types within class II and class III.

The series has been marketed as Zabulistan (now the Afghan region centered around the city of Ghazni), but present evidence suggests a provenance intermediate between Zabulistan and central Sijistan, such as Bust. However, one important type suggests that mintage may have taken place at Zaranj, the capital of the entire Sijistan province (#A80, as it is specifically engraved with duriba bi-zaranjan, "struck at Zaranj"). Sears has recently suggested that all of the coins were instead minted at Zaranj, often parallel to ordinary ‘Abbasid style dirhams, the Sasanian style drachms for eastern use, the ‘Abbasid dirhams for payments to the caliphal treasury and general use within the entire caliphate. 60

In his 1996 study, Sears divided this series into three groups, classes II, III and IV (his class I refers to the normal Arab-Sasanian drachms struck in Sijistan, included among types #1 through #40). The three later classes are briefly described as follows:

**Class II (#P75-76):** Struck circa 65-90 / 685-710, reasonably fine style but increasingly degenerate inscriptions. The weight standard is approximately 4.08-4.12 grams, with silver fineness about 85-90%, perhaps occasionally somewhat less. All coins of class II and III lack the name of an individual. Most bear illegibly stylized dates, though a few are clearly dated, probably all in the early 80s.

**Class III (#77-79A):** Struck 87-140s / 706-circa 760, though the latest years are less certain. Many are legibly dated, presumably in the Hijri calendar, until about 110. The weight standard seems to have hovered at approximately 3.86-3.92g, with silver fineness declines to about 40-60%, but individual specimens are often of lower or higher fineness. Sears has divided this group into eight sub-classes, not all of which are listed here.

**Class IV (#80-990):** Struck circa 138-200 / 755-805, almost always with the name of a governor or other official. Sears has argued convincingly that most of the named officials were not governors but either financial officers or mintmasters. The weight standard appears to have been approximately 3.86-3.87g but with considerable variation between specimens, with silver fineness typically from about 20-40%, sometimes as low as 10% or less, and in rare occasions exceeding 50% silver. The fineness can even vary greatly within a single type. Drachms of this period are always undated, and the mint name SK hardly legible. Because of the debased metal, most specimens of class IV are significantly corroded.

**Eastern Sistan: Class II**

All examples of this type bear the inscription bism Allah / rabi in the obverse margin. The overall style remains excellent and comparable to coins of the main Arab-Sasanian series. The mint name is invariably SK, sometimes coarsely engraved.

**Anonymous, Khusro type, circa 60s-80s / 680s-700s**

P75 AR drachm, similar to type #5 but clearly later style, normally with blundered date

One peculiar variant has clear date 64 (CAHRST), but it remains undetermined if 64 is an actual Hijri date (RRR).

75 AR drachm, similar, but with Pahlavi letters DWM in ObQ1, circa 70/690, blundered date

Both the place of issue of this coin and the meaning of DWM remain unknown. The dating is confirmed by its presence in a hoard with terminal date AH72.

76.1 AR drachm, blundered date. *Allah walla 'awin* in ObQ1, circa 80/700.

Another coin of undetermined origin. Sears has suggested that the coarsely inscribed date on some examples might be 92 (710-711), but so late a date seems doubtful.

The meaning of *Allah walla 'awin* remains questionable.

76.2 AR drachm, as #76.1 but *al-muharrag* (“pure”) in Arabic added in RvQ7

The term *al-muharrag* presumably refers to the purity of the silver, suggesting that this type is of finer silver than other contemporary drachms struck within Sijistan province. Occasionally, the word *darb* appears before al-muharrag. The actual fineness of this type has not yet been calculated.

**Eastern Sistan: Class III**

All coins of this series bear bism Allah / rabi in ObQ2 and ObQ3; many have additional symbols or words, as noted in the following descriptions, normally in the ObQ1, more rarely in the ObQ4. All bear the mint name SK and most are undated, except #77, always dated, though sometimes rather sloppily engraved.

Due to the complexity of understanding the differences between Sears’ subclasses III-B through III-H, I have not attempted to incorporate them in the following listings.

**Anonymous, Khusro type, circa late 80s-130s / 700s-750s**

Always without the name of a governor or other official.

77 AR drachm, Khusro type with legible dates and crudely written mint name SK, known dated 97-108 / 714-726

Nearly all examples of this type, included within Sears’ subclass III-A, lack any marks or symbols in the obverse margin other than the normal *bism Allah rabi*. Sears notes examples with possible earlier dates, one quite probably 87, the other perhaps 93.

77A AR drachm, blundered date and without symbols or letters in ObQ1, circa 710-750

All coins of this type lack legible dates. These are included by Sears in several post III-A subclasses.

78 AR drachm, as #77A but with addition of symbols or inscriptions in ObQ1, circa 725-750s,

All coins lack legible dates and belong to Sears’ subclasses III-B through III-H. The quadrant ObQ1 may contain individual letters or entire words in either Arabic or Pahlavi, as well as unexplained miscellaneous symbols.

78A AR drachm, as last but with Pahlavi APD in first quadrant, undated, circa 720s or 730s,

Included by Sears as part of subclass III-D

78B AR drachm, as last but with Pahlavi AZW7 in first quadrant, undated, circa 720s or 730s

RRR

79 AR drachm, with sadaqa Allah in first quadrant, known with blundered dates or dated 103 and 104

Sears questions whether 103 and 104 are Hijri dates or represent some undetermined calendar.

79A AR drachm, with al-quwwa illallah in first quadrant

Possibly dated 142, according to Sears.

(Type A80 is now listed after type 89E.)

**Eastern Sistan: Class IV**

Unless otherwise noted, coins of this class bear the issuer’s name in the first portion of the obverse margin (ObQ1), normally prior to the inscription *bism Allah rabi*. The types have been reorganized here, as recommended by Sears.

Most of the issuers are not known to have been ‘Abbasid provincial governors of all of Sijistan. They were probably either local governors in eastern Sijistan, financial directors or mintmasters. All bear a coarse version of the mint name SK (sometimes completely barbarous) and all are undated. Their names are always engraved in Arabic.

Drachms of this class were virtually unknown until the 1980s, when the first of several distinct hoards reached the market. Each new hoard has introduced new types, whence it seems likely that additional types may ultimately be discovered.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 31
NOTE: Due to extensive revision, types #80-90 are no longer in the traditional numerical order.

Sulayman, probably 138-141 / 755-758

80 AR drachm
Almost certainly Sulayman b. 'Abd Allah, 'Abbasid governor of Sijistan 138-141. This is almost certainly the earliest series of this class, as suggested by its style.

Jannah, unknown, probably 760s

81 AR drachm

Muhallab, unknown, probably 760s

82C AR drachm

Yazid b. al-Mansur, governor 146-150 / 763-767

Y83 AR drachm
The name of this governor is fully inscribed yazid bin al-mansur in Arabic replacing the standardized Pahlavi name AWSRWY (Khusr) before the bust, which is omitted from this type.

Yazid, perhaps same as Yazid b. al-Mansur (#Y83)

83 AR drachm
Name yazid in the normal location in ObQ1, with AWSRWY (Khusr) named before his bust, as usual.

Shabib, uncertain, circa 760s or early 770s

83D AR drachm
The Arabic name Shabib appears under the Pahlavi AWSRWY (Khusr) in the obverse field; there is no name in the margin, only the usual inscription bism Allah rabbi. Sears has suggested that Shabib may have been Shabib b. 'Ubayd Allah, who is known to have had a connection with Sijistan in 171 / 787-788. However, he emphasized that the style of this coin is clearly about 20 years earlier.

Qudama, unknown, circa 770s

86 AR drachm

Halil, unknown, circa 770s
The reading of this name is tentative.

86D AR dirham

MushajjI, unknown, circa 770s

M84 AR dirham

Murad, unknown, probably 770s

87 AR drachm
Sears suggests that the initial letter is perhaps qaf, thus the name Qirad or Qiradh instead of Murad.

'Amar, unknown, probably 770s

N84 AR drachm

Khalid, probably 770s

84 AR drachm
According to Sears, this individual might have been Khalid b. Siwayd, who is known to have briefly been deputy governor of Sijistan in 159 / 775-776.

al-'Abbas, unknown, probably 770s

84B AR drachm

'Uthman, uncertain, probably 770s or early 780s

84D AR drachm
Sears suggests that it might have been an issue of 'Uthman b. 'Umar al-Muzani, though somewhat earlier than his period as governor of Sijistan, 172-176 / 788-792.

Misma', unknown, mid to late 8th century

85 AR drachm

Ishaq, unknown, probably 770s or early 780s

82 AR drachm

Bakkar, unknown, probably 770s or early 780s
87E AR drachm
Nobody named Bakkar is known for Sijistan, though it is possible that Bakkar b. 'Abd Allah al-Zubayri was the issuer. He was with the caliph al-Rashid in 176 and later served briefly as governor of Medina at some time between 183 and 193.

Muhammad b. Zuhayr, probably 780s

88 AR drachm
Muhammad b. Zuhayr may have been the son of Zuhayr b. Muhammad, who is known from early Arabic chronicles to have been governor of Sijistan on two occasions prior to 166/782.

Tamim (b. Sa'id), governor, 166-170 / 783-786

89 AR drachm
Tamim is the only governor well attested in the literary sources. The confirmed chronology of this type has provided the key to reconstructing the dating of this entire series.

‘Abd Allah b. Sa'id, undetermined, circa 780s

89A AR drachm
This 'Abd Allah is possibly a brother of Tamim. He is cited on his drachms with his patronymic, 'abd Allah bin sa'id.

89B AR drachm
Types 89A and 89B are of virtually identical styles, thus almost certainly contemporary issues around the time of Tamim b. Sa'id.

(Salih) 'Imad, unknown, probably circa 780s

89C AR dirham
The issues of 'Imad and Rida have bism Allah rabbi in the first quadrant, salah in the 2nd and the issuer’s name in the 3rd.

(Salih) Rida, unknown, probably circa 780s

89D AR drachm
It is probable that the word salah is not part of the name but rather some sort of title. Marginal arrangement as on #89C.

Tamish (?), unknown, perhaps early 790s

89E AR dirham
Bism Allah in the first quadrant, rabbi in the 2nd, tamish in the 3rd quadrant. The reading of the name is conjectural.

89F AR drachm, with his name in ObQ3 as on #89E

Anonymous, probably 790s

89T AR drachm, inscribed bism Allah / rabbi 'udayy in the obverse margin

al-Ma’mun, the ‘Abbasid caliph, 194-218 / 810-833

89K AR drachm, after 810
Similar in style and arrangement to the anonymous type #89T, but without the mint name. The name al-Ma’mun is very clear, and is presumed to refer to the ‘Abbasid caliph.

Da’ud b. Yazid, fl. 177 / 793

A90 AR drachm, found on the reverse of various types (89D, A80, etc.)
Da’ud b. Yazid was sent to defeat a Kharijite governor in Sijistan in 177/793. However, the countermark seems to be significantly later, as it is found on the anonymous type #89T of Zaraj and seems to be more or less simultaneous with the obverse countermark of al-Layth (#B90), i.e., circa 810-820, often together with the mark of al-Layth (#C90). The countermark is usually deeply struck but often carelessly engraved. It is the only known countermark applied to the reverse of any Arab-Sasanian coin. All other marks appear only on the obverse.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 32
The Bactrian countermarks normally fill all four quadrants of both obverse and reverse. The inscriptions have not yet been successfully translated.

**Simple countermarks, circa 650-715**

Symbols or inscriptions, the latter usually in the Bactrian or Pahlavi script.

**92.1** AR drachm, in the obverse margin of a pre-Islamic Sasanian drachm

**92.2** AR drachm, similar, but on an Arab-Sasanian drachm

Most coins of this type are not “Arab” insofar as the countermarks lack Arabic inscriptions and have no known relationship to any Muslim authorities (see #H6 and #6 for drachms with Arabic countermarks). Coins may have multiple countermarks, and nearly all have a test scrape in the reverse margin, which should not be regarded as damage. The most complete list of these countermarks is given by Gaube, *Arabosasanidische...*, p.110, although several dozen additional countermarks have subsequently been discovered. Not all of the countermarks are properly “Arab-Hephthalite”, as Gaube has indicated. They were applied by various authorities from roughly 650 until at least 715; examples are known on post-reform dirhams dating to at least AH949.

**ARAB-BUKHARAN**


Drachms, usually of alloyed silver, ultimately derived from a prototype Sasanian drachm of Varahran V (420-438), which had already been imitated at Bukhara from the later 5th to the middle of the 8th century. The silver content of these coins varies widely, even within a single issue. According to contemporary documents, these coins remained in circulation for several centuries after their production ceased, until at least the Mongol invasion in the early 7th/13th century. They have become available in quantity since the collapse of the Soviet Union, even in better condition.

All Arab-Bukharan coins lack both mint and date, and are believed to have been produced at Bukhara, Samarqand and al-Hash (near Tashkent). Because they remained in circulation for many centuries, they are often found in very worn condition. Little is known about their obviously atypical pattern of circulation, though it appears that they were deemed necessary for certain kinds of payments and thus gradually gained a monetary value far in excess of their silver content. The rulers bore the title of Bukharkhudat, which appears on most of the coins.

**Bukharkhodat, 6th-8th century (pre-Islamic)**

Without any Arabic inscription, with only the title of the independent Bukharkhudat.

**M93** AR/BI drachm, struck from the 6th to the later 8th century

**Khalid, probably 137-140 / 755-758**

Attributed by O.I. Smirnova to Khalid b. Ibrahim, the ‘Abbasid governor of Khurasan 137-140 / 755-758.

**T93** AR drachm, with his name

**Muhammad**

Probably struck in the name of Muhammad, the future caliph al-Mahdi, as heir under his father al-Mansur, approximately 143-151 / 761-769+.

**93** AR drachm, with the name **muhammad**

This type is perhaps the muhammad dirham of the sources, or at least its introductory variety.

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**Al-Layth (b. al-Fadl), 200-204 / 815-819**

**R**

B90 AR drachm, with countermark *al-layth ja’iz*, “al-Layth, current”, stamped in the *obverse* margin on types such as 89D, 8A0, and others. The attribution to al-Layth b. al-Fadl is highly plausible. Known numismatically only from the countermark.

**C90** AR drachm, with both the countermarks of #A90 and B90, on various earlier Sijistan types

Ibrahim, probably early 3rd/9th century

**D90** AR drachm, known from countermark *ibrahim ja’iz*, “Ibrahim, current”, similar to type B90

Unknown official, perhaps later than al-Layth. Types A90 through D90 were virtually unknown until a modest hoard reached the market about 2000.

In addition to the above list, there are a few additional known names which are only partially deciphered due to the poor preservation of known specimens. Most are theoretically from the 780s and 790s, to judge by their apparent fineness and style.

**ARAB-HEPHTHALITE**


Similar to the Arab-Sasanian coins, these drachms have the name of the governor in Bactrian script, and a further Bactrian legend around the reverse. Another class consists of Bactrian inscriptions countermarked on Sasanian or Arab-Sasanian drachms, while a third, more common, class has simple countermarks of various sorts on Arab-Sasanian coins.

The only confirmed mints for this series are ANBYR (Anbir) in Juzjan province, misread by Walker as HWRSAN (Huvrasan) and MIRW (Marw). Both cities also minted post-reform Umayyad dirhams. The listing here is incomplete, as this complex series remains to be extensively researched.

**“Gorigo Shah”, circa 68-69 / 687-688 or slightly later**

“Gorigo Shah” is Göbl’s interpretation of the name, which seems plausible.

**90** AR drachm, with Bactrian legends

Struck at Anbir (ANBYR) and Marw (MRW), dated AH68 and 69, respectively. The obverse name legend is Bactrian *zoloona gogorgano*, which must be the title of a ruler of Juzjan “the zolo of Juzian”, of which Anbir was the capital. Walker, writing about 1940, tried to elucidate the name as a poorly engraved Arabic spelling of ‘Abd Allah b. Khazim, as the Bactrian script had not been adequately deciphered when he was writing.

If the dates are accurate, this series can be dated 68-69 / 687-688, but it is conceivable that the dates were copied from earlier coins, and these pieces were actually manufactured several years later. Once again, further research is essential.

**Unknown governor or ruler, probably circa 690+**

**A91** AR drachm, similar

Walker (p.127, no. ANS.17, = Göbl 272) conjectured that the Bactrian name might perhaps be interpreted as Rabi’ b. Ziyad, now understood as untenable.

**Yazid b. al-Muhallab, circa 84 / 703**

**E91** AR drachm, mint of Anbir and dated AH84, standing figure instead of fire-altar on reverse, trilingual inscriptions in Bactrian, Arabic, and Pahlavi

Although clearly in the name of Yazid b. al-Muhallab, with clear mint & date, it remains unknown whether Yazid was in any way related to this remarkable issue.

**Bactrian inscriptions countermarked on Sasanian or Arab-Sasanian coins, circa 70-80+ / 690-700+**

**91** AR drachm

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57 Could the toy “Zolo A Go Go” offered by www.funbabytoys.com somehow be derived from these rare coins? I doubt it!


Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 33
al-Mahdi, the ‘Abbasid caliph, 158-169 / 775-785

94 AR/BI drachm  
Struck during and after al-Mahdi’s reign, in reasonably fine silver until the governorship of Ghirid b. ‘Ata, 174-176, who ordered their debasement. The debased version, called the ghiridhi dirham, was struck posthumously for decades, if not centuries. The fineness reduction was probably gradual, perhaps over several decades, rather than sudden during Ghirid’s short governorship. Some of the latest issues are virtually pure copper.  
al-Mahdi and Musa, circa 162-169 / 778-785  
Musa was heir of Mahdi, briefly the caliph al-Hadi.  

M95 BI drachm  
Harun & Ja’far  
Ja’far refers either to Harun’s vizier (al-Barmaki) or the governor of Khorasan 171-173 (Ja’far b. al-As’ath). The latter seems more plausible.  

95 BI drachm  
al-Amin, governor of Khorasan, 180-186 / 796-801  
Al-Amin was also heir to the ‘Abbasid caliphate, 175-193, then caliph 193-198.  

96 BI drachm  
Likely struck for al-Amin during his governorship in Khorasan. With lengthy Arabic inscriptions around the obverse, bism Allah Muhammad rasul Allah muhammadiya mine amara bihi al-amin ‘ala [ya’daf] salayman lillaha. The identity of Salayman is unknown. Ordinary ‘Abbasid silver coinage was produced at Bukhara for a few years, commencing in 193/689.  

Khaqan, probably circa 194-218 / 810-833  
96K BI drachm, with the title Khaqan  
Inscribed bism Allah Muhammad rasul Allah al-khaqan al-a’zam amin (!) amir al-mu’minin, stylistically very similar to #96. Treadwell suggests it was minted during the caliphate of al-Ma’mun, 194-218 / 810-833, which seems reasonable.  

Anonymous, believed circa 120-140 / 740-760  
96T AE fals, tangahe obverse, part of kalima on reverse, without mint or date  
The tangahe resembles a “dancing man”. Several variants exist. At least 2 additional types in silver or billion exist, all extremely rare.  

ARAB-ARMENIAN  
This series has been described in a forthcoming article by A. Nikitin, to have been published in the proceedings of a 1993 conference at Tübingen.  
A series of silver coins based on the first winged type of Khusro II (struck 591-602). Some related pre-Islamic types cite Khusro and have the word ARM or ARMAN behind the bust on the obverse, a presumed reference to Armenia, consistent with known find-spots. All coins lack the mint name and bear only a vestigial date derived from the prototype. The standard weight seems to be somewhere between 3.05 and 3.35g.  

Muhammad (unidentified), likely circa 80 / 700  
E97 AR zuzun  
With Arabic muhammad before bust, waf (“full”) in margin at ObQ2. The denomination Zw2n (Aramaic for drachm) appears on the reverse where the mint signature is normally placed, and has been misconstrued as Zouzan, a locality in Khorasan.60 Nikitin believes that the type dates to circa 80/700.  

F97 AR zuzun, similar, but Pahlavi BMHT before bust, Arabic muhammad in margin in ObQ2  

ARAB-BYZANTINE  
Goodwin, Tony (see Album & Goodwin under Arab-Sasanian, SICA 1, where Goodwin compiled the Arab-Byzantine section), now the most up-to-date overall study.  
Goodwin, Tony, Arab-Byzantine Coinage, London 2005, including a useful review of the SICA 1 section on Arab-Byzantine coinage.  
Qedar, Shraga, “Copper Coinage of Syria in the Seventh and Eighth Century A.D.”, Israel Numismatic Journal, v. 10 (1998-89), pp. 27-39. Qedar largely retains Walker’s dating, which was subsequently rejected by Bates and is now universally abandoned.  
Walker’s catalog is now obsolete, his interpretation and chronology replaced by Goodwin’s typological analysis. However, no detailed catalog of types and variations has yet been assembled, except for specific series of Egypt and the Skythopolis region, as noted below.  
The Arab-Byzantine coinage may be divided into Syrian, Egyptian, and Maghrebi regions. The Syrian series is divided into three series: Pseudo-Byzantine, Imperial Image, and Standing Caliph, of which the last two series are now generally dated to a short interval from the 670s to the reforms of ‘Abd al-Malik in the late 690s (slightly later at some mints). The Imperial Image series contains many different types and designs, varying from mint to mint, and now dated from the late 50s/670s until 70/690, although some mints, such as Tabariya, prolonged this series for as long as 10-15 more years. The Standing Caliph series represents a preliminary attempt to establish a uniform copper currency throughout Greater Syria, dated to circa 70-78 / 690-698 according to Goodwin’s detailed study. Prior to the Imperial Image types, there are a number of rather rude imitations of Byzantine coins, which are categorized as Pseudo-Byzantine.  
The typology presented in the 2nd edition of this Checklist was based predominantly on Walker, together with a few emendations and a chronology essentially proposed by Bates, starting with #3500. When appropriate, the catalog numbers from the second edition of the Checklist appear after the revised descriptions.  
Arab-Byzantine copper coins are occasionally countermarked, mostly commonly a single Greek letter (Δ is most common) or an Arabic word, usually lillaha. Some series are marked with a khamidiyya (good”). A thorough catalog of the Arab-Byzantine countermarks remains to be assembled.  

60 It has long been apparent that these coins, found almost exclusively in the Caucasus, could not have been struck a thousand miles to the east in Khorasan. At a numismatic meeting in London about 1980, I jokingly suggested that this type was a coin worth two zec, the cost of a goat in a song in the Aramaic language still sung by children during the Jewish holiday of Passover. Although I never meant this as a serious suggestion, suddenly we all perceived the concept as potential reality. It is now widely accepted.
Since the Greek letter countermarks also appear on post-reform fulus, I have listed them together as type #A192 and B192 under the Umayyad dynasty.

The letters or numbers in parentheses following each description refer to Goodwin’s types as enumerated in SICA 1.

Since the early 2000s modern forgeries have begun to infiltrate the market, usually “too perfect” and thus readily discernible. By the year 2009 they were frequently appearing on eBay and VCoins.

NOTE: In his publication cited above, Foss has proposed an alternative chronology for the Arab-Byzantine coinage, based on intriguing evidence supporting his argumentation. I have nonetheless decided to stick with the dating derived from Goodwin’s suggestions, as published in SICA 1 & elsewhere. Someone must eventually throw down the gauntlet, hopeful that a substantially more accurate dating will emerge from the pursuant struggle.

**SYRIA & PALESTINE: PSEUDO-BYZANTINE COINAGE**

The Pseudo-Byzantine types are essentially imitations of Byzantine coins, manufactured at an undetermined number of locations in Syria & Palestine in order to supply adequate quantities of small copper coinage. It is now generally accepted that normal Byzantine coinage, principally from the capital mint of Constantinople, continued to be imported into Syria until about the year AD 658, nearly twenty years after the Arab conquests. Thereafter, and perhaps having first been introduced a few years earlier, imitative coins were produced, replaced by the Imperial Image types during the 670s. Foss suggests that the first locally struck Pseudo-Byzantine imitations were produced by the end of the 630s, thus almost immediately after the Arab conquests of most of Palestine.

All Pseudo-Byzantine types have capital M unless otherwise noted. Very few bear an indication of the actual mint, but many imitate the mint abbreviation of the prototype, such as CON for Constantinople, NIKO for Nicomedia, KYP for Cyprus, and so forth, often atrociously misspelled. Many copy the regnal year of their prototypes, often hopelessly mis-engraved, unlike the Persian occupation issues that are sometimes accurately dated.

The imitative types produced during the Persian occupation, between 603 and 630, all preceed the Arab conquests, and are thus not included here. They have recently been carefully analyzed by Henri Pottier (Le monnayage de la Syrie sous l’occupation perse, Paris 2004).

All of the pseudo-Byzantine types were generically lumped together as type #97 in the previous editions of this Checklist.

**Two-figure Phocas type**

3500  AE fals, based on folles of Phocas, capital M reverse (Goodwin type A) R

3501  AE fals, based on regnal year 17 folles of Heraclius struck in Cyprus (type B) S

**Three Standing Figures type**

3502  AE fals, one wearing military dress, based on a Heraclius type, capital M reverse (type C) S

Some examples have cursive m on reverse (R). Both versions of this type are often so poorly struck that the second Standing Figure is virtually undetectable.

3502N  AE fals, similar, but struck at Neapolis, which is Nabulus in Palestine (MIB-X23 & X24) RRR

Based on MIB-164, dated in the 25th year of Heraclius, with two varieties, one with NEA in reverse exergue and officina letter A below capital M on reverse, the second with CON below reverse and officina letter N (presumably for Neapolis).61

**Single Standing Figure in military dress type**

3503  AE fals, uncertain prototype (type D) R

Usually very poorly struck.

3504  AE fals, based on class 1-4 of Constans II (type E) S

3505  AE fals, based on class 5-7 of Constans II (type F) R

**Standing Emperor type, capital M on reverse**

3506  AE fals, based on year 3 imper const of Constans II (type G) S

**Bearded Imperial Bust type**

3507  AE fals, likely based on year 11 imper const of Constans II (type H) RR

**Sicilian Constantine IV bust type**

3508  AE fals, (type I) (ex-#A111) RR

Most specimens of this type bear an unread inscription on the obverse, formerly said to have been derived from Pahlavi but most likely a meaningless scribble intended only to fill in an otherwise empty space.

For gold solidi related to this series, see #3548-3550.

**SYRIA & PALESTINE: UMAYYAD IMPERIAL IMAGE COINAGE**

The earliest Imperial Image coins are now dated to the 670s, with the majority of the types probably having been adopted around 680 or shortly thereafter. Most of the series were replaced by the Standing Caliph types shortly after 690, but at a few mints, such as Tabariya and Baysan, the Imperial Image types were maintained, perhaps as long as a decade or more. These mints did not adopt the Standing Caliph design, with the possible exception of Baysan, to which a rare mintless type has been tentatively assigned (not listed here).

**Justin & Sophia type**

So named because they are based on the folles of the Byzantine emperor Justin II (565-578), portraying both the emperor and his wife Sophia.62

3509.1  AE follis (fals), capital M, Baysan mint (Skythopolis in Greek, always on obverse) (Goodwin type I) (formerly #98) R

Some examples also bear the mint name in Arabic, baysan, on the reverse (RR).

3509.2  AE follis, similar, Jerash mint (type I) (Gerasa, Gerson in Greek on the coins) RRR

3509.3  AE follis, similar, Abila mint (Tel Abil) (type D)63 RRR

3509G  AE follis, with tayyīf (“good”) countermarked on types #3509.1 or 3509.2, always at the bottom of the obverse RR

3509T  AE follis, similar, but Tabariya in Arabic to left of capital M on reverse, blundered obverse inscription in Greek RR

3510  AE ½ follis (½ fals), with capital K on reverse, Baysan mint (fractional denomination of type I) (ex-#99) RR

Mint name either in Greek on obverse or Arabic on reverse.

**Enthroned Emperor type**

3511.1  AE fals, Damascus mint (written as ΔAM in Greek) (type II) S

Frequently with a bird standing on or above a T to the left of the imperial figure. The type of bird is uncertain, but given the T, it is most likely a falcon. Also called “Seated Imperial Figure.”

3511.2  AE fals, Damascus, similar, but mint name & one or two additional words in Arabic (type II) S

61 Clive Foss has regarded this item as the last Byzantine issue in Syria, struck 634-636 at the last Byzantine military base at Nablus in Palestine. However, it is equally possible that this type was produced after 636, when the base was seized by the Arabs, or both periods, since it is certainly conceivable that a local Byzantine mint could continue to strike the same types after the Arab conquest.


63 An example was offered in 2009 by Byzantine Coins on VCoins, item #704171. The assignment to this mint is tentative, based on the letters AB or ABA that appear at the left on the obverse.
3511A AE fals, similar, struck at the “pseudo-Damascus” mint (type II) (ex-#100) Usually with the mint signature ΑΔ. These coins have a very distinctive style and are found to the south of Damascus, in what is now northernwestern Jordan. A modest selection was published by R. Milstein in *Israel Numismatic Journal*, vol. 10 (1991).

**Three Standing Figures type**

3512 AE fals, struck at Tabariya (Tiberias, Tverya in modern Israel) (type III) (ex-#107)

Mint name in both Greek & Arabic on reverse. Because no Tabariya coins exist in the Standing Caliph series, it is presumed that this type was minted from about 688 until about 700-710. There are two subgroups, thin broad flans with typical weight 4.0-5.0g (#3512.1) and thick narrow flans usually 2.8-3.5g (#3512.2), equal rarity.

3512A AE fals, also Tabariya, similar, but with the Arabic word tentatively read as qatari or qutri below the Μ on the reverse (type II)64 Types #3512A through #3512D were weakly struck on thick narrow flans, almost never found in higher grades. Types #3512A bear the mint name in Arabic only, #3512B-3512C are without mint name, but assigned to Tabariya by style and location of finds.

3512B AE fals, without mint name (type III), as type #3512 but with μuhammad rasul Allah instead of the mint formula around the Μ (ex-#108)

3512C AE fals, without mint name (type III), as type #3512 but with la ilah illa Allah wahdahu la sharik lahu around the Μ

3512D AE fals, without mint name (type III), as type #3512 but with Allah ahad Allah samad lam valid around the Μ

3512R AE fals, similar, but mint of Baysan (type III)

Reverse with fals to right, al-haqy below, and baysan to left of the capital M. Some other varieties exist.

**Two Standing Figures type**

(plain cross between heads of the figures)

3513.1 AE fals, Damascus mint (type IV) (ex-#105, described as “emperor & son” type) Muling of a Ba’albakk obverse with a Damascus reverse.

3513.2 AE fals, Ba’albakk mint (in Arabic) (type IV) (ex-#106)

**Two Standing Figures type**

(cross-on-steps between the two figures)

3514 AE fals, Ba’albakk mint (type V)

Two Standing Figures type

(Arabic μuhammad rasul Allah between figures)

3515 AE fals without mint name (related to type V) The cross-on-steps reverse surrounded by the beginning of the shahada implies that this type was contemporary with the Standing Caliph series. The mint remains undetermined.

Standing Emperor type, emperor holding long cross

3516 AE fals, Hims mint, capital M (type VI) (ex-#103)

Two major varieties, one with bism Allah left on obverse, one without bism Allah.

3516.1 AE fals, Damascus mint, capital M, Greek inscriptions only (type VI) (ex-#101)

3516.2 AE fals, Damascus mint, capital M, mint name in Greek on obverse, Arabic inscriptions on reverse (type VI) (ex-#102)

3517.3 AE fals, Damascus mint, capital M, Arabic inscription on reverse, no inscription on obverse (type VI) (not in the previous Checklist) Some versions bear Greek on the obverse, usually ΑΔ. Occasionally something uncertain. Other varieties have Arabic ja’iz or wafiyu in addition to the mint name on the reverse.

3518 AE fals, Ba’albakk mint, capital M (type VI)

Muling of a Damascus obverse with a Ba’albakk reverse.

3519 AE fals, Tabariya mint, cursive m (type VI) (ex-#104)

Mint name in Greek on obverse, Greek inscription on reverse, of which the right section ΧΑΛΕ∆ has been interpreted as the Arabic name Khalid (Goodwin type 1). The peculiar style of this type, very different from all other coins of Tabariya, suggests that this might be initiative from an undetermined mint.

3520 AE fals, Ludd mint (= Diospolis, thus inscribed in Greek on the obverse), cursive m (type VI)

An early issue, probably during the 670s, with the reverse inscription ΙΕΡΟ ΚΟΛΕ ΜΩΝ, “of the people of Jerusalem”.

3521.1 AE fals, “pseudo-Damascus” mint, cursive m, often retrograde (type VI) See #3511A for description of this mint.

3522 AE fals, “pseudo-Damascus” mint, similar, but capital M

3523 AE fals, without mint, Arabic al-wafiyah below cursive m on reverse (type VI) A very rare variant of this type has al-wafiyah below both the reverse and to the left of the obverse. Almost always poorly made.

3523A AE square fals, without mint, muhammad on obverse, ba’d on reverse, very coarse style

Imperial Bust type

3524 AE fals, Hims mint, mint name in Arabic on obverse & Greek on reverse (Emises), cursive m (type VII) (ex-#110)

3525 AE fals, similar type, Tarsus mint (Antardos), mint name in Arabic on obverse & Greek on reverse, capital M (type VII) (ex-#109)

Two Figures type (one seated, one standing)

3526 AE fals, ‘Amman mint (in Arabic on reverse), capital M (type VIII)

“Hunting Figure” type

3527 AE fals, figure holding long cross, with a falcon on his left arm, “pseudo-Damascus” mint, cursive m (type IX)

“Orans Figure” type

3528 AE fals, without mint name (type X) Perhaps struck at the “pseudo-Damascus” mint. Identified by the standing figure raising his two arms, as on the Arab-Sasanian Orans dirhams (type #27.1).

**SYRIA & PALESTINE: STANDING CALIPH**

This is the most frequently seen type of the Arab-Byzantine fals, and is traditionally and correctly regarded as the first truly Islamic coinage from Syria & Palestine. The obverse shows the caliph standing, holding a scabbarded sword, usually with his name and titles in Arabic around. There are two principal reverse arrangements, the more common of which has a transformed cross-on-steps65, on which the cross-bar has

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64 The word below the M may conceivably refer to the Kharijite caliph Qatari b. al-Fuja’a, whose name appeared on silver drachm (type #33). The term qutri would refer to metal, but would be a very unlikely word to appear on a copper coin, as explained by Lutz Ilisch in ONS Newsletter #167. However, there is no evidence that Qatari enjoyed any influence in Palestine. Further research necessary.

65 The meaning of the circle or ellipse has been debated by numismatists and historians for decades. My own belief is that it was merely a clear and readily perceived statement that there was an alternative to Christianity, and historians for decades. My own belief is that it was merely a clear and readily perceived statement that there was an alternative to Christianity, namely Islam. Hence I have labeled the object “not-a-cross”, an easily understood statement that “yesterday there was a Christian government here, today it is Muslim”. While it is conceivable that a tribesman from somewhere in Arabia recommended the design from perhaps his own tribal
been replaced by a circle or ellipse, surrounded by the Arabic shahada. The second type retains the cursive m, together with the mint name in Arabic instead of the shahada.

This series has been dated by Goodwin to roughly AH74-78 / 693-697, continuing for several more years at some mints before completely replaced by the reform fals (#153). At some Palestinian mints, the standing caliph type may have remained in production until well into the 80s/700s.

The mints are listed here in the same order used by Goodwin, approximately north to south, rather than alphabetically. The mint name normally appears to the left or right of the steps, with the Arabic word waf ("full value") on the other side of the steps; other versions are noted in the descriptions. There are numerous subtypes not listed here, but well described by Goodwin in both SICA 1 and his 2005 publication. Goodwin sensibly does not divide this series into subtypes as he correctly did for the earlier series.

Unless otherwise noted, all circle-on-steps types have the caliph ‘Abd al-Malik (b. Marwan) named in the obverse margin (often illegible, especially on worn or poorly struck pieces). All of the circle-on-steps types were #112 (embarrassingly misdescribed as "cross-on-steps") in the previous Checklist, all the cursive m types as #111.

Standing Caliph type (circle-on-steps reverse)

3529 AE fals, Halab (Aleppo) mint C
3530 AE fals, Qinnasrin mint C
3531 AE fals, Tanukh mint
This mint name probably refers to the tribe, the Banu Tanukh, rather than a physical location. Walker and others previously missed it as Sarjuq, a city near Harran, but this name would be epigraphically impossible without the diacritic. C
3532 AE fals, Sarmin mint, without the name of the caliph
The mint name is divided, sar on one side, min on the other side of the steps (sometimes misspelled or coarsely engraved), with the Arabic word waf therefore omitted. C
3533.1 AE fals, Manbij mint, without the name of the caliph R
3533.2 AE fals, Manbij mint, with the name of the caliph RR
3534.1 AE fals, Ma‘arrat Misrin mint, without the name of the caliph R
Because of its length, the mint name is divided on both sides of the steps, with the word waf omitted.
3534.2 AE fals, Ma‘arrat Misrin mint, with the name of the caliph RR
3535 AE fals, Jibrin mint RRR
3536 AE fals, Qursu mint RRR
3537 AE fals, Harran mint, distinctive type RR
The obverse inscriptions consist of muhammad to the left and the mint name to the right of the caliph, whereas the reverse bears a Greek monogram to the left and the repeated name muhammad in Arabic to the right.
3538 AE fals, al-Ruha mint, without the name of the caliph, but otherwise normal type R
3539 AE fals, Hims mint C
3540.1 AE fals, Dimashq (Damascus) mint, without the name of the caliph C

For inexplicable reasons, many examples lack the first letter "d" of the mint name, from many different mints.67
3540.2 AE fals, Dimashq mint, with the name of the caliph RR
3541 AE fals, Ba‘albak mint C
3542 AE fals, ‘Amman mint, normally with a large star instead of the word waf, with the name of the caliph C
3543 AE fals, ‘Amman mint, as last but without the caliph’s name RR
3544 AE fals, illegible or unidentifiable mint name, with or without the caliph’s name S

Standing Caliph type (cursive m reverse)

3545 AE fals, Iliya (Jerusalem), citing the city name together with the provincial name filastin R
All examples of this mint bear the short inscription mohammad rasul Allah in place of the caliph’s name & title on the obverse. Mint names arranged filastin left & Iliya right, or vice versa. One extremely rare variety lacks the proper mint name, with filastin both left and right (Goodwin 2005, #45).
3545A AE fals, Ayla mint, same design as Iliya RRR
Although always carefully engraved as ayla instead of iliya, it remains uncertain whether it is a separate mint or merely an alternative spelling of iliya (see the footnote to the post reform type #179 of Iliya).
3546.1 AE fals, Yubna mint, design as #3545, with filastin on one side and yubna on the other side of the m R
Always very poorly manufactured, never fully struck. The word yubna is usually right of the m, occasionally left (RR).
3546.2 AE fals, Yubna mint, as last but with falsa- / s yubna around the m & filastin omitted RRR
3547 AE fals, Ludd mint, design as #3545 RRR
All examples of this mint were struck from a reverse die on which the mint name was recut over Yubna!
There are a few additional types, all of them very rare. Moreover, many types are divided into numerous subtypes, some of which are considerably rarer than the basic type. For further information, see primarily Tony Goodwin’s discussions in SICA 1.

SYRIA & PALESTINE: GOLD COINAGE


Pseudo-Byzantine type, circa 660s-690s

3548 AV solidus, without mint or date, based on types of various Byzantine emperors RRR
There are at least four different subtypes known, all closely resembling their Byzantine prototypes, differing primarily in the replacement of the cross-on-steps by either a bar-on-steps or a globe-on-steps and the removal of the crosses from the imperial crowns. The Greek inscriptions are often considerably degenerate. The dating of these pieces is controversial, but must have been some time between the 660s and the early 690s, possibly even later. The mint locations are unknown.

Imperial Image type (3 standing figures), believed struck circa 72-74 / 692-693

3549 AV solidus, globe-on-steps reverse RRR
Closely derived from the three standing figure type of Heraclius, Constantiiople mint, but with the crosses replaced by globes on both obverse and reverse, and the royal inscription on the reverse replaced by the full shahada. Without mint or date, but believed to have been struck at Damascus.

WARNING: Modern forgeries are abundant!

66 Goodwin has suggested that the Standing Caliph copper fulus might have been introduced as early as AH70 (AD690), some four years prior to the first Standing Caliph gold dinar in 74 (type #3550). Bates, Grierson and others have argued that the Standing Caliph copper must have commenced after the earliest gold dinar.

67 There are many versions of this type with the kalima severely blundered. In ONS Newsletter #204, Ingrid Schulze has suggested that these were produced at numerous mints throughout the Jund of Dimashq. An alternative possibility is that the governors at Dimashq contracted the fals production to several private businesses, as seems to have been the case for most of the pseudo-Byzantine fulus.

68 It has been suggested that some of these are not Arab issues, but perhaps from the Avar or other eastern European imitators. Current evidence seems to favor the classification as Arab.
### Standing Caliph type, 74-77 / 693-696

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3550</td>
<td>AV solidus, globe-on-steps reverse</td>
<td>All four dates 74-77 have been confirmed. Presumably struck at Dimashq (Damascus), with the shahada on the obverse, <em>bism Allah</em> followed by the date formula on the reverse. The basic design is almost identical to the normal Syrian copper coins: standing caliph on obverse, globe-on-steps on reverse (globe atop the pole rather than a circle).</td>
<td>74-77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3561</td>
<td>AE fals, three standing figures, with mint name KYTIP or something debased, capital M</td>
<td>Most examples clearly show the mint name KYTIP for Cyprus or a debased version thereof, sometimes derived from original Byzantine coppers actually struck in Cyprus. However, it is now generally accepted that the great majority, if not all, were struck in Syria and intended for local circulation in Syria. The indiction year (one to fifteen) was an administrative dating used by the Byzantine government, and consists of repeating cycles of fifteen years each.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3562</td>
<td>AE fals, three standing figures, with mint name KYTIP or CON or something else, cursive m</td>
<td>The denomination 12 is shown on the reverse with the large Egyptian types, late 7th century to circa 700/710. The denominations 12, 24 and 48 are shown in the circular text in Latin, the reverse line the indiction year. Indiction years cannot be separated, and probably did not exist. This type was probably produced from the 680s until shortly after 700.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3563</td>
<td>AE fals, two standing figures, blundered mint name, probably derived mainly from KYTIP, cursive m</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Cyprus


**Egyptian types, late 7th century to circa 700/710**

The denomination 12 is shown on the reverse with the large Greek letters I B flanking the cross-on-globe on the reverse. Unless otherwise noted, all examples have the cross left and right of the obverse figure, and between the letters I B on the reverse. Known dated 97 and 98. The obverse marginal legend bears the mint name (Africa) and the date in Latin, the reverse line the indiction year. Known for AH95, 96 and 98.

### North Africa & Spain

### North African type, two busts on obverse, inscriptions in Latin, circa 85-88 / 700-704

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>AV solidus</td>
<td>The cross-on-steps is replaced by a horizontal bar-on-steps for the solidus and tremissis, a globe-on-steps for the semissis. The solidus has four steps, the semissis three, the tremissis only two.</td>
<td>74-77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>AV semissis</td>
<td>Known dated 97 and 98. The obverse marginal legend bears the mint name (Africa) and the date in Latin, the reverse an Islamic religious text, also in Latin.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>AV tremissis</td>
<td>Known dated 97 and 98. The obverse marginal legend bears the mint name (Africa) and the date in Latin, the reverse an Islamic religious text, also in Latin.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>AE follis</td>
<td>Confirmed only for AH95.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### North African type, inscriptions only (Latin), circa 85-98 / 704-717

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>119.1</td>
<td>AV solidus, dated with indiction year</td>
<td>Known dated 97 and 98. The obverse marginal legend bears the mint name (Africa) and the date in Latin, the reverse an Islamic religious text, also in Latin.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120.1</td>
<td>AV semissis, undated, globe-on-steps reverse</td>
<td>Known dated 97 and 98. The obverse marginal legend bears the mint name (Africa) and the date in Latin, the reverse an Islamic religious text, also in Latin.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121.1</td>
<td>AV tremissis, undated, line-on-steps on reverse</td>
<td>Known dated 97 and 98. The obverse marginal legend bears the mint name (Africa) and the date in Latin, the reverse an Islamic religious text, also in Latin.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### North African type, legends in Latin & Arabic, 97-99 / 715-718

### Musa b. Nusayr, circa 80-85 / 699-704

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>AV solidus, central areas bears the kalima in Arabic, half on obverse, half on reverse</td>
<td>Known dated 97 and 98. The obverse marginal legend bears the mint name (Africa) and the date in Latin, the reverse an Islamic religious text, also in Latin.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>AE follis, two imperial busts / pole on steps, as #118 but including governor’s name in Latin at end of reverse legend</td>
<td>Some specimens include the mint name Tripoli (in Libya) in the obverse inscription, abbreviated and in Latin (RRR).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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69 The use of a globe on gold and a circle on copper coins may have been chosen to prevent a copper fals from being gold-plated and fobbed off as a “gold” solidus.

70 The mint name has been interpreted as Abasis (meaning “oasis”, not the name of a known town in Egypt) or Abila, a town in what is now northern Jordan (unlikely). Because there are many dies with a clear mint name ABAZ, it is no longer considered merely a misspelling of ΑΑΕΞ for Alexandria.

71 The indiction year (one to fifteen) was an administrative dating used by the Byzantine government, and consists of repeating cycles of fifteen years each.
al-Nu‘man, fl. 80 / 699-700

B122 AE follis, imperial bust / pole on steps, Arabic legends, dated 80 but without mint name

Anonymous, circa 80s / 700s

C122 AE follis, imperial head + Latin inscription / Arabic inscription

Some specimens show the mint name Tanja (Tangiers) at the end of the Arabic inscription.

Spanish type, inscriptions only (Latin), 93-95 / 712-714

Easily identified by star instead of text in obverse field, with marginal Latin legends around, one horizontal line of text in reverse field. The gold color varies from white to pale yellow.

122 AV solidus, with indication and Hijri year, or Hijri year only, rarely undated

123 AV semissis, with Hijri year or undated

124 AV tremissis, with Hijri year or undated

Spanish type, legends in Latin & Arabic, 98 / 716-717

Obverse center has only a star, reverse center has the second half of the kalima, mint & date in marginal legend.

EARLY POST-REFORM COINAGE

UMAYYAD CALIPHATE

In addition to Walker, Arab-Byzantine …, see also:


Klat, Michel, Catalogue of the Post-Reform Dirhams: the Umayyad Dynasty, London 2002. This is now the standard and most up-to-date listing of known silver dirhams of both the Umayyad dynasty and the subsequent ‘Abbasid revolution. Very few additional mints or dates now known.

After several experimental failures, the Umayyad caliphate successfully introduced a reform coinage beginning in the year AH77 (79 for silver, circa 78-80 for copper). Only the reform coinage is considered under this rubric. Earlier coins struck by the Umayyads are classified as Arab-Byzantine and Arab-Sasanian issues.

All Umayyad gold and silver is anonymous, as is most copper. Both are often collected by reign, according to the date. Because Umayyad dirhams are always carefully struck, the date is always discernible except on heavily worn or damaged specimens.

The gold dinar weighs one mithqal, about 4.25-4.26g, which became a standard for most of the early Islamic coinage. The silver dinar weighed about 2.85g at the start, but by the 90s/710s, the weight seems to have been increased to something approaching the "canonical" dinar weight of about 2.97g (about 70% of the mithqal), which remains a theoretical weight standard in the 21st century, with some minor variations over the centuries.

Because copper coinage was left to local administration, it is now believed that there was no clear break between Umayyad and ‘Abbasid copper types, as there was for gold & silver. Some types classified by Walker as Umayyad are probably early ‘Abbasid; other types may have been retained unchanged over the dynastic succession. Further research is likely to establish a reliable chronology for most of the copper coinage (for the greater Syrian mints, an excellent chronology was supplied in Bone’s regrettable unpublished dissertation).

The regular post-reform Umayyad gold coinage lacks the mint name, and is presumed to have been struck solely at Damascus. Some rare dinars from 100-127 bear the mint name Ifriqiya or al-Andalus; these bear distinctive inscriptions in the reverse field until 110, normal dinar inscriptions thereafter. They are all very rare and expensive, and are catalogued here with separate type numbers.

For the silver dirhams, by far the most common mints are Wasit and Dimashq (Damascus), typically accounting for at least 75% of any hoard. The rarity of other mints is shown in the table below. The years 77, 126, 127 are particularly rare, and 'Abbasid copper dirhams are extremely rare. In all, about 100 Umayyad silver mints have been recorded. They are mostly collected by reign, according to the date. After several experimental failures, the Umayyad caliphate successfully introduced a reform coinage beginning in the year AH77 (79 for silver, circa 78-80 for copper).

Some specimens show the mint name Tanja (Tangiers) at the end of the Arabic inscription.

Spanish type, inscriptions only (Latin), 93-95 / 712-714

Easily identified by star instead of text in obverse field, with marginal Latin legends around, one horizontal line of text in reverse field. The gold color varies from white to pale yellow.

122 AV solidus, with indication and Hijri year, or Hijri year only, rarely undated

123 AV semissis, with Hijri year or undated

124 AV tremissis, with Hijri year or undated

Spanish type, legends in Latin & Arabic, 98 / 716-717

Obverse center has only a star, reverse center has the second half of the kalima, mint & date in marginal legend.

Umayyad gold coins were superbly struck and are usually found in very fine or better condition; they are not rare in extremely fine-, very fine or better condition, and are often quite minty. The silver was also almost invariably well struck, though slightly misstruck examples are occasionally found, mostly from the AH80s at eastern mints. Surviving examples are usually very fine or better, though worn, clipped, damaged or crystallized coins are not uncommon. Less care was taken in the production of copper coins, which are usually found worn, badly struck, damaged or corroded. Whereas gold and silver coins are usually found in hoards of no more than a dozen pieces, copper dirhams are usually found individually, or sporadically in minuscule hoards of no more than a dozen pieces.

Dinars are typically collected by date. The year 77 is the rarest and by far the costliest, as described below under type #125. The years 107, 129 and 132 are also extremely rare, but sell for a mere fraction of the cost of the year 77. Other moderately rare dates are 85, 126, 129, 130, 131. Although common, the year 78, being the earliest purely Islamic coin that is dated and affordable, fetches about twice the price of the equally common dinars dated 79 and later.

For contemporary forgeries, see note before the list of ‘Abbasid dirham mints. In addition, there have been quite a few modern forgeries of Umayyad dinars and dirhams. Of particular worry are pressure-cast forged gold dinars of Ifriqiya 122 and al-Andalus 110, which first surfaced in the market about 1978. Less troublesome are various forgeries of gold dinars, mainly of common dates, though some quite deceptive forgeries exist for the rare years 77 and 127. Some Umayyad dirhams have also been forged, though mainly common dates & mints have been observed thus far, including some crudely cast forgeries of Jayy 90 and Watsit 95. In the late 1990s, some rather deceptive forgeries of rare or previously unknown dates and mints began to trickle into the market, casting an unwanted pall on all new discoveries in this highly sought-after series. These recent counterfeits are normally re-engraved from genuine common dirhams and thus easily identified.

$1,700,000 at an auction in 2011 (see note to Jiruft in the mint list).
**UMAYYAD DIRHAM MINTS**

The following table lists the silver dirham mints of the Umayyads, with a general rarity for each mint, an occasional notation of the most common dates, and with commentary where appropriate. Mints not listed are all RRR. Mints RR or RRR are now in great demand, as are rare dates of Umayyad mints, far higher, apart from post-Umayyad coins of comparable rarity. For the Iraqi and Iranian mints, coins dated 79-84 are usually far rarer than those of 90-498, except for al-Basra. The mints of al-Andalus and Ifriqiya continued to strike the Umayyad type for a few years after the demise of Marwan II in 132. The traditional Umayyad dirham was resumed in 148 at al-Andalus under the Umayyads of Spain, where it remained in use until 285, albeit with considerable alteration of style and epigraphy, but with unchanged inscriptions and arrangement (types #339 ff.).

A complete listing of dates and varieties can be found in Klat’s comprehensive catalog noted above.

The mint read by Walker as Waba’a is a misreading for Herat. The putative mint of al-Mudar also does not exist.

Dirhams dated 78 are of type #T126 for the mints of al-Kufa, Adharbayjan and Arminiya, type #126 for Shaqq al-Taymara, al-Basra and Juyu. Altogether, fewer than 20 dirhams dated 78 have thus far been reported.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINT NAME</th>
<th>MISSING LISTS [RRR]</th>
<th>DATES [RRR]</th>
<th>RARE [RRR]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abaheshdir</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>active 79-83, plus 94 &amp; 96-97</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adharbayjan</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>active 78 and 90-106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Al-A</em></td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>active in 97 only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Albaq</em></td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>active 80 only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>al-Andalus</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>active 103-135 , but dates 103 and 120-135 are extremely rare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Anbar</em></td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>active 81 only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ard</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>active 79 &amp; 82 only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardashir Khurra</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>only dates 90-99 are common (except for 92 and 99, both great rarities), 80, 83-84 rare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arminiya</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>active 78, 81-82, and 94-110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arran</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>active 89-91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astar</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>active 89 only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awdhi</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>active 89 (unlocated)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>al-Bab</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>active 93 and most years 114-128, of which 120 is by far the least rare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badakshshan</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>active in 118 only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahurbasir (Babursir)</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>active in 79 &amp; 97 only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkh</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>active 93 &amp; sporadically 113-128, of which 115 &amp; 128 are most available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkh al-Bayda</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>active 111-112 only</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bardasir</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>active 79 only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bardha’a</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>active 92 only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>al-Basra</td>
<td>TC</td>
<td>78-82, 285, 101-103, 79, 128 (RR), 128 (R), the rest common</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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74 Probably equivalent to Alvank (Albania) in the Caucasus, not to be confused with Albania in southeastern Europe. It was formerly read by Shams Eshragh and others as al-riq.

75 An unusual variety of year 111 has the obverse field enclosed in a circle, listed separately as type #137A (RR); both types are known dated 111. Several dates between 123 and 135 are still unreported.

Also, dirhams dated 103 & 104 (and one example of 105) followed the Damascus style, whereas most of 105 and all later dates are based on the Wasit style. It has been suggested that 103-105 dies were cut at Damascus 105-121 at Wasit and shipped to Spain, whereas dies dated 122 and later were engraved locally in Spain.

76 The correct transcription of this unidentified mint remains obscure.

77 Unlocated mint, once believed an error for Ardashir Khurra, but that idea seems unlikely in light of multiple dates now known. For the year 79 and a discussion of the mint, see Sotheby’s, 25 May 2000, lot 294.

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Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 40
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mint</th>
<th>S Active</th>
<th>R Active</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junday Sabur</td>
<td>S active 79-81, 83 (these early dates rare)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaskar</td>
<td>RRR active 82-84 only</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>KhusRashadh-</td>
<td>RRR active 97 only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hormuz</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirman</td>
<td>C active 90-98 and 100-103</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>al-Kufa</td>
<td>S active 78-82, 100-102, &amp; 128-129 (see also #207 for year 128 with additional marginal inscription)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>al-Madinat al-Atiqa</td>
<td>RRR active 97 only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>al-Maghirb</td>
<td>RRR active 105 only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mah</td>
<td>R active 96 &amp; 98 only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mah al-Basra</td>
<td>R active 79-81 &amp; 83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mah al-Kufa</td>
<td>RRR active 90-99, the last year extremely rare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manadhir</td>
<td>S active 79-81 &amp; (early dates very rare), then 90-98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marwan</td>
<td>RRR active 92 only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marw</td>
<td>C active 79-84, 90-102, then 110 (R) and 114-115 (RRR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masabudhan</td>
<td>RRR active 90 only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maskan</td>
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<tr>
<td>al-Mawarin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maysan</td>
<td>RR active 79-83 &amp; 95-97</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mihirjanqudhaq</td>
<td>RRR active 79, 90 and 94 only</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>al-Mubarak</td>
<td>S (an epithetlcal name for Balkh), active under this name 106-110 &amp; 116-120</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nahr Buq</td>
<td>RRR active 90 only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nahr Tira</td>
<td>S active 79-81 &amp; 83 (early dates RR), then 90-97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naysabur</td>
<td>RRR active 82 only</td>
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<tr>
<td>(al-Niq)</td>
<td>—— (now tentatively read as Albanaq, q.v.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quisim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radhan</td>
<td>RRR active 90-91 only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Ralsa)</td>
<td>(now read as Risha, q.v.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramkurumuz</td>
<td>S active 79-81, 83 &amp; 90-97; only the year 90 is frequent</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**WARNING:** Umayyad dirhams purporting to be of the mints of Makka, al-Bahrayn, Haram, Hims, Mikhia, Qumm, etc., are modern forgeries, as are some “unlisted” dates of established mints. Most pieces I have seen are genuine coins on which the date or mint has been altered, then sold to unwary collectors at exorbitant prices.

**temp. ‘Abd al-Malik (b. Marwan I), 65-86 / 685-705**

All coins dated 77-86 are conventionally ascribed to this caliph. All post-reform coins of ‘Abd al-Malik are anonymous. His name was mentioned only on some pre-reform Arab-Sasanian silver and Arab-Byzantine copper coins.88

125 AV dinar

The dinar of 77 is the first purely Islamic coin and held in great esteem. Auction prices reached $400,000 in the 1980s, but later auction results have been at less than half that amount. More recently, a full set of 85 AH133 dirhams (all RRR) fetched about $250,000 at Morton & Eden (March 2006), of which the year 77 should account for something like $175,000. Factor in inflation over the past 25 years, the early 1980s value must be adjusted to at least $800,000 in 2011 dollars. Given the heated-up market of 2011, it may be a good time to sell.

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87 Believed to be an alternative name for Irriqiya in North Africa.
88 Mah is the Arabic name for the ancient region of Media.
89 Mahayi is the dual of Mah, and refers to the two portions of Media, Mah al-Kufa (= Dinawar) and Mah al-Asra (= Nihawand). The transliteration of the name is usually spelled Mali in numismatic literature.
90 Unlocated mint, probably in Iraq, tentative transliteration.
91 Baldwin’s, 8 May 2002, lot 78.
92 Year 79 appeared in Islamic Coin Auction #14, lot 28, the 2nd known specimen of this mint. The year 90 example was in my collection, acquired from a lot of Umayyad dirhams purchased in groups, about $1.50. George Miles of ANS correctly identified the mint for me, as I was then a novice collector of Islamic coins.
93 Unique example in a private collection in Qatar, date unrecorded.
94 An unlocated mint, perhaps to be sought in the general vicinity of al-Basra.
95 Risha = Ra’s al-Ayn, formerly read tentatively as “Ralsa”.
96 This mint has been misread as Bayburt, a city northeast of Erzincan in Turkey, but this is impossible, as that region was then still under Byzantine control. Technically, this dirham of AH133 should be regarded as an issue of the ‘Abbasid revolution.
97 Foreages of years 100 and 102 have recently appeared in the market. These two have thus far seen are normal Wasit dirhams on which the date has been coarsely altered. A peculiar coin dated 83 is catalogically more like dirhams of the 90s than of the 80s, and may be a contemporary imitation with a misconception date, perhaps of North African origin. North African imitations of Wasit dirhams dated in the 90s are well-known and only moderately rare; some have a star in the obverse or reverse field.
98 There are no coins assigned to the first four Umayyad caliphs (Mu’awiyah I, 41-60 / 661-680, Yazid I, 60-64 / 680-683, ‘Ubayd Allah struck in al-Basra, type #12). In theory, one can consider many drachms dated between 61 and 63 as issue of Yazid I, although they are always in a governor’s name rather than the caliph (most common are the drachms of ‘Ubayd Allah struck in al-Basra, type #12). There is no clear assignment of coins dated 64 or 65 to a specific caliph.
would not surprise me if a 77 dinar fetched considerably more than $500,000, perhaps $1,000,000 if two desperate collectors are bidding against one another.

Year 78 is common but highly sought after, whereas 85 is somewhat scarce.

**WARNING:** Forgeries of year 77 dinars are legion. Although most are fortunately not very deceptive, some recently produced examples are discouragingly difficult to condemn.

T126 AR dirham, transitional type, struck at al-Kufa, Arminiya & Adharbayjan in 78, mint/date formula on reverse, repeated in Pahlavi beneath the obverse field. Struck only at Marw 79-84, Marw al-Rudh 81, and Herat 80. Similar to #126 except that the obverse field is separated from the surrounding margin by a circle.

126 AR dirham, normal type, struck 78-86

Coins dated 78 are exceedingly rare, perhaps introductory patterns for the future coining, and those of 79 are rare (least rare are Dimashq and al-Basra), the initial issues of what was to become an immensely popular coinage (over thirty mints known for 79).

The earliest common issues are dated 80, struck at Dimashq and al-Basra, the only common mints during the reign of 'Abd al-Malik prior to the Qart darimhs 85-86.

126A AR dirham, normal type but with mint name repeated in Pahlavi beneath the obverse field. Struck only at Marw 79-84, Marw al-Rudh 81, and Herat 80.

**temp.** al-Walid I (b. 'Abd al-Malik), 86-96 / 705-715

All coins dated 87-96 are conventionally ascribed to this caliph.

127 AV dirham

All dates are common.

127A AV ½ dirham (inscribed *nisf*, "half")

127B AV ½ dirham (*thulth*, "third")

127K AV dirham, with the mint name *ma'din amir al-mu minin* ([108] inscribed below the reverse field, dated 91 and 92)

The location of this "mint" is undetermined. Because a similar is known dated 105 (#134K), on which the mint name is followed by *b'l-hijaz*, "in the Hejaz", it has been suggested that the mint was located at Medina, the religious center in Saudi Arabia. However, there is no evidence to support this theory. These dinars were probably struck at Damascus, although it is plausible that they were struck somewhere else with dies exported from Damascus. The excellent quality of these coins would strongly suggest that they were manufactured at the Damascus mint.

128 AR dirham

al-Walid I, in his name, same date range

129 AE fals, inscriptions only, without inscribed weight

A few fulas were struck with the name of this caliph at Dimashq (S, rare with legible date), Tabariya (RR) and Ba'albakk (RR). All other post-reform Umuyyad coppers lack the name of the caliph, except for the recently discovered fals of Tiflis, #142T citing Marwan II.

129A AE fals of 16 qirat, with lion facing upward, Tabariya mint only

129B AE fals of 20 qirat, Tabariya mint, without lion

**temp.** Sulayman (b. 'Abd al-Malik), 96-99 / 715-717

All coins dated 97-99 are conventionally ascribed to this caliph.

130 AV dirham

130A AV ½ dirham (*nisf*)

130B AV ½ dirham (*thulth*)

131 AR dirham

**temp.** 'Umar (b. 'Abd al-'Aziz), 99-101 / 717-720

All coins dated 100-101 are conventionally ascribed to this caliph.

132 AV dinar, without mint name

132A AV ½ dinar (*nisf*)

132B AV ½ dinar (*thulth*)

132C AV dinar, Ifriqiya mint (100 & 101)

Dinars dated 101 come in two varieties, narrow flan (earlier, as 100) and wide flan (later, as 102+), probably of similar rarity.

133 AR dirham

**temp.** Yazid II (b. 'Abd al-Malik), 101-105 / 720-724

All coins dated 102-105 are conventionally ascribed to this caliph.

134 AV dinar

134A AV dinar, mint of Ifriqiya (all dated 102-105)

134B AV dinar, mint of al-Andalus (102-104)

134C AV ½ dinar (*nisf*), mint of al-Andalus, year 102 only

134D AV ½ dinar (*thulth*), mint of al-Andalus, year 102 only

134E AV ½ dinar (*thulth*), without mint, year 103 only

134K AV dinar, with mint name below the reverse field, *ma'din amir al-mu minin b'l-hijaz*, dated 105 only, and arranged similarly to #127K

135 AR dirham

**temp.** Hisham (b. 'Abd al-Malik), 105-125 / 724-743

All coins dated 106-125 are conventionally ascribed to this caliph.

136 AV dinar

**WARNING:** A fractional dinar of Walid 106 is a modern fantasy, as are a number of similar fractions, of which many thousands were manufactured circa 1993, probably for sale to the jewelry industry rather than to deceive collectors. They are easily recognizable by stylistic and calligraphic incorrectness, and are struck in debased gold (10 carat?).

136A AV dinar, mint of Ifriqiya, short form of central inscriptions, as on type #134A (106-107, 110)

Issues of Ifriqiya and al-Andalus struck between 100 and 110 bear shortened central inscriptions, *la ulla Allah Allab in the obverse field, bism Allah al-rahman al-rahim* in the reverse field (types #136A, 136B, and all issues of previous caliphs).

Later issues, dated 114-122 and 127, use the same obverse and reverse inscriptions as the common mintless dinars (#136C, 136D, also U138 assigned to Ibrahim).

136B AV dinar, mint of al-Andalus, short form of central inscriptions, as #136A (106 & 108)

136C AV dinar, mint of Ifriqiya, normal central inscriptions ([109] 114, 117, 121-122)

136D AV dinar, mint of al-Andalus, normal central inscriptions (114-115)

137 AR dirham

137A AR dirham, with additional inner circle on obverse, struck only at al-Andalus in 111

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99 Until recently, Shaqq al-Taymara was the only known mint for this type dated 78, but an example from Juyi appeared in the Peus auction #369 (Oct. 2001, lot 1467), where the cataloguer, Lutz Lisch, also reported a coin of al-Basra, presumably dated 78, that was published in 1863, noted by Walker as a misreading of al-Basra 79. Even though the alleged al-Basra 78 dirham is a mispublication, I am now convinced that the other two 78 coins are indeed the original silver issues and not misengraved dates as I had suggested in the first edition of this Checklist.

101 See the note to #127K. An example dated 106 (thus of Hisham) was reported in the Turath collection, but not illustrated. A typo for 105 is likely. An example of the 105 dinar was sold in the Morton & Eden Auction #48 on 4 April 2011 (lot 12) for £3,720,000, approximately $6,080,000 (including the buyer’s fee). Only one coin has even fetched a higher price, the only 1933 twenty dollar US gold coin permitted in private hands, which sold for $7,590,000 in 2002.

102 The year 107 is extremely rare. 116 and 123 are scarce. Beware of “107” dinars that are altered dinars actually dated 106 or 109.

All known examples of al-Andalus 110 are well-cast forgeries. If these were made from a genuine original dated 110, the original has disappeared. There are also well-made fakes of Ifriqiya 122, which I first saw about 1978. I was shown the original in 1979 at Damascus.
temp. al-Walid II (b. Yazid II), 125-126 / 743
All coins dated 126 that cannot be securely assigned to other rulers are traditionally assigned to this caliph.

T138 AV dinar, dated 126
(See note after #140.)

138 AR dirham
Only the dirham of Wasit 126 with 5 annulets in the margin can be securely attributed to this caliph. However, all 126 issues of other mints are traditionally assigned to this caliph, as annulet variations are unique to the Wasit mint.

temp. Yazid III (b. al-Walid I), 126 / 743-744

139 AR dirham
Only the dirham of Wasit 126 with 4 annulets in the margin can be securely attributed to this caliph. See comment to #138.

temp. Ibrahim (b. al-Walid I), 126-127 / 744
Only the dirham of Wasit 126 with 7 annulets can be assigned to this reign. All other anonymous coins of 127 are traditionally assigned to this caliph as well.

T140 AV dinar, dated 127 RRR
U140 AV dinar, mint of al-Andalus, normal central inscriptions, dated 127 RRR

140 AR dirham S
No gold dinars can be securely assigned to the above three short reigns. Dinars of 126 are rare and may belong to any of the three, but are customarily assigned to al-Walid II. Dinars of 127 are extremely rare and for convenience assigned to Ibrahim.

temp. Marwan II (b. Muhammad b. Marwan I), 127-132 / 744-750
All coins of purely Umayyad types dated 128-132 are conventionally assigned to this caliph. His name appears only on the copper fals of Tiflis (#142T).

141 AV dinar S
142 AR dirham C
142T AE fals, Tiflis mint, undated, caliph’s name cited as marwan bin muhammad.

UMAYYAD COPPER COINAGE

Bone, Harry, The Administration of Umayyad Syria: The Evidence of the Copper Coins, dissertation, Princeton University, 2000. It is hoped that this remarkable work will some day be published.

Walker’s still useful listings are increasingly obsolete, due to a plethora of new discoveries since 1956, many of which remain unpublished, including those listed in Bone’s unpublished dissertation. Many have appeared in pricelists and auction catalogs since the 1970s.

Copper coinage was generally regarded as a local affair at each mint, and for that reason is first listed regionally, then by mint. Some mints have numerous types, occasionally more than a dozen. Most are anonymous, but a few types bear the name of the caliph (listed under the appropriate caliph) or a local governor or other official (listed below, normally without the names of the officials).

The reform coppers were introduced in Syria circa 80/698, in the Jazira and Egypt shortly thereafter, but not until a few years before 100/718 in Iran and elsewhere (Treadwell suggests about 96/715).

For the 3rd edition, I have attempted to include all known mints throughout the Umayyad caliphate. However, additional mints will undoubtedly be discovered, especially in the east. Some “unlisted” mints may be misreadings, especially from old publications.

Also listed here are some lead coins from Arabia and northern Iran.

No gold dinars can be securely assigned to the above three short reigns. Dinars of 126 are rare and may belong to any of the three, but are customarily assigned to al-Walid II. Dinars of 127 are extremely rare and for convenience assigned to Ibrahim.

Dates for individual types are mention only in the Hijri calendar. Each year can be approximated in the AD calendar by adding 618, e.g., 120 was approximately 738. Exact conversion is readily found online, as at www.islamicfinder.org/Hcal/index.php

SPAIN

NORTH AFRICA

143 AE fals, without mint name and undated, Spanish style
The evidence of recent discoveries suggests that the coinage of types #143-144 and #146 form a continuum overlapping the Umayyad and Spanish Umayyad periods. Further research, based on style and calligraphy, should eventually enable a clearer chronology for the two groups to be constructed.

144 AE fals, al-Andalus, dated or undated S
Dated varieties bear only the years 108 and 110.

145 AE fals, without mint name, North African types S
Coins of this type are readily identified by style, calligraphy, legend and ornamentation, and are relatively well catalogued by Walker. At least a dozen varieties exist, aside from #145A-145C (thus regarded as varieties of #145).  

145A AE fals, without mint name, helmeted head right in obverse field RR
145B AE fals, without mint name, pentagram in obverse field R
145C AE fals, without mint name, al-zakka lillah (“for the alms of God”) on reverse RR
T146 AE fals, Atribulus (Tripoli in Libya), inscriptive types only, sometimes dated (120 or 130 reported) RRR
146 AE fals, Tanja (Tangiers), sometimes dated (from 100 to at least 116), occasionally with governor’s name RR

EGYPT

147 AE fals, without mint name, Egyptian types, undated C
Egyptian post-reform fals often share types used in Syria, but can be readily distinguished by their thickness, typically about 2.5-3mm, double that of the average Syrian piece, and by their dumpy fabric. They vary greatly in weight, but less so than their Byzantine-style predecessors. Most are typologically identical to the Syrian type #153.

147A AE fals, similar, but dated, weight typically between 5 and 10 grams S Known dated AH92-95 on the reverse, sometimes retrograde.
148 AE fals, in name of finance director, al-Qasim b. ’Ubayd Allah (116-124 / 734-742), always undated S
148A AE fals of 18 qirat, with mint name Misr, and inscribed with the denomination R

The following five types have misr in the obverse center, the mint name in the reverse center, and are always undated. All bear the name of the finance director ’Abd al-Malik b. Marwan (fl. 132).

149 AE fals, Fayyum RR
150 AE fals, al-Fustat (Old Cairo) R
151 AE fals, al-Iskandariya (Alexandria) RR
Most examples of this type bear the Greek letters AAE beneath Arabic misr in the obverse center.

152 AE fals, Atrib RRR
A153 AE fals, Ahnas RRR
ARABIA

P153  PB fals, without mint, date or ruler’s name

Inscriptions as on #153. Found primarily in Bahrain or what is now eastern Saudi Arabia. Some may have been struck into the early ‘Abbasid period.

Q153  PB fals, without mint or ruler’s name, dated 120 on the reverse

R153  PB fals, al-Bahrain, anonymous and undated

Similar to #Q153 but inscribed al-bahrain thumma in lieu of the date. Both #Q153 and R153 have just la ilah illa Allah within an ornamented circle on the obverse. Stylistic similarity strongly suggests that R153 must have been made either just before or just after 120.

S153  PB fals, al-Bahrain, undated, in the name of ‘Abd al-Hujr b. Sulaym

The calligraphy is stylistically earlier than the ‘Abbasid copper fulus struck in the 140s, thus probably Umayyad rather than early ‘Abbasid.

Also known are 2 additional lead fulus, one citing Bishr b. Salam (undated), the other citing Hassan b. Sa’id (dated 123). Both can now be regarded as variants of #S153.

GREATER SYRIA (BILAD AL-SHAM), INCLUDING PALESTINE, without mint names

H. Bone’s still unpublished dissertation (cited above) is the most up-to-date study of Syrian Umayyad copper coins. Bone lists the various types at each mint, examines their size and weight, and suggests tentative dating for each type. However, types without the mint name are included only when he could assign them to a specific mint.

Nearly all of the date suggestions (Hijri years) in this section are based on Bone’s dissertation.

153  AE fals, “common plain”, without mint or date, Syrian types, with basic inscription only

This common type has just la ilah illa Allah waddahlu on obverse, Muhammad rasul Allah on reverse, often with stars, pellets, crescents or other rudimentary symbols in the field. I have nicknamed this type the “common plain.” It is now generally regarded as the earliest reform type in copper, and should be dated circa 78-85 / 698-705. It was a failed attempt to introduce a uniform copper coinage that would match the successful uniform silver and gold. In some local regions it might have been retained until the 90s or even later. A local version of this type was not introduced in Iraq and Iran until circa 96/715 (type #M206).

Bone assigned this basic type to Damascus (type #1), but the many variations for such a short-lived type indicated that there must have been many separate mints producing them.

154  AE fals, without mint name, similar, but longer or different inscriptions, many variations (most listed by Walker)

154A  AE fals, similar to #153, but with mint name added in the outer margin

Known mints include Dimashq, Halab, Qinnasrin, Ma’arrat Masrin and Sarmin, with the city name sometimes accompanied by the word ja’iz or darb. Tentatively dated to the mid-80s Hijri / early 700s.

The following items, #155 through #X165, bear pictorial designs but are without mint name and always undated. All are ascribed to the late Umayyad period, 730s-740s, and some may have continue to be struck during the early ‘Abbasid period. It is believed that this series was struck entirely at Palestinian mints.

155  AE fals, without mint name, horseman

156  AE fals, without mint name, forepart of horse

157  AE fals, without mint name, hawk, sometimes described as a duck, walking left or right

158  AE fals, without mint name, pomegranate

159  AE fals, without mint name, “amphora”

If held upside-down, the "amphora" becomes a poppy, which is perhaps what was intended.

160  AE fals, without mint name, fleur-de-lys

Assigned to ‘Amman, as the identical symbol and style exist on fulus citing the mint name (part of #166).

A161  AE fals, without mint name, tree (or branch?) on both obverse and reverse

B161  AE fals, without mint name, tree with fruit

161  AE fals, without mint name, pentagram, assigned by Bone to Iliya (Jerusalem)

162  AE fals, without mint name, lion croucher

163  AE fals, without mint name, 5-branch candelabrum in obverse center, 2nd half of kalima on reverse

Turned upside-down, this design resembles the dome of a mosque, which may have been the engraver’s intention. This type, normally found in Palestine or southern Syria, is nonetheless in great demand from collectors of Judaica, as the “candelabrum” can be interpreted as the menorah. Both the 5-branch and the 7-branch candelabrum (#163A) were assigned by Ilisch and Bone to the mint of Iliya (Jerusalem). Both types command prices much higher than their rarity would suggest.

163.2  AE fals, without mint name, 5-branch candelabrum in reverse center, 1st half of kalima on reverse, within a square (RRR) or circle (RR)

163A  AE fals, without mint name, 7-branch candelabrum

164  AE fals, without mint name, dove, wings outstretched, flying left (SNAT 531 ff)

164D  AE fals, without mint name, duck in circle on obverse, facing either right or left, lilah in circle on reverse (SNAT 566 ff)

165  AE fals, without mint name, fish

Assigned by Ilisch & Bone to the mint of Baysan based on archaeological evidence.

165B  AE fals, without mint name, scorpion

165X  AE fals, without mint name, other pictorial types

GREATER SYRIA, INCLUDING PALESTINE, WITH MINT NAMES

(See also #154A for an early type with mint name in the margin.)

WARNING: Deceptive modern forgeries of rare Greater Syrian mint fulus have been seen since about 2008, coming principally from Israel and Lebanon. They are “too good to be true”, usually enamelled or otherwise coated, in order to hide their falsity.

165  AE fals, ‘Akka (Acre), one type, circa 80s-90s

Two subtypes, broad irregular flans (ca. 80s, RR) and small round flans (ca. 90s, R).

166  AE fals, ‘Amman, circa 78 until about 140, thus into the ‘Abbasid period

Bone presents five types, two of which he classifies as having been produced circa 133-140, thus ‘Abbasid (with 3-petal lily, either with or without the mint name).

A167  AE fals, Antakiya (the classic Antioch, now Antakya in Turkey), one type, circa 90s

(For the presumptive mint of Ayla, see the note to #179 of Iliya.)

168  AE fals, Ba’albak (Baalbek), circa 80s to the 130s+

Bone suggests about 10 types, together with a number of somewhat similar types that he assigns to the ‘Abbasid period. In particular he divides Walker #766-ff into subtypes from about 116 until at least the 140s, probably much later, demonstrating that at Ba’albakk, as at several other mints, the transfer from Umayyad to ‘Abbasid rule did not affect the nature of copper coinage, thus illustrating that dynastic change was often irrelevant.

There are two dated types, one of 99 (R), another of 124 (RR).

169  AE fals, Balikh (in northern Syria, uncertain location)

This mint name has not been satisfactorily explained. Walker assigned it to Balikh in Khorasan, but the coins are invariably found in Syria & the Jazira. Tanukh is another possibility, assigned it to Balkh in Khorasan, but the coins are invariably found in Syria & the Jazira. This mint name is perhaps associated with the Balkh river in northern Syria, though the name Balikh is normally written with yu between the lam and the kha.

Bone dates the single known type (with minor variants) in the 120s. Weight varies from less than 2 to more than 5 grams.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 44
A170 AE fals, Baniyas (in Palestine), one type, circa 80s RRR Bone suggests 7 different types, including two without mint name (#161 and 165 above). One type bears the mint name in the lower left of the obverse, after Allah (RR).

A170 AE fals, Baysan (Beit Shean in Israel), three or four types, circa 78 to 120 RR

A171 AE fals, Bayt Jibrin (in Palestine), two types, both assigned to the 80s RR

A172 AE fals, Busra (in southern Syria), circa 90s until 105+, three types106 RR

A173 AE fals, Dar’at (sometimes written as Adhra’at, now Deraa in southern Syria), circa 80s to about 125, all undated RR

A174 AE fals, Dimashq (Damas cus), circa 78 to the 130s C Bone reckons there were about 17 types, as well as his catchall post-Umayyad group of types which he calls type #18. Issued dates of 87-88 are included in type #129, as they bear the name of al-Walid. There are also anonymous Damascene fulus dating 102 and 126, both slightly scarce. See also #154A (Bone type #2) and #153 (Bone type #1), though it is likely that this abundant type was also produced at several additional mints.

A175 AE fals, Filastin (Palestine) R Filastin (Palestine) is the provincial name. Fulus thus inscribed may have been struck at any of the local Palestinian mints, but current research strongly suggest Jerusalem (Bone & Ilisch).

A176 AE fals, Ghazza (Gaza), two types, one from the 80s, the other probably from the late 90s RRR

A176 AE fals, Halab (Aleppo), circa 80 to 120+ C Bone lists four types, only one of which is common, Walker #790 with a star between illa and Allah in the obverse middle line.

A177 AE fals, Hims, circa 78-132 C Coins of this mint were studied and dated in the important and ground-breaking study by Ilisch and more recently by Bone, as noted above. Bone suggests 10 Umayyad types, including three dated types of 116, 117 and 118, all three typologically identical except for the date. Only 116 is reasonably common, as are several of the datless types.

A178 AE fals, Hims, pictorial type with elephant, circa 120-132 S Walker #799, usually very crudely struck.

A178.1 AE fals, Hims, pictorial type with jerboa R With the name of Bishr b. Marwan, perhaps early ‘Abbasid.

A179 AE fals, Iliya107 (Jerusalem, from its Roman name Aelia Capitolina), struck circa 78 to the 120s R

106 Syrian Busra is located near the modern Jordanian border, ancient Bostra. This mint should not be confused with al-Basra in Iraq. The last letter is ya rather than ra marbuta

107 On some examples the final ya-alf is replaced by a ta marbuta (SNAT-13/14, Zeno-62659). Some numismatists read this as Ayla, the modern Elat at the southern tip of Israel, adjacent to the Jordanian city of ‘Aqaba. This is indeed conceivable, as a copper smelting facility was in operation at Ayla in the Umayyad and early ‘Abbasid periods. Nonetheless, it seems peculiar that a mint so far from Jerusalem would share identical designs, when several closer mints, such as Ludd, ‘Ascalon and Ghazza, were employing very different designs. Might this just be a spelling error by a die-cutter confounding the Arabicized Roman name of Jerusalem with the name of its copper source?

Neither Walker, Ilisch or Bone mention the question of Iliya v. Ayla in their above-mentioned publications. Recent discussions increasingly favor Ayla for the variant with ta marbuta. Moreover, the spelling Ayla is known for both the Arab-Byzantine Standing Caliph type (#3545A) and the post-reform type, which seems to favor the argument that Ayla is not Iliya, even though stylistic similarity would suggest that the dies for Ayla were prepared at Jerusalem and carried to Ayla, which would have been a very simple task.

A pair of dies would have weighed less than one kilogram, easily transported from Iliya to Ayla. Numismatists who prefer to regard this mint spelling as type #179A (RR).

A180 AE fals, Jerash (in Jordan), one type, circa 80s RRR

A180 AE fals, Jibrin, circa 80s, two types RR

In northern Syria, not to be confused with Bayt Jibrin in Palestine.

A181 AE fals, Ludd, four types, circa 78 to late 90s. R

A181.2 AE fals, Ludd, countermarked type RR

Countermarked bi-Ludd on various hosts, mainly Arab-Byzantine, occasionally pure Byzantine.

A182 AE fals, Ma’arrat Masrin (in northern Syria), circa 80 to the 90s, four types R

The earliest type (Bone #1) is part of #154A above.

A183 AE fals, al-Madina Ma’din Amir al-Mu’minin R

This type has been attributed to the holy city of Madina in Arabia, but actual find spots are consistently in central and eastern Syria, especially along the Euphrates River. Perhaps this mint was located at the caliphal palace compound at al-Rusafa in eastern Syria (see type #A293 for location of al-Rusafa).

Only one type is known, which Ilisch has dated to circa 115-125.

A184 AE fals, Mansbij (in northern Syria), circa 80s, two types R

A184 AE fals, Qaysariya? (Caesarea in Palestine) RRR Mint normally written defectively with itha in lieu of sin. Bone also considers the identification as Qaysariya to be tentative, but probable. One type, circa 80s.

A185 AE fals, Qusir (in northern Syria), one type known, circa 80s RRR

A185 AE fals, al-Ramla (Ramleh in Palestine) C Bone suggests four types, the first two types dating from the 90s, one dating from the 120s and one from the 140s (thus ‘Abbasid).

A186 AE fals, Safuuriya (Sepphoris in Palestine, near Nazareth), one type, circa 80s RR

A187 AE fals, Sarmin, circa 80 to the 90s, four types S

The earliest type (Bone #1) is actually part of #154A above.

A188 AE fals, Tabariya (Tiberias, now Tveriya in Israel), active circa 78 to the 120s C

About 13 different types, of which several common types show either a small bird above the obverse or reverse legend, or a palm branch in the field. Most are undated, but a few are known dated 91 or 110 (both RR).

A189 AE fals, Tamukh (in northern Syria) R

This mint has been erroneously interpreted as Sa’uj in much of the literature. Only one type is known, dated by Bone to the 80s. Tamukh was a Syrian district to the east of Aleppo, not a city, home of the Arab tribe bearing the same name.

(For Tarabulus, see Atrabulus under Ifriqiya, type #T146.)

(For Tiffis, see #142T, as it is cited the current caliph Marwan.)

A190 AE fals, al-Urdunn (“the Jordan”) S

This mint was probably located at Tabariya, which was the capital of the military province of the Jordan.

A191 AE fals, Yubna (Yavneh in southern Palestine), two types (one similar to #153 but with mint after Allah at bottom of obverse) circa 78 to the 80s. RRR

A192 AE fals, no mint or date, countermarked Greek letter (usually Κ or ΚΑ) on various pre-reform fulus R

B192 AE fals, no mint or date, countermarked as type #A192, but on post-reform fulus RR

The Jazira

R192 AE fals, Balad, undated, similar to type #195 RRR

Balad is presumably the same as the modern Balad in Iraq.
192  
**AE fals, Harran,** undated type circa 80s-90s plus two dated types

The dated types are of years 92 (RRR) and 116 (R), of which the latter type is identical to #195 except for the mint name.

193  
**AE fals, al-Mawsil**

Dated examples are 97 (sometimes incorrectly engraved as 79) (S), 110 (RR) and 114 (RRR). Other types struck after about 110 are undated but usually bear the name of the local governor, and are frequently overstruck on previous types. Twelve types were catalogued by Gernot Rotter in *American Numismatic Society Museum Notes*, vol. 19, 1974.

A194  
**AE fals, Nasibin (aka Nusaybin)** One type only, dated year 92.

194  
**AE fals, al-Ruha,** one type known, dated 116, same design as #195

195  
**AE fals, without name of mint,** always dated 116 or 117, many minor variations

Identical to #194 and the subtype of #192 dated 116, except for the omission of the mint name. Copying variations in style suggest numerous mints in the Jazira and northern Syria struck this mintless type for a decade or longer, with frozen year 116. The date is sometimes crudely written or even totally illegible. Year 113 is likely a mis-engraving of 116. A somewhat similar type was also struck at Hims, with date and mint name (116-118), included in #177.

### The East & North

Eastern and northern coppers are quite distinctive, usually dated, often with the name of a governor and struck from dies with thin delicate calligraphy. The following list of mints may not be complete.

**Arab-Sasanian types (#K41- A50.2)** characterized nearly all copper coinage of Iraq and Iran until shortly before AH100, when purely Arabic types were introduced, at first without mint and date (type coinage of Iraq and Iran until shortly before AH100, when purely Arab-Sasanian types (#K41- A50.2) characterized nearly all copper (undated). An anonymous variety is dated 130.

The date is often 122, though no known specimen is clear enough to confirm the date. Known dates include 104, 117 and 119.

A197  
**AE fals, Bakh, anonymous, normally dated 93 R**

In the 1990s, a small group of perhaps 50-100 crudely cast fulus of Bakh reached the market, probably not a single hord but scattered specimens found at a site in northern Afghanistan. All are dated 93 and inscribed “360 to a dirham”, i.e., evaluated at 1/60 dirham. Often weakly cast and partly illegible.

B197  
**AE fals, Bakh, “60 to a dirham” (i.e., 1/60 dirham), anonymous, dated 111, with Sasanian bust on obverse**

C197  
**AE fals, Bakh, in the name of Nasr b. Sayyar**

The date is probably 122, though no known specimen is clear enough to confirm the date.

197  
**AE fals, al-Basra,** always dated (100 and 101)

198  
**AE fals, Dabil (in Armenia, where it is known as Dvin), undated, circa 80s or 90s, one type**

199  
**AE fals, Darabjird, usually dated**

Known dates include 104, 117 and 119.

199H  
**AE fals, Hamadan,** dated 105, inscriptions only

200  
**AE fals, Isfahan,** always dated (usually 104)

201  
**AE fals, Istakhr, normally undated**

The least rare type names the governor Salm b. al-Musayyib (undated). An anonymous variety is dated 130.

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201.1  
**AE fals, Jayy,** purely Arabic inscriptions, always dated

Dates 101 and 111 are known.

201.2  
**AE fals, Jayy,** Sasanian bust on obverse, always dated (several years between 113 and 119 are reported)

This subtype has the typical post-reform reverse, but with a Sasanian style bust and a still undeciphered Pahlavi legend on the obverse.

A202  
**AE fals, Junday Sabur,** known dated 106

202  
**AE fals, Jurjan,** often dated, without governor’s name

Known dated 101, 112, 114, 121, 126, 128, and undated. Additional dates will likely be discovered.

202A  
**AE fals, Jurjan,** in the name of Yazid b. ‘Umar & Nabata b. Hanzala, dated 130

202L  
**PB fals of 1/60 dirham, Jurjan,** anonymous, dated 107, sittin bi-dirham

202M  
**PB fals, Jurjan,** in the name of al-Walid b. ‘Abd Allah, dated 112

203  
**AE fals, al-Kufa,** always dated

Known dated 100-102 and 126: All are anonymous, save one variety of year 100, which cites ‘Abd al-Hamid.

A204  
**AE fals, al-Mansura (in Sind)**

Known both undated and dated 116, 119 and 121.

B204  
**AE fals, Marw,** always dated

Years 112, 115 and 121 are reported. The coin of 112 bears the inscription sittin bi-dirham, “sixty to a dirham”, and cites the governor Asad b. ‘Abd Allah.

C204.1  
**AE fals, al-Mubaraka,** dated 117 only

Lion walking right / text only, including the denomination stated as sittin bi-dirham, “sixty to a dirham”.

C204.2  
**AE fals, al-Mubaraka,** known dated 119 only

Inscriptions only, without citing a dirham-related denomination. According to al-Tabari, al-Mubaraka was a temporary epithet for Balkh; it was used for silver coinage between 106 and 120.

204  
**AE fals, al-Rayy**

Known dated 101, 104 and numerous years between 116 and 131. Fulus dated 130 & 131 bear the name of a local governor, Yazid b. ‘Umar, sometimes with the second name of a local prefect, Habib b. Budayl.

A205  
**AE fals, Sabur,** known dated 120

B205  
**AE fals, al-Samiya,** dated 131 only, same style as the fals of Wasit

C205  
**AE fals, Shiraz, with Sasanian bust over obverse**

Known dated 126. For a similar but ‘Abbassid issue dated 137, see KB335.

D205  
**AE fals, Suq al-Alhwaz,** normally dated 110

205  
**AE fals, Wasit,** always dated, fine style

Many dated known from 101 to 130, of which 116 is rare and 120 is somewhat common. All other dates are very rare.

A206  
**AE fals, Zaranj,** dated 117 or 120

A type dated 128 is known, without mint name but likely struck at Zaranj, as it cites the governor ‘Abd Allah b. ‘Umar (R).

D206  
**AE fals, no mint or date,** in the name of Qutayba b. Muslim (Zeno-13823)

Inscribed mi’ a wa ‘ashrin bi-dirham, “120 to a dirham”. Qutayba was governor of Khorasan, executed in 967/15 in order of the caliph Sulayman.

M206  
**AE fals, no mint or date,** Iranian fabric (thin flans, thin calligraphy, as Zeno-38820), inscription and arrangement as type #153

Dated by Treadwell circa AH96-100, just before mints & dates were added (in his article note here for Arab-Sasanian copper). The mint(s) of issue are undetermined, but all known examples share the calligraphy and broad thin flan characteristic of the fulus of al-Basra & al-Kufa dated 100-102.
N206  AE fals, as last, but with ja’iz after Allah on reverse  R
Narrow thick flan, appears to be cast, likely somewhere in the Khurasan province. Probably circa 100/119.

**DIHQAN OF KISH**

A minor pre-Islamic dynasty that struck its own copper coins in Arabic, at or shortly before the collapse of the Umayyad caliphate. See Zeno-I4025.

Ikhrid, d. circa 134 / 752

S206  AE fals, Arabic legends  RRR
Bears the mint as duriya hadha al-fals bi-kish on reverse, and the legend ikhid dihqan kish on obverse. Undated, and without religious inscriptions.

**‘ABBASID REVOLUTION**

Wurtzel, Carl, “The Coinage of the Revolutionaries in the Late Umayyad Period,” *ANS Museum Notes*, v. 23 (1978), pp. 161-199. Several additional types in silver and many in copper have subsequently been discovered, most of which have appeared in auction catalogs since the early 1980s.

See also Klat, who lists the revolution dirhams together with the Umayyad dirhams.

The opposition that lead to the revolt of the black banners began in 116/733, but coins were struck only from 127 onwards. Not all the factions supported the candidacy of the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Saffah, who acceded to the caliphate in 132/749. Some opposing factions continued to strike their own copper coins until at least 140.

More than a dozen mints struck dirhams, of which only Jayy and Marw are reasonably available. Most of the copper coins bear the name of Abu Muslim (#208).

Nearly all were struck in Khurasanian or nearby mints in the east. There are no gold coins ascribed to the Revolution.

Nearly all coins bear the Qur’anic verse 42:23, qu la as alukum ‘ala yhi ayyan ilaa al-mawadda fi l-qurba (“say [to the Prophet Muhammad] ‘no reward do I ask of you except to be kind to me for my kingship with you’”) (longer section on #T206).

Coins of the Revolution period are very popular and fetch higher prices than regular ‘Abbasid dirhams of comparable rarity.

Strictly speaking, several types listed in this section cite a commander or governor who was not pro-‘Abbasid, but they are included here out of convenience, and because they also opposed the Umayyads. The non-‘Abbasid types are marked with (*) after the type number.

**Anonymous, circa 127-133 / 744-751**

T206  AR dirham, as type 206.1, but with longer section of Qur’an 42:23 in the outer and the mint/date formula in the inner margin of the obverse  RRR
Struck at Jayy in 127 only, and thus probably the earliest of the standard Revolution types[108].

206.1*  AR dirham, struck by partisans of ‘Abd Allah b. Mu’awiyah at about ten mints in central and southern Iran

This type has seven plain annulets in the outer obverse interspersed within the mint/date formula, Qur’an 42:23 in the inner obverse margin. Jayy is the least rare of known mints. Known dated 127-130.

206.2  AR dirham, struck by partisans of Abu Muslim (‘Abd al-Rahman b. Muslim) at Balkh 130-132, Marw 130, Jurjan 130 & al-Rayy 131

Same Arrangement as #206.1, but with four annulet triplets in the outer obverse margin instead of 7 plain annulets.

206.3  AR dirham, as #206.2 but without the Qur’anic verse 42:23, struck only at Marw, dated 131-133

With 8 annulet triplets in outer obverse margin. Otherwise, the same style as normal late Umayyad dirhams.

207.1*  AR dirham, struck by the Kharijites at al-Kufa in 128 only

With the Kharijite slogan la hukm illa lillah, “there is no judgment but God’s”, within one of the four segments of the obverse margin. There are also standard Umayyad dirhams of al-Kufa dated 128 and 129, each with 5 pairs of annulet in the margin.

207.2*  AR dirham, a Kharijite issue of Tanbarak, 133 only

As #207.1, but with the Kharijite slogan divided, one word in each of the four segments of the obverse margin. Both #207.1 & 207.2 lack the Qur’anic verse 42:23. [109]

208  AE fals, dated 127-129 only


209  AE fals, struck at Istakhr, dated 130

‘Abd al-Rahman b. Muslim (known as Abu Muslim)

127-136 / 744-754

208  AE fals, dated 130-136

Generally without mint name, but some extremely rare examples are known from Herat and Sijistan. [110]

209  AE fals, struck only at Mawsil, always undated

‘Imran b. Isma’il, fl. 136 / 754-757

209  AE fals, struck only at Sijistan in 136

Inscribed sittin bi-dirham, “sixty to the dirham”, in the reverse field. Because the copper coins of ‘Imran b. Isma’il and his successor, Sulayman b. ‘Abd Allah were dated several years after the establishment of the ‘Abbasid caliphate, they should not be considered issues of the ‘Abbasid revolution. However, Sijistan was not incorporated into the new caliphate until after 140.

209  AE fals, anonymous, miscellaneous types, without mint name, sometimes dated

RR

**‘ABBASID CALIPHATE**

There is no general work on the ‘Abbasid coinage. The various collection catalogs must be consulted, together with auction and fixed price catalogs since the 1970s. The only general treatment, now hopelessly outdated, is the following (in Russian):


Lowick, Nicholas, *Early ‘Abbasid Coinage: A Type Corpus 132-218 H* / AD 750-833, London, originally expected by 1996 after Lowick’s death in 1986, but now indefinitely postponed. The edition prepared posthumously proved hopelessly flawed, and subsequent efforts to revive the project have failed. Several dozen official photocopies were given to museums and universities.


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[109] The mint has been published as “Tanbuk” and “Baybird” (for Bayburt in Anatolia), but I believe the correct reading is Tanbarak, probably for one of the several Iranian fortresses known as Tabarak in later times (one is near Isfahan), perhaps for the same locale known in Parthian times as Tabhrax.

Standard ‘Abbasid coinage is divided into four periods:

First period (early), 132-218 / 749-833, mostly anonymous.

Second period (middle), 218-279 / 833-892, usually rarer, especially silver.

Third period (late), 279-334 / 892-946.
(Interim period, 334-555 / 946-1160, virtually no coins.)

Fourth period (renewed caliphate), 555-656 / 1160-1258.

Copper coins are not listed by ruler, but by mint, with mints organized alphabetically within each of seven regions, from North Africa to Iran and Central Asia. A fair number of fulus bear the name of either the caliph or the caliphal heir apparent, but I have retained their listing by mint rather than by caliph.

For further information, see the analysis at the beginning of the listing of ‘Abbasid coppers.

For dinars, fractional dirhams and other Yemeni issues, see the ‘Abbasid section under Arabian Peninsula (#1048-1064).

First period (132-218). All dinars of this period lack the mint name until 198 (and frequently thereafter, until all dinars bore the mint name, commencing in 214), but were often struck at several different mints. While a few dinars struck before 170 bear a symbols or letters that might indicate the actual mint, most do not, and it is likely that before 170 there was usually only one operating mint. From 170 onwards, most “mintless” dinars can be assigned to a specific mint by names or symbols placed in the obverse or reverse fields, or by the general layout of the legends. Until 206 all dinars bore the date (and the name of the caliph) on the obverse, as on all Umayyad dinars, but gradually between 206 and 214 all mints transferred the formula to the obverse, as had always been the case for Umayyad and ‘Abbasid silver dirhams.

Until 145, all ‘Abbasid dinars bore a common design, but thereafter, there is increasing variation from mint to mint, and from year to year. Although most lack the name of the current caliph, many cite the caliphal heir, while others cite names of local or regional governors, viziers, or other officials. Isolated letters and other symbols increasingly appear, as do variations in the number and form of the enclosing circles on obverse & reverse, as well as the annulets in the obverse margin. From the mid-140s onwards, there is no longer a set inscription used everywhere in the caliphate; each mint or group of adjacent mints follows its own agenda.

Copper fulus were generally abundantly issued during this period, with each mint determining its own designs, weights, and sequence of types. By the termination of this period in 218, most regions had suppressed the use of copper coinage. Although a few types are readily available, the great majority are rare, as they are almost never found in hoards. Moreover, new types continue to be discovered, especially from Iran, the Caucasus and Central Asia, given that the survival rate of ‘Abbasid copper was generally poor.

Second period (218-279). The gold and silver coinage was once again standardized, with each coin bearing the mint, date, and name of the caliph, sometimes the name of his presumed successor, rarely with any additional name. Except for some designs and special marks or isolated letters, gold and silver coinage was uniform throughout the caliphate, save for some years during the tumultuous reign of al-Mu’tamid. With few exceptions (e.g., Bardha’a and Armiyina after the 250s), all dies were centrally produced, presumably at Madinat al-Salam (Baghdad) or Surra man Ra’a, and distributed to the regional mints, which grew from about 10 locations to more than 20 by the end of this period. Copper was largely abandoned during this period, though a few copper mints in Syria and the Jazira operated as late as the 250s. Continuous copper coinage throughout this period was maintained only in Cilicia (also in Central Asia, which was no longer under ‘Abbasid control).

Third period (279-334). The silver and gold are similar to those of the second period, but with greater uniformity for all mints throughout the caliphate. There is some variation in the number of enclosing circles around the obverse & reverse fields, as well as the appearance of special symbols (control marks?), mainly at the capital city, Madinat al-Salam. Except for a few mints in Cilicia, there is no longer any ‘Abbasid copper coinage.

(Interim period, 334-555). With the exception of a few rare gold issues, all coins of this period that bear only the name of the caliph are actually issues of local dynasties that are in effect “anonymous”, citing the caliph only for the sake of legitimizing the political authority of the issuer. For convenience, these caliphs and their dates are listed following type #265.

Fourth period (555-656). Gold was issued regularly throughout this period, silver from 633 onwards. There are a few coppers from 631 onwards. All bear the name of the caliph.

Rarity: As noted above, most dinars of the first period lack the mint name, though recent research has shown that there were multiple mints in operation, especially after 170, perhaps as early as the 140s. An initial analysis had been expected with the publication of the Lowick material, but this project is now in abeyance.

First period silver also comes from many mints, but the mint name is always cited, together with the date, in the obverse marginal inscription. For the earlier years, until 147, al-Basra and al-Kufa are the only common mints (some issues of al-Basra in the 160s are also common). From 148 onwards, the most common mints are Madinat al-Salam (#133 = Baghdad), al-Mawsil, al-Muhammadiya (Tebriz), though some years are elusive. Also common during portions of the first period are ‘Abbasiya, Tiqitiya, Balkh, Ma’din al-Shash / 189-190 only), Samarqand, Isbahan (the Arabized form of the name Isfahan), Iṣyq (162 only), and al-Rafia’ and Zaran.

The rarity of copper mints is indicated in the listings below. However, the mint rarity refers only to the most available issues of that mint; some types can be much rarer.

For the second and third periods, the most common dirham mint is consistently Madinat al-Salam. Other common mints are al-Basra, Surra man Ra’a (= Samarqand), Shahr-i Qozqāna, and Wazīt. Somewhat scarcer, but still frequently obtainable, are al-Kufa, al-Mawsil, Nasibin, al-Rafia’ and Isbahan, Fars, al-Ahwaz, and Suq al-Ahwaz; some additional mints are reasonably available for a few dates only. As for the gold of the second & third periods, Mīr is generally the most common mint, but San’a (listed separately under the Yemeni issues of the ‘Abbasids), Madinat al-Salam, al-Ahwaz, Suq al-Ahwaz, and Tustar min al-Ahwaz are also not rare, at least during some periods.

With the exception of a few issues of Cilicia and Dimashq, virtually all copper fulus of this period are very rare.

There are a few truly ‘Abbasid coins dated 334-555 that cite only the caliph, such as the rebellious issues of al-Muqtaddi (#A266) and al-Mustazhir (#B266). Local issues bearing only the name of the caliph but otherwise anonymous are normally assigned to the actual issuer, such as the Qarakhanid vassal type #3343, the Ziyarid #1536.2 and the Ghaznavid #1615A, all in the sole name of the caliph al-Qadir.

The Madinat al-Salam mint was first opened in 146, but issues of 146 and 147 are extremely rare. There had been an earlier attempt at establishing a central mint at al-Hashimiya in Iraq in 138, with dirhams known for several years thereafter, but this endeavor failed. Dirhams of al-Hashimiya are very rare, especially dates other than 138.

Two massive hoards of ‘Abbasid and other contemporary gold dinars of the third period began sprawling into the market in 2005 and 2006, respectively. The first hoard, which contained over 150,000 pieces and included al-Hashimiya coins previously regarded as extremely rare, especially Hamadan and Qumm, and to a lesser extent also al-Karak, Qazwin, al-Muhammadiya and Mah al-Kufa. The terminal date of the first hoard is approximately 351, with the great majority of the hoard dating after 300. One might expect the hoard to have been thoroughly dispersed within three years, but more and more specimens continued to trickle slowly into the market in 2009, if not later. Because the size of the hoard remains elusive, prices have collapsed, especially for dinars of Hamadan and Qumm.

The second hoard, terminating in 323, began to penetrate the market early in 2009. The most common mints are Mah al-Basra and al-Muhammadiya, but many coins of al-Karak, Qumm, al-Ahwaz (and its related cities) and others were also present in this hoard. As of November 2010, at least 1000 pieces had appeared on the market. Once again, the full size of the hoard remains unknown, and prices have collapsed, especially the Mah al-Basra 322 dinar of the Ziyarid ruler Mawlawi (#1530) and the anonymous ‘Alid dinar of al-Muhammadiya 316 (#E1524).

112 There are a few truly ‘Abbasid coins dated 334-555 that cite only the caliph, such as the rebellious issues of al-Muqtadī (#A266) and al-Mustazhir (#B266). Local issues bearing only the name of the caliph but otherwise anonymous are normally assigned to the actual issuer, such as the Qarakhanid vassal type #3343, the Ziyarid #1536.2 and the Ghaznavid #1615A, all in the sole name of the caliph al-Qadir.

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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 48
In the fourth period, only the gold coins of Madinat al-Salam (after about 595), as well as the silver and copper of Madinat al-Salam and Iribil, can be considered common.

**Weight standards:** In the first period and much of the second, the gold dinar was struck to a standard of about 4.25g, the silver dirham to the canonical 2.97g or slightly lighter. Some dirhams of al-Ma'mun were struck to a heavier standard of about 4.15g (type reign of al-Mu'tamid), even greater fluctuation has been observed.

The extent of weight variations differs from mint to mint. During the third period, gold dinars also ceased to adhere to a fixed standard, though dinar weights cluster primarily between 4.1 and 4.3g until after about 320, after which the spread rapidly widens, from less than 3g to more than 7g. In fact, gold dinars had ceased to be "coins" in the traditional sense, but stamped ingots, a policy that would remain in effect throughout most of the Muslim world (except North Africa, Yemen and India) until the 9th/10th century. Fourth period gold is even more variable, with weights from 1.5 to well over 15 grams. In the fourth period, however, the restored silver dirham and the associated half dirham adhere rather strictly to a weight of about 2.6g for the full dirham, about 5% lighter than the canonical standard of 2.97g.

There are no standard weights to any of the 'Abbasid copper coinage. The extent of weight variations differs from mint to mint.

**Quality of manufacturing:** With the exception of the dirhams of al-'Abbasiya, Ifriqiya and Tughr, virtually all gold and silver coins of the first period are well-made. At first, quality control remains excellent into the second period, but then declines rapidly for the silver dirham after the death of al-Wathiq in 232/847. From the 240s to the 270s, poorly struck dirhams are the rule. Many are virtually flat on one side (usually the reverse), the result of having been struck with a thoroughly worn out die. There was some improvement in the dirham in the third period, particularly at Iraqi and some Iranian mints, whereas Syrian mint products remain unpleasantly crude. Fourth period dirhams are generally well struck, because production technology was likely derived from contemporary Ayyubid or Rum Seljuk mints.

Gold dinars generally retain decent quality until the end of the third period in 334/946. Modest weakness occasionally occurs, mainly at Iranian mints in the 240s to the 260s and after about 300. During the fourth period, dinars were at first extremely carelessly struck, though quality improved after the early 600s, but fully struck examples in the 600s, without any weakness, are rare.

As in the case of Umayyad copper, nicely preserved and carefully struck 'Abbasid fals are exceptional. Most are poorly struck, worn, damaged or corroded.

**Forgeries, old and new:** A large hoard of at least 1000 base-metal contemporary forgeries of certain dates of 'Abbasid and Umayyad dirhams was found in Iran in the 1960s. Other groups have also been found. They are not rare.

Contemporary forgeries of Umayyad and early 'Abbasid gold dinars, so-called subaeratae or copper-core forgeries, are also not uncommon, and currently (2010) sell for about $30-60 in average condition. Modern forgeries are virtually unknown, except for a pot-metal cast of a common dirham of al-Rashid (Madinat al-Salam 187), allegedly produced in the 1950s or 1960s as an advertising gimmick for a European pharmaceutical company. See also the note to type #224.

Needless to say, the most sought after 'Abbasid mint is Makka (Mecca), where dinars and dirhams were occasionally struck from 201 until the 320s. All too often, an alleged Makka coin is actually a Misr coin where the name has been altered, an easily accomplished scam, given the similarity of makka and misr in the Kufic script. Once the coin has been artificially doctored, it may be fobbed off as the "real McCoy". Fortunately, original dies for the genuine dinars of Makka were engraved with sufficient difference that the altered coin can usually be quickly detected. Makka dinars from modern forgery dies are increasingly common, usually so far very easily distinguished from the authentic.

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115 For a dinar of al-Ahwaz 322 weighing 9.32g, see Morton & Eden auction 6, lot 188. Unusually heavy dirhams and dinars are sometimes incorrectly called "double dirhams" and "double dinars".

116 The first issue, of 286, is inscribed "in the year of its conquest" (from Byzantium), perhaps the earliest true commemorative Islamic coin (RR).

117 Dirhams of Arminiya dated from the 170s to the 210s cite the names of one or two local officials.

118 Dirhams of Arran dated from the 170s to the early 220s cite the names of one or two local officials, usually different from their Arminiya cohorts.

119 The mint name was changed to Shiraz during 299 (q.v.). Coins of the Fars mint may have been struck at Shiraz (most likely) or at other mints in Fars province, such as Isfah, the former capital.

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 49
Al-Masissa RR C, occasional dates 280s-333

al-Mawsil S B, 260s & 270s (RR)

Missir R A, 171, 175, 180-182, then sporadically 194-218

al-Mubaraka (in Tunisia) RR A, 174-175, 179-180

al-Muawafqiya RRR B, 268-270

al-Muhammadiya (= [al-]Rayy) A

B, most years (S)

C, continuously, but many dates are issues of other dynasties (R)

al-Mutawakkiliya R B, 247 only

Nahr Tira RRR A, 134 only

Na‘in RRR A

Nasbin S B, many years 251-279

C, most years 279-331

Nishapur S A

al-Qasr al-Fakhir R

al-Qasr al-Salam R

Qumm RR B, 245-248, 250

C, sporadically 280s-310s (gold more plentiful)

al-Rafiaq S

A, 183, 188-193, then occasionally till 209

B, 256-279 (R)

C, most years (S)

(Madhat al-Raghestan) RRR

(alternative reading of Jazirat al-Raghistan, q.v.)

al-Rahba RR C, most years, 280s-320s

Ramhurmuz RR A, 134 only

C, 285 & 311 only

al-Raqq R A, 199 only

al-Raqq RRR C, 254 only

al-Ra’s al-Ayn R C, most years 283-323

al-Rayy S A, 145-148 (S), 179 (RR)

al-Rayyan RRA A, 174 only

Samarqand C

A, 193-205 (then Tahrid till 210), 217-218

B, most years 219-279 (S, but R after 253)

C, 280-281 (RR), then Samanid

San’a see #1048 ff.

al-Shash C

A, 184, 195, 218, perhaps others

B, regularly 219-253 (S), then few later years (R)

C, 280-281 (RR), then Samanid

Shiraz C

B, 275 (R)

C, 287-289, 299-322 (then Buwayhid)

Sijistan R A

166-176, 191-193

C, 287-320 (RR)

Suq al-Ahwaz S

A, 134-135 (RR)

C, 292-328, then Buwayhid

Surra man Ra’a (= Samarra) C

B, 224-279, most years (251 is notoriously common)

C, 279-333, probably all years

Surraq RRR A, 134-135

al-Sus RRR A, 134 only

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120 Citing ‘Umar b. (Hamad??), known from Islamic Coin Auction 13, lot 132.

121 Examples assigned to years 197 and 198 are actually 177 and 178.


Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 50
The common mints for gold dinars are indicated for each caliph. Other mints can be quite rare, but most no longer bring premium prices. Most precious stamps are those of the Abbasid caliph al-'Abbasiya (S), or the first few years of that mint, and those of al-Mansur (A). Gold coins of al-Hadi (S) are occasionally seen, presumably struck only at Madinat al-Salam.

**FIRST PERIOD**

**temp. al-Saffah**, 132-136 / 749-754

(Abu'l-Abbas 'Abd Allah, b. Mu'mammad)

No coins of al-Saffah actually bear his name or titles.

210 AV dinar, always without mint name

Year 132 is extremely rare, but all later years are only scarce.

211 AR dirham

Dirhams of al-Saffah adhere to a uniform type, maintained at all mints until 145 during the reign of his successor al-Mansur. The calligraphy is also uniform, except at the mint of Damascus (plus a few rare issues of al-Hashimiya), which retains the distinctive style of late Umayyad Damascus dirhams.

**temp. al-Mansur**, 136-158 / 754-775

(Abu Ja'far 'Abb Al-Mu'min)

No gold or silver coins of al-Mansur bear his name or titles, but many cite his heir apparent al-Mahdi.

212 AV dinar, always without mint name

A most remarkable imitation of this type is dated 157 and was struck by the Anglo-Saxon king Offa (757-796) bearing the Latin legend OFFA REX added to the reverse field (British Museum, unique). All other European imitations (RR) lack a name.

213 AR dirham

After the year 145 there was no longer a uniform dirham type. Different mints began to produce distinctive types, some anonymous, some with the name of the reigning caliph (after this reign, beginning with issues of al-Mahdi in 159), some with the name of the heir apparent to the caliphate, a governor or other official. Uniform silver coinage was gradually restored over the years 206-218, during the reign of al-Ma'mun.

1Abbasid dirhams of the period 136-218 are often collected by variety of inscription, governor's name, mintmark, etc. Principal types for this reign:

213.1 — Anonymous, identical to type 211, but assigned to al-Mansur by date (A). The common mints are al-Kufa and al-Basra until 147, and from 148 onwards, Madinat al-Salam.

213.2 — With name of heir al-Mahdi Muhammad (C), common from al-Rayy (145-148) and al-Muhammadiya (178-155).

213.3 — As #213.1, but with name of a local governor (S), found on coins of al-'Abbasiya (in modern Tunisia).

213.4 — As #213.2, but with name of a local official (R), found on coins of Arminiya & Arran (152-155).

**temp. Ibrahim b. 'Abd Allah, rebel, 145 / 762-763**

F214 AR dirham, al-Basra 145 only, anonymous

Readily distinguished from ordinary 'Abbasiid dirhams of same mint & date by the legend Allah ahad ahad filling the reverse field.

al-Mahdi, 158-169 / 775-785

(Abu 'Abd Allah Muhammad, b. al-Mansur)

214 AV dinar, always without the caliph's name

A few varieties have a symbol (crescent, three dots, etc.) below or above the reverse field, sometimes calligraphically distinctive, usually not rare. Some of these varieties may be from mints other than Madinat al-Salam, but this has never been proven. Some very stylistically different examples are contemporary imitations, probably European.

215 AR dirham

Principal types for this reign:

215.1 — Citing al-khalifa al-mahdi (A), most from Madinat al-Salam and al-Muhammadiya, but dirhams of this type from Arminiya, al-Basra, Ifriqiya, Jassy & Kirman are frequently seen. Sometimes quoting a local official.125

215.2 — Without name of caliph, but with a local governor.

From al-'Abbasiya, Ifriqiya and Tudgha, with the name of the governor Yazid (C).

215.3 — With al-khalifa al-mahdi plus Harun (the future al-Rashid) as son of the caliph, struck at Ifriqiya 165-169 and at both Harunabad & al-Haruniya 168-169 (S).

215.4 — With al-khalifa al-mahdi plus Musa (the future al-Hadi) as heir, struck at al-Basra 165-168 and al-Muhammadiya 167-168 (S).

A216 AE fals, countermarked al-mahdi on older coins

Found mainly on fals of al-Basa & Madinat al-Salam. Ordinary fals citing al-Mahdi are categorized under the mint.

al-Hadi, 169-170 / 785-786

(Abu Muhammad Musa, b. al-Mahdi)

216 AV dinar, anonymous and without mint name

Only the year 170 is traditionally assigned to al-Hadi.

217 AR dirham

217.1 — Citing al-khalifa musa alone (Q), of which Ifriqiya and al-Haruniya are least rare. Also Jassy & Kirman (RR).

217.2 — Citing al-khalifa al-hadi alone (S), of which only Madinat al-Salam and al-Muhammadiya are not rare.

217.3 — Anonymous, struck only at al-'Abbasiya and dated 170 (R) coins of this type dated 169 are traditionally assigned to al-Mahdi.

217.4 — As #217.2 but also citing Harun as either wali 'ahd al-muslimin ("heir of the Muslims") (169 only) or ibn amir al-mu'min ("son of the commander of the faithful") (170 only), mints of Ifriqiya both years and Haruniya 170 only (RR).

217.5 — As #217.3 but also citing al-Rashid as either "heir of the Muslims" or "son of the commander of the faithful", mint of Ifriqiya (S) or al-Haruniya (R).

Only coins of al-Haruniya and al-'Abbasiya, all types, cite a local official, in full or abbreviated.

al-Rashid, 170-193 / 786-809

(Abu Ja'far Harun, b. al-Mahdi)

218 AV dinar, always without mint name

Principal types for this reign, indicating the mints where these types are believed to have been struck:

218.1 — With the name of the caliph Harun as amir al-mu'minin, 170-171 (two variants, both RR, presumably struck only at Madinat al-Salam).

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125 Dirhams of this type struck at al-Basra in 160 cite the official Muhammadiya below the reverse field, written either horizontally (S) or vertically (RR).
219.2 — **Without name** or symbol (171-179, S, probably all years and all likely from Madinat al-Salam).

219.3 — **With second margin on reverse**, citing al-Amin as heir apparent (Madinat al-Salam, 179-187, C).

219.3A — **Without name** or symbol (187-189, S, presumably struck at Madinat al-Salam, or which 187 is RR). Identical to #218.2 except for date and calligraphy.

219.4 — Arabic H (โ) below reverse (188-193, C, assigned to Madinat al-Salam mint).

219.5 — Arabic R (โ) below reverse (assigned to al-Rafiga mint, 190-191, R).


219.6A — Anonymous, with only the letter ‘ayn (ไ) above the reverse, dated 170 (Misz, RR).

219.7 — **Anonymous**, with only Arabic M (โ) above the reverse, dated (Misz, 170-171, R).

This type is now assigned to Musa, cited on #218.7.

219.8 — ‘Umar cited below reverse (Misz, 172-175, R).

219.9 — Da’ud cited below reverse (Misz, 174, RR).

219.10 — Ibrahim cited below reverse (Misz, 176, RR).

219.11 — Ja’far cited below reverse (Misz, 176-187, C).


Additional dates and minor varieties are reported for many subtypes of #218. Some are undoubtedly correct, but most are misreadings, cataloguer’s types, carelessness attributes, as well as contemporary mulings, imitations or counterfeits.

### 219 AR dirham

**AHN**

Harun al-Rashid was the caliph about whom the *Thousand and One Nights* was composed, memorialized in Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Sheherazade*. Most of his dirhams lack his name! The silver coinage of al-Rashid is extremely complex, consisting of three basic types: (1) Anonymous coins lacking the name of the caliph or heir, #219.2-219.3. (2) Coins in the name of the caliph, either as Harun, al-Rashid or al-Mardi, #219.1. **219.4-219.8.** (3) Coins in the name of one of his sons as heir, either al-Amin, #219.9, 219.12-219.13, or al-Ma’mun, #219.10-219.11, based on the caliph’s intention to divide the caliphate between his two sons after his death.

**NOTE:** The mints and dates listed for each subtype are not necessarily complete. The rarity indicators are underlined.

219.1 — Caliph with titular name al-Mardi (instead of al-Rashid, not to be confused with al-Mahdi) and title al-khalifa (الخليفة) (Madinat al-Salam 170-171, S, and Tabaristan 190-193, R).


219.2a — **Anonymous, as last but with governor** or other official, struck 171-183 & 192-193, mainly at al-Ahbusiya (171-176, C) and Ifrijiya (171-183, S), (also rare issues of al-Mubaraka T4-175, al-Walila 173, Misr 171, 175, 180, Arminiya 175-179, Kirman 177-178, and scarce issues of Balkh 192-193, Abashahr 192-193, Herat 192-193, Bukhara 193 and Samarqand 193). (All coins of this date type dated 170 are assigned to al-Hadi.)

219.3 — Similar, but with the Prophet Muhammad entitled nabi instead of rasul (Ifrijiya 176-184, R, and al-Mubaraka 179-180, RR).

219.4 — Caliph as al-khalifa harun (Ifrijiya 170-174 and Sijistan 170-176, B218, S, also al-Muhammadiya 171, probably R).

219.5 — Caliph as al-khalifa al-rashid (al-Muhammadiya 170-175 & Zarjan 176-193, both C, Madinat al-Salam 170 citing al-‘Ala, RR, plus a few extremely rare issues of Madinat al-Salam T78, al-Ruyan 174 and Harun al-Rashid 171).

219.6 — Caliph as ’abd Allah, with title amir mu’min (‘امير الممین) (commander of the believers), with names & titles in reverse field (Balkh & Nishapur 193, R).

219.6a — Similar to #219.6, except that the names & titles occur in a second marginal legend on the reverse (inner margin, sometimes highly condensed) instead of within the field, with title ’abd Allah Harun amir al-mu’min (Madinat al-Salam 170-178, S, of which only the years 170, 171 & 175 are often available, the others at least RR). 

219.7 — Caliph as al-khalifa harun and amir al-mu’min, with governor (Arran 183-193, R, plus extremely rare issues of Jayy 171 and Tabaristan 175).

219.8 — Caliph as al-khalifa al-rashid, together with his son Muhammad cited as ibn amir al-mu’min (strike at Madinat al-Salam 171-172, S, and Arminiya 171-172, RRR).

219.9 — Without caliph, citing only al-Amin Muhammad as ibn amir al-mu’min (Madinat al-Salam 179-186 and al-Muhammadiya 180-187, both A, also Misr 181-182, Ma’din Bajunays 190-192, al-Basra 184-185, al-Kufa 179-180, Jayy 175, and Marw 184-186, all rare except Marw, which is slightly scarce).

Type #219.9 dirhams of al-Muhammadiya & Madinat al-Salam cite the vizier Ja’far (b. Yahya al-Barmaki), as do some examples of the uncertain mint “al-Muhammadiya” of type #219.9b.

219.9a — Without caliph, citing only al-Amin and/or Muhammad as wali ‘abd al-mu’minin, normally with local official (“al-Muhammadiya”) 176-181, also 184, 186, 193, various subtypes, R, and Arminiya, most years 179-193, R).

219.9b — Without caliph, citing al-Amin Muhammad as ibn amir al-mu’min and wali ‘abd al-mu’minin (“al-Muhammadiya”), some dates 176-193 (R & Balkh 181-186, both C).

219c — As 219.9b but with name of governor Muhammad b. Yahya included in obverse mint/date legend (al-Raya 179 only, RR).

219d — Without caliph, citing Muhammad with no further titles except ibn amir al-mu’min (al-Muhammadiya 174-176, R).

219.10 — Without caliph, citing al-Ma’mun ‘Abd Allah as ibn amir al-mu’min (Misz 185-188, Dimashq 185-189, and Arminiya 175, RR).

219.11 — Without caliph, citing al-Ma’mun ‘Abd Allah as ibn amir al-mu’min and wali ‘abd al-mu’minin, i.e., as second heir to the caliphatate (Balkh 185-190 and Ma’din al-Shashi 180-190, both C, also extremely rare issues of al-Rafiga 183-186 and Marw 186).

219.12 — As 219.9, citing al-Amin Muhammad, but with name of the governor Muhammad b. Yahya following fi wilayat in reverse field (al-Muhammadiya 180, R).

219.13 — As 219.9 (citing Muhammad al-Amin) but citing the vizier Ja’far b. Yahya following fi wilayat in reverse field (Dimashq 181, RRR).  

(Former #219A, the Tabaristan style ½ dirham of Rayy 168 with the name Nusayr is now listed under Tabaristan as #73.)

### 219E AR dirham, North African imitation of Madinat al-Salam or al-Muhammadiya

The most common variety is based on type #219.9 of Madinat al-Salam, dated 180 but likely struck around the 190s. Specimens from the recent hoard weighed about 2.85g on the average, but individual examples varied from 2.58g to 3.47g.

‘Ubayd Allah (b. al-Mahdi), as governor of Armenia, 172-175 / 788-791

**RRR**

The name ‘Ubayd Allah is cited in the reverse field as though he were heir to the caliphate, though historic evidence suggests that he never claimed any position beyond the governorship of Armenia.

### Notes

128 Non-standard issues of "al-Muhammadiya" following this type were struck various years 176-193 (R).  See footnote #127.

127 All “al-Muhammadiya” dirhams of this type vary from the standard issues, usually with a name above or below the reverse margin, often both. Bates has tentatively assigned all these special types to the region of Armenia. A thorough investigation of al-Rashid’s dirhams bearing the mint name al-Muhammadiya is essential.

126 See footnote #127.

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 52
219H  AR dirham, in his sole name  RR  
Struck at Balkh and Ma’din al-Shash in 190, and Arran 183. Neither the caliph nor any of his potential heirs are cited. 

Zubayda, wife of al-Rashid, fl. 181-196 / 797-812  
Died in 216/831. 

219J  AR dirham, struck at Jazirat al-Raghistan in 183 only.  
The “island” (jazirat) of Raghistan was perhaps located near Baghdad. The obverse and reverse fields contain Qur’an 15:46-48, divided at the middle of 15:47, which refers to two brothers facing each other on thrones, posing peace and alliance between their own son, al-Amin, and his half brother, al-Ma’mun. The “mint” location is unknown, but Cécile Bresc suggested either somewhere in the Caucasus or along the highway between al-Kufa and al-Basra. 

219L  AR dirham, struck at al-Luwiyya 181, in her name as umm ja’far  
Umm Ja’far is cited in the reverse margin as mother of the heir to the Muslims. Qur’an 20:8 and 59:24 on the obverse, the beginning of 48:29 on the reverse. 

219M  AR dirham, al-Dayr 184, in her name umm ja’far and her assistant Yasir, Qur’an 5:56 on reverse  
The word al-dayr means “monastery” and was used for Christian monasteries. Yahya Ja’far, who published this coin in the ONS Newsletter 204, p.6-7, suggests the locale al-Dayr-al-Rumman, “the monastery of the pomegranate,” along the Euphrates River between Baghdad & al-Raqqa, through which al-Rashid and Umm Ja’far passed in 184. The city is now Deir ez-Zor, a petroleum center with a population of more than 240,000. 

219S  AR dirham, struck at Ma’din Bajunays in 196, where she is cited without her name, but as al-sayyida umm al-khalifa, in the reverse field  
Her son, the caliph al-Amin, is also cited in the reverse field. 

Some additional dirhams also cite a reference to Zubayda, such as type #219.9 struck at Ma’din Bajunays and several interesting examples struck at al-Muhammadiya. 

al-Natiiq Musa (b. al-Amin), recognized as heir to the caliphate at Damascus in 194 / 810-811  

220  AR dirham  
Struck at Dimashq in 194, with inscription minna amara bibi al-amir al-natiiq bi-l-7aqiq musa bin amir al-mu’minin.  
al-Amin Muhammad, 193-198 / 809-813  
(Abu Musa, b. al-Rashid)  

220.5 — Citing al-’Abbas below and with rabbi Allah above obverse (Madinat al-Salam, 194-196, S).  

220.6 — Citing al-Amin with rabbi Allah above obverse (Madinat al-Salam, 197, RR).  

220.7 — Anonymous, no names or extra legends (Iraq, mint undetermined, 197-195, RR).  

Additional dates and minor varieties are reported for many subtypes of #220. See note to #218. 

221  AR dirham  
C  
The attribution of coinage to al-Amin has long been controversial. There are three basic series: (1) Anonymous, inscribed only muhammad rasul Allah, almost always with rabbi Allah above. (2) With the name of al-Amin, entitled either as amir al-mu’minin or as amir al-mu’minin. (3) Without the name of al-Amin, but citing his brother and heir, al-Ma’mun, as heir to the believers (wali ‘ahd al-muslimin) and as son of the commander of the faithful (ibn amir al-mu’minin), either as al-amir (#221.4) or as al-imam (#221.5). Coins citing al-Ma’mun as al-imam but as amir al-mu’minin rather than as ibn amir al-mu’minin are assigned to al-Ma’mun himself. While it might seem extraordinarily perplexing that al-Ma’mun could have been the Imam but not the caliph, i.e., son of the commander of the faithful, the terms Imam and caliph are not interchangeable in Islamic tradition. 

Principal types for this reign:  

221.1 Anonymous, rabbi Allah above just muhammad rasul Allah (Madinat al-Salam and al-Muhammadiya, 193-194, C, also Tabaristan 193, RR).  

221.2 — As #221.1, but with the name al-Amin added below the reverse field (Madinat al-Salam 198 only, RR).  

221.3 — Citing the caliph al-Amin as al-khalifa only, struck only at Madinat al-Salam in 197 (RR). 

221.3a — Citing the caliph al-Amin as amir al-mu’minin, struck at Madinat al-Salam 194-196 (C) also naming the vizier al-‘Abbas, plus some extremely rare examples of Arran 194 and Armiyana 195, both citing local governors. 

The issues of Madinat al-Salam also include the additional title ‘ibd Allah, “servant of God,” an epithet referring to al-Amin, not the personal name of his brother al-Ma’mun.  

221.4 — Without the caliph, citing his brother the Ma’mun as both wali ‘ahd al-muslimin and as ibn amir al-mu’minin, with the title al-amir, struck at eastern mints only, most commonly al-Muhammadiya 194-195, Balkh 193-195, Herat 193-195, Marw 193-195, Nishapur 193-195, Bukhara 193-194 and Samarqand 193-195 (all S), as well as very rare issues of Tabaristan 194 and Zaraj 193-197.  

221.5 — As #221.4 citing the Ma’mun with the title al-imam and ibn amir al-mu’minin, from the Muhammadiya 195, Balkh 195, Herat 195, Samarqand 194-195 and Bukhara 194-195 (all S) (formerly assigned to the Ma’mun as #223.1).  

221.5a — As #221.5 but the name of the chief general Tahir b. al-Husayn (successor founder of the Tahirid dynasty) cited in an additional outer marginal inscription on the obverse (al-Muhammadiya 195, R).  

NOTE: Most issues of #221.4 dated 193 lack a secondary name, whereas most of type #221.4 dated 194-197, most of #221.5 and all of #221.5a include the name of the vizier al-Fadl (b. al-Rabi’), sometimes with the personal name of a local governor.  

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129 ICA 10, lot 73.  
130 Spink, sale 5003, lot 337, with historical analysis by Cécile Bresc.  
131 For Zubayda’s other coins, struck 184-195, see Samir Shamma’s article in Yarmuk Numismatics, v 3 (1991). The dirhams of al-Luwiyya 181, Ma’din Bajunays 196 and several others are illustrated in Zeno under Abbasid > Umm Ja’far Zubayda.  
132 On this type, al-Ma’mun has taken the title of Imam but not yet the formal title of caliph (amir al-mu’minin), as though he was formally recognizing his brother al-Amin as caliph. These were nonetheless struck only in areas ruled by al-Ma’mun.  
133 Strictly speaking, types #221.4 and #221.5 are issues of al-Ma’mun before he rejected al-Amin as caliph in the west. The distinction in the title: on #221.4 al-Ma’mun is both heir to the believers and son of the caliph (i.e., of the deceased al-Rashid), on #221.5 both Imam and son of the caliph, whereas on later issues he is cited as caliph himself, either as al-khalifa or as amir al-mu’minin.
al-Ma'mun ‘Abd Allah, 194-218 / 810-833
(Abu Ja’far, b. al-Rashid)

222 AV dinar, single obverse margin, with or without mint name

C

All examples are dated, always in the reverse margin, with the mint name Misr added on some examples of subtypes 222A-222.5, 222.5.7, and 222.9 (mostly common). The only other example bearing a mint name is subtype 222.12 dated 198 inscribed Madinat al-Salab below the obverse field (RR). Principal types for this reign:

222.1 — Anonymous, l’ikhalif al-’imam on reverse (Misr, 196, S), without any governor or other official.
222.2 — Citing al-Ma’mun & ‘Abbad (Misr, 196-198, S).
222.3 — Citing al-Ma’mun & al-’Abbas (Misr, 198, S).
222.4 — ‘Abbad and al-’Abbas were two separate individuals, not a spelling error!
222.5 — Citing Dhul’-Ri’asatayn, al-Muttalib & al-Fadl (Misr, 198-199, S).
222.6 — Citing Dhul’-Ri’asatayn, Sulayman & al-Fadl (Misr, 200-201, S).
222.7 — Citing al-Ma’mun as ‘Abd Allah in reverse field (unknown mint, 198, RR).
222.8 — Citing the governor al-Sari, usually with Tahir & Dhul’-Ri’asatayn, several variants (Misr 200-206, C).
222.9 — Citing Muhammad b. al-Sari (Misr, 205-206, R).
222.10 — ‘Abbad Allah b. Tahir (Misr, 211, RRR).
222.11 — Inscribed l’t-khalif a-l-Ma’mun, no governor (Misr, 212-215, S).
222.12 — Citing only Dhul’-Ri’asatayn (Madinat al-Salab, 198-199, S). Some pieces bear the location al-’Iraq beneath the obverse field.
222.14 — Without any name at all, single obverse margin (Madinat al-Salam, 204-208, 217, R).
222.14A — Without any name at all, similar, but struck at unknown location (197-199, R).

(222.15 — Relisted as #222A.1)

Similar dinars citing Muhammad, ‘Abd Allah, al-Ifriqi or Ahmad are of Yemeni origin and are listed as variants of type #A1050. A few additional subtypes of #222 are reported, all extremely rare. Additional date, minor varieties, and alleged types have also been reported (see note to type #218).

222A.1 AV dinar, with double obverse margin, date in the inner margin, without mint name

R

Known dated 206-210, also without mint name but probably struck only at Madinat al-Salab. Formerly type #218.

222A.2 AV dinar, similar, but with mint name added before the date

S

As #222.15, but with mint name. Misr and Madinat al-Salam, 214-218 (S), also Marw 215 (RRR), always without the name of governor or other official. Similar coins of San’a dated 215-217 are listed as #B1050.

Some Misr 214 dinars cite Abu Ishaq (the future caliph al-Mu’tasim) below the reverse (RR), some of Misr 214-215 cite the caliph al-Ma’mun below reverse (R).

223 AR dirham, standard denomination (about 2.97g)

A

The coins of al-Ma’mun are rather simpler to understand than those of his brother al-Amin. Again, there are three basic series: (1) Anonymous, inscribed only muhammad rasul Allah, often with name of a governor or other official. (2) In his name al-Ma’mun, with one or more of the titles al-khalifia, al-’imam, khalifat Allah, or his personal name ‘abd Allah, usually with the additional title amir al-mu’minin, often with a vizier, governor or other official. (3) In his name al-Ma’mun, with the title khalifat Allah, and citing al-Rida’ as heir apparent (type #224). However, coins in his name with the titles of amir, walli ‘abd or ibn amir al-mu’minin are issues of either his father al-Rashid or his brother al-Amin, as explained under #219 and #221.

136 This reform has recently been studied by Tayeb el-Hibri, "Coinage reform under the ‘Abbásid caliph al-Ma’mun," Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient, v. 36, 1993, pp. 58-83.

Note that on the reform dinars, mint & date were transferred from the reverse to the obverse margin, whereas silver dirhams had always posted mint & date in the obverse margin.

137 On dirhams of Arran dated 209 and later, al-Ma’mun bears the title ‘abd Allah twice, once as his personal name, then as an honorary title meaning “servant of God”.

138 It is likely that some or all of Fars 201-202 and Marw 198-202 listed under this type are actually the heavy dirhams of type #223A, published without indication of their weight.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 54
There are a few additional types of al-Ma'mun’s dirhams, all of them extremely rare. The title *dhu ‘l-ri’asat an*, “possessor of two commands”, refers to the vizier al-Fadl b. Sahl al-Sarakhsi, who was in charge of both the civilian and military administrations. During this reign, especially on dirham subtypes #223.4 and 223.5, and on most dinar subtypes, the term *lilah* (“for God”) was added atop the reverse margin. This term was retained on most ‘Abbasid dirhams and dinars thereafter, and on many issues of subsequent independent dynasties. It had already appeared on a very few issues of al-Amin in 193-194.

223A AR dirham, heavy weight (about 4.15g), struck at Fars & Marw circa 199-203

223H AR ½ dirham, anonymous, known only from al-Muhammadiya 209, as type #223.4

224 AR dirham, naming al-Rida as heir (202-205 / 817-219) 4

225 AR dirham, in the name of al-Rida! I purchased one in Mashhad in 1965, dated 1318.

226 AR dirham, anonymous, dated 219 only

227 AV dinar

228 AR dirham

229 AV dinar

230 AR dirham

231 AR dirham, in his name, struck 219-227

232 AR dirham, anonymous, dated 219 only

233 AV dinar

234 AR dirham, anonymous

235 AV dinar

236 AV donative style dinar, known from al-Shash 236-240, Madinat al-Salam (several years between 238 and 246), and Surra man Ra’a (242-246) RR

237 AR dirham

238 AR dirham

239 AV dinar

240 AR dirham

241 AR dirham

242 AR dirham, anonymous

243 AR dirham

244 AR dirham

245 AR dirham

246 AR dirham

247 AR dirham

248 AR dirham

249 AR dirham

250 AR dirham

251 AR dirham

252 AR dirham

253 AR dirham

254 AR dirham

255 AR dirham

256 AR dirham

SECOND PERIOD

Rispling, Gert, Islamic Coins, 218-279 H. Unpublished computer inventory, 1993. Printed out copies can be found at some museums & universities.

**Coins of al-Mu'tasim commences in the year 219. With the exception of a few very rare anonymous donatives, coins of the second period invariably bear the name of the caliph, a feature which characterizes all subsequent ‘Abbasid coinage in gold and silver. The maintenance of a uniform type throughout the caliphate, with a few exceptions, was retained throughout the 2nd and 3rd periods, until the political demise of the ‘Abbasids in 334/946.**

From the time of al-Mutawakkil onwards, many ‘Abbasid coins bear the name of the proposed heir to the caliphate, more rarely the name of a vizier or chief amir. These are indicated below (with subtype numbers, e.g., 230.1, 230.2, 230.3, etc.) together with an indication of rarity.

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139 The dividing dates between 223.5 and 223.6 given here are only estimates, due to lack of accurately published material.

140 Following our own Civil War, in 1866 the United States added the phrase *In God we trust* to its coinage, which has been maintained ever since.

141 There is a remarkable "forgery" of this type, bearing the mint name Samarqand and the date 202, on reduced silver planchetts of about two grams. This was first published by George Miles in 1950, in the *ANS Museum Notes*, volume 18, who explained that "I do not believe the coin is a counterfeit—at least, if it is a counterfeit, it is a contemporary one..." He was apparently unaware of examples dated AH1318. These were made in Mashhad in the early 20th century, as souvenir tokens for visitors to the holy shrine of ‘Ali b. Musa al-Rida! I purchased one in Mashhad in 1965, dated 1318.

142 Sotheby’s, 15 November 1984, lot 334.

143 It seems logical that the introduction of thick narrow planchets in 247 was an attempt to mimic the planchets of the contemporary silver coinage of the Hindushahis in the Kabul region. The Hindushahi silver coins were carefully struck and circulated for lengthy periods without damage. Most ‘Abbasid mints reverted to the broad thin planchets in 248, after the accession of al-Musta’in, though the narrow planchets were retained at Surra man Ra’a until 251, and at the far eastern mints of Banjhir and Andaraba until about 290 for both ‘Abbasid and subsequent Banijurid issues. When the mints of...
230C AR double dirham (about 6.0g), donative style, broad thin flan, Surra man Ra’ a 242 only144 RRR

230A AR dirham, donative style, thick narrow flan, struck from special dies intended only for this series, various dates between 233 and 246
Struck principally at Surra man Ra’ a. This style was adopted for the standard circulating silver coinage in 247 (type #230.4).

230B AR dirham, donative style, broad thin flan, struck with wide blank outer margins from normal style dies, but of superior calligraphy
The donatives of al-Mutawakkil, struck principally at Surra man Ra’ a145, are the least rare of any Abbasid donatives (types #230A & 230B). There are also a few donative silver fractional dirhams of this reign, all RRR. Style as #229M.

al-Muntasir (billah), 247-248 / 861-862
(Abu Ja’far Muhammad, b. al-Mutawakkil)
231 AV dinar
Dinars & dirhams are exclusively from the Surra man Ra’ a mint, except for a dirham of Misr, much rarer than Surra man Ra’ a. All known examples in either metal are dated 248.

232 AR dirham, narrow flan only
al-Musta’in (billah), 248-251 / 862-866
(Abu’l-’Abbas Ahmad, b. al-Mu’tasim)
233 AV dinar
Common mints: Misr, Marw, al-Shash.
Subtypes as follows:
233.1 — Without heir (248) (R).
233.2 — With heir Abu’l-’Abbas (249-251) (S).

234 AR dirham
234.1 — Without heir (248) (R).
234.2 — With heir Abu’l-’Abbas (249-251) (S).

al-Mu’tazz (billah), 251-255 / 866-869
(Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad, b. al-Mutawakkil)
235 AV dinar
Common mints: Madinat al-Salam, Misr, al-Shash.
Subtypes as follows:
235.1 — Without heir (251-253) (S).
235.2 — With heir ‘Abd Allah (253-255) (RR).146

236 AR dirham
Subtypes as follows:
236.1 — Without heir (251-253) (C).
236.2 — With heir ‘Abd Allah (253-255) (S).
Type #236.1 of Surra man Ra’ a dated 251 is the most common dirham of the second period. Some years ago I examined about 90 examples and found more than 60 different obverse dies, but did not strain my eyes by studying the reverse!

al-Muhtadi (billah), 255-256 / 869-870
(Abu Ishaq Muhammad, b. al-Wathiq)
237 AV dinar
Madinat al-Salam is the least rare of the five reported mints.

238 AR dirham
Unlike the carefully struck gold dirhams of al-Muhtadi, his dirhams were poorly produced, often abysmally struck from severely worn dies. Well-struck examples are virtually unknown.

al-Mu’tamid (‘ala Allah), 256-279 / 870-892
(Abu’l-’Abbas Ahmad, b. al-Mutawakkil)
The Abbasid caliphate reached its nadir during this tumultuous reign. Abbasid territories were lost to emerging dynasties, such as the Tulunids, Safarids, Samanids, etc.

239 AV dinar
Common mints: Madinat al-Salam, Misr (until 265, when the Tulunid ruler’s name was added), and scarce mints, al-Rafiq, al-Ahwaz and Samarra.

This is the only ‘Abbasid caliph after al-Ma’mun with a large number of subtypes for his coinage.
Each subtype is described for the dirham, type #240, each 239.x corresponding to the 240.x with the same “x”. Details are provided with the subtypes of #240.

239.1 — Struck 256-261, then at Misr until 265 (S), mainly at Misr & Madinat al-Salam (see also #241 for dinar of Misr 258).
239.2 — Struck 262-273, mainly Misr & Surra man Ra’ a (S).
239.3 — Struck 270-272, no common mints (RRR).
239.3a — Similar to #239.3, but citing Dhu’l-Sayfayn (“possessor of the two swords”) instead of Dhu’l-Wizaratayn, known only from al-Mawsil 278 (RRR).
239.4 — Struck 270-278, mainly at al-Rafiq (R).
239.5 — Struck 262-276, mainly at Madinat al-Salam & Samarra (S).
239.7 — Struck 274-277, mainly at Madinat al-Salam and al-Ahwaz (R). See note to #240.7.
239.8 — Struck 278-279, no common mints (RRR).
239.9 — Struck 257-260, mainly at Samarra in 260 (RR).

239A AV dinar, donative type, struck at al-Ma’shuq in 271, broad outer blank margins147 RRR

240 AR dirham
The subtypes of this reign were different for the eastern and western divisions of the caliphate from 262 to 278 (northern mints of Armenia usually follow the eastern, those of al-Jazira follow the western). The boundary between these two regions passed between Samarra (Surra man Ra’ a on the coins, a punning name that means “who sees it is pleased”) and Madinat al-Salam.

240.1 (C) — With heir Ja’far (later entitled al-Mufawwidh) struck at all mints (256-261).
240.2 (S) — With heir al-Mufawwidh, northern & western mints (262-269 & 272-274).
240.3 (R) — With heir al-Mufawwidh and vizier Dhu’l-Wizaratayn, north & west (270-272).
240.4 (R) — With heir al-Mufawwidh and second heir Ahmad b. al-Muwaqqaf, north & west (273-278).148
240.5 (C) — With heir al-Muwaqqaf, eastern mints (262-270 & 272-273). Also used at Arminiya and Bardha’a until 277 (silver only).
240.6 (R) — With heir al-Muwaqqaf and the vizier Dhu’l-Wizaratayn, “possessor of the two vizierates”, eastern mints (270-272); Dhu’l-Wizaratayn was the laqab assigned to Sa’id b. Makhlad, for whom the initial letter sin of his personal name appears on most ‘Abbasid dinars & dirhams dated 269.
240.7 (S) — With heir al-Muwaqqaf and the second heir Ahmad b. al-Muwaqqaf (the future caliph al-Mu’tadid), eastern mints (273-278) (R, S). Most dinars & dirhams of this type dated 276-278 have the additional phrase al-qawwa lillah jamī’; “power is God’s, entirely”; in both obverse and reverse fields; they are slightly more common than the earlier issues that lack this phrase.
240.8 (R) — With heir-apparent cited as al-Mu’tadid in all regions (278-279).
240.9 (R?) — Without any heir or other individual, struck at Samarra and al-Shash, from about 262 until 279 (exact

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144 Sotheby’s, 25 May 2000, lot 377.
145 A donative dirham of al-Muhmaddiyya 245 appeared in Islamic Coin Auction 12, lot 3153.
146 On some examples of Misr 255, the names of the caliph and the heir have been intentionally scratched out of the dies. Bernardi has assigned this type to an interregnum between al-Mu’tazz and al-Muhtadi.
147 The coin was sold at auction by Spink, auction #13 (July 1999), lot 345. I am indebted to Muhammad Jazaz of Amman, Jordan, for the identification of the mint.
148 Some dinars of al-Rafiqa dated as early as 270 bear the names of both al-Muwaqqaf and Ahmad b. al-Muwaqqaf, perhaps because reverse dies citing Ahmad b. al-Muwaqqaf were muled with obsolete obverse dies. The al-Rafiqa mint was at times under Tulunid control during the 270s, but virtually all dates 270-278 are known with and without the Tulunid name.
dates undetermined). They were struck under Samanid authority but are regarded as 'Abbasid because they bear no reference to the Samanid ruler, Nasr I. Dinars struck at Samarqand during these years follow #239.5.

240.10 (R) — Without any heir, struck at Andaraba or Banjhir, under Banjurd authority but solely in the 'Abbasid name. Struck on small thick planchets, similar to Hindushahi draehms in shape and weight. Type unknown for gold.

**A241 AV dinar, citing the amir Nahir**  
Based on type 239.1, struck at Misr in 258 only.

From 259 until the end of the third period in 334 gold and silver 'Abbasid coins no longer cite a local governor or other official, with the exception of a few issues at Arniya and Bardha'a. A few later issues mention the vizier or other Baghdad officials, almost only in 270-272, 291, 320, 329 and 333-334. All coins that cite other rulers are assigned to the dynasty related to that person.

**al-Muwaffaq (b. al-Mutawakkil), second heir to the throne, 262-278 / 875-892**

**B241 AR dirham, donative style only, mint of Isfahan**  
Struck during his campaign against the Dulafids and Safuhs during the mid-270s. The ruling caliph al-Mu'tamid is not mentioned on this type.

**al-Mufawwad (b. al-Mutawakkil), first heir to the caliphate, 256-279 / 870-892**

**C241 AR dirham, donative style only, without mint name**  
Coins of this presentation type cite the heir al-Mufawwad only by his personal name Ja'far. They lack any reference to the caliph al-Mu'tamid.

### Third Period

'Abbasid gold and silver coinage of the third period, 279-334, is remarkably consistent. Dies were engraved for virtually all mints at a central facility, in all likelihood located at Baghdad or Surra man Ra'a. This is confirmed by the large number of dies on which the original mint name has been re-engraved for distribution to alternative mints.

In addition to normal coins, special coins were produced in gold and silver as donatives, carefully struck on neatly prepared flans. Most are of two basic styles: **Type A**: with normal inscriptions (including mint & date) but struck on flans with a wide blank outer margin around on both sides, **Type B**: with shorter inscriptions, single margins on both sides, normally dated but without mint. Only a small selection is listed here.

**al-Mu'tadid (billah), 279-289 / 892-902**  
(Abu'l-'Abbas Ahmad, b. al-Muwaffaq b. al-Mutawakkil)

241 AV dinar  
Least rare mints: Madinat al-Salam (San'a is more common, listed as type #1056).

241A AV dinar, donative, type B  
241B AV ¼ dinar, donative, type B  
242 AR dirham  
Dinars and dirhams of al-Shash & Samarqand dated 280-281 were issued by the Samanid ruler Isma'il I, but solely in the name of the 'Abbasid caliph.

242A AR dirham, donative, type B  
242B AR ¼ dirham, donative, type B  
242G AR dirham, donative, type A  
242M AR dirham, commemorative issue, struck at Amid (now Diyarbakr) in 286 to proclaim the conquest of that Byzantine city by the 'Abbasids

**al-Muktari (billah), 289-295 / 902-908**  
(Abu Muhammad 'Ali, b. al-Mu'tadid)

243 AV dinar  
243.1 — No additional names (289-290 & 292-295) (S). A few coins of this subtype have been reported for 291 (RR).

243.2 — With the vizier Wali al-Dawla (291 only) (R).

244 AR dirham  
No coins of al-Muktafi bear the name of an heir, but there are nonetheless two subtypes, same as the gold coins:

244.1 — No additional names (289-290 & 292-295) (C). A few examples dated 291 lack the name of Wali al-Dawla (RR).

244.2 — With the vizier Wali al-Dawla (291 only) (C).

**al-Mu'tadid (billah), 295-302 / 908-932**  
(Abu'l-Fadl Ja'far, b. al-Mu'tadid)

245 AV dinar  
Common mints: al-Ahwaz, Madinat al-Salam, Suq al-Ahwaz, Tustar min al-Ahwaz, and especially Misr.

Subtypes as follows:

245.1 — Without heir (296-297) (R).

245.2 — With heir Abu'l-'Abbas (297-320) (C).

245A AV dinar, donative, type A (wide blank outer margins)  
245B AV dinar, bull & horseman motif (as #247)  
246 AR dirham  
For dinars & dirhams citing the vizier 'Amid al-Dawla, see #248-249.

246A AR dirham, donative, type A (broad outer margins)  
246B AR ¼ dirham, donative, type B  
247 AR dirham, bull & horseman motif, no mint or date  
Fabric and design derived from the abundant Hindushahi coinage of the Kabul Valley, but probably struck at Baghdad. The caliph's name al-muqtadir billah is above the bull, lillah ja'far above the horseman.

248 AV dinar, citing the vizier, 'Amid al-Dawla  
(dated 320 only)  
249 AR dirham, similar to #248 (320 only)

**al-Qahir (billah), 320-322 / 932-934**  
(Abu Mansur Muhammad, b. al-Mu'tadid)

250 AV dinar  
Most frequently seen mints: al-Ahwaz, Suq al-Ahwaz, and Tustar min al-Ahwaz.

250.1 — Without heir (320-321) (R).

250.2 — With heir Abu'l-Qasim (321-322) (S).

251 AR dirham

Subtypes as follows:

251.1 — Without heir (320-321) (S).

251.2 — With heir Abu'l-Qasim (321-322) (S).

For the third type, see #252 & 253.

252 AR dirham, citing the heir Abu'l-Qasim and his own title *al-muntaqim min a'da' Allah li-din Allah*  
“The avenger of God’s enemies for the sake of God’s religion.”

This and the following type are popularly called the avenger dinar and dirham. Both types #252 & 253 are dated 322 only.

253 AR dirham, with the same title

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150 Might these lustrous Misr dinars of 292 and 293 nowadays be slabbed as MS-67 or better, and absurdly sold to investors at obnoxiously inflated prices? While a traditional numismatist motivated by a fascination of history would surely comprehend the grading difference between an attractive fine or very fine and a superb uncirculated example, he would likely be sufficiently satisfied by an attractive coin in a circulated grade.

151 Both gold and silver coins of this type are often incorrectly assigned to the Buwayhid ruler 'Imad al-Dawla 'Ali b. Buwayh, but this is impossible, as 'Ali did not acquire the title 'Imad al-Dawla until 334, some 14 years later.
al-Radi (billah), 322-329 / 934-940
(Abu'l-`Abbas Ahmad, b. al-Muqtadir)

254 AV dinar

Common mints: al-Ahwaz, Madinat al-Salam, Misr, Suq al-Ahwaz, Tustar min al-Ahwaz. Since 2006, dinars of Hamadan, Qumm and Karaj have appeared in significant numbers, from the two new hoards of unrevealed size. Subtypes as follows:

254.1 — Without heir (322-327) (C). Some dinars of 328 and 329 lack the heir as well, but were actually issues of local rulers who neither included their own names nor adopted the revised protocol of Baghdad. Most common are Suq al-Ahwaz and Tustar min al-Ahwaz.
254.2 — With heir Abu'l-Fadl (327-329) (R). Only Madinat al-Salam is occasionally available.
254.3 — With heir Abu'l-Fadl and chief amir Abu'l-Husayn Bajkam with title mawlahu ("his servant") (329 only) (RRR).

254A AV dinar, donative, type B (short legends) RRR
254B AV 2/5 dinar, donative, type B (about 1.6g) RR
254C AV 1/5 dinar, donative, type B (about 0.8g) RRR

255 AR dirham

255.1 — Without heir (322-327) (C). Some dated 328 and 329 lack the heir as well. These were issues of local rulers who did not adopt the formal protocol of Baghdad (R).
255.2 — With heir Abu'l-Fadl (327-329) (S).
255.3 — With heir Abu'l-Fadl and chief amir Abu'l-Husayn Bajkam with title mawlahu (329 only) (RRR).

255A AR dirham, donative, type A (wide margins, with mint & date) RRR
255B AR double dirham (about 6g), donative, type B (short legends) RRR
255C AR dirham, donative, type B (third subtype, with the sole Hamdanid ruler Nasir al-Dawla, cited on the coins beneath the reverse field. The only common mint is Madinat al-Salam.)

256 AV dinar

Least rare mints: Madinat al-Salam, to some extent Wasit. Subtypes for reign:
(first subtype, with chief amir Bajkam, no heir, listed separately as #A258 below)
256 — With heir Abu Mansur and without the name of the chief amir (329-330 & 332-333). The types of 329-330 and 332-333 differ slightly in the central reverse inscriptions.
(third subtype, with the sole Hamdanid ruler Nasir al-Dawla, see #259)
(fourth subtype, with the Hamdanid brothers Nasir al-Dawla & Sayf al-Dawla, see #260)

257 AR dirham

(first subtype, type #258).
257 — With heir Abu Mansur and without the name of the chief amir (329-330 & 332-333) (see note to #256). All dirhams dated 322 or 333 are very rare.
(third subtype, with the sole Hamdanid ruler Nasir al-Dawla, see #259)
(fourth subtype, with Nasir al-Dawla & Sayf al-Dawla, see #261)

258 AV dinar, citing the chief amir Abu'l-Husayn Bajkam (dated 329 only), with title mawla amir al-mu'minin RR

259 AR dirham, similar (330 only) RR

260 AV dinar, citing the joint chief amirs Sayf al-Dawla and Nasir al-Dawla (dated 330 & 331) S

These two brothers later founded the Hamdanid dynasty (q.v.). This type was quite rare in gold until the discovery of several hundred pieces, circa 1980. The word ibriq ("pure gold") appears beneath the reverse field. The only common mint is Madinat al-Salam.

261 AR dirham, similar, only Madinat al-Salam is common, Wasit modestly rare C

al-Mustakfi (billah), 333-334 / 944-946

(Abu'l-Qasim `Abd Allah, b. al-Muqtadir)

262 AV dinar, with heir Abu'l-Hasan Muhammad (334 only) RR

Least rare mint: Madinat al-Salam.

263 AR dirham, similar R

264 AR dirham, similar R

In an important forthcoming study of 'Abbasid titulature, M.L. Bates will describe five distinct variants bearing the name of Abu'l-Wafa (both years), three without heir (333 only) and two with heir Abu'l-Hasan Muhammad (334 only).

INTERIM PERIOD

For 'Abbasid coins 447-552, see Y. Jafar, listed for the Great Seljuqs. al-Muti` (lillah), 334-363 / 946-974

265 AR dirham RR

Al-Muti` struck no coins on his own behalf, but coins were struck in his name by minor princes in Cilicia (silver, this type) and Yemen (both gold and silver, types #1062-B1064, listed in the section on Yemen). From 334-555, there are virtually no proper issues of the 'Abbasid caliphs, the only occasionally available exceptions being #A266 & B266. However, examples of secular dynastic coins can be readily found for all but one of the intervening caliphs (al-Rashid). These are noted in the following list, together with the most common dynasties citing the caliph and the rarity of gold and silver coins for each.

al-`Abbas (lillah), 334-363 / 946-974: Buwayhid (C), Samanid (A).
al-Ta`i` (lillah), 363-381 / 974-991: Buwayhid (C), Samanid (A).
al-Qadir (billah), 381-422 / 991-1031: Buwayhid (C), Samanid (A) – A few billion and copper coins are known bearing only the name of al-Qadir, struck at Ghazna by the Ghaznavids (#1615A, R) and at Jurjan by the Ziyarids (#1536.2, RR).
Neither is a proper 'Abbasid issue.
al-Qa'im (bi-amr Allah), 422-467 / 1031-1075: Ghaznavid (C), Great Seljuq (A) – Otherwise anonymous billion dirhams of Saghanyan dated in the 420s, struck by the local Dihqan, are in the sole name of al-Qa'im (R).

al-Muqtafi (bi-amr Allah), 467-487 / 1075-1094: Ghaznavid (C), Great Seljuq (C).

al-Mustazhir (billah), 487-512 / 1094-1118: Ghaznavid (C), Great Seljuq (C).

al-Mustarshid (billah), 512-529 / 1118-1135: Ghaznavid (A), Great Seljuq (C).

al-Rashid (billah), 529-530 / 1135-1136: Great Seljuq, Seljuq of Iraq, and contemporary atabegs (all RR), gold and debased gold only.

al-Muqtafi (bi-amr Allah), 530-555 / 1136-1160: Ghaznavid (C), Great Seljuq (C), Qarakhanid (R) ("silver" coins of this caliph are either rather pure silver "dirhams" or highly debased broad Central Asian "dirhams").

al-Qa'im (bi-amr Allah), 422-467

Struck after the death of the Great Seljuq Tughril Beg, before the confirmed accession of Alp Arslan in 455.

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153 Al-Rashid was dethroned in 530, fled to Mosul, and was murdered by the Seljuqs in 532, but some later coins of local atabegs continue to cite him as caliph until well into the 530s.
al-Muqtadi (bi-amr Allah), 467-487 / 1075-1094

A266 AV dinar, struck at Madinat al-Salam in 486 only
Types A266 and B266 represent unsuccessful attempts by the current ’Abbasid caliph to reassert political independence for the caliphate.

al-Mustazhir (billah), 487-512 / 1094-1118

B266 AV dinar, struck at Madinat al-Salam 491-496
Jafar has demonstrated that from 491-498, Great Seljuq dinars were struck each year at Madinat al-Salam for either Barkiyaruq or his opponent Muhammad, as well as purely ’Abbasid dinars 491-493 and 495-496.

al-Mustashrid (billah), 512-529 / 1118-1135

D266 AV dinar, struck at Madinat al-Salam in 521 and most dates 525-529

**FOURTH PERIOD**

al-Muqtadi, 530-555 / 1136-1160

F266 AV dinar, struck at Madinat al-Salam in 541 and regularly from 552 onwards
The 541 & 548 issues was connected to a disputes between and the caliph and the Great Seljuq rulers, those of 552 and later after the death of the Seljuq ruler Sanjar, which brought an end to Seljuq influence in Baghdad.

al-Manstanjid (billah), 555-566 / 1160-1170

266 AV dinar, Madinat al-Salam only
Dinars of al-Manstanjid, al-Mustadi, and of al-Nasir until the late 590s are very coarsely struck, usually on extremely thin planchets weighing between 1.5 and 3.5 grams.

Other coins bearing the name of this caliph:
- Gold — Qarakhanid (RR), Zangid (R), Salghurid (S)
- Silver — Ghurid (R), Zangid (R), Ghurid (R)
- Silver-washed copper dirhams — Qarakhanid (C)
- Copper — Artuqid, Zangid (C)

al-Mustadi (bi-amr Allah), 566-575 / 1170-1180

267 AV dinar, mainly Madinat al-Salam
Other coins bearing the name of this caliph:
- Gold — Zangid (R), Amirs of Nishapur (R), Ghurid (R), Ayyubid (R), Salghurid (S)
- Silver — Ghurid (R), Zangid (R), Ayyubid (R)
- Silver-washed copper dirhams — Qarakhanid (S)
- Copper — Artuqid (C), Zangid (C)

al-Nasir (i-din Allah), 575-622 / 1180-1225

268 AV dinar, Madinat al-Salam only
Early dinars, until about 595, remain light and sloppily struck on very thin flans, as described above for #266. After 595, they were much more carefully struck on much thicker flan. Their weight varies widely from under 3 to as much as 20 grams, averaging in the range of 6 to 9 grams. The same standards were retained by the later ’Abbasids until their demise in 656. Some cataloguers have incorrectly divided these into dinars, double dinars, triple dinars, etc., but in fact they are ingots of random weight termed dinars, irrespective of weight. Coins over about 12 grams are scarcer and command a premium, especially now that the price of gold is approaching $1400 per ounce (November 2010).

269 AE fals
Other coins bearing the name of this caliph:
- Gold — Khwarizmshah, Ghurid, Ayyubid (C)
- Silver — Ayyubid, Seljuq of Rum, Sultans of Delhi, Sultans of Bengal (A)
- Silver-washed copper dirhams — Qarakhanid, Khwarizmshah (C)
- Copper — Artuqid, Zangid, Ayyubid, Seljuq of Rum (C)

There are also numerous non-’Abbasid gold, silver and copper coins bearing only the name of al-Nasir, mainly of Central Asian origin. These were struck by the Mongols and are listed amongst their issues, including some “anonymous” types of the Golden Horde and the Chaghatayids. Current theory has shown that some, probably the majority, were struck posthumously, i.e., after 622/1225.

al-Zahir (bi-amr Allah), 622-626 / 1225-1226

270 AV dinar, Madinat al-Salam only
Other coins bearing the name of this caliph:
- Gold — All other gold is at least as rare as the pure ’Abbasid issues. They were struck by the Ayyubids, Seljuqs of Rum, and possibly also the Zangids of al-Mawsil.
- Silver — Ayyubid, Seljuq of Rum, Sultans of Delhi (S)
- Copper — Ayyubid, Seljuq of Rum (S)

al-Mustansir (billah), 623-640 / 1226-1242
His name was occasionally retained posthumously, as on the Ottoman akes of Orhan, who ruled 724-761 (type #1288.2).

271 AV dinar
The only common mint is Madinat al-Salam; dinars of Irbil & Daquqa are extremely rare.

272 AR dirham (approximately 2.80g), Madinat al-Salam only
Silver coinage resumed in 633, becoming plentiful from 636 on. Coins of 633-635 have the marginal legends in naskhi script (RR), those of 636-640 in Kufic (C). Ayyubid and Seljuq of Rum dirhams citing this caliph are abundant.

273 AR ½ dirham (approximately 1.40g), Madinat al-Salam only
Style as #272. Both the full dirham and the half dirham of this and the following reign adhere rather carefully to the weight standard.

274 AE fals, mainly Irbil, somewhat more rarely Madinat al-Salam
Ayyubid and Seljuq of Rum coppers citing al-Mustansir are very common.

274E AE fals, type #274 countermarked Irbil
The countermark may have been applied posthumously, most likely either during the reign of his successor, al-Musta’sim or around the time of the Mongol invasion in 656/1258.

al-Musta’sim (billah), 640-656 / 1242-1258

275 AV dinar, Madinat al-Salam only
A-Musta’sim is also cited on many common gold and silver coins of the Ayyubids, Seljuqs of Rum (only silver is common), Rasulids, Sultans of Delhi, Sultans of Bengal, etc.

276 AR dirham, Madinat al-Salam & Irbil, same standard as the previous reign (about 2.80g)
Ayyubid half dirhams citing al-Musta’sim are common.

277 AR ½ dirham, Madinat al-Salam & Irbil (about 1.40g)
Ayyubid half dirhams citing al-Musta’sim are common.

277A AR ½ dirham (central areas in triangle) (about 0.93g)

277B AR ¼ dirham (central areas in square), with mint name Madinat al-Salam (about 0.70g)

277C AR ½ dirham, without mint name (about 0.46g)
Additional fraction varieties exist, all very rare. All fractions of 1/3 dirham and smaller lack the mint name but were likely struck solely at Madinat al-Salam.

278 AE fals, mainly Irbil
Ayyubid, Artuqid and Seljuq of Rum coppers citing al-Musta’sim are very common.

The name of al-Musta’sim was retained on virtually all silver coins of the Ayyubids, Seljuqs of Rum (only silver is common), Rasulids, Sultans of Delhi, Sultans of Bengal, etc.

In 1258, the Mongols overran Baghdad, seizing the caliph al-Musta’sim, whom they allegedly put to death by rolling him in a carpet and allowing elephants to trample him to death, so as to uphold the Mongol tradition of never spilling royal blood. The details of this story may well be apocryphal. In 659/1261, the ’Abbasid caliphate was resuscitated at Cairo, but the names of these caliphs were rarely cited on the coinage of either Egyptian

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 59
or other dynasties. Only one of these “shadow” caliphs struck coins of his own, al-Musta’in (types #984-986 of the Mamluk dynasty). Some of them are cited on coins of the Delhi Sultanate struck under Muhammad b. Tughluq (725-752 / 1325-1351) and Firuz Shah III (752-790 / 1351-1388), including some common and otherwise anonymous issues of Muhammad b. Tughluq struck circa 740-752 that cite only the Egyptian caliph (Goron #D425-#D451). And al-Mu’tadid (763-779) is cited on most Muzaffarid coins struck during the 760s.

“AABBASID COPPER COINAGE”


A handy reference guide to most previously published types, together with a few unpublished additions. Errors in previous publications are rarely corrected. Only about 50 pieces illustrated. Nearly all mintless types are excluded.

Like its Umayyad antecedents, copper coinage of the ‘Abbasid period is essentially municipal coinage locally regulated at each mint. Over 100 mints have been reported, but fulus of only a portion of these are easily acquired. An approximate date range is given for each mint, even though many or all coins may be undated. Most bear the name of a local governor or other official, but relatively few cite the caliph. Nearly all ‘Abbasid regions ceased producing copper coinage between 200 and 250 Hijri. Fulus were struck or cast, depending on the time & place of manufacture.

There are no ‘Abbasid copper mints that changed the dates of their copper coinage from year to year. For example, copper fulus of Dimashq bear only four different dates between 182 and 234. It would not be surprising if dates were frozen for many years, with additional quantities struck as needed for several years without change of date, especially at the more prolific mints.

There remain hundreds of ‘Abbasid fulus types that cannot be assigned to a specific mint. I have classified them in five distinct groups, distinguishable by fabric, calligraphy and style:

(1) #X281 for a limited number of North African types.
(2) #281 for Egyptian types are so easily recognizable that they are included with the standard Egyptian type.
(3) #295 for a large potpourri of items from Syria and the Jazira.
(4) #300 for readily distinguishable cast coppers of Cilicia.
(5) #383 for issues of the East, including Arabia, Iraq, Armenia and everywhere to the east thereof.

There remain some issues that cannot be assigned to one of these five regions, which I have categorized into two subgroups, those that cite a governor or other official (#338Q) and those that are totally anonymous (#338R).

Unofficial, quasi-official and imitative ‘Abbasid fulus are prodigious, usually without a legible date or mint, and usually anonymous. The vast majority of known specimens come from greater Syria and Iraq, where they seem to account for 50-80% of bulk lots of ‘Abbasid coppers. Virtually nothing is known about where they were minted, when and for whom. These are also included with types #338Q and #338R, as noted above, except for the obvious imitations of the al-Kufa fulus that normally cite the caliph al-Mahdi, which is type #306A.

There is no comprehensive study of the ‘Abbasid period copper coinage, and many of the date ranges given here are tentative.

NORTH AFRICA

(see also #A216)

279 AE fals, al-‘Abbasiya, 160s-180s

280 AE fals, Iriqiya, 142-147, then 160s-184

The issue of 142-147 is an anonymous type actually issued by local ‘Ibadi sectorians. Later coins, commencing in the 160s, are properly ‘Abbasid, usually dated, and citing the same governments named on the silver dirhams of Iriqiya.


The same governor is cited simply as ‘Umar on some silver dirhams of al-‘Abbasiya dated in the early 150s.

B281 AE fals, al-Muharaka (in Tunisia), circa 180

X281 AE fals, without mint name, usually with the name of a governor or other official

EGYPT

Miles, George C. “The Early Islamic Bronze Coinage of Egypt”, Centennial Publication of the American Numismatic Society, New York, 1958, pp. 471-502. A few more types have subsequently been discovered.

281 AE fals, Misr (Egypt), 133-210s, of which the only known dated specimen is of 133 (S)

Most Egyptian issues lack the name of the mint, but are readily discerned by the governor’s name, calligraphic style & by fabric. Within each issue, individual coins vary immensely in both size and weight. A few pieces are illustrated at Zeno.

SYRIA & PALESTINE

Most of the Palestinian mints are well covered in the Tübingen Sylloge, Ya’qubitina.

A282 AE fals, Adhra’at, normally undated (170s-200s, occasionally dated 198)

Ilišc has assigned several “mintless” fulus to this mint in the Tübingen Sylloge.

B282 AE fals, ‘Akka, occasionally dated 200, which cites Ibrahim b. Humran

C282 AE fals, ‘Amman, crude anonymous types (undated but probably before about 160)

See #166, which includes the type with 3-petal lily in reverse center, most likely first struck during the Umayyad period (SNAT 496-505).

F282 AE fals, ‘Asqalan, undated but circa 200

RRR

This type was assigned by Walker to the Umayyads (Walker #766). It was probably begun in or shortly after 116 (thus under the Umayyads) and retained after the dynastic change, perhaps as late as the 160s. Examples vary greatly in style and size. There are no other types securely assigned to the ‘Abbasi ds.

The distinction between Umayyad and ‘Abbasid issues of this type (#168 and 282) can be approximately determined by size and calligraphy, with the Umayyad examples larger and thicker, and with broader Arabic letters in the fields. However, the boundary between the two groups remains vague.

283 AE fals, Bayrut (Beirut), undated

Very crudely struck coins, probably circa 250-300, often on flans cut from copper plates. Many bear names of officials, none of whom have been identified. Similar mintless types were struck at either Bayrut or Jubayl, perhaps additional mints as well.

284 AE fals, Dimashq, 130s-234

Earlier issues are undated, and have only recently been reassigned to the ‘Abbasid period (from the Umayyad). From 182 onwards, coins are fully dated, bearing the years 182, 192, 222, and 234, of which only 182 is rare.

285 AE fals, Ghazza, dated 217 or undated

Only the coarsely cast issue of 217 is reasonably available. A type citing the governor Sa’id b. Ibrahim may be dated 203.

286 AE fals, Halab, 130s-250s

Dated specimens run from 134-139, as well as 239 and 256, the last two years extremely rare. See Khazanat Halab below for fulus dated 146-148.

287 AE fals, Hims, circa 130s-after 200, always undated

The most common type cites ‘Amr b. ‘Isa in the reverse field, probably struck in the 180s or slightly later.

A288 AE fals, ‘Irqa (in Lebanon), undated, similar to Ba’albakk issues, two slightly different types

Bone convincingly argues that this mint, which he transliterates as ‘Arqa, operated from the 130s to about 200, thus only in the ‘Abbasi ds.

288 AE fals, Jubayl (in Lebanon), undated, probably circa 250-300, coarse fabric similar to #283 of Bayrut

RRR

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 60
289 AE fals, Khazanat Halab (“the treasury of Aleppo”), 143/36 and 146-148, all in the name of Salih b. ‘Ali

Many coins of this type, especially those dated 147-148, bear additional names below the obverse or the reverse or both. The significance of these names remains obscure.

A290 AE fals, Khurasan, undated (circa 170s?)

Similar to a contemporary issue of the nearby mint of Hims in the names of ‘Abd Allah b. Salih and ‘Abd al-Karim.

B290 AE fals, Ludd, dated 185 (SNAT #214-218) or coarsely cast undated types, often citing Dinar b. ‘Abd Allah, probably made circa 220s-230s

C290 AE fals, Qaysariya (Cæsarea in Palestine), mainly of a type sometimes dated 204

290 AE fals, Qinnasrin, 157-180s, always dated

Only the issue of 157 is common.

291 AE fals, al-Quds, dated 219 only

Al-Quds is the Arabic epithet for Jerusalem. This is the only coin type to bear the name al-Quds. It is a cast type similar to #285 of Ghazza. On some specimens, it is unclear whether the date was intended to be 217 or 219.

292 AE fals, al-Ramlia, 190s-230s+, dated 195, 217, 218 and what is tentatively read as 232, or undated

Only the anonymous issue of 217-218 is relatively available, a coarsely cast type similar to #285 of Ghazza. All other issues are RR.

A293 AE fals, al-Rusafa, undated, probably circa 180

Al-Rusafa was the ancient city of Serjipolis, south of al-Raqqa in east central Syria. An important Umayyad palace was constructed there. See also the Umayyad type #A183.

293 AE fals, Sur (Sour, ancient Tyre, in Lebanon), 190s-230s, dated 196, 200, 202, or undated

The least rare are crudely cast, undated fulus with the mint name poorly written beneath the reverse field. On some coins of this mint, the mint name is given as Sur al-Ma’maniyya, in honor of the caliph al-Ma’mun (dated 200 and 202).

A294 AE fals, Tabariya, dated 200 or undated

A variant dated 211 has been reported, but remains unconfirmed.

294 AE fals, Tarabulus (Tripoli in Lebanon), dated 219 or undated

295 AE fals, without mint name, with or without name of governor, usually undated, hundreds of subtypes

Only a few subtypes are common, most are very rare but generally regarded with little interest, and hence of little commercial value. Current research is gradually assigning more and more of these types to specific mints, especially in Palestine.

CILICIA


296 AE fals, Adhana (= Adana), undated or dated 193

All bear the name of Ahmad b. Harun, perhaps a son of the caliph al-Rashid. The same name is found occasionally on similar fulus of al-Masisa.

297 AE fals, al-Masisa (= Misis), undated or dated 193

Undated issues may have been struck or cast as late as 300.

298 AE fals, Thaghr al-Masisa, undated (late 2nd C.)

Based on the type of al-Kufa 167, with the mint name transferred to the reverse field. Thaghr = “frontier”.

299 AE fals, Tarsus, 240s-330s, virtually always undated, with mint name

300 AE fals, without mint name, produced circa 240s-330s

Most Cilician coppers were cast rather than struck. Most lack a mint name, but are readily attributed to Cilicia by style, fabric, and the names of local governors. It has been postulated that coins lacking a mint name were primarily produced at Tarsus. See also the Tulunid issues #663.2, 665A, 669 and 669A.

IRAQ & THE JAZIRA

301 AE fals, al-Bahrayn, 140 until after 155, frequently dated

Crudely struck, almost always overstruck on earlier types of the same mint, very light (approximately 0.75-2.00g). Most dated specimens are so atrociously struck that the date is rarely legible. Some lead fulus of type #P153 may have been struck during the early years of the ‘Abbasids.

302 AE fals, Balad, 155 only, carefully struck on a large thick flan

Citing the local ruler, Musa b. Mus‘ab.

303 AE fals, al-Basra, virtually always dated, from 133-190s

C

304 AE fals, al-Jazira, 130s-140s, always undated

One issue only, in the name of al-’Abbasi b. Muhammad, one of the most common early Islamic copper coins.

305 AE fals, Kafir Tutha (near Mardin), circa 200

Some specimens are dated 198.

306 AE fals, al-Kufa, known dated 143-195

The Kufan issue of 163-170 is the most common ‘Abbasid fals of all, especially the year 167. Coins of the 167 types were extensively imitated in northern Syria for at least several decades. The imitations can readily be distinguished by fabric and calligraphy. They are frequently cast, almost always undated and usually weigh from 0.5g to 1.75g. They are even more common than the prototype. They are now catalogued here as #306A.

306A AE fals, “al-Kufa”, undated, later imitations, as described under #306

C

307.1 AE fals, Madinat al-Salam, dated 155 (RR), 157 (R) & 166 (S) only, always dated

The fals dated 166 was likely produced for several years with a frozen date, but not for long, given its scarcity and stylistic uniformity. It seems strange that the principal mint for gold and silver never resumed fals production for more than 450 years!

307.2 AE fals, Madinat al-Salam, countermarked ja’iz (“current”) on types of 155 or 157

C

308 AE fals, al-Mawsil, 130s-190s, usually dated, though a few undated types are also relatively common

One of the most extensive series of ‘Abbasid copper, usually bearing the name of the local governor, and almost always dated. Some are of very large module (over 10 grams!).

309 AE fals, Nasibin, always dated, from 178-206

310 AE fals, al-Rafiqa, always dated, from 181 to 226, with a possible type from the 240s

S

The issue dated 189 is carefully struck on broad flans, stylistically resembling a dirham struck on a thick copper flan but clearly labeled al-fals (not rare). Other years are normal copper style.

311 AE fals, al-Raqqah, occasional dated issues between 181 and 250

R

312 AE fals, Ra’as al-Ayn (Ras al Ain, in Syria), occasional dated issues between 181 and 224

M313 AE fals, Sinjar, in the name of ‘Ali b. Sulayman (known dated 167 but usually undated)

313 AE fals, Wasit, undated or dated, between 146 and 189

RR

S

313K AE fals, al-Yazidiya, dated 149 & 150 only

The location of this mint is arguable. It may be in Iraq or may be in the general region of Armenia.

ARMENIA & THE NORTH

D314 AE fals, Adharbayjan, dated 145 & 166, the latter with the governor Bakkar

RR

156 Although clear on the coins, the date 143 is likely an error for 146.
A314  AE fals, Arminiya, 150s, normally undated
Some specimens bear the name of Yazid b. Usayd.
314  AE fals, Arran, probably always dated, 153-207
RR
A315  AE fals, al-Bab (Derbent), known dated 153 & 178
(both now on Zeno)
RR
315  AE fals, Bardha’a (in Armenia), 140s-189, always
dated 35
RR
Years 142, 158 and 159 are the only ones occasionally seen.
A316  AE fals, Dabil, 150s-190s
RR
316  AE fals, al-Haruniya, 169-170
RR

IRAN & THE EAST

‘Abbassid coppers of Iran and the East have a distinctive style, ultimately derived from the Umayyad reform fals of Wasit first struck in 116. Most eastern fulus are dated and bear the name of a local governor or another official, or both, and are thus important historical documents for early provincial history. In general, eastern coppers are far rarer than Syrian, Egyptian, Iraqi, and Jaziran coppers.

Most mints produced only sporadic issues, at intervals of from three to 15 years, and it has been suggested that some issues may have been struck with frozen dates for several years after inception.

Although most types were carefully struck, well-preserved specimens are remarkably rare. No proper hoards have been reported, and it is presumed that virtually all known specimens were found individually of in tiny groups, thus misplaced, discarded or lost pieces. Many were extensively worn before they were lost, and many have been corroded since burial. Hence their disproportionate rarity.

P317  AE fals, Akhskath, dated 194
RR
T317  AE fals, Amul, dated 186 (Zeno-84317)
RR
W317  AE fals, Ardabil, known dated 142 & 149, the latter
citing Ja’far b. (…) 58
RR
317  AE fals, Ardashir Khurra, 134-200s
RR
317A AE fals, Ardashir Khurra, dated 167, with the
alternative city name Jur below the obverse field.
Most examples of 167 lack the name Jur and are thus #317. Jur was the municipal name for the capital city of the Ardashir Khurra province.
318  AE fals, Arrajan, dated in the early 180s
RR
B319  AE fals, Aydhaj, known undated or with years 162
and 167
RR
E319  AE fals, Badghis (near Herat), undated, probably
circa 150-160
RR
319  AE fals, Balkh, always dated, occasional years
between 142 and 206
S
Least rare are the fulus of 182 and 187.
319N  AE fals, Binkath, dated 186, citing Siba’ b. Mas’ada
(Zeno-[2076])
RR
A320  AE fals, Bizamqubadh, dated 141 59
RR
320  AE fals, Bukhara, always dated, 140s-200s
R
C321  AE fals, Bust, undated, in name of al-Aswad,
or dated 202, citing Dhu’l-Ri’asatayn
All variants presumably struck shortly before or after 202.
A recently discovered specimen is clearly dated 138, possibly attributable to the aftermath of the ‘Abbassid revolution rather than the dynamic period.
An issue dated 209 with Sasanian-style bust obverse cites Talha
and is assigned to the Tahirids (#1394).
K321  AE fals, Darabjird, known only dated 145, in the
name of Isma’il b. ‘Ali 60
RR

N321  AE fals, Fars, known dated 214 & 220, citing the
governor al-Qasim b. Nasr
RR
321  AE fals, Fasa, 150s-220s, probably always dated
Most specimens are more crudely struck than expected for a mint in Fars province.
RR
322  AE fals, Hamadan, 140s-220s, probably always
dated
Many dates known. See note to #329 of al-Muhammadiya.
R
323  AE fals, Herat, always dated, from 141 to 197 or
199
R
324  AE fals, Isbahan, known dated 154 and 213
On nearly all coins struck from 104 until the 440s, this mint is written isbahan instead of the later isfahan, an arabicization of the Farsi name.
RR
325  AE fals, Isthakh, 140s-180s, always dated
Formerly quite rare, now frequently seen in the market.
S
A326  AE fals, Jabal al-Fidda, 155 & 165
Undetermined location in eastern Iran, probably in Khorasan,
possibly near Herat. The name means “silver mountain”.
RR
326  AE fals, Jayy, always dated, from 130s to at least
191
RR
F327  AE fals, Jurift (in Kirman province), struck in the
220s, known dated 229
All specimens appear to be rather thick cast examples with barely legible calligraphy.
RR
J327  AE fals, Junday Sabur, always dated, from the 150s
and 170s
RR
K327  AE fals, Jur (Firuzabad in Fars province, now
spelled Firouzabad), known dated 145 & 182 61
For another issue citing the mint Jur in the field, but with the
provincial name Ardashir Khurra in the standard marginal
inscription, see #317A. For another type, with Kurat al-Mahdiya
in the marginal inscription and Jur in the field, see #328.
RR
327  AE fals, Jurjan, always dated, from 139-190,
many different years
S
Jurjan is now seen surprisingly often in the market.
A328  AE fals, Kazirun, known dated 156 & 163
Formerly quite rare, now frequently seen in the market.
(B328 of Khwarizm is now listed as Tahirid, type #J1395.)
RR
D328  AE fals, al-Khattul, dated 177, citing Muhammad b.
al-Hasan (Zeno-93025)
RR
F328  AE fals, Kish, date 173, citing Ja’far b. Muhammad
and an unread local amir (Zeno-100891)
RR
C328  AE fals, Kirman, known dated 199
RR
328  AE fals, Kurat al-Mahdiya min Fars, 161
Some examples cite the name Jur in the reverse field, hence it is believed to be the same mint as Ardashir Khurra, or perhaps an administrative development near the city of Jur. The name translates as “al-Mahdi’s territory in Fars (province)”, referring to the caliph al-Mahdi.
RR
328K  AE fals, Mah, dated 150
The abbreviated name Mah related to either Mah al-Basra or
Mah al-Kufa, probably the former.
RR
328L  AE fals, Mah al-Kufa, known undated and dated
156, 161 and 168
RR
A329  AE fals, Marw, always dated, from about 153 until
188 and perhaps also 194
RR
B329  AE fals, Marwud (Marw al-Rud), known dated 155
only
In the names of Malik b. Hammad and Humayd b. Qahtaba,
who also appear on fulus of Marw.
RR
329  AE fals, al-Muhammadiya, always dated, from 148
to 209 or possibly some time in the 210s
S
Most years between 148 and 209 have been reported, suggesting that dated fulus were struck continuously and dated with the year

157 V.N. Nastich has not confirmed any fulus of Bardha’a dated after 166. Bardha’a is now Banda, formerly Armenian but now in central Azerbaijan.
158 Peus Auktion 378, lot 1238.
159 Miles, G.C., Excavation Coins from the Persepolis Region (= ANS NNM N° 143), New York, 1959, pp. 64-65.
160 Baldwin’s, 8 May 2002, lot 207.
of production. This phenomenon also applies to the admittedly much rarer mint of Hamadan.

A330 AE fals, Nasaf, 157, with horse (similar to the Tahrijid #11395 dated 228, some 70 years later) RRR Nasaf is now the city of Karshi (Qarsh) in southern Uzbekistan. Its soccer team is known as Nasal-Qarsh FC.

330 AE fals, Nihawand, 150s and 180s, always dated The issue of 186 was struck on large flans, very similar to the fals of al-Rafiqta dated 189, and is especially attractive, also the least rare of this mint.

331 AE fals, Nishapur, always dated, reported for 156, 191, 204 and 206

331N AE fals, Nawkath, dated 205 Citing Ghassan & Layth (Zeno-27690). This mint name was formerly read as Tunkath.

331Q AE fals, Qumis, always dated, known for 154 and 181

A332 AE fals, Ramhurmuz, known dated 138 & 165

332 AE fals, al-Rayy, dated most years between 138-148 and 160 In 148, Rayy was renamed al-Muhammadiya (q.v.).

A333 AE fals, al-Ruyan, 145 only, in the name of ’Umar b. al-’Ala, governor in Tabaristan 162

333 AE fals, Sabur, periodic dated issues from 145-183, plus some undated types The issue of 167 (least rare for this mint) bears the mint name atop the reverse field, whereas all others have it in the obverse or reverse margin.

A334 AE fals, al-Saghaniyan, known dated 146, 148 & 166 (all now on Zeno)

334 AE fals, Samarqand, almost always dated and with governor’s name, 143-198 and 205 The fals of 205 cites Ghassan b. ‘Abbad. Further issues of 205 cite the Samanid ruler Nuh b. Asad (type #M1140).

334E AE fals, al-Shash, 149 only, in name of Sa’id b. Yahya Denominated sittin bi-dirham, “sixty to a dirham” in the reverse margin. Recently discovered, but no longer extremely rare.

334F AE fals, al-Shash, dated 204, citing Ghassan b. ’Abbad Without dirham fractional denomination. Also reported for 184, unknown name(s).

A335 AE fals, Shiraz, normal Arabic style, known only from 192 in name of ‘Abd Allah b. al-Musayyib

B335 AE fals, Shiraz, obverse with Sasanian style portrait, dated 137 only See #C205 for a similar coin dated 126 in the Umayyad period.

335 AE fals, Sijistan, always dated, occasional issues from 142 to 194 One variety, dated 151 and in the name of the heir apparent al-Mahdi Muhammad, was struck on flans with a small square central hole, as though mimicking a Chinese cash (RRR). WARNING: Fakes of the square hold issue dated 151 are now abundant in the market.

336 AE fals, Suq al-Ahwaz, always dated, occasional issues between 137 and 210

336A AE fals, al-Sus, always dated, known dated 141 and from the 170s

337 AE fals, Tabaristan, occasionally dated, issued between 155 and 174 These falses correspond to the Tabaristan hemidrachms struck between ‘Umar and Hani (types #55-69), representing the true copper coinage of Tabaristan, as opposed to the copper hemidrachms, which were contemporary forgeries.

337C AE fals, Taliqan, circa 150-155 RRR Most are full fals coppers about 20mm in diameter. A small number appear to be half fals coppers, about 15mm in diameter and with a circle of dots around the mint name, which always appears in the center of the reverse, possibly a half fals by denomination. Only the year 152 is confirmed.163

337G AE fals, al-Tarband, undated, citing ’Abd Allah b. Muhammad (Zeno-69951) RRR The mint name, also Turarband, is an early name for Otrar.

337H AE fals, Tawwaj, countermarked tawwaj on other Abbasid fals RR Reported on an example of type #333, Sabur 156.

337K AE fals, Tirmidh, dated 142, citing Hasan b. Hamran (Zeno-87255) RRR

A338 AE fals, Tustar (modern Shushtart), known dated 145 & 166 only RRR

338 AE fals, without mint name, many variations Most have the name of a governor, and some are dated.

UNDERTEMINED ISSUES

338Q AE fals, without mint, usually undated, with the name of one or two local individuals R For the sake of convenience, this type consolidates unattributed examples that cannot comfortably be assigned to groups #X281, 281, 295, 300 or 308.

338R AE fals, without names of individuals or mints, almost always undated C Also for miscellaneous types that cannot be assigned to the same five regional groups. These are believed to have been issued mainly in Syria and Iraq. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of minor variations, mostly lightweight, between 0.5g and 2.0g.

338S Large quantities of fulus that are stylistically derived from the common type of al-Kufa 167 are found in Syrian and Jaziran accumulations. These are now listed as type #306A.

SPANISH DYNASTIES

UMAYYAD OF SPAIN

Miles, George C., The Coinage of the Umayyads of Spain (ANS Hispanic Numismatic Studies No. 1), in 2 parts, New York, 1950. A few more types and many new minor variants have been discovered in the subsequent half century, many published in various books and articles on Spain.

Frochoso Sanchez, Rafael, Los Monedas Califales de ceca al-Andalus y Madinat al-Zahra’ 316-403 H., Córdoba 1996.

Frochoso Sanchez, Rafael, Los Felmases de al-Andalus. Numismatica Córdoba, Madrid, 2001. For the copper coinage (not available to the author in time for this edition of the Checklist).

The Spanish Umayyads established themselves in southern Spain during the 130s/750s (officially in 138/756), and survived for nearly three centuries. At first the Umayyads in Spain adopted the title al-imam, whence the state is termed the Umayyad emirate (138-316 / 756-928). In 316/928 ‘Abd al-Rahman III acknowledged what had been reality since the Umayyad emirate (138-316 / 756-928). In 316/928 ‘Abd al-Rahman III acknowledged what had been reality since the Umayyad emirate (138-316 / 756-928).

163 Taliqan was unknown as an ’Abbasid mint until the late 1990s, when a group of about 30-40 examples reached the market. The group appeared to have been an actual hoard rather than an accumulation of individual finds.
The caliphate resumed silver dirham production in 316/928, from then onwards citing the ruler’s name and titles, together with a limited production of gold coinage. Copper coinage was abandoned under the caliphate.

All coins of the emirate bear the mint name al-Andalus (Andalucía, now a semi-autonomous province in southern Spain), which was presumably located at Córdoba (Quortuba in Arabic), as do most caliphate coins from 316-335 and again from 365 until the end of the dynasty. From 336 to 364, all coins were minted at the newly established palace compound of Madinat al-Zahra (“the brilliant city”), now spelled Medina Azahara), located just outside the city of Córdoba. It briefly struck a few coins during the year 400, before it was almost completely destroyed in the following year. There are dirhams from Madinat Fas (Fès in Morocco) from the late 360s until about 402, as well as a few sporadic issues bearing the names of additional mints, all very rare.164 After 402, all coins bear the mint name al-Andalus, irrespective of where they were physically produced. The term al-Andalus (“Andalucía”) referred to the Islamic region of Spain, at one time nearly the entire peninsula, gradually shrinking to just the region of Granada by the 14th century.

There was no gold coinage produced under the emirate, with the first caliphal dinar struck in 317. Most of the caliphal rulers also struck fractional dinars, modestly rare under ‘Abd al-Rahman III but very rare thereafter. The copper coins of the Umayyads of Spain generally lack the mint name. They are assigned to this dynasty by style and provenance, as they are only found in Spain. There was no proper copper coinage during the caliphate, though some copper strikes from dirham dies are known, probably contemporary forgeries possibly struck from office dies. Some of the late 4th and early 5th century silver is occasionally slightly debased.

Until the 180s, Umayyad dirhams are remarkably well struck, closely resembling the traditional dirhams of the great Umayyads. Thereafter, quality control deteriorated. With the exception of a few years in the 240s to 260s, truly nice examples from the late 190s until the end of the emirate are rarely encountered. Excellent production accompanied the resumption of precious metal coinage in 316, though for some reason specimens are commonly found lightly cramped or bent. For most years from the 350s to the very early 400s, gorgeous examples are by no means uncommon. The gold dinars were almost always carefully struck.

Unlike the emirate dies, the inscriptions on the coinage dies of the caliphate period were no longer engraved with chisels, but with punches, thus enabling the mints or their assistants to quickly engrave a die. The British engraver David Greenhaugh, www.grumal.com, who sets up at Renaissance Faires in England, showed me how a pair of dies could be created in less than three or four hours. Occasionally in the 200s and almost always from 321 onwards, the name of a subordinate official is added to the obverse or reverse field. While some of these officials are known from historical sources, including viziers and other high officials, most of the names are known only from the coins. It has been hypothesized that these names refer to mintmasters, and that the viziers and other identified names refer to persons who may also have held the position of mintmaster.

In this edition, I have divided each ruler’s dirhams into subtypes, representing each of the mintmasters or other names. Approximately the same division applies to the gold coinage, but I have not attempted that here.

**First period, the emirate:**

Coins of the emirate retain the anonymous type of the Syrian Umayyad post-reform dirham, and are similarly assigned by date to specific rulers. However, unlike their Syrian Umayyad prototype, these coins often have special symbols, letters, or names, and were struck in several styles, suggesting the possibility either of multiple mints or of secret marks to encode the engraver, workshop, or some other control mechanism. Emirate dirhams are occasionally found slotted, with a small strip of additional silver inserted into the slot, in order to increase the total weight of the coin (#A346). These unusual pieces are rare and avidly sought after. The purpose of this perplexing habit is unknown.

164 According to Miles, the additional dirham mints are Madinat Tarifa (380), Madinat Quortuba (381), al-Mansura (395), al-Nakur (372, 387, 396-397), and al-Wata (402). For the gold dinars, only Sijilmasa (various years 378-393) and Safaqs (384). Others have likely been subsequently discovered.

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<td></td>
<td>Anonymous copper coins, circa 130s-310 / 750s-920</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>AE fals, without name of governor, occasionally with date and/or mint (al-Andalus), various types, circa 130s-200s / 750s-820s</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anonymous copper coins, circa 130s-310 / 750s-920</td>
<td>346.1</td>
<td>AE fals, style of silver dirham, very thin flans, always dated, dates in the middle to later 200s/800s</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Abd Allah, with name of local governor, many variants, never dated, believed struck circa 300/910, thin flans</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>AE fals</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Abd Allah, with name of local governor, many variants, never dated, believed struck circa 300/910, thin flans</td>
<td>347.1</td>
<td>AE fals, similar, but without governor’s name, always undated, struck circa 280-310 / 895-920, thin flans</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 64
Types #B347, 347 and 347A can be easily distinguished from #346 by their thin flan and fine calligraphy. Type #B347 is always dated in a marginal legend (frequently off flan), whereas #347 and 347A have no marginal legends and are never dated.

**Second period, the caliphate:**

Coins of this period bore the name and title of the caliph, usually with one or two additional names which refer principally to mint officials unknown from the contemporary written sources, sometimes to viziers and other higher officials. In addition, the caliphs took a regnal name, which is included in the reverse field legends on nearly all coins and is noted here in parentheses after the caliph's proper name.

‘Abd al-Rahman III, 300-350 / 912-961
(al-Nasir li-din Allah)

Coinage of this ruler began in 316 for silver and 317 for gold. Most of the gold coins cite the same mint director as found on the silver, though fewer dates are usually known for the gold than for the silver. The same factor applies to later reigns.

Most fractional dirhams dated 319-328 are without mint name.

348 AV dinar

349 AV ½ dinar

349 AV ⅓ dinar

It is not always possible to distinguish worn examples of types #A349 and 349, as both indicate the denomination as dinar.

350.1 AR dirham, without name of an official, struck 316-320

One extremely rare variety of year 316 retains the Qur'anic verse (Surat 112) in the reverse field (as on all coins of the emirate), with the name of the ruler beneath the obverse field.

350.2 AR dirham, citing Ibn Yunus, 320 only

According to the historian Ibn 'Idhari, Yahya b. Yunus was named mint director on 4 Shawwal 320. Such detailed information is unknown for all other named individuals, other than those who served as vizier or in another high position.

350.3 AR dirham, citing Muhammad I, 320-321

One example is known allegedly dated 330, possibly a misreading of 320 or just a publisher’s typo.

350.4 AR dirham, citing Sa’id, 322-329

350.5 AR dirham, citing Qasim, 330-332

350.6 AR dirham, citing Muhammad II, 332-334

350.7 AR dirham, citing Hashim, 334-335

350.8 AR dirham, citing ‘Abd Allah, 335-336

350.9 AR dirham, citing Muhammad III, 336-346

It is not known whether the three Muhammads of #350.3, 350.6 and 350.9 refer to the same or different individuals.

350.10 AR dirham, citing Ahmad, 346-350

350B AE “dirham”, dated mainly in the 340s, either contemporary forgerly of local imitation


351 AV dinar

352.1 AR dirham, citing Yahya, 350-351

352.2 AR dirham, citing 'Abd al-Rahman (not to be confused with the previous caliph), 351-356

352.3 AR dirham, citing Shahid, 356

352.4 AR dirham, citing ‘Amir, 356-361, 363-366

This person was Abu'l-'Amir Muhammad b. ‘Abd Allah, known popularly as Almanzor, the hajib ("chamberlain") of Hisham II and the effective leader of the Spanish Umayyad caliphate from the late 350s until his death in 392.

352.5 AR dirham, without name of any mint director or vizier, 361-363

352.6 AR dirham, citing Yahya, 363 only

This Yahya is likely a different individual than the Yahya of type #352.1.

352B AE “dirham”, citing ‘Amir, date intended either for 350 or 365, contemporary forgery

S Hisham II, 1st reign, 366-399 / 976-1009
(al-Mu'ayyad)

353 AV dinar (about 4.3g), fine style (al-Andalus mint)

R An extremely rare dinar of this type is known from the mint of Fès, dated 389.

353S AV dirham, coarse style (Sijilmasa mint, though mint name and date are usually off flan or omitted)

R

A354 AV fractional dirham

Most fractions seem to be about ½ dinar weight, but can vary from less than one quarter to fully half the dinar weight. It seems that no fixed denomination was intended.

354.1 AR dirham, citing only ‘Amir (= Almanzor), 366-386

C The alleged year 399 of this type is a misreading of 379, the first common year of this reign. Dates prior to 379 are scarce or rare. Some examples of types #354.1-354.8 in nearly pure copper are known, either “mint forgeries” or private forgeries from purloined dies, or less likely, 19th or early 20th century fakes for collectors.

354.2 AR dirham, citing ‘Amir & Muhammad, 384-385 and occasionally in 386 and 387, then commonly again 388-391

C It remains undetermined whether the Muhammad of 386-387 and his namesake of 388-391 are the same or different individuals.

354.3 AR dirham, citing ‘Amir & Mufarrij, 386-387

S

354.4 AR dirham, citing ‘Amir & Tamlij, 391-392

C

354.5 AR dirham, citing the hajib ‘Abd al-Malik together with Tamlij, 392 only

RR

354.6 AR dirham, citing the hajib ‘Abd al-Malik on reverse and another ‘Abd al-Malik on obverse, 393-397

C The hajib ‘Abd al-Malik was the son of ‘Amir (Almanzor), while the other name refers to ‘Abd al-Malik b. ‘Isa, who was the mint director during these five years.

354.7 AR dirham, citing the hajib ‘Abd al-Malik & Shahid, 397-398

S

354.8 AR dirham, citing Ibn Burd on obverse + the hajib ‘Abd al-‘Aziz on reverse, 399 only

RRR Ibn Burd is Ahmad b. Burd al-Abkar, the vizier in Córdoba, 394-399.

354A AR dirham, mint of Fès, dated occasionally from 367-371, then continuously from 377-399

RR From about 386 onwards, Fès dirhams cite a different director than the director found on the common dirhams of al-Andalus.

**Third period, decline of the dynasty**

Muhammad II, 399-400 / 1009 (9 months) (al-Mahdi)

Coins of Muhammad II and his immediate successors Sulayman (1st reign) and Hisham II (2nd reign until 403) are surprisingly common for so short a span. Perhaps they were struck in immense quantities to cover the dynastic feats that broke out in 399, or were hidden and lost during the warfare. All Spanish Umayyad coinage dated after 402 is rare.

355 AV dinar

RR

356.1 AR dirham, citing Jahwar, 399-400

S

356.2 AR dirham, citing Ibn Maslama, 400

S

356.3 AR dirham, citing Muhammad (perhaps a mint official bearing the same personal name as the caliph), 400

S Sulayman, 1st reign, 400 / 1009-1010
(6½ months) (al-Musta'in)

357 AV dinar

RR

358.1 AR dirham, citing Ibn Maslama, mint of al-Andalus

S Some other names occur on very rare dirhams, which may be imitations or contemporary errors.

---

165 Gold dinars dated 357 cite a certain Ja’far as hajib, not recorded on contemporary silver dirhams.
358.2 AR dirham, citing Ibn Shuhayd & the wali al-‘ahd Muhammad, mint of Madinat al-Zahrā
A few very rare dirhams exist dated 401 and 402, some with names different from those found on #358.1 and 358.2.

Hisham II, 2nd reign, 400-403 / 1010-1013

359 AV dinar
359A AV fractional dinar (perhaps ¼ dinar)
360.1 AR dirham, citing Ibn Maslama, dated 400
360.2 AR dirham, citing al-Bakri, 401
360.3 AR dirham, citing ‘Abd Allah, 401-402
360.4 AR dirham, citing Sa‘īd bin Yusuf, 402-403
360.5 AR dirham, citing Ibn ‘Abbas, 402-403

A rare variant is struck from dies meant for the dirham (probably several types).

360E AR dirham, citing only Hisham and struck at the mint of al-Wata (probably Elota), 402-403

360M AR dirham, posthumous issues, dated 404 until 409 or perhaps later, al-Andalus mint only
Names noted on these posthumous issues include Sa‘īd b. Yusuf, Mudrik, probably several others.

After Hisham’s death in 403/1013, his name was retained on many coins of the Muluk al-Tawa’if as the ostensible source of their legitimacy, beginning in the year 422 and continuing at least until 476, the latest date published by Vives. In addition, his name was retained on the early Hammadid coinage struck by ‘Ali b. Hammud, dated 403-406.

Sulayman, 2nd reign, 403-407 / 1013-1016
The heir (wali al-‘ahd) Muhammad appears on the reverse of all coins of Sulayman’s 2nd reign.

A361 AV dinar
361.1 AR dirham, citing Muhammad and Wali al-‘Ahd Muhammad, dated 403
The term wali al-‘ahd means “heir”; it is unknown whether the names Muhammad and Without Muhammad with that title refer to the same person. Some examples have only Wali al-‘Ahd Muhammad.
361.2 AR dirham, citing Habib, 403-404
361.3 AR dirham, citing Ibn Hudayr in 403 or Hudayr in 404 (may also be read as Hukayr)
361.4 AR dirham, citing Mudrik, 404-405

‘Abd al-Rahman V, 414 / 1023-1024 (for 47 days) (al-Mustazhir)

A362 AR dirham
Citing ‘Amir beneath obverse. This cannot be the famous ‘Amir known as Almanzor who died 22 years earlier, in 392/1002.

Muhammad III, 414-416 / 1024-1025 (al-Mustakfi)

B362 AV dinar
Citing Bakr beneath obverse.

C362 AV fractional dinar
Three varieties, citing either Iftitah, Hisham, or Ibn Tamam beneath obverse.

D362 AR dirham, names as on #8362

Hisham III (al-Mu‘tadd), 418-422 / 1027-1031

E362 AV dinar
Citing Iftitah beneath reverse in 418, Ibn Dakhwan beneath obverse in 422, only years known.

F362 AV fractional dinar
Citing Ibn Tamam166 beneath obverse, known dated 421-425 (sic), though the date is rarely visible.

MULUK AL-TAWA‘IF
Miles, George C., Coins of the Spanish Muluk al-Tawa‘if (ANS Hispanic Numismatic Studies No. 3), New York, 1954.


Vives y Escudero, Antonio, Monedas de las Dinastías Árabe-Islámica-Española, Madrid, 1893, reprinted in 1978. The Arabic coin inscriptions are written out in full, only in Arabic. Only a small number of types are illustrated, but the full plates were finally published in Madrid in 1998, more than a century after its preparation! References abbreviated Vy E.

Medina Gómez, Antonio, Monedas Hispano-Musulmanas, Manual de lectura y clasificación, Toledo, 1992, also useful for other Spanish dynasties. This remains the best guide to deciphering the often very obscure legends on coins of the Muluk al-Tawa‘if, pictured both in Arabic and in Spanish transliteration.

Wasserstein, David, The Rise and Fall of the Party-Kings, Princeton 1985. The most up-to-date genealogical listing, with occasional references to the coins, and an absolute prerequisite for the understanding of the complex historical context of the coinage.

After the collapse of the Umayyad caliphate in the 400s/1010s, Spain was divided between a large number of rival dynasties, known as the Muluk al-Tawa’if, in Spanish los reyes de taifas, “factional kings.” More than 20 small states produced coinage, much of it extremely rare. In general, coins of the Muluk al-Tawa‘if fetch relatively high prices in comparison with coins of other regions of comparable rarity, due to their popularity amongst Spanish collectors. Moreover, significant hoards have very rarely been discovered since the 1930s.

After about 430/1040, the silver coins of the Muluk al-Tawa‘if were struck from increasingly alloyed silver, so that by the end of the 5th/11th century, most are nearly pure copper. They are designated in the Checklist as silver or billon, irrespective of their actual alloy.

Most early coins bear the mint name al-Andalus, a generic term for any location within Spain, but gradually, the actual names of local mints replaced the generic name, as noted in the listings below.

The gold coins are generally carefully struck (except the fractions, which are often badly struck), but the silver coins vary considerably, with the majority poorly struck, especially the increasingly debased issues of the later 5th/11th century.

Many of the Muluk al-Tawa‘if struck fractional dinars (usually in addition to full dinars). These approximate the quarter of a standard dinar of about 4.25g, but individual specimens vary widely in weight, from as little as 0.3g to more than 1.5g. Later gold coinage, after mid-century, is often debased, especially the fractional issues, where the debasement level is sometimes extreme, either with silver, copper or a mixture thereof.

In addition to the ruler, other names are commonly mentioned on coins of the Muluk al-Tawa‘if. Most cite a caliph, either the Hammadid (until the demise of that dynasty in 446/1055, the deceased Umayyad caliph Hisham II, or ‘Abd Allah, “Servant of God”, a generic term for al-Mustazhir

Most coinage of the Muluk al-Tawa‘if reflects a coarse calligraphic style due to the method of die production that had been introduced during the reign of the Spanish Umayyad ‘Abd al-Rahman III. Letters were not engraved or chiseled, but were hand-stamped into the die with a limited number of punches. While this method was inexpensive and convenient, the result was an unpleasantly coarse calligraphic style. Only a few later issues, such as the coinage of the Kingdom of Mallorca, were produced from more artistically engraved dies.

Due to the infrequency with which the Muluk al-Tawa‘if coins appear for sale, the rarity estimates are somewhat conjectural, partly based on Prieto y Vives, partly my own guess. This applies especially to the fractional dinars and dirhams, largely disdained by traditional collectors prior to the 1960s. The prices of all full-size dirhams of the Muluk al-Tawa‘if have risen significantly over the past few years, whereas the gold has been expensive for many decades.

HUMMUDID OF MÁLAGA
Rodriguez Lorente, Juan José, and Tawfiq ibn Hafiz Ibrahim, Numismática de Ceuta musulmana, Madrid 1987. Also included are coins of other dynasties struck at Ceuta (sabta or madinat sabta in Arabic).

Originally Umayyad governors at Ceuta, the Hammadids rose to power following the collapse of Umayyad rule in 399-400.

166 Read as Ibn Haman by Prieto y Vives, Ibn Tamam by Medina Gómez, the latter now believed to be correct. He has been described as a quasi-independent “gobernador”.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 66
In 407 al-Nasir ‘Ali assumed the caliphate at Córdoba after deposing and then murdering the Umayyad Sulayman. The Hammudids remained caliphs at Córdoba until 416, when they were driven out once again by the Umayyads. Thereafter, they established the seat of their caliphate on the Mediterranean coast at Málaga. They were the only dynasty amongst the Muluk al-Tawa’if to retain the title of caliph, rather than amir (“officer”) or malik (“king”).

Nearly all Hammudid coins struck on the Spanish side of the Strait of Gibraltar bear the name al-Andalus for their mint, and were struck 406-413 and 437-446. Only a few extremely rare types cite the mint as Málaga (malaqa in Arabic), though it seems plausible that the mint entitled al-Andalus was actually located at Málaga. Those of Ceuta on the African side use the mint name Sabta (Ceuta), and were struck continuously from 403-444. Most Hammudid coins are rather well struck, especially before about 440.

Although the first three rulers, ‘Ali, al-Qasim and Yahya, were members of the Hammudid dynasty, some scholars, including Medina Gómez, regard these three as a continuation of the Umayyad caliphate.

al-Nasir ‘Ali, 400-408 / 1009-1018

On both the dinars and dirhams, issues of 403-405 recognize the Umayyad caliph Sulayman, those of 405-407 the deceased caliph Hisham II.

362.1 AV dinar, as nominal vassal of the Ummayyad
Struck 403-406 only. RR

362.2 AR dirham, as caliph, without overlord
Struck 407-408 only. Citign Yahya as heir. RR

363.1 AR dirham, as Umayyad vassal (403-407)
363.2 AR dirham, as caliph (407-408), without overlord, citing Yahya as heir R

al-Ma’mun al-Qasim (b. Hammud), 408-414 / 1018-1023

Most dinars and dirhams of al-Qasim cite the heir Yahya (as wali al-‘ahd). One dinar of al-Andalus 413 cites Muhammad as heir (RR).

364 AV dinar RR

364A AR dirham RR

365 AR dirham
al-Mu’tali Yahya (b. ‘Ali), 412-427 / 1021-1035

Rival to al-Qasim until 414. All his coins also cite the heir Idris on the obverse, except a few extremely rare dinars struck at mints other than Sabta.

366.1 AV dinar, without governor (412-418) RR

366.2 AV dinar, also citing the governor Qasim (418-426), not to be confused with the previous Hammudid caliph al-Qasim RR

367.1 AR dirham, without governor (412-418) S

367.2 AR dirham, also citing the governor Qasim (418-426) S

al-Muta’ayyad Idris I (b. ‘Ali), 427-430 / 1035-1038

A368 AV dinar, with heir al-Hasan
368 AR dirham, with heir al-Hasan

al-Mustansir al-Hasan (b. Yahya), 430-434 / 1038-1042

369 AR dirham, without heir, dated 430 only167

al-‘Ali Idris II (b. Yahya),
1st reign in Spain, 434-438 / 1043-1047

370 AR dirham, without heir, mint of al-Andalus
Known coins are dated 437-439 (sic).

al-‘Ali Idris II, in Ceuta (Sabta), 438-444 / 1047-1052

370A AR dirham, Sabta mint, 439-444, with Muhammad either as amir or as wali al-‘ahd RR

167 Most sources place the death of Idris I and succession of al-Hasan in 431/1039, but the coins seem to confirm 430 as correct.

370B AR dirham, with Muhammad as heir (wali al-‘ahd) RR
Mint name al-Andalus 444-445 and Málaga in 446.

al-Mahdi Muhammad I (b. Idris),
in Málaga, 438-446 / 1047-1055

371.1 AR or billon dirham, without the title al-amir (438-440) RR

371.2 BI dirham, with Yahya as al-amir (440-446) S
On both types, the mint name is always al-Andalus. The metal is often nearly pure copper, especially #371.2, which is perhaps the most common dirham of all the Muluk al-Tawa’if.

al-Qasim II, in Algeciras (al-Jazira),
440-446 / 1048-1054

371A AR dirham RR
The mint name for this ruler at al-Jazira is always al-Andalus. All his dirhams cite him as al-amir, together with the Málaga Hammudid caliph Muhammad as al-imam.

HAMMUDID OF WADI LAU


Hasan, fl. 441 / 1050

A372 BI dirham, nearly copper, full flan R
B372 BI ½ dirham, similar, irregular flan RR
The affiliation of Hasan to the Hammudid line has not been established. All his coins are dated 441, minted at Wadi Lau (modern Oued Laou in Morocco), and derive from a single hoard of a few hundred examples that surfaced in the 1970s. All cite the Málaga Hammudid al-Mahdi Muhammad (#371) as overlord. The weights of both denominations vary considerably. Those struck on full flans are regarded as full dirhams, irrespective of weight. Those struck on irregular flans, always smaller than the dies, are regarded as halves.

ZIRID OF GRANADA

The Zirid dynasty arose in North Africa as Fatimid allies in the early 10th century. The family split into two branches later in the 10th century, one remaining in Tunisia, one coming to Granada. The Granada issues are listed here. See #458-460 for the Tunisian branch.

All coins of Badis lack his name or titular references. Issues of his two successors, sons of Buluggin, bear their titular names.

Nearly all coins of this dynasty were struck at Granada (Madina Gharbata), with a few rare pieces from Málaga. The mint al-Andalus for this series is assumed to have been at Granada.


H372 AV fractional dinar, no caliph, always undated RR
Citing two individuals entitled al-hajib, Sayf al-Dawla (= his son Buluggin) and al-Mu’izz (= his grandson Tamim).

I372 AV fractional dinar, totally anonymous, usually dated R
Type of Medina Gómez #77, two circular marginal inscriptions each side, religious text in the center, expanding on the obverse to the date in the outer margin, almost never legible.

372 AR double dirham, no caliph, fully anonymous, usually with mint name Granada, struck on squarish flans (5.5-7.5g), always undated S
Individual specimens of types #372 & 373.1 vary considerably from the weight standards, but can be distinguished, with those over about 4.5g reckoned as double dirhams. The mint name is frequently off flan.

G372 AR dirham, with mint name, citing the deceased Hammudid al-‘Ali Idris II as caliph, either dated or undated RR
Known from mints Málaga (450-453), al-Andalus (453), and Granada (454-455). Undated versions also known for all three mints. This type, struck 450-454, is usually well struck and dated, where the other dirhams, as well as the doubles and fractionalss, are haphazardly made.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 67
373.1 AR dirham, no caliph, fully anonymous, type as #372, round flan (2.5-3.5g), undated
Made from rather thin flans, usually rather evenly struck. Some bear the word jahan above the reverse field (RR).

373.2 AR dirham, similar, but square flan (2.5-3.5g), undated

373.3 AR fractional dirham (1.0-1.75g), undated
Struck on square or irregular planchetts, normally thin, probably struck with the same dies used for the single dirhams.

373A AR dirham
With his titles al-Mu'izz Tamim and al-Mansur together with the kunya Abu Muhammad, but without his personal name ‘Abd Allah.Known dated 474 only.
al-Mu'izz Tamim b. Buluggin, in Málaga, 459-483 / 1067-1090

373B AR dirham, Málaga mint, dated 474-477
Tamim’s coins are without his personal name, but with his titles al-Mu‘izz il-din Allah, together with his kunya Abu Mu‘add. His dinars also cite al-hajib Sayf ad-Dawla, possibly his heir. He was a descendant of the Hammudids, through al-Qasim b. Tamim.
It is possible that al-Mu‘izz Tamim Abu Mu‘add is a reference to the Fatimid Imam (427-487/1036-1094), not the title and kunya of al-Mu‘izz Tamim.

BARGHAWATID OF CEUTA
Saqawt b. Muhammad (al-Mansur), 453-471 / 1061-1078
374 AR dirham, minted at Sabta (Ceuta), known dated 464-467
Coins of this type cite his son al-‘Izz al-din Allah, together with his pre-accession title of Baha’ al-Dawla.
al-‘Izz b. Saqawt (Diyaa’ al-Dawla), 471-476 / 1078-1083

374A AR dirham, without mint or date

‘AMIRID OF VALENCIA
Until 431, all coins bear the generic mint name al-Andalus, thereafter Balansiya (Valencia), plus a few later issues of Mursiya (Murcia). The dirhams usually bear the name of an additional official, ostensibly the mintmaster. The dirhams of ‘Abd al-‘Aziz also bear a second title, al-Muzaffar, but usually without legible date or undated.

‘Abd al-‘Aziz Tamim, 412-439 / 1021-1044

T375 AV dinar, known only of al-Andalus 427, citing Ibn Najba

375 AR fractional dinar, known dated 427 & 428, but usually without legible date or undated
These relatively common fractional dinars lack the ruler’s proper name and bear only his dynastic name ‘Amir. Later fractional dinars are known bearing his iqbal al-Mansur together with the title of his heir, either al-Mu‘izz or al-Mu‘azzaf (R?). Those dated 427 & 428 bear the name (Ibn) Najba. A common type of the dateless variant cites Ibn ‘Abd al-Rahim.

376.1 AR dirham, with al-Mu‘azzaf and the amir Najba (435-440)
All full dirhams bear the mint name Balansiya (Valencia), and are struck on debased silver, both this and all subsequent issues.

376.2 AR dirham, with al-Mu‘azzaf and no local amir (441-442)

376.3 AR dirham, with al-Nasir and Tarfa b. Qumis (442-443)

376.4 AR dirham, with al-Nasir & Ibn Aghlab (443-448)

376.5 AR dirham, with al-Muzaffar & Ibn Aghlab (448-451)

376A AR fractional dirham, with the names al-Mansur and al-Mu‘azzaf, mint of Balansiya, almost always undated
Almost always without legible mint or date, though dated examples are recorded as early as 431, thus four years before the earliest full dirhams. Many cite a subordinate governor.

376B AR fractional dirham, mint of Mursiya (Murcia), with the names of al-Mansur and al-Mu‘azzaf, undated

‘Abd al-Malik al-Mu‘azzaf, 452-457 / 1061-1065

377 AV fractional dinar

378 AR dirham, mint of Balansiya, citing Ibn Aghlab (453-457)

Dirhams dated 456-457 and some fractional dinars cite al-Zahir, presumably the title of al-Mu‘azzaf’s heir.

‘AMIRID OF ALMERIA
Normally the mint name is not cited on coins of this principality. The Almeria fractions are usually distinguished from their Valencia counterpart by the longer inscription: the name and titles of the deceased caliph Hisham are written in one or two lines on the Valencia pieces, in three lines on the Almeria. All Almeria types bear the name of a local individual, perhaps a governor, of which three are known: Ghalib, Muhammad b. Aswad and Ibn ‘Abd al-Rahim, cited in the obverse margin, therefore usually illegible.


379 AV fractional dinar
Most were struck from dies with mint name al-Mariya (Almeria) & date, but these are rarely legible. Some are from dies without any marginal inscriptions, thus without mint or date.

380 AR fractional dirham, similar

SLAVE KINGDOM OF DENIA
Most coins struck at Dania (Denia), with a few rare examples from Mayurqa (Mallorca).

Mujahid al-‘Amiri, 1st “reign”, 404-? / 1013-??

E381 AR dirham
Struck only at al-Wata (probably Elota) in 405-406, citing the hypothetical ‘Abd Allah as caliph. Struck in good silver, citing ‘Abd al-Rahman (unknown official) on obverse, Mujahid on reverse.

Earlier issues of al-Wata, citing only the caliph Hisham II and dated 402-403, are regarded as Umayyad issues (type #366E).

Sa’d al-Dawla Hasan b. Mujahid, fl. 430-432 / 1038-1040
Possibly in rebellion against his father.

F381 AR fractional dirham
Occasionally showing the mint Daniya or the date. Some bear the title Sa’d al-Dawla, none bear his father’s name.

Mujahid al-‘Amiri, 2nd “reign”, after 432-436 / after 1040-1044

G381 AV fractional dinar, without mint and undated

H381 AR dirham
Both the gold & silver cite ‘Ali & Hasan (his two sons?) on the obverse. Mints Mallorca & Denia, always dated.

Iqbal al-Dawla ‘Ali b. Mujahid, 436-468 / 1044-1076

V381 AV fractional dirham, no mint or date
Citing Iqbal al-Dawla (title only) & either ‘Abd al-Malik or Mu‘izz al-Dawla.

381.1 AR dirham, citing Muhammad (437-441, mints of Mallorca & Denia)

381.2 AR dirham, citing ‘Abd al-Malik (442-443, mint of Denia only)

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 68
381.3 AR dirham, citing Mu’izz al-Dawla (446-468, mint of Denia only) RR

**Kingdom of Mallorca**

All coins struck at Mayurqa (Mallorca, aka Majorca), normally well struck with handsomely engraved dies, unlike virtually all other later coins of the Muluk al-Tawa’if. Mallorca belonged to the kings of Denia before 468.

‘Abd Allah al-Murtada, 468-486 / 1076-1093

AR dirham, struck 480-486

NASIR DAWLA MUBASHSHIR (b. SULAYMAN), 486-508 / 1093-1115

BI dirham (very coppery)

BI fractional dirham, irregular flans

382

383

BI dirham (very coppery)

BI fractional dirham, irregular flans

Some dirhams dated 441 cite the imaginary caliph ‘Abd Allah (RR?), all other cite the long deceased Hisham.

Also, some dated 441 bear only the title ‘Imad al-Dawla. Others also include his personal name Ahmad, as on all later dates.

al-Mu’taman Yusuf (b. Ahmad), rival, circa 474-476 / 1081-1083

389

BI dirham (coppery), known dated 474 RR

al-Musta’in Ahmad II (Sayf al-Dawla, b. Yusuf), 476-503 / 1083-1110

390

BI dirham (almost pure copper in general), known dated 476-489 and 497-500 S

‘Imad al-Dawla ‘Abd al-Malik (b. Ahmad II), 503 / 1110

AR fractional dirham, known dated 503 only, citing his full name RRR

**Tuujibid of Zaragoza**

All coins struck at Saragossa (Zaragoza), and generally rather well struck, with the mint name Saragossa often legible. All rulers bore the title of al-hajib (“chamberlain”).

Yaḥya b. Mundhir I, 414-420 / 1023-1029

A384 AV dinar RR

Struck as al-hajib first citing the Hammudid caliph al-Qasim (415), later the imaginary caliph ‘Abd Allah (416-417).

B384 AV fractional dirham, no mint or date RRR

al-Mansur Mundhir II (Mu’izz al-Dawla), circa 420-430 / 1029-1038

384 AR dinar, always dated RR

Citing either Hisab III or the imaginary ‘Abd Allah as caliph.

A384A AV fractional dirham, with mint & date (usually off flan) RRR

A384B AR dirham, citing ‘Abd Allah al as caliph, known dated 430

‘Abd Allah b. al-Hakam, 430-431 / 1039

A384C AR dirham, known dated 430 RRR

Zaragoza passed to the Hudids in 431/1039.

**Hudid of Lérida**

All coins struck at Larida (Lérida, now officially Lleida in Catalan).

al-Muazzafar Sayf al-Dawla Yusuf, circa 438-459 / 1046-1067

N391 AV fractional dinar, probably without mint or date RRR

On these fractions the ruler is cited as al-Muazzafar Ibn Hud, sometimes with the additional title Sayf al-Dawla, never with his personal name Yusuf.

391.1 BI dirham, normal style (4-line or 5-line legend in central fields, single marginal legend around) RRR

Known dated 439, 440 and possibly 443. Type 391.2 is known with a few dates between 441 and 459.

On one dateless type, the ruler takes the additional title of Dhu’l-Siyadatayn, “of the two domains”, conceivably a reference to Lérida and Zaragoza.

391.2 BI dirham, Fatimid style (single word in small central field, surrounded by two or three marginal legends) RR

The type is known both as well-struck fully round dirhams or as squarish, crudely struck dirhams. The central words are dirham on obverse and tayyib (“good”) on reverse.168 A recently found example of the latter type clearly shows tayyib, with 2 dots below Y and one dot below B, hence confirming this reading (WNA auction 1, lot 224).

**Hudid of Zaragoza**

All coins struck at Saragossa (Zaragoza). Full dinars and dirhams always bear mint and date, and often bear either the title al-hajib or the dynastic title Ibn Hud. They are generally well struck, from carefully engraved dies.

al-Musta’in Abu Ayyub Sulayman (b. Muhammad), 431-438 / 1039-1046

385 AR fractional dinar, normally with mint & date (usually off flan) RRR

AR dirham, with mint & date RR

Additional individuals are named on both denominations, ‘Ali on coins of 432, Ahmad 436-437. On both his gold and silver coins, Sulayman is usually mentioned only as al-Musta’in, occasionally solely as Ibn Hud.

Taj al-Dawla Sulayman (b. Yusuf), 438-441 / 1046-1049

387 AR dirham, with mint & date RRR

Most coins of this ruler, all denominations, also cite the name Ibn ‘Abi Nasr, who appears to be unknown. His name Sulayman is also engraved, often with his laqab Taj al-Dawla as well.

A387A AV fractional dinar, without mint or date RRR

A387B AR dirham, with mint & date RRR

al-Muqtadir Ahmad I (‘Imad al-Dawla, b. Sulayman), 441-475 / 1049-1083

388 BI dirham (generally very coppery) S

Some dirhams dated 441 cite the imaginary caliph ‘Abd Allah (RR?), all other cite the long deceased Hisham.

Also, some dated 441 bear only the title ‘Imad al-Dawla. Others also include his personal name Ahmad, as on all later dates.

al-Mu’taman Yusuf (b. Ahmad), rival, circa 474-476 / 1081-1083

389

BI dirham (coppery), known dated 474 RR

al-Musta’in Ahmad II (Sayf al-Dawla, b. Yusuf), 476-503 / 1083-1110

390

BI dirham (almost pure copper in general), known dated 476-489 and 497-500 S

‘Imad al-Dawla ‘Abd al-Malik (b. Ahmad II), 503 / 1110

AR fractional dirham, known dated 503 only, citing his full name RRR

**Hudid of Calatayud**

All coins minted at Qala’at Ayyub (“Ayyub’s Fort”, now Calatayud in Aragon). The ruler is entitled al-hajib, as is typical of the Hudids.

‘Adud al-Dawla Muhammad b. Sulayman, fl. 438-440 / 1046-1048

B392 AR dinar RRR

These fractions probably were all struck from dies bearing the mint & date, but they are both normally off flan.

A392 AR dirham, with mint & date (438-440) RR

**Hudid of Denia**

Most coins struck at Daniya (Denia), with a few at Tartusha (Tortosa). Coins of Mundhir bear the name of his son Sulayman as heir, but those of Sulayman lack the mention of an heir. Mundhir was the son of Ahmad I of Zaragoza and was always entitled al-hajib.

‘Imad al-Dawla Mundhir, 474-483 / 1081-1090

392 BI dirham (coppery) R RR

Struck only at Denia, always dated.

Sayyid al-Dawla Sulayman (b. Mundhir), 483-492 / 1090-1099

393 BI dirham (almost pure copper) R RR

Struck at Denia 483-485 and Tortosa 484-492.

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168 All previous major authors have read tayyib as dirham and dirham as tubu’, including Vives y Escudero, Prieto y Vives, and Medina Gómez.

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 69
HUID OF HUESCA
Coins struck at Washqa (Huesca) in 439 only.
Lubb b. Sulayman (b. Hud), fl. 438-439 / 1046-1047
F394  AV fractional dinar  RRR

HUID OF TUDELA
Coins struck at Tudela, denoted as either Tatila or al-Andalus.
al-Zafir Mundhir b. Sulayman, fl. 438-442 / 1046-1050
H394  AR dirham  RRR
Most bear the additional name of an unidentified local official: Ibrahim, ‘Ali, Faraj, perhaps others. The ruler is almost always entitled al-hajib, occasionally with the isaq Nasir al-Dawla.

KINGDOM OF TORTOSA
All coins of this state were minted at Tortosa (Tartusha), which passed to the Hudids in 453/1061. The relationship of the three rulers to one another has not been determined. With the exception of a unique dirham of Ya’la (not listed here), all coins of this kingdom bear the actual name of the ruler.
Muqatil, circa 427-445 / 1036-1053
394  AR dirham  R
With title Mu’izz al-Dawla 431-438 and Sayf al-Milla 438-445. At times his dirhams also bear the name of a local official, Musallam 436-440, then ‘Abd al-Malik b. Rida 441-443.
Ya’la, 445-450 / 1053-1058
394A  AR dirham  R
With the isaq Sayf al-Milla 445-448 or Mu’izz al-Dawla 450. There are no additional names of local officials.
Nabil, 450-453 / 1058-1061
394B  AR dirham or fractional dirham, unknown with legible dates  RRR
With the title al-khalifa (caliph), and rarely the name ‘Abd al-Mu’min, either part of Nabil’s titulature or the name of an unknown local official.

DHU’L-NUNID OF TOLEDO
Most coins were struck at Tulaytila (Toledo, often off flan), with a few additional examples from Qurtuba (Córdoba), Qunka (Cuenca) & Balansiya (Valencia), of which only Valencia is not extremely rare. All rulers frequently assume the title al-hajib.
al-Zafir Isma’il, circa 423-435 / 1032-1043
Only the title al-Zafir appears on Isma’il’s coins, never his proper name Isma’il.
395  AV fractional dinar, often struck in debased gold  R
For both silver and gold fractions, some dies have mint & date, but almost always neither can be read, as the dies were much larger than the planchets, perhaps intended for full-size coins, none of which are known. The title al-zafir always appears at the top of the reverse field, or divided, al-ca above and fir below the reverse field.
395A  AR fractional dirham  RR
Sharaf al-Dawla Yahya I (al-Ma’mun), 435-467 / 1043-1075
Many coins of this ruler bear the title Dhu’l-Majdayn, “possessor of the two glories.” Most bear either the name Yahya or his isaq Sharaf al-Dawla, sometimes both, occasionally also his title al-Ma’mun. In addition, some bear the names of local officials, including Ahmad, Muhammad, and Ibn Aglibah, all of whom are unidentified.
396  AV fractional dinar  R
Known from Toledo 435 (RRR) or without mint & date. Some fractional dinars are mulings of this type with various types of the Amirs of Valencia!
397  AR full dirham (no fractional dirhams known), with mint & date  RR

Known from mints Toledo (448 & 462-468), Valencia (457-462), and Córdoba (467).
Yahya II, 467-483 / 1075-1090
All coins of this ruler bear the title al-qadir billah, always without his personal name Yahya.

QBASIMID OF ALPUENTE
When showing, the mint is al-Bunt (Alpuente). Both denominations bear mint & date, but as usual, they are normally off flan on the fractional pieces.
Yumn al-Dawla Muhammad, 421-434 / 1030-1042
A399  AR fractional dirham  RRR
Citing his son Ahmad beneath obverse field.
‘Izz al-Dawla Ahmad (b. Muhammad), 434-450 / 1042-1058
B399  AR dirham  RRR
Citing an uncertain Muhammad beneath the obverse field.

JAHWARDID OF CÓRDoba
Mint is always Qurtuba (Córdoba).
temp. Abu’l-Walid Muhammad, 435-450 / 1043-1058
D399  AV fractional dinar  RRR
Either totally anonymous (only the kalima), or in the name of the imaginary al-imam ‘abd Allah, always with mint & date, usually off the flan. Dates 439-442 are known for the gold. When the date & mint are off flan, these two types can only be identified by comparison with published illustrations, as in Medina Gómez.

SUMAYDIHID OF ALMERIA
Anonymous, circa 435-443 / 1044-1052
399  AR dirham or fraction, always without date  S
Medina Gómez assigns this type to Ma’n b. Muhammad (433-443 / 1041-1052), though it may have been struck into the following reign as well. On some coins the mint name can be read, either Almería or al-Andalus.
al-Mu’tasim Muhammad (b. Ma’n), 443-484 / 1052-1091
399A  AR dirham, mint of Almeria, undated  RR
Many coins of this type cite one of more of the titles al-hajib, Mu’izz al-Dawla or al-Wathiq bi-fadl Allah. A few coins bear all or parts of the last digit of a theoretical date, but the decade cannot be determined.

AFTASID OF BADAJoz
The mint name is usually given as al-Andalus, more rarely as Batalyus (Badajoz). The fractional denominations are almost always without mint and always without date, but the full dirhams include both.
al-Muzaffar Muhammad, 437-460 / 1045-1068
A400  AV fractional dinar  RRR
Mint always Batalyus, but rarely legible, always undated. Name inscribed as just al-Muzaffar.
al-Mansur Yahya, as al-hajib, 455-460 / 1063-1068, and as amir, 460 / 1068
On dirhams dated 455-457 Yahya bears the title of al-hajib, but from later in 457 onwards, the title al-mansur billah. Perhaps his...
actual reign began in 457 rather than 460, even though the title *amir* does not appear on his coins until 460. Nearly all his coins also bear the name Muwaffaq, of undetermined meaning, perhaps the governor of Badajo or the mintmaster. The name Yahya is always included.

**B400** AV fractional dinar  
**C400** AR dirham, al-Andalus mint only  
*al-Mutawakkil ‘ala Allah Abu Hafs ‘Umar,*  
460-487 / 1068-1094

400 AV fractional dinar  
400A AR dirham, mint of al-Andalus or Batalyus  
Nearly all full dirhams (dated 460-465) bear the *luqab* Majd ad-Dawla, not seen on the fractions, which may have been manufactured principally or entirely after 465.

400B AR fractional dirham  
The fractional dirhams and some of the other denominations bear the title *al-Mansur billah* together with *al-Mutawakkil ‘ala Allah* (the latter on all his coins). Neither his *kunya* Abu Hafs nor his *ism* ‘Umar ever appear on the coins.

‘ABBADID OF SEVILLA

Until 464, all coins have the mint as al-Andalus (except a few of Córdoba), thereafter as Ishbiliya (Sevilla, beginning 465), Qurtuba (Córdoba, beginning 461, year of conquest), or Mursiya (Murcia, beginning 478, though already conquered in 470). All pre-461 coins (Córdoba, beginning 461, year of conquest), or Mursiya (Murcia, beginning 478, though already conquered in 470). All pre-461 coins were presumably minted at Sevilla.

The fractional dirhams, once considered very rare (probably because all collectors simply ignored them!), normally lack mint & date, whereas the full dirhams and dirhams always have both.

*al-Mu‘tadid ‘Abbad,* 433-461 / 1042-1069

401 AV dinar  
The dinars can be divided into subtypes as the dirhams, except that the equivalent of #402.2 is not known in gold, and the gold equivalent of #402.5 lacks the name Muhammad.

401A AV fractional dinar  
402.1 AR dirham, titles muhammad & *al-hajib ‘abbad* (435-439)  
402.2 AR dirham, titles *al-hajib ‘abbad & al-mu‘tadid billah* (439 only)  
402.3 AR dirham, titles *al-hajib isma’il & al-mu‘tadid billah* (439-448)  
402.4 AR dirham, titles *al-hajib muhammad & al-mu‘tadid billah* (450-457)  
402.5 AR dirham, titles *al-zafir muhammad & al-mu‘tadid billah* (456-461, sç)

*al-Mu‘tamid Muhammed,* 461-484 / 1069-1091

Coins of *al-Mu‘tamid* ‘ala Allah never bear his personal name Muhammad. His heirs are also cited on both gold & silver, the first of which was known as *al-hajib* Siraj ad-Dawla 461-466, then as *al-Zafir* al-Muwaqqaf 466-467, assassinated in 467, followed by the second heir, known as *al-hajib* ‘Adud ad-Dawla 467-470, then as *al-Rashid* 470-483.

There are several local names on either silver or gold or both: Hashim at al-Andalus 461-464, Ibn Farjun at Córdoba 463-465, al-Ma‘mun at Córdoba 473-480, and Ibn Ja‘far at Murcia 478-483, of whom only al-Ma‘mun is recorded in history. I have divided only the dirhams into subtypes.

403 AV dinar, with mint & date  
403A AV fractional dinar, usually without mint & date  
404.1 AR dirham, al-Andalus mint (= Sevilla), citing the *hajib* Siraj ad-Dawla & Hashim (462-464)  
Dirhams of all 6 subtypes are with mint & date, frequently off flan or worn away.  
404.2 AR dirham, Ishbiliya (Sevilla) mint, citing only the *hajib* Siraj ad-Dawla (465-466)  
Prieto y Vives reported the heir al-Zafir al-Muwaqqaf (466-467) only on the gold dinars of Ishbiliya.

404.3 AR dirham, Ishbiliya mint, citing only the *hajib* ‘Adud al-Dawla (467-469)  
404.4 AR dirham, Ishbiliya mint, citing only al-Rashid, but without the title *al-hajib* (470-472)  
Gold dinars of this type were struck until 478.

404.5 AR dirham, Qurtuba (Córdoba) mint, citing the *hajib* Siraj ad-Dawla & Ibn Farjun (463-464)  
Gold dinars of this type were struck 461-465, without Ibn Farjun 461-462, with him 463-465. There are no later dirhams of Qurtuba, but dirhams were struck, citing ‘Adud al-Dawla in 469, then al-Rashid 471-480.

404.6 AR dirham, Mursiya (Murcia) mint, citing al-Rashid without *al-hajib* and Ibn Ja‘far (4747, and 478-483)  

**TAFIFAS ALMORAVIDES**


See also Vives y Escudero and Medina Gómez, as for the Muluk al-Tawa‘if.

As with the demise of the Umayyad caliphate circa 407/1016, the collapse of the Murabitids in 541/1146 and of the Almohades about a century later each spawned a number of factional kingdoms, most of whose coinage is very rare.

Medina Gómez refers to this entire series as Anti-Almoravides.

**Anonymous, circa 541-556 / 1146-1161**  
405 AV dinar of Almoravid type, unassigned to specific rulers  
*405Q* AR qirat, numerous varieties (VyE-2003/2018, without mint & date  
Also reported by Vives y Escudero are ½, ¼, ⅛, and 1/16 qirat.

**KINGS OF CÓRDOBA**  
Hamdin b. Muhammad, circa 539-540 / 1145-1146  
With the title *al-mansur billah* on all his coins.

**406** AV dinar, Almoravid style, with mint & date  
**A407** AR qirat, normally with mint name Qurtuba, always undated  
**A407A** AR ½ qirat, blank obverse, without mint name  
**S** Ibn Wazir, after 540 / 1146  
**B407** AR qirat, citing Hamdin b. Muhammad  
His full name was Muhammad b. ‘Ali b. Wazir, but only Ibn Wazir appears on the coins. See #4108 for coins of another Ibn Wazir, without the name of Hamdin b. Muhammad.

**Anonymous, in the name of the Banu Tashufin circa 542-543 / 1148-1149**  
407 AV dinar  
Issued under the authority of Yahya b. Ghaniya at Córdoba in 542-543. Inscribed *Allahumma urhum umara’ al-muslimin bani tashufin* ‘O God, have mercy on the commanders of the Muslims, sons of Tashufin.’ See #476M-476T for related silver coinage.  
Also struck at Gharnata (Granada) in 545, by authority of the local Lamtuna governor, Maymun b. Badr.

**Anonymous, without any name, undated**  
407A AR ¼ qirat (⅛ dinar), Qurtuba, undated  
Inscribed *hadhai thumn al-dirham*  
**E407** AR 1/16 qirat, Qurtuba, undated  
Just qurtuba on obverse, blank reverse (VyE-2012).

**HUDIDS IN EASTERN SPAIN**  
Coins were minted at Jayyan (Jaen), Murcia, and Ubbada (Ubeda). All Hudid dinars state the Qur’an Verse 3:85 in the reverse margin.
Ahmad b. Hud, killed 540 / 1145

G407 AV dinar
Struck at Murcia in 540. On most examples, the ruler is cited only as al-Mustansir, but one type (Kassis #60) has both his name and title al-Mustansir, as on the silver coins. Yes another variety cites him as vassal under the Imam al-Qa'im bi-amr Allah b. Qasi (Medina Gómez 149). Ahmad is known in the sources as Sayf al-Dawla (Zafadola).

H407 AR double qirat (approximately 1.75g), without mint name
I407 AR qirat (approximately 0.87g), similar
‘Abd al-Rahman b. Hud, 540+ / 1145+
J407 AV dinar, struck only at Jayyán in 540
K407 AR double qirat, without mint name
L407 AR qirat, mint of Ubbada only

Anonymous, circa 544-548 / 1149-1153

M407 AV dinar, Murabitid style
An unusual coin, as it cites three mints on one coin, Bayyasa (Baeza), Jaen, and Sevilia. Struck at the “three mints” 544-546 and at Bayaza alone in 548. Kassis assigns these coins to Ibn Ghaniyu, who, despite his power, never decorated the coinage with his name.

N407 AR qirat, in the name of the Banu Tashufin (Vives #1980-1982), always without mint name
O407 AR ½ qirat, similar

KINGS OF MURCIA

Unless otherwise noted, all coins were minted at Murcia (Mursiya). All dinars bear Verse 3:85 in the obverse margin.
‘Abd Allah b. ‘Iyad, 1st reign, 540 / 1145-1146
R407 AV dinar

‘Abd Allah b. Faraj, 540-541 / 1146
S407 AV dinar

‘Abd Allah b. ‘Iyad, 2nd reign, 541-542 / 1146-1147
T407 AV dinar

Muhammad b. Sa’d, 542-567 / 1147-1171

407.1 AV dinar, without heir, struck 542-563
Struck at both Murcia and Valencia (Balansiya), the latter RRR.

407.2 AV dinar, with heir Hilal (wali ‘ahdahu), struck only at Murcia, 565-566
RR

407A BI dirham, round flan, known only from Murcia for the year 556

407C BI fractional dirham, irregular flans, type as #407B but mint & date inevitably off flan

407D AR qirat, without mint or date, about 0.9g
Stylistically similar to late qirats of the Murabitun.

Banu Ghaniyā

A petty dynasty of Sanhaja Berber origin, based on the Balearic Islands, with their mint at Mayurqa (Mallorca).


407N AV dinar, similar to type #407 but with the ruler’s name replaced by jalla wa ‘izza, “exalted and powerful”, mint of Mayurqa, dated 565-567

KINGS OF MERTOLA & SILVES

The cities of Mertola and Silves are now located in southern Portugal.

Ahmad b. Qasi, active 539-546 / 1145-1152

H408 AV dinar, struck only at Shilb (Silves)
Anonymous, dated 544, hence the attribution of Ahmad b. Qasi. With Qur’an Verse 3:85 in the obverse margin.

I408 AR qirat, Mertola (Martula) mint
Sidrāy b. Wazir, at Shilb, 546-552 / 1152-1157

J408.1 AR qirat, in his own name
This ruler is cited as Ibn Wazir on all his coins. For coins citing Ibn Wazir together with Hamdin b. Muhammad, see type #B407. It is unclear whether the Ibn Wazir on #B407 refers to Sidrāy b. Wazir or someone else.

J408.2 AR qirat, also citing al-Mahdi billah Muhammad b. ‘Abd Allah

KINGS OF BADAJOZ

Muhammad b. ‘Ali, fl. 543 / 1148

M408 AV dinar, struck at Badajoz (Batalyus) in 543, Almoravid style

REBELLION AT JAEN

Anonymous, 541 / 1146

P408 AV dinar, struck only at Jayyán (Jaen) in 541
In the name of the Muwahhidun ruler al-Mu‘min ibn ‘Ali, written out in full, with the title amir al-mu’minin (Medina Gómez 151a).

Stylistically similar to late qirats of the Murabitun.

Taifas Almohades

See Vives y Escudero, Monedas… as for the Muluk al-Tawa’if, useful for attribution, as the Arabic inscriptions are written out in full, and also Medina Gómez, who calls the series Anti-Almohades.

A group of minor principalities that emerged out of the ashes of the Almohad empire. Most were ephemeral apparitions, but a few survived to become significant powers, namely the Spanish Nasrids, along with the North African Murtidis, Hafsid, and Zyanids, whose coinage is listed under the respective dynasties. Both gold and silver were struck by the Taifas Almohades, but only the silver coins are occasionally available.

All gold dinars follow the Muwahhidun weight of about 4.65g, with the fractions proportionate. The silver dirhams, both round and square, maintain the weight of 1.54g. All issues of both metals were carefully struck with elegantly engraved dies.

Later Huidaids of Murcia

Silver coins were minted at Murcia, Sevilla, Játiva (Shatiba), Córdoba, Granada and Málaga. All are round. Gold coins are usually dated, silver always undated.

al-Mutawakkil Muhammad (b. Yusuf), 621-635 / 1224-1237

Y408 AV dinar, Mursiya mint, dated 626
The mint & date appears in the obverse margin, and the reverse field bears the Qur’an Verse 65:3.

Z408 AV ½ dinar, without mint & date
Half dinars of al-Mutawakkil and al-Wathiq (#Z409) have an inner circle field surrounded by a single marginal inscription on both faces. Stylistically and calligraphically they are so similar to the Rasulid silver dirhams introduced in Yemen by al-Muzaffar Yusuf in 648 that I am inclined to suggest that the Yemeni mints obtained a Murcia ½ dinar of these rulers as their model. The first Murcia dinar of this style was struck no later than 635, thirteen years before the Yemeni type was introduced.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 72
408  AR dirham  R
Struck at all 6 mints noted above, also without mint.

408A AR ½ dirham, several different mints  R
al-Wathiq Muhammad (b. Muhammad),
635-636 / 1237-1238 and 661-668 / 1262-1269

Y409 AV ½ dinar, inner circle with outer margin on both
sides, Mursiya mint, undated  RRR

Z409 AV ½ dinar, without marginal legends, Shatiba
(Játiva) mint, undated  RRR

W409 AV ¼ dinar, as #Y409 but much shorter legends,
without mint & date  RRR

409 AR dirham, struck at Mursiya, Shatiba, without mint
RR

409A AR ½ dirham, same mints all the round dirham

temp. Baha' al-Dawla, circa 639-659 / 1241-1261
All gold coins of this reign follow the traditional Muwahhidun
square-in-circle layout on both sides.

A410.1 AV ½ dinar, Mursiya 644  RRR
Mint & date in words filling the lower two lines of the reverse
square.

A410.2 AV ½ dinar, Mursiya 656 (perhaps also 650)  RRR
Mint & date within the four segments of the reverse margin.

B410.1 AV ¼ dinar, Mursiya 645  RRR
Mint & date fill the entire obverse & reverse square, duriba /
bi-mursiya / 'am on obverse, khans / wa arba'in / wa sittmi'a
on the reverse. This remarkably arrangement was not used again
until the 950s, on silver coins of the first of the Sa'idian Sharifs in
Morocco!

B410.2 AV ¼ dinar, Mursiya [6]56  RRR
Same arrangement as #A410.2, shorter legends.

INDEPENDENT GOVERNOR OF SABTA
Ahmad b. Muhammad (al-Muwa냐q bilhah),
known as Ahmad al-Yanashti, 630-635 / 1232-1237
Local governor after Sabta lost to the Hudids in 630/1232.

D410   AV dinar, dated 631  R
Fine style, similar to contemporary Almohad dinars, but with full
date written out in words in the reverse margin (631). Struck only
at Thaghr Sabta al-Mahrusa, an unusual expanded title for the
mint of Sabta (Ceuta), “port of Sabta, the protecte d”.

E410  AR round dirham, anonymous, Sabta 635
Obverse citing the 'Abbasid caliph al-Mustansir, re verse with
his name in the obverse field, “amir al-gharb”.

F410  AR square dirham, mint of Ishbiliya (Sevilla)  R

G410  AR square ½ dirham, no mint  R


H410  AR square dirham, mint of Balansiya (Valencia)
His name fills the obverse as al-Amir al-Mu'ayyid billah
al-Mujahid fi sabil Allah Abu Jumayl.

Musa b. Muhammad, known as Ibn Mahfuz, in Algarbe, 631-660 / 1234-1262

I410  AR square dirham  R
Without mint name & undated. Ruler entitled amir al-gharb,
“amir of the west”, i.e., of Algarbe (now spelled Algarve in
Portuguese).  

Other types exist, mostly anonymous, probably all very rare. A
few of the these issues are listed by Vives, #2124 & 2127 with
name, #2128-2129 anonymous.

NASRID OF GRANADA

Originally one of the Taifas Almohades, the Nasrids survived until
the final expulsion of the Arabs and Jews from Spain by
Ferdinand and Isabella in 897/1492, ironically the same year
that the Spanish adventurer Columbus “discovered” America.

Nasrid coinage consists of the gold dinar (dobra), the tiny gold
dinarin, the large silver double dirham, all Nasrid coins are undated.

Although Granada (Gharnata) was the principal mint, and the sole
mint for gold, silver coins were also struck at Málaga (Malaqa),
Almería, Wadi Ish (Guadix), and Jayyan (Jaen). Except for the copper
fals (#418), all Nasrid coins are undated.

Rarity indications for Nasrid gold are tentative.

It is not easy to distinguish the gold and silver double dirhams by
ruler, without consulting the works of Rodriguez Lorente or Medina
Gómez. For convenience, I have indicated each ruler’s name,
together with his ancestors, as it appears in the obverse field.

Immediately before the name appears the word al-amir up and
including Muhammad VII (794-810), thereafter the title al-'abd Allah.

All gold and silver coinage of the Nasrids bears the phrase wa la
ghalib illa Allah (“and there is no victor other than God”).

Muhammad I, 630-672 / 1237-1273
All other Nasrids inscribe their names in the obverse field.

L410 AV dinar, Gharnata, Malaqa & Mursiya mints  RRR
L410A AR square dirham  RRR
Muhammad II, 672-702 / 1273-1302 (sic)
Muhammad b. 'Abd Allah b. Nasr  RRR
M410 AV dinar, Gharnata mint  RRR
There are no coins known for his successors Muhammad III (702-709)
and Nasr I (709-714)

Isma'il I (b. Faraj), 714-724 / 1314-1325
“Isma'il b. Faraj b. Nasr”  RRR
N410 AV dinar, Gharnata mint  RRR
Muhammad IV (b. Isma'il II), 724-734 / 1325-1333
Nasr  RRR
O410 AV dinar, without mint name  RRR
Yusuf I (b. Isma'il I), 734-755 / 1333-1354
RRR
410 AV dinar, without mint name  S
Muhammad V (b. Yusuf I),
755-761 / 1354-1359 & 764-794 / 1362-1391
Muhammad b. Amir al-Muslinin Abi'l-Hajaj Yusuf b. (mawalana)
Amir al-Muslinin Abi'l-Walid Isma'il b. Nasr, with or without the
word mawalana
411 AV dinar, Gharnata of Sabta, or without mint name  R
411A AR double dirham  RRR
Isma'il II (b. Yusuf I), 761-762 / 1359-1360
(full inscription needed)

170 Reported by Husni Bakkar and identified by Tawfiq Ibrahim, 13 May
2002.

171 In the late 1990s a hoard of about 100-120 pieces appeared in the market,
but these are now dispersed, so that the type is once again eagerly sought, but
hard to locate.

172 Always five lines of inscriptions on both sides, the obverse (royal side)
normally identical to the obverse center of the corresponding dinar.

173 I have selected Rodriguez Lorente’s dates for the Nasrid rulers. The dates
presented by Medina Gómez are quite different.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 73
Anonymous

There are numerous varieties of these anonymous silver coins, struck predominantly during the 8th-9th/14th-15th century.\(^{175}\)

The copper coins are always dated (in words).

E416 AV dinarín (about 0.17g) RR

Struck on square planchet, unusual for gold.

416 AR square half dirham (about 0.8-1.0g) S

417 AR square quarter dirham (about 0.4-0.55g) S

418 AE fals, several mints, dated 879-894/1474-1489 S

Only Gharnata is often available. The other mints are all very rare (Malaqa, Wadi Ish & al-Mariya). These coppers are the only dated coins of the Nasrids, the first western Islamic coins in any metal to bear a date since 567 (except for a few Haddi coins between the 620s and 650s. Dates were restored for many North African issues during the later 10th/16th century.

NORTH AFRICAN DYNASTIES

IDRISID


The Idrisids ruled in Morocco and struck only silver dirhams and a few coppers. After the death of Muhammad b. Idris in 221/836, most Idrisid coins retain the name of a deceased ruler, making their attribution somewhat confusing. Also after 221, many Idrisid coins bear the name of a local ruler, either a member of the Idrisid family or a local governor. After about 250, the coinage is mostly anonymous.

Idrisid silver coinage can be divided into three periods. The first, extending from 173 until 197, is characterized by a dirham struck to a standard of about 2.6-2.7g. The dirham weight of the second period, 197-246, started around 2.3g but gradually fell to about 2.1g; it bears the name of a ruler, alive or deceased. Finally, the third period, from 247 to at least 276, is characterized by crudely struck, mainly anonymous coins, apparently to the same standard as the second period. In all periods, individual specimens often weigh 10% or more short of the standard.

More than 20 mints have been identified, and several unattributed mint names have also been recorded. The most common for the early period (before 197) are Tadgha and Walila, thereafter the principal mint was al-'Aliya, an honorific name for Fès, and Wazaqqur is also an occasional available. All other mints are very rare.

Idrisid silver of the first and third periods is usually somewhat weakly struck, often quite unattractive. Coins of the second period are usually neatly engraved, struck from fastidiously cut dies, and found in nice condition. The fals is universally crude and unattractive, rarely well struck, and normally found corroded or worn. Most fulus are dated, many bear the mint, but mint & date are almost always illegible on surviving specimens.

Pre-reform dirhams of Idris I and of Idris II until 196 bear Qur’an Verse 17:81, ja’ al-haqq wa zahaqa al-batil inn al-batil kana zuhuqa", in the reverse margin, whereas 197 and later dirhams normally bear the standard inscription, Verse 9:33, as on Umayyad & ‘Abbasid issues.

There was no gold coinage produced by the Idrisids or their contemporaries.

Idris I, 172-175 / 789-791

Idris II, 175-213 / 791-828

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 74
Syria, both of them also early Islamic mints.

422 AE fals, normally without mint name, sometimes dated, usually ugly

Muhammad b. Idris, 213-221 / 828-836
(al-Muntasir billah)

423 AR dirham

For posthumously dated coins, see #424, 425, 425A and 425G.

423A AE fals, crudely struck, with name muhammad only, may have mint or date

‘Ali b. Muhammad, 221-234 / 836-849
Coins of ‘Ali were struck in the name of his deceased father, Muhammad b. Idris.

424 AR dirham

A very few also mention ‘Ali in the obverse field, though it has not been determined if this ‘Ali refers to the Idrisid ruler, a local governor, or the long deceased caliph ‘Ali b. Abi Talib.

Yahya I b. Muhammad, 234-249 / 849-863
Like dirhams of his brother ‘Ali, those of Yahya I are in the name of his father, Muhammad.

425 AR dirham, technically anonymous

425A AR dirham, with the governor of Fès, Abu Sahl (al-Judhami), struck at al-‘Aliya 238-235 (sic)

Yahya II b. Yahya, 249-252 / 863-866

425G AR dirham, dated only 250, technically anonymous

Citing only the deceased Idrisid ruler Muhammad b. Idris, with Muhammad’s title al-Muntasir billah as usual.


426 AR dirham

The obverse field bears the three names ‘Ali, ‘Isa and Idris, from top to bottom, none of which refer to a living person. The reverse field has muhammad khatim al-nabiyin sadiq, “Muhammad is the Seal of the Prophets, the Friend”. Struck at Wazaqqur from 233 until at least 276, with some rare issues struck at Baht & Warzigha.

After the death of Idris II in 213/828, much of the patrimony was partitioned amongst various family members, of whom the following are known to have struck coins:

al-Qasim b. Idris II, at al-Basra,

fl. circa 245-254 / 859-869

427 AR dirham

Ibrahim b. al-Qasim, at al-Basra, fl. 270-280 / 883-893

427E AR dirham, known dated 276 & 280

Yahya b. Idris II, at Tudgha, circa 213-233 / 828-847

428 AR dirham

Struck only at Tudgha 224-233, often with an additional name, perhaps a moneyer.


429 AR dirham

Coins mainly from Wazaqqur, also some extremely rare issues struck at Ziz and Wamahna.

Da’ud b. Idris II, in northern Morocco, 213-263+ / 828-877+ (died before 270/884)

A430 AR dirham

Struck at Ama den, precise location unknown, dated 225 only.

Muhammad b. Da’ud, at Wazaqqur, fl. 270 / 883-884

B430 AR dirham

Known only from Wazaqqur dated 270.

KHALAJITE OF TUDGHA

The following four issues can be securely attributed to the Kharijites, either by historic references in medieval chronicles (Khalaf b. al-Muda’ & ‘Iyad b. Wahd) or by the religious inscriptions on the coins.

Khalaf b. al-Muda’, 175-176 / 791-792

430 AR dirham

Khalaf was a leader of the Sufri sect of the Kharijites. All of his dirhams were minted at Tudgha. They usually bear a few letters (sometimes a full name), most commonly to the left of la ilah illa in the obverse field.179 The meaning of these marks is unknown (could it refer to the owner of the silver brought in for mintage?). The name of Khalaf appears on later dirhams of Tudgha through at least the year 189, though there is no indication that Khalaf had retained any actual authority after 176. On dirhams dated 175-176, the reverse margin bears the full name of Khalaf followed by an unusual inscription, amara bi’l-haqq wa’t-wafa al-barr wa’t-taqwa barakat min Allah, purportedly in order to attest the purity of the silver!

Anonymous, circa 180-187 / 796-803

430C AR dirham, similar to #430 but without any name

With Qur’an Verse 9:33 in reverse margin.

‘Amr b. Hammad, 176 / 792-793

431 AR dirham

‘Amr was the ephemeral successor to Khalaf b. al-Muda’.

‘Iyad b. Wahd, fl. circa 178-180 / 794-796

432 AR dirham

Another Kharijite leader. Coins minted at Tudgha and Wazzana.

OTHER CONTEMPORARIES OF THE IDRISIDS

A number of local rulers, mostly of the Sufri and ‘Ibadi sects, struck coins in southern Morocco during the reigns of Idris I and Idris II. Only the dirhams of Khalaf b. al-Muda’ (listed above as #430) are frequently available.180 Most of these are included in Eustache’s corpus of Idrisid coins, though additional variants continue to be discovered.

Zufar, fl. 175-186 / 791-802

A433 AR dirham

Unknown personage. All coins minted at Tudgha.

Ibrahim, fl. 177 / 793

C433 AR dirham, Tudgha mint, dated 177

Unknown personage, likely not the Ibrahim that later founded the Aghlabid dynasty. Peus auction 378, lot 1282, with clear date.

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179 Most of these were published by Eustache. For an illustrated group, see SARc-5, lots 128-152. Some bear these initials or short names hidden in the reverse field, or tucked beneath a word somewhere in the obverse or reverse margin. In a few cases, there are two separate names or initials, or the same one repeated in two locations.

180 “God ordered faith and justice on piety and reverence, blessing from God”, said to confirm the fineness of the silver coins.

I acquired a group of about 150 pieces in 2006, and have been offering them in my auctions & fixed pricelists since then, sold out by 2011.
Qays b. Yusuf, fl. 181-185 / 797-801

D433 AR dirham
Qays b. Yusuf is unknown, but may have been governor at Fès, as one of his dirhams bears that mint name (dated 184). Coins struck at Fès & Wallila.

Zaynab, at Tugdaha only, fl. 200 / 815

B433 AR dirham, with the moneyer’s name Ya’akov in Hebrew (Eustache-75) or without (Eustache-74) RRR
These remarkable coins were struck only at Tugdaha in 200.181

In the name of Ma’zuz b. Talut, 223-224 / 838-839

433 AR dirham
Ma’zuz b. Talut has never been identified, but may well refer to Abu Talut, who was an important Kharjijite officer during the last 1/7th century, probably in contact with Qatari b. al-Fuja’a (active 69-78, see type #33).

SULAYMANID


Ibrahim, Tawfiq, “Coin Supplement...”, al-Sikka, v.3.1 (Summer 2001).

A minor dynasty in what is now western Algeria, founded no later than 217/832 by Muhammad b. Sulayman b. ‘Abd Allah, whose father Sulayman was the brother of Idris I, the founder of the Idrisid dynasty. Their coinage consists exclusively of silver dirhams, though some obscure anonymous copper fulus were perchance issued by the Sulaymanids.

The coins of the first ruler bear the mint name Tilimsan (Tlemçen). Their coinage consists exclusively of silver dirhams, though some obscure anonymous copper fulus were perchance issued by the Sulaymanids.

The coins of the first ruler bear the mint name Tilimsan (Tlemçen). Subsequent coins bear the mint Madinat X, where X repeats the name of the ruler, “the city of X”, presumably referring to the capital, Suq Ibrahim. Most later coins lack the mint name altogether. Except for coins of Sulayman b. Muhammad and the latest issues (#H434-434), all are dated. They are generally found in excellent preservation and strike.

Muhammad b. Sulayman, fl. 213-227 / 828-842

A434 AR dirham, Tilimsan mint only RRR

Ibrahim b. Muhammad, fl. 256-258 / 870-872

B434 AR dirham, mint Madinat Ibrahim RRR

‘Isa b. Ibrahim, fl. 273-277 / 886-890

C434 AR dirham, mint Madinat ‘Isa RRR

al-Qasim b. ‘Isa, fl. 281-283 / 894-897

D434 AR dirham, mint Madinat al-Qasim RRR

Ahmad b. ‘Isa, at Suq Ibrahim, fl. 287-295 / 901-908

E434 AR dirham, mint Madinat Ahmad RR

Sulayman b. Muhammad, genealogy unknown, probably at Tanas, circa 290s / 900s-910s

F434 AR dirham (undated) RRR

Yahya b. Muhammad (b. Ibrahim), at Tanas, fl. 293-297 / 906-910 & later

G434 AR dirham (about 2g), without mint name RRR

H434 AR fractional dirham (about 0.80g) R

Denomination is possibly ¼ dirham or ¼ qirat. A few of these fractional dirhams bear the mint name Tanja (Tangiers), and a few are dated in the marginal inscription, usually so coarsely engraved as to be undecipherable. This type has also been assigned to the Maghrāwī dynasty, for which there is no convincing evidence. These tiny coins are very crudely struck, normally with debased epigraphy. Several small groups were in the market in the 1970s and 1980s, now thoroughly dispersed.

‘Abd-al-Mutallib, unknown, early 4th / 10th century

I434 AR fractional dirham (0.80g+) RRR

Known mints are Aghmat & Tanja, probably always undated.

Anonymous, early 4th / 10th century

J434 AR fractional dirham (0.80g+), coarse imitation of types H434 & H434, usually with illegible name(s) R

AMIRS OF TILIMSAN

An unknown local authority, believed to have represented a tribal group known as the Nezfa, who controlled Tilimsan (Tlemçen) when it fell from Idrisid domination, circa 180-198 / 796-814. All coins from the mint of Tilimsan.

Anonymous, circa 180-198 / 796-814

T434 AR dirham RR

Known dated 180 with rabi’ below reverse (often very coarsely written). 191 with taysib and 198 with al-layth below reverse. All bear Qur’an Verse 9:33 in the reverse margin.

MAGHRĀWĪ (see #H434 ff., now assigned to the Sulaymanid dynasty)

AGHLABID

al-‘Ush, Muhammad Abu-l-Faraj, Monnaies aglabides, Damascus 1982, an excellent work, now somewhat obsolete, especially for silver.

See also De Luca 1998 (cited for the Fatimid Caliphate).

Aghlabid coinage followed ‘Abbāsid models. The gold dinars are similar to those of the ‘Abbāsid caliph al-Rashīd, but have the name of the Aghlabid beneath the reverse, with the date in the reverse margin. The early silver retains the western ‘Abbāsid style of al-‘Abbāsīya and ḥāṭīq, as does the copper. The Aghlabids were overthrown by the rising Fatimids in 296/908.

Aghlabid gold coins never mention the mint name, but are believed to have been struck at either ḥāṭīq or the nearby settlement al-‘Abbāsīya. These two mint names do occur on the silver and copper, both of which normally bear the name of a mint. A few other mints are known, including Balarm (Palermo) in Sicily, where a local silver coinage was introduced after its conquest from the Byzantines in 215/831.

Aghlabid gold coins were always carefully struck, but are typically found worn, crinkled or damaged. Because the letters were stamped inby punches, the calligraphy tends to be distressingly poor, especially on the quarter dinars. All gold coinage bears the word ghulib (الغلب) above the reverse field, as does most of the silver and copper.

The early dinars (until about 210) were well struck, with full mint and date almost always visible on well-preserved specimens. With a few extremely rare exceptions (and some limited Sicilian issues), silver coinage was not resumed until the reign of ‘Abd al-Mutallib II, who struck half dinars (or were they called “dirham” or “qirat”?!) at ḥāṭīq and al-‘Abbāsīya. Some of the later rulers also struck fractional silver dinars of varying weight in Sicily.

Copper coins were generally rather indifferently struck, and commonly found worn, damaged or corroded condition. Copper coinage was discontinued after the death of ‘Abd al-Mutallib I in 242/856. Many gold coins from the 240s onward cite an additional name below the reverse field. These individuals have not been identified, and were perhaps the current mintmasters.

Ibrahim I, 184-196 / 800-811

434 AV dinar RR

Struck only 189-192; gold resumed under ‘Abd Allah I in 197.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 76
435.1 AR dirham, in the sole name of Ibrahim, without al-Ma’mun, heir to the ‘Abbasid caliphate, struck 184-187

A few dirhams dated after 187 also lack the name of the caliph al-Ma’mun, perhaps the use of obsolete reverse dies. However, the type without caliph was used 194-195 (undetermined rarity).

Most dirhams of Ibrahim I were struck at Ifriqiya, less at al-‘Abbasiya.

435.2 AR dirham, citing both Ibrahim and al-Ma’mun, struck 187-194, possibly also 195

435.3 AR dirham, as #434.1 but with the name Musa added in the obverse center, struck 195-196 at Ifriqiya (dates sometimes misread as 185 or 186)

435.4 AR dirham, as #434.1 but with the name Isma’il added in the obverse center, 196 only

436 AE fals

Rebellion against Ibrahim, anonymous, 195 / 210-211

Strictly anonymous, without the caliph and without ghalib above the reverse field.

436R AR dirham, anonymous, with bakh above & li’l-khalifa beneath reverse field, Ifriqiya 195 only

‘Abd Allah I, 196-201 / 811-816

437 AV dinar

438 AV ¼ dinar

B438 AR dirham, Ifriqiya, all dates 196-201

Ziyadat Allah I, 201-223 / 816-837

438 AV dinar

Most dinars of this reign struck 206-223 have the word masrur, of unknown significance, beneath the obverse. It is also recorded on the obverse of a dirham of Ifriqiya 209.

439 AV ¼ dinar

439.1 AR dirham, Ifriqiya mint, dated 202-204, citing Musa in obverse center

No dirhams dated 205 or any time have been reported.

439.2 AR dirham, Ifriqiya 206-209, citing Masrur in obverse center, later date may exist

439S AR dirham, Siqilliya mint, known dated 214, 217, and 220

Year 214 cites Muhammad b. al-Jawari (?), 217 cites ‘Uthman b. Musa, 220 cites Muhammad b. ‘Abd Allah.

440 AE fals

Rebellion against Ziyadat Allah I, 207-210 / 822-825

A441.1 AR dirham, fully anonymous, with bakh above & li’l-khalifa beneath reverse field, Ifriqiya

Known dated 207-210. For a similar type dated 195, see #436R.

A441.2 AR dirham, with li’l-khalifa and name ‘Ulwân beneath 2nd line of obverse field, Ifriqiya, known dated 210

A441.3 AR dirham, with li’l-khalifa and name ‘Ali beneath 2nd line of obverse field, Majjana mint (tentative reading), dated 210

A441.4 AR dirham, without li’l-khalifa but name Mansur b. Nasr beneath reverse field, Ifriqiya, dated 210

Al-A’jjabi read the date as 220 but the illustration by De Luca clearly shows that the date is 210.

al-Aghlab, 223-226 / 837-840

441 AV dinar

442 AE fals

Muhammad I, 226-242 / 840-856

R 443 AV dinar

Some examples have the name of an unidentified official beneath the obverse. Thereafter, from 242-296, dinars were struck both with and without the additional name, about seven different names in all.

A444 AV ¼ dinar

B444 AR dirham, approximately 3g, al-‘Abbasid mint

C444 AR fractional dirham, Sicilian mints only (normally Balarm, i.e., Palermo)

Weights vary from 1.3-1.9g (dated 230). Another subtype weighs about 0.85-0.95g and is possibly a ½ dirham (known dated 241).

D444 AE fals

Ahmad, 242-249 / 856-863

S 444 AV dinar

A445 AV ¼ dinar

B445 AR ½ dirham (0.6-0.9g), Siqilliya only

Known from mint of Balarm dated 246 and 249. The relationship of this denomination as one third of the canonical dirham is very tentative.

Ziyadat Allah II, 249-250 / 863-864

T445 AV dinar

445 AR ¼ dirham, about 0.6-0.7g

Struck in Sicily, with mint name Siqilliya or Balarm (Palermo). Denomination uncertain.

Muhammad II, 250-261 / 864-874

C 446 AV dinar

A447 AV ¼ dinar

Ibrahim II, 261-289 / 874-902

447 AV dinar

448 AV ¼ dinar

This is the most common ¼ dinar of the Aghlabid series. Die engraving is often so ghastly that the date is illegible.

449 AR ½ dirham (1.45g)

Some authorities regard this denomination as a full dirham, but al-‘Ush considers it as the half. Mint of al-‘Abbasid or without mint, usually dated, from 273 onward.

450 AR 1/107 dirham (0.25g)

Struck in Sicily, but without mint name. The denomination is uncertain, perhaps a kharuba. Several dates are known, between 275 and 281.

‘Abd Allah II, 289-290 / 902-903

451 AV dinar

451A AV ¼ dinar

Ziyadat Allah III, 290-296 / 903-908

452 AV dinar

AMIRS OF SICILY

Sulayman b. Da’ud, fl. 216 / 831

C453 AR dirham, Siqilliya 216 only

With sulayman bin / da’ud in the obverse center. Mint & date on reverse, with Qur’an Surat 112 in the field.

Ahmad b. Qurhub, 299-304 / 912-916

G453 AV ¼ dinar, without mint name, known dated 302 & 303

Cited as simply Ahmad, distinguished from #A445 by date and style. The name is beneath the reverse field, as on Aghlabid gold.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 77
MIDRARID

A minor dynasty at Sijilmasa in east central Morocco, now close to the Algerian border, only one of whose members struck coins.

Midrarid coinage, produced only in gold, never bears the name of the mint, but was undoubtedly struck at the capital, Sijilmasa. The dinars are generally very carefully struck, though sometimes on narrow flans, and are stylistically similar to contemporary western Fatimid dinars.

al-Shakir Muhammad b. al-Fath, 321-347 / 933-958

453 AV dinar, with ruler’s name & no titles (struck circa 334-340) R
454 AV dinar, similar, but with added title amir al-mu minin (struck from about 340 onwards) RR

BANU KHAZAR


A minor dynasty of a confederation of Berber tribes known as the Maghrawa, centered in what is now the north-western region of Algeria. Their capital was probably located at or near the medieval city of Tahart. They ruled from before 298/911 until 361/972, and were often vassals of either the Umayyads of Spain or the Fatimids.

Coins are known only of al-Khayr b. Muhammad b. Kazar. None of the surviving coins reveal a mint name.

al-Khayr b. Muhammad, circa 316-342+ / 928-953+

Q455 AR dirham, as vassal of the Spanish Umayyad, 'Abd al-Rahman III, known dated 330 RRR
R455 AR dirham, as vassal of the Fatimid al-Mu'izz, allegedly recognized as overlord in 342 RRR

Lavoix #932, without mint or date, apparently still unique.

KHAZRUNIDS

A minor dynasty in Sijilmasa, of Berber origin and distantly related to the Banu Kazran. The Khazrunids struck crude gold dinars and silver dirhams, the latter extremely rare. The family originally served as officials for the Spanish Umayyads, obtaining independence after the Umayyad collapse.

All coinage was presumably struck at Sijilmasa, though the mint name is never indicated and all are normally undated. The coinage of Wanudin is anonymous, whereas that of Mas'ud bears the ruler’s name, occasionally with his patronymic. All coins were crudely struck, with virtually illegible marginal inscriptions.

Wanudin, d. circa 440 / 1048

455 AV dinar R
Most of Wanudin’s coinage is technically anonymous, usually citing only the fictitious Spanish caliph 'Abd Allah, some without any caliphal name. Its style is distinctive and rather unattractive.

Mas'ud b. Wanudin, circa 440-445 / 1048-1053

456 AV dinar, with the name Mas'ud, sometimes with the patronymic bin wanudin RR
457 AR qirat, several variants RRR

BANU IFRAN

An important Berber tribal dynasty, part of the Zenata tribal complex spread throughout various portions of what is now Morocco and Algeria. They ruled from pre-Islamic times until the middle of the 5th/11th century.

Coins are reported solely of Yaddu b. Ya’la, without known mint (possibly Fès?). Yaddu normally allied with the Spanish Umayyads, more rarely with the Fatimids, though little is known of these relationships.

Yaddu b. Ya’la, 347-383 / 958-993

457N AR dirham, as vassal of the Fatimid al-Mu’izz (341-365) RRR
First published by Lavoix, #933. Unknown with legible mint or date.

ZRID OF QAYRAWAN

A Sanhaja Berber dynasty in what is now Tunisia. Distinctive Zirid coinage was struck only 441-449 and are all anonymous, distinguished from contemporary Fatimid gold coins by the legend within the reverse field, Qur’an Verse 3:85. Earlier and later issues were struck in the name of the Fatimid caliph and are therefore catalogued as Fatimid issues. See #372-373 for coinage of the Spanish Zirid branch. There are a few extremely rare black dirhams struck much later, during the lengthy reign of al-Hasan b. 'Ali (515-563).

Zirid dinars were minted predominantly at al-Qayrawan, usually preceded with the epithet madinat ‘izz al-islam, and are almost always dated. A few dinars bear the mint name al-Mahdiya (446-447, both RRR). Quarter dinars and the silver lack the mint and are normally undated. Dinars of al-Mahdiya dated 449-457 are purely Fatimid, even though Hazard assigned them to the Zirids.

al-Mu’izz b. Badis, 406-454 / 1016-1062

458 AV dinar R
Isma‘ili dinars and quarter dinars of Sabra 439-440 assigned by Hazard to al-Mu’izz are normal Fatimid types of al-Mustansir (type #719).
459 AV ¼ dinar R
460 AR fractional dirham S
Most are struck in somewhat debased to heavily debased silver, always without mint or date, from dies with loathsome calligraphy.


460D BI dirham aswad, no mint or date, various types RRR

BANU HILAL

A local Sunni polity in western Libya, the Banu Hilal struck bullion and gold coins during the mid-5th/11th century. All bear the standard kalima in the obverse field, the names of the four Rashidun (Abu Bakr, 'Umar, 'Uthman, 'Ali) in the reverse field.

Most dinars and all fractions and billon lack the mint name, but on a few dinars, the mint name Atribulus can be discerned (Tripoli in Libya), but they are always undated. They are always weakly struck and rather ugly.

Anonymous, mid-5th/11th century

A461 AV dinar RRR
B461 AV ¼ dinar RRR
C461 BI dirham RRR

BARGHAWATID OF FAX

The Barghawatid rulers served as Zirid governors, but then rebelled against their rulers. They distinguished their coins by using Sunni instead of Shi‘ite inscriptions. All of their coinage is anonymous.

All coins were of Fatimid/Zirid design and were struck at Madinat al-Fasaq (Fes) in Fes. The obverse & reverse area inscriptions are similar to those of the North African Zirids, but the obverse margin is the Prophetic Mission (Qur’an Verse 9:33).


E461 AV dinar (Safaqas 449 and 450 only) RRR
With the extended Sunni kalima in the obverse field, Qur’an Verse 3:47 in the reverse field.

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183 One example, in Palombo auction 8, lot 94, is clearly dated, read by the editor as [4]40 but more likely 4xx.

184 Nicol has published two dated specimens, #1491 of Tarabulus 426 and #1492 of Atrabulus 431 (sic), which he assigned to the Khazrunids, each with the four Rashidun in the reverse field. Further research necessary.

F461 AV dinar, type as #A461, Safaqus mint, known dated 461 only

Normal kalima in the obverse field, the names of the four Rashidun in the reverse field.

MURABITUN (ALMORAVID)

Hazard, H.W., The Numismatic History of Late Medieval North Africa (ANS Numismatic Studies #8), New York, 1952. This work also covers many subsequent dynasties.


The Almoravids descends from the Berber tribe known as Lamtunah. They struck coins in gold and fine silver, the latter known by the name of qirat ("carat"), as well as some billon dirhams struck at Spanish mints under 'Ali b. Yusuf. Some of their coins show exquisite calligraphic art (especially #466.3). Coins were struck at mints both in North Africa and in Spain after the first Spanish conquests in the 480s/1090s. The dinar weighed about 4.15g, the qirat about one gram.

Except for the early Khazrunid-style issues (#461 & 461.1), nearly all Almoravid gold bears the mint & date. For the early period (until 500), the only common mint is Sijilmasa, the sole mint until 479. Thereafter, several mints are frequently seen: al-Mariya (Almería), Ishbiliya (Sevilla), Ighranata (Granada), Fès, Marrakesh, Aghmat, Nil Lanta, together with Sijilmasa. In all, more than 30 mints struck gold for this dynasty. Coins of the Spanish mints are generally more highly prized, as they are sought by Spanish numismatists who, not surprisingly, usually eschew the North African mints.

The silver qirats and fractions are always undated and rarely bear the name of the mint. Those with mint name are rare.

Both the silver of the qirat series and all gold were generally struck with great care, and tend to be well-preserved. The Spanish billon dirham series was not so fastidiously manufactured, and examples are usually less attractively preserved. The North

All Murabitid gold dinars, except #461 and 461.1, bear the Qur'anic Verse 3:85 in the obverse field, the names of the four al-imam 'abd Allah amir al-mu'minin in the reverse field. For “year”, most dinars employ the traditional word sana, some later dinars use the alternative word 'am.

Contemporary, or near-contemporary, imitations of Almoravid gold dinars are not especially rare, usually in the name of 'Ali b. Yusuf. They were struck from badly engraved dies, with poor calligraphy and many spelling errors. They are almost always found holed or pierced, which suggests that they were made for jewelry, either in Muslim regions or in the southern parts of Christian Europe.

Yahya b. 'Umar, 445-448 / 1053-1056

M461 AV dinar, crude style of previous Khazrunid issues, without mint or date

Abu Bakr b. 'Umar, 448-480 / 1056-1087

461.1 AV dinar, crude Khazrunid style as M461, never dated, probably struck circa 448-450

461.2 AV dinar, new fine style (commencing in 450, always dated)

Mints other than Sijilmasa are extremely rare.

Henceforth, with the exception of the ¼ dinar, all gold coins bear full mint & date, and were painstakingly struck on broad thin round flans.

462 AR qirat

462A AR ½ qirat

Ibrahim b. Abu Bakr, governor of Sijilmasa, 462-467 / 1070-1074

463 AV dinar, struck only at Sijilmasa

These dinars cite only Ibrahim, who might have been in some sort of rebellion at Sijilmasa against his father Abu Bakr.

Yusuf b. Tashufin, 480-500 / 1087-1106

464.1 AV dinar, in his name only

Struck 480-498 at North African mints (S), 489-497 at Spanish mints (R).

464.2 AV dinar, also citing the heir 'Ali b. Yusuf

Struck 497-499 and possibly 500 at North African mints (RR), 497-500 at Spanish mints (R).

46A AV ¼ dinar, Sijilmasa mint only (Hazard #91)

Somewhat uncertain attribution, possibly belonging to a much later but still undetermined ruler. Always undated, and stylistically utterly different from any other Murabitun coins.

46.1 AR qirat, several variants, in the name of Yusuf only, usually without mint, always undated

Reported mints are Fes, Ishbiliya and Sanluka, all RRR.

46.2 AR qirat, citing Yusuf as well as his son and heir al-Amir 'Ali, almost always without mint

RR

A466 AR ½ qirat

Both the ½ and ¼ qirat bear the ruler’s name on obverse (al-amir / yusuf on the ½, just yusuf on the ¼), with a blank reverse.

B466 AR ¼ qirat

'Ali b. Yusuf, 500-537 / 1106-1142

466.1 AV dinar, without heir, struck 500-522

Dinars of Ishbiliya dated 519-522 and 522-526 of type #466.2 bear the name Yasar beneath the reverse field. The only instance of a local name (munmaster?) on Murabitun dinars.

466.2 AV dinar, with Sir as heir, struck 522-533

C

466.3 AV dinar, with Tashufin as heir, struck 533-537

C

Dinars of this type struck at Fes and dated 535-537 exhibit superbly delicate calligraphy, and are much prized by collectors, though they are actually amongst the most common examples of Almoravid gold coinage. On the other hand, dinars of Almería 530-537 are calligraphically rude, also common.

466E AV fractional dinar (pale gold), without mint or date, stylistically similar to Muluk al-Tawā'if issues

A pointillate circle between two linear circles on both sides, no marginal inscriptions. Known without heir, with Sir, but not with Tashufin. Always without mint & date, probably struck in Spain.

467.1 AR qirat, normally without mint, without heir

The qirats and fractions reflect the heir, as on the gold, but are always undated. All three subtypes of #467 occur in a large number of inscriptions, calligraphic, and arrangement variations. Very few examples of each variety bear the mint name.185

467.2 AR qirat, normally without mint, heir Sir

C

467.3 AR qirat, normally without mint, heir Tashufin

C

468 AR ½ qirat, normally without mint

Half qirats with mint name are extremely rare. The reverse is usually blank, sometimes bears a small symbol. Known without the heir, and with either Sir or Tashufin as heir.

A469 AR ¼ qirat, similar, almost always without name of mint and usually with blank reverse

RR

B469 AR ¼ qirat, similar, just 'ali on obverse, blank reverse

469 BI dirham, usually with mint name and almost always dated

Average about 3-4g. Broad & round, rather brownish in color. Struck at Valencia (503), Zaragoza (504-509), Cuenca (506), Murcia (508-511 & 525-526), Granada (519-520 or undated) and Jaen (536), of which only Granada is occasionally available.

470 BI fractional dirham, style as last

Struck on irregularly shaped blanks (hacksilver), at one or more undetermined mints in Spain. Because these fractions were struck from broad dies made for the full dirhams, minor portions of the marginal text is occasionally legible, but the mint and date are almost never discernible.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 79

185 Hazard reports the qirat mints of Sabta, Miskassa, Ishbiliya, Qurtuba and Malaqa for #467.1, Sabta and Tanja for #467.2, only Sabta for #467.3. All are very rare, and all are undated, except for Qurtuba, whose qirats are always dated (502-507).

186 In 1893, Vives y Escudero published four specimens (Vye-1835, 1842, 1844 and 1848), each described as "fragmento de dirhem sin orlas" (sin orlas = without margins). In 1952, Hazard quoted all four (his #908, 910, 909, 975, respectively), listed them as dirhams with "margins, if any, illegible", and assigned them to North Africa. Only #1835 (908) is described as a "fragment", but in his supplement in ANS Museum Notes, he "corrected"
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Coinage</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>476-479</td>
<td>AR ½ qirat, without heir</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Qurtuba</td>
<td>All silver qirats and fractions lack a mint name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>472</td>
<td>AR qirat, without heir</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Sijilmasa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>473</td>
<td>AR ½ qirat, with or without heir</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Sijilmasa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>473C</td>
<td>AR ¼ qirat, without heir</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Sijilmasa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>473D</td>
<td>AR ⅛ qirat, without heir, sometimes with blank reverse</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>Sijilmasa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>474</td>
<td>AR qirat, always without mint name</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>Sijilmasa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>475</td>
<td>AR qirat, without mint name</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Sijilmasa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>475A</td>
<td>AR qirat, fancy Naskhi script, with mint name</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Qurtuba</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>476</td>
<td>AR ½ qirat</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Sijilmasa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>476C</td>
<td>AR ¼ qirat</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Sijilmasa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>476D</td>
<td>AR ⅛ qirat</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Sijilmasa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>From 'Ali b. Yusuf onwards, there are a few additional silver fractions of the qirat, including some alleged 1/10 qirat, all extremely rare, as well as a plethora of variants of the “mintless” full qirat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yahya b. Abi Bakr b. ‘Ali, ca. 542-543 / 1147-1148</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yahya was the last Murabitid to hold out against the Muwahhidun, called al-Sahrawi (“of the Sahara”), based in Sijilmasa (Ceuta).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Bani Tashufin” (“sons of Tashufin”), struck briefly after 541 / 1146</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kalima obverse, reverse legend Allahamama arham umara al-muslimin bani tashufin, “O God, have mercy on the commanders of the Muslims, the sons of Tashufin.” The ½ qirat has only the qirat reverse legend, divided between the two sides. See type #C407 for related gold coinage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anonymous, probably just after 541 / 1146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AR ¼ qirat, muhammad rasul Allah / symbol closely resembling Latin Z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V478 AV dinar (4.62g), Fés of without mint (Gómez-168) RRR
The full dinar. *abu* dobla, bears ‘Abd al-Mu’mín’s name and titles in the reverse field, with lengthy religious legends in the outer segments on both sides. The ½ and ¼ dinars cite ‘Abd al-Mu’mín in the reverse outer segments.

189 The assignment of this coin to Yusuf II is still regarded as tentative; it was published by Madina Gómez as type no. 180, assigned to Yusuf II.

478 AV ½ dinar (2.31g) C
479 AV ¼ dinar (1.15g) R

Q480 AR qirat (about 0.9g), Murabitid style (Gómez-194) RRR
480 AR round dirham (square-in-circle both sides), with ruler’s name (about 1.54g), without mint name

481.1 AR square ½ dirham, with ruler’s name (about 0.77g), without mint name
A square ¼ dirham is reported but not confirmed, without mint, perhaps a clipped down specimen of the half dirham.

481.2 AR square ½ dirham, similar, but with mint name (Gómez lists five Spanish & three African mints) RRR

Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad, as heir, 551-558 / 1156-1163

482 AV ½ dinar
Upon the death of ‘Abd al-Mu’mín, this prince Muhammad was eliminated from the succession in favor of Abu Ya’qub. His coins were struck during his father’s lifetime as heir, and were minted principally at Bijaia (Béjaïa in Algeria, spelled Bougie in French). They cite ‘Abd al-Mu’mín in the reverse field and Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad in the reverse margin.

483 AC ¼ dinar
In 563/1168, Yusuf acquired the title *amir al-mu’mínin*, which was subsequently added to the coin legends. Both types, with or without that title, are relatively common. His name always appears in the reverse marginal segments, with ‘Abd al-Mu’mín cited in the reverse field. No full dinars have been assigned to Yusuf I.

483A AV ¼ dinar

Abu Yusuf Ya’qub (b. Yusuf), 558-580 / 1163-1184

484 AV dinar (dobra, 4.62g) S
The name & titles of his father Yusuf are in the lower 2 lines of the reverse field, and Ya’qub’s name & titles in the reverse margin, *amir al-mu’mínin abu yusuf ya’qub bin amir al-mu’mínin bin amir al-mu’mínin*. The obverse margin has purely religious legends.

A485 AV ¼ dinar (1.15g) R
Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad (b. Ya’qub), 595-610 / 1199-1213

485 AV dinar
The reverse field and margin are identical to #484, but the religious inscription of the obverse margin has been replaced with the name & titles of Muhammad, *amir al-mu’mínin abu ‘abd Allah Muhammad bin al-khulaifa* al-rashidin.

Comminging with this ruler Muhammad, all issues retain this style, so only the obverse margin is noted hereafter.

Abu Ya’qub Yusuf II (b. Muhammad), 610-620 / 1213-1224

486 AV dinar
Yusuf II retained the same reverse margin as #484, with his own name and titles in the obverse margin, *amir al-mu’mínin abu ya’qub yusuf bin al-khulaifa* al-rashidin.

486A AV ¼ dinar
The ½ dinar of Yusuf I (#483) bears a religious inscription in the obverse margin, whereas those of Yusuf II bear the inscription *amir al-mu’mínin abu ya’qub bin al-khulaifa* al-rashidin in the obverse margin.

Abu Muhammad ‘Abd Allah b. Ya’qub, 621-624 / 1224-1227

487 AV dinar
Identified by the obverse margin, *amir al-mu’mínin abu muhammad ‘abd Allah bin al-imam / al-mansur amir al-mu’mínin / bin amir al-mu’mínin*. The reverse field and margin are filled with his ancestor’s names and titles.

Abu’l-‘Ula Idris I, 624-629 / 1227-1232

487 AV dinar
Obverse margin: *al-mujahid al-ma’mun / amir al-mu’mínin abu’l-‘ula / idris bin al-mansur amir al-mu’mínin / bin al-khalifatayn amir al-mu’mínin*. 

Abu Zakariya’ Yahya, 624-633 / 1227-1236

In rebellion against Abu’l-‘Ula until 629, then opposed by Abu Muhammad ‘Abd al-Wahid II 630-633.

488 AV dinar
Obverse margin: *amir al-mu’mínin / abu zakariya’ / yahya ibn al-khulaifa’ al-rashidin*

Abu Musa ‘Imran, in rebellion at Ceuta (Sabta), 629-630 / 1227-1228

Only silver coins reported for this rebel.

489 AR square dirham, without mint name

Abu Muhammad ‘Abd al-Wahid II (al-Rashid), 630-640 / 1232-1242

489 AV dinar
Obverse margin: *amir al-mu’mínin / al-murtada li-amr / Allah abu hafs bin al-amir / al-zahir ibrahim / ibn al-khalifatayn* (sometimes slightly differently arranged). The fractions have shorter versions but all include the title *abu hafs* in the obverse margin. His personal name ‘Umar never appears on his coins. Many examples of #491 and 492 bear the mint name, either Sabta or Sijilmasa.

490 AV dinar
Obverse margin: *amir al-mu’mínin al-as’ad / al-mu’tadid billah abu’l-hasan / ibn amir al-mu’mínin al-mu’mun / ibn al-khulaifa’ al-rashidin*

A variation ends in *al-mu’man amir al-mu’mínin*. All lack his personal name ‘Ali.

Abu Hafs ‘Umar (al-Murtada), 646-665 / 1248-1266

Obverse margin: *amir al-mu’mínin al-murtada li-amr / Allah abu hafs bin al-amir / al-zahir ibrahim / ibn al-khalifatayn* in place of mint name. 

192 Alawi muzzanas of al-Rashid (type #582), struck more than 400 years later.

Abu’l-Hasan ‘Ali (al-Mu’tadid), 640-646 / 1242-1248

490 AR dinar

Abu Muhammad ‘Abd al-Wahid II (al-Rashid), 630-640 / 1232-1242

489 AV dinar
Obverse margin: *amir al-mu’mínin / al-murtada li-amr / Allah abu hafs bin al-amir / al-zahir ibrahim / ibn al-khalifatayn* (sometimes slightly differently arranged). The fractions have shorter versions but all include the title *abu hafs* in the obverse margin. His personal name ‘Umar never appears on his coins. Many examples of #491 and #492 bear the mint name, either Sabta or Sijilmasa.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 81
The square dirham retained the weight of about 1.54g introduced by ’Abd al-Mu’min b. ‘Ali, and carefully made examples of both the Nashti and Kufic types adhere closely to that standard. However, square dirhams of poorer quality are significantly lighter, down to 1.2g or even less, and were likely unofficial contemporary imitations or later issues of undetermined origin.

Anonymous, circa 558-668+ / 1163-1269+

The square dirham was the standard as the Muwahhidun. There are several rare rulers and early issues of Muhammad I bear the ruler’s name in the marginal inscription (often on both sides of the coin). Thereafter, the ruler’s name appears in the central field, on the side regarded by Hazard as the reverse (with a few exceptions, as noted). The mint name invariably appears at the bottom of the obverse or reverse field.

Many Hafsid gold coins lack a mint name, especially those of the first five rulers. Bijaya and Tunis are the most common mints before 796, after which the leading mint is Tarabulus (Tripoli in Libya). All Hafsid coins are undated, of which the sole exception is the silver square dirham of the late ruler Ahmad III, type #B514. All gold coins adhere to the square-in-circle design. Coins of Yahya I and early issues of Muhammad I bear the ruler’s name in the marginal inscription (often on both sides of the coin). Thereafter, the ruler’s name appears in the central field, on the side regarded by Hazard as the reverse (with a few exceptions, as noted). The mint name invariably appears at the bottom of the obverse or reverse field.

Most of the rulers bear additional titles which are usually inscribed in the reverse margin. These are not noted here (see Hazard).

Abu Zakariya’ Yahya I, 627-647 / 1230-1249
(b. Abi Muhammad b. Abi Hafs)

For dating, see the description under #497. It is not known whether the “mintless” types were struck simultaneously with those bearing a mint name. The Kufic types (#496A) were probably struck during a brief period, probably early in the series. Large hoards containing both types #496 and 497 are commonly found. The coins are often heavily worn, which suggests that they remained in circulation for a century or more. For a much later stylistic variation tentatively assigned to the Merinids, see #547E.

HAFSID

For references, see under Murabitun.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 82
**Abu Zakariya’ Yahya III (b. Ibrahim I), at Bijaya, 683-700 / 1284-1301**

505 AV dinar, without mint or mint of Bijaya

His full title normally appears as al-amir al-mustanjib al-ihya’ din Allah abu zakariya’, without his personal name.

Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad II, 694-709 / 1295-1309

506 AV dinar, struck at Tunis or without mint

His dinars are identified by the peculiar reverse field inscription abu ‘abd Allah Muhammad / bin amir al-mu’minin / bin amir al-mu’minin.

**Abu’l-Baq’a’ Khalid I, 700-711 / 1301-1311**

A507 AV dinar, struck at Tunis

Abu Yahya Zakariya’, 711-717 / 1311-1318

B507 AV dinar, without mint name

(Hazard assigns a mintless dinar, his #594, to Abu ‘Abd Allah III b. Zakariya’, 717-723 / 1317-1323, but this attribution is at best conjectural. The reverse field inscription reads abu ‘abd Allah muhammad / ibn al-amara al-rashidin / ayaddahu Allah ta’ala.)

Abu Yahya Abu Bakr II, 710-747 / 1310-1346

507.1 AV dinar, as al-amir al-ajall (as governor of Bijaya & Qusantina, 710-718)

Without mint, or with mint of Bijaya or Qusantina.

507.2 AV dinar, as amir al-mu’minin (as general ruler, 718-747)

Types of Bijaya and without mint are relatively common. Other known mints are Baskara and Qafsa, both extremely rare.

508.1 AV ½ dinar, no mint name

508A AV ¼ dinar, no mint name

Abu Hafs ‘Umar II (b. Abu Bakr II), 747-748 / 1346-1347

A509 AV dinar, without mint name

Ruler’s name is given as abu hafs ‘umar ibn amir al-mu’minin abu yahya abu bakr, whereas the name of ‘Umar I (#504) is given as abu hafs ‘umar ibn al-amara al-rashidin. There is some doubt that these coins are really issues of different rulers.

**Abu’l-Abbas al-Fadl (b. Abu Bakr II), 749-751 / 1348-1350**

B509 AV dinar, always with mint name, but without and with the title amir al-mu’minin

Minted at Bijaya, Tunis and Tarabulus (in Libya). A type assigned by Hazard to Abu’l-‘Abbas al-Fadl b. Yahya II, 681-683 (no. 570) may well belong to this ruler.

C509 AV ¼ dinar, without mint name

Abu Zayd ‘Abd al-Rahman (b. Muhammad), at Qusantina, 749-755 / 1348-1355

G509 AV dinar, mint of Qusantina

Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad III (b. Yahya), at Bijaya, 1st reign, 749-753 / 1348-1352

L509 AV dinar, without mint

Ruler described on his coins as abu ‘abd Allah ibn yahya ibn amir al-mu’minin.

Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad III, 2nd reign, 761-767 / 1360-1366

M509 AV dinar, mint of Bijaya

Ruler described as muddat biyana al-mahrus in the reverse margin.

**Abu Ishaq Ibrahim II, 751-770 / 1350-1369**

509 AV dinar

Without mint name, or with mint of Tarabulus or Qafsa, the latter extremely rare. Ruler described as abu ishaq ibrahim ibn amir al-ma’minin / abi yahya abi bakr.

B510 AV ¼ dinar, without mint name

Abu’l-‘Abbas Ahmad II, 755-758 / 1354-1357 and 761-796 / 1360-1394

Coins of the two reigns cannot be distinguished, at least not as they are currently understood.

510 AV dinar

Normally without mint name, but also known from the mints of Bijaya and Tunis. There are two major varieties, one with just three-line inscriptions in the obverse & reverse squares, the second of Merinid style, with five-line inscriptions in both.

510A AV ½ dinar, known from mint of Tuzar

Abu Faris ‘Abd al-’Aziz II, 796-837 / 1394-1434

Most coins of this reign are rather clumsily struck, often with much weakness and scruffy calligraphy. The quality declined more rapidly under his success, Abu ‘Amr ‘Uthman.

511 AV dinar, with mint name

Known from mints Baskara, Bijaya, al-Hamma, Qafsa, Qusantina, Tarabulus, Tunis and Tuzar. Bijaya and especially Tarabulus are most common.

512 AV ½ dinar

Without mint, or with mint names Mahdiya, Qafsa or Tunis.

512A AV ¼ dinar, without mint

(Hazard assigns a dinar to Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad IV, 837-839 / 1434-1435, but with “tribute attribution”. It seems highly unlikely!)

**Abu’l-Hasan ‘Ali (b. ‘Abd al-’Aziz II), 839-856 / 1435-1452**

E513 AV dinar, Bijaya mint

Abu ‘Amr ‘Uthman, 839-893 / 1435-1488

513.1 AV dinar, normal type with title amir al-mu’minin

Known from mints Bijaya, Qusantina, Tarabulus and Tuzar, of which only Tarabulus is common.

Dinars and half dinars of this ruler have only recently become relatively common. They are almost always poorly struck, with considerable weakness, and were probably just ignored in the past due to their unimpressive appearance, typically 10-30% flat.

513.2 AV dinar, similar, but with additional title al-malik al-sultan, struck only at the mint Jaza’ir (Algiers)

513.3 AV dinar, with Merinid style and titular description ‘an amr ‘abd Allah amir al-mu’minin in four lines, struck at Tilimsan and Tanas

513A AV ½ dinar, titles as #513.1

This type has recently become quite common, especially without mint or from mint of Tuzar. The only other known mint is Qafsa (RR).

513B AV ¼ dinar, titles as #513.1, no mint name

Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad V, 899-932 / 1494-1526

513H AV dinar, without mint or mint of Tunis

Coins of this ruler differ from those of earlier rulers with the same name by the marginal titles, al-mutawakkil ‘ala Allah and al-mujahid fi sabil Allah, as well as by flans even more irregular than those of his predecessor Abu ‘Amr ‘Uthman.

513J AV ¼ dinar, no mint, poor style

513K AV ¼ dinar, no mint, poor style

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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 83

195 S. Album, pricelist 156 (Sept 1999), #9.

196 Hazard ascribes the three-line type to his first reign, 755-758, the five-line type to his second reign, 761-796, when he was at least partly under Merinid influence. This division is uncertain. It seems likely that the first reign produced relatively fine quality three-line pieces, then the five-line adopted in 761, with the three-line type restored soon afterwards. The five-line type seems to be much rarer.
A few rulers after 932 allegedly struck gold coins, but their attributions remain insecure. All are very rare.

Abu'l-'Abbass Ahmad III (b. al-Hasan), 948-977 / 1542-1569

A514 AR double dirham (presumably about 2.35g), mint of Tunis, dated 956 (Hazard-1127) RRR

B514 AR square dirham (about 1.18g), dated in numerals or undated, mint of Tunis

Hazard reports numerous dates between 952 and 964, of which 964 is the least rare. The obverse inscription is Qur'an 65:3 for year 952-958, the kalima for 961-964. Always poorly struck, usually 25% flat or worse.

F514 AE fals, mint of Tunis, two versions (Hazard-1173 & 1174)

Attribution is likely correct, especially given the mint name and calligraphic style.

Anonymous, circa 700 / 1300 & later

514 AR square dirham S

The Hafsid square dirhams are identical to the Muwahhidun, but are written in square Kufic instead of rounded Naskhi script, but much coarser than the Muwahhidun Kufic equivalent (#496A). Some bear the mint name Tunis, more rarely Bijaya and Tilimsan.197

ZIYANID

For references, see Murabitun.

The Ziyanids were leaders of the Zanata Berbers, and founded a kingdom in what is now western Algeria, with their capital at Tlemcen (Tilimsan). Their coinage is exclusively in gold, mostly rare, though a few silver coins have been haphazardly assigned to this kingdom.

With the exception of one variety of #515 struck at Jaza’ir (modern Algiers), all Ziyanid coins were struck exclusively at Tilimsan.

As with contemporary Hafsid and Merinid coins, there is a definite decline of style and quality of strike, especially after about 800. However, some of the latest issues were once again more carefully struck (after about 930), perhaps due to Ottoman or European assistance. With the exception of one variety of #515 struck at Jaza’ir (modern Algiers), all Ziyanid coins were struck exclusively at Tilimsan.

From Abu Ziyan Muhammad II (796-802) until Abu’l-'Abbass Ahmad I (834-866), each ruler chose characteristic Qur’anic quotes for the obverse. The tradition was abandoned thereafter, replaced by traditional North African arrangements of the kalima.

Abu Hammu Musa I, 707-718 / 1308-1318

A515 AV dinar RR

Hazard assigns to Musa I coins with the phrase ma aqrab faraj Allah (see #M520) beneath the obverse and ayyadahu Allah wa nasaraahu (“may God affirm him and assist him”) beneath the reverse. Coins assigned to Musa II lack these legends.

Abu Tashufin ‘Abd al-Rahman I, 718-737 / 1318-1337

515.1 AV dinar, with his name as al-mutawakkil ‘ala Allah ar-rab al-munim in the obverse field RRR

515.2 AV dinar, with his name as ‘abd al-rab al-rahman ibn al-khulafa ar-rashidin in obverse margin S

Subtype #515.2 is usually well struck, and is by far the most frequently available Ziyanid coin. Minted at Tilimsan and Jaza’ir, the latter very rare.

The Ziyanid interregnum occurred 737-749 and again 753-760, when under Merinid control. No coins are known from the brief reign of the Ziyanid Abu Sa'id Uthman II (749-753 / 1348-1352). Type #515.2 may have been struck posthumously after 737, perhaps until the Ziyanid re-emergence under Musa II in 760-786.

Abu Hammu Musa II, 760-791 / 1359-1389

A516 AV dinar RR

(No coins have been confirmed for his immediate successor ‘Abd al-Rahman II, 791-795 / 1389-1393, 198)

Abu Ziyan Muhammad II, 796-802 / 1394-1399

B516 AV dinar RRR

Muhammad II is cited as al-qhani billah Muhammad.

Abu Muhammad ‘Abd Allah I, 802-804 / 1399-1402

C516 AV dinar RRR

Cited simply as abu muhammad ‘abd Allah.

Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad III, 804-813 / 1402-1411

516 AV dinar RR

Muhammad III is cited either as al-wathiq billah Muhammad or with these names reversed, Muhammad al-wathiq billah.

Abu Malik ‘Abd al-Wahid, 814-827 / 1411-1424 and 831-833 / 1428-1430

517 AV dinar R

517A AV ½ dinar, mint of Tilimsan RR

Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad IV, 827-831 / 1424-1428 and 833-834 / 1430-1431

518 AV dinar RR

518A AV ½ dinar, mint of Tilimsan RR

Muhammad IV is cited as abu ‘abd Allah without his personal name Muhammad or any other titles except al-mutawakkil ‘ala Allah, and Qur’an 65:3 on the reverse.

Abu’l-’ABBAS AHMAD I, 834-866 / 1431-1462

519 AV dinar R

Ahmad I is cited as abu’l-abbas ahmad with the additional laqab al-ma’tasim billah.

519A AV ½ dinar, similar, various subtypes RR

Numerous half and quarter dinars have been assigned by Hazard and others to various Ziyanid kings other than those included here, mainly during the period 866-932 / 1462-1526, but none of these can be classified even as tentative.

Abu Hammu Musa III, 932-934 / 1526-1528

519M AV dinar199 RR

Cited as abu hammu followed by ayyadahu Allah, “may God assist him”. Unlike earlier issues, each line of the central square, both obverse & reverse, bears a small arch in the center.

Abu Muhammad ‘Abd Allah II, 934-947 / 1528-1540

A520 AV dinar, citing the Ottoman sultan Süleyman I as overlord RR

Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad VIII, 947-950 / 1540-1543

B520 AV dinar, as vassal of the Ottoman Süleyman I RR

The Ottoman sultan is cited on dinars of both this and the following ruler Ahmad III as amir al-mu’minin abi’l-rabi’ suleyman.

Abu’l-’ABBAS AHMAD III, 949 / 1542 and 951-957 / 1544-1550

C520 AV dinar, as vassal of the Ottoman Süleyman I RRR

Citing the Ottoman sultan Süleyman I as overlord on reverse (bism Allah al-rab al-rabim at the top), his own name on reverse (ICA 13, lot 219).

Abu Muhammad Hasan, 957-964 / 1550-1556

E520 AV ½ dinar, Tilimsan mint RRR?

Kalima obverse, abu muhammad / hasan / ayyadahu Allah in reverse field, tentative attribution.

Anonymous, 8th/14th century

M520 AR square dirham, mint of Tilimsan or without mint name RR

With ma aqrab faraj Allah (“how close is the glory of God”) below the obverse. The attribution of this rare type to the

197 Hohertz lists 8 additional mints, all of which are tentative, at best.
198 Hazard no. 652, assigned to ‘Abd al-Rahman II, is probably a variant of #515.2 of ‘Abd al-Rahman I.
199 Sotheby’s October 1994, lot 292.
Ziyanids remains uncertain. Hazard and Hobertz have temporarily assigned the type to the Merinids (Hazard-1147). Hazard knew of just 28 Ziyanid gold types, but many more have been discovered since then. The attribution of many Ziyanid coins, especially the half dinars and others allegedly struck between 866 and 934, remains questionable.

**MERINID**

For references, see Murabitun.

The Merinids inherited the western part of the Almohad patri-mony, more or less congruent with modern Morocco. They struck moderate quantities of silver in addition to gold coins in multiple denominations. Most gold coins bear the name of the ruler, except as noted below (the attributions of the anonymous coins are from Hazard).

In general, Merinid gold was somewhat carelessly struck, especially from about 710/1310 onwards. The earlier silver is also poorly struck, but the silver of the last two rulers was more carefully manufactured. The gold is commonly found holed for jewelry (usually two holes).

Most Merinid gold and silver coins lack a mint name. However, the mints of Fès, Marrakesh, and Sijilmasa are not rare. Some gold issues of Azzemour and Sabta (Ceuta) are also reasonably available.

Three rulers issued anonymous coins, Abu Bakr, Yusuf, and Abu'l-Hasan 'Ali. Their dinars and half dinars are distinguished as follows (for further details, see the work of Hazard).

**Abu Bakr**, 642-656 / 1244-1258: Three-line legends obverse & reverse. The top line of the reverse is typically al-shakir lillah, al-mulk lillah or al-azam lillah ("thanks to God", "the kingship is God’s", "greatness is God’s"). Yusuf, 685-706 / 1286-1307: 5-line legends obverse & reverse. The top line of the reverse is always al-mulk lillah wahdahu ("the kingship is God’s alone").

'Ali, 731-752 / 1331-1351: 4-line or 5-line legends on both obverse & reverse, with much coarser script than in earlier reigns. The top line of the reverse varies greatly and can be the same as the previous two types. See Hazard for details.

Hafsids & Merinid coins of similarly named rulers can be distinguished by title. The Hafsids proclaimed themselves caliph, with the title al-mulk lillah wahdahu ("the kingship belongs to God alone"). Either without mint name, or struck at Fès, Sijilmasa, or Tunis. The eastern mints reflect 'Ali's conquest of much of the Ziyanid and Hafsid regions.

Known mints are Fès, Marrakesh, Sabta and Sijilmasa, none especially rare.

The fractional gold coins assigned by Hazard to this and Ya'qub’s reign (#521-523A) come in many variations, and may have been struck for many decades, probably more than a century, after Abu Bakr’s death in 656/1258.

Silver coins attributed by Hazard to this ruler (his #1133, VyE-2211) were struck much later, probably during or even after the Wattasid period, and remain unassigned. They bear the reverse legend wa ma bikum min ni'ma fa-min Allah in 3 lines ("there is no favor unto you except from God").

All coins of Ya'qub bear the lengthy titulature nasir al-din al-qa'im lillah ... ya'qub ibn 'abd al-haqq in the reverse field. All are without a mint name. This is the first Merinid type that bears the title amir al-mu'minin.

**Abu Yusuf Ya'qub**, 685-706 / 1286-1307

A524 AV dinar

**Abu Sa'id 'Uthman II**, 710-731 / 1310-1331

Coins of 'Uthman II bear his name, occasionally with his laqab al-mustansir billah, and virtually always citing the mint name. Known from Azamur, Fès, Sabta and Sijilmasa.

**Abu Sa'id 'Uthman II**, 710-731 / 1310-1331

Coins of 'Uthman II bear his name, occasionally with his laqab al-mustansir billah, and virtually always citing the mint name. Known from Azamur, Fès, Sabta and Sijilmasa.

All gold coins of this ruler are anonymous. Hazard has described the many types in detail, confessing that some are tentatively assigned to this ruler. Merinid power attained its apogee under this ruler.

Known mints for gold coins are Azzamur, Bijaya, Fès, Jaza'ir, and Tunis. The eastern mints reflect 'Ali’s conquest of much of the Ziyanid and Hafsid regions.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 85
528.1 AV dinar, with characteristic term la quawwa illa billah

528.2 AV dinar, with the Nasrid term la ghaliib illa Allah

528.3 AV dinar, with the Ziyanid term ma aqrub farraj Allah, referring to 737-749 occupation of Tilimsan

529 AV ½ dinar, similar, struck at Azammur and Fès, also without mint name

530 AR square dirham (normal standard 0.88g) Otherwise identical to the Almohad coins, these anonymous square dirhams have al-qr’an imanuma (‘The Qur’an is our Imam’) in the bottom line of the reverse, a veiled reference to the Merinid refusal to claim the caliphate. Often poorly struck. Known mints are Fès, Sijilmasa and Tilimsan, but mintless types are much more common.

This type may have well been struck for several decades after ‘Ali’s death, ultimately replaced by the next common issue, type #542 of ‘Abd al-‘Aziz II (796-799 / 1393-1396).

Some specimens are known that follow the previous Mawihiydun weight of about 1.50g. It is not known whether these represent an earlier type, a separate regional type, or belong to a different ruler or another dynasty.

Abu ‘Inan Faris, 749-759 / 1348-1358

From this reign onwards, all Merinid gold coins carry the name of the ruler, both in silver and gold. With the exception of the fractional dinars, all gold coins cite the mint.

531 AV dinar

Struck at Bijaya, Fès, Marrakesh, Sijilmasa and Tilimsan.

A532 AV ½ dinar, struck at Marrakesh & Sijilmasa

(Hazard has tentatively attributed dinars to Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad II, 759-760 / 1358-1359, and Abu Sahin Ibrahim, 760-762 / 1359-1361, both very uncertain, Hazard-787 & 788, respectively, also his silver coin #1148 to Ibrahim.)

Abu Ziyan Muhammad III, 763-767 / 1361-1366

His name on the coins is al-matawakkil ‘ala Allah muhammad al-sa’ id.

532 AV dinar, minted at Fès and Sala

Full dinars assigned to this ruler have a long Qur’an inscription beginning ana fatahuna laka fathan muhbin... beginning in the margin and continuing in the obverse central field (Qur’an Verse 48:1-3).

532A AV ½ dinar, ruler’s titles as noted above, mint of Azzamur

Abu Malik ‘Abd al-Mu’min b. ‘Umar, at Sijilmasa, 764-765 / 1362-1363

532F AV dinar, struck only at Sijilmasa

Abu Faris ‘Abd al-‘Aziz I, 768-774 / 1366-1372

533 AV dinar, mints Fès and Tilimsan

Dinars of ‘Abd al-‘Aziz I and ‘Abd al-‘Aziz II are both entitled ‘abd Allah, but they can easily be distinguished. All dinars of ‘Abd al-‘Aziz I cite him as amir al-mulamin, with his name followed by ibn al-khiiltah al-rashidin; all have 5-line field inscriptions. Five-line dinars of ‘Abd al-‘Aziz II either have his title al-mustansir or amir al-ma’muin in the obverse square, or have five religious phrases in the obverse square with his own name and the in the obverse margin. Three-line dinars of Hafsid style were struck only by ‘Abd al-‘Aziz II.

Abu Ziyan Muhammad IV, 774-776 / 1372-1374

His name on the coins is ‘ab‘d Allah muhammad al-sa’id.

534 AV dinar, minted only at Fès

Dinars of Muhammad IV can be distinguished by Hazard from those of Muhammad III by the obverse inscription, which lacks the Qur’anic phrases used by Muhammad III (#532). The obverse field begins with the bismilah, as on the anonymous dinars of Abu l-‘Hasan ‘All.

534A AV ½ dinar, mint of Fès

Abu’l-‘Abbas Ahmad (al-Mustansir billah), 775-786 / 1373-1384 and 789-796 / 1387-1393

The gold coinage of Abu’l-‘Abbas Ahmad is quite complex, with a large number of distinctive types noted by Hazard, who divides his coinage into four series, with or without the title amir al-mulamin, each of which comes with or without the Nasrid phrase wa la ghaliib illa Allah.

535 AV dinar, many subtypes

Mints are Azzamur, Fès, Marrakesh, Sijilmasa and Titwann.

536 AV ½ dinar, almost always with mint name

Struck at Azzamur, Fès, Marrakesh and Sijilmasa, or no mint.

536A AV ¼ dinar, without mint name

A square “half” dirham assigned by Hazard to this ruler is type #550 of the Wattasids.

Abu Zayd ‘Abd al-Rahman, 776-784 / 1374-1382

537 AV dinar, struck at Marrakesh

Abu Zayd’s gold coins bear his name as al-sayyid ‘abd al-rahman bin ‘ali.

538 AV ½ dinar, mint of Marrakesh or without mint

A539 AR square dirham (0.88g), with the ruler’s name ‘abd al-rahman bin ‘ali, without mint name

Abu Faris Musa, 786-788 / 1384-1386

539 AV dinar, mints of Azzamur and Fès

539A AV ½ dinar, mint of Fès

539B AR dirham, mint of Azzamur

Abu Zyan Muhammad V (al-Muntasir), 788 / 1386

539G AV dinar, struck only at Fès

Distinguished from other rulers named Muhammad by the title al-muntasir billah.

539H AV ½ dinar, similar to the dinar, Fès mint

Abu Faris ‘Abd al-‘Aziz II (al-Mustansir), 796-799 / 1393-1396

540.1 AV dinar, Merinid series with 5-line texts

Reported mints are Fès and Marrakesh. See note to type #533 of ‘Abd al-‘Aziz I for identification information.

540.2 AV dinar, Hafsid style, 3-line text on both sides

Mints are Azzamur, Fès, Marrakesh and Sijilmasa. The Hafsid style dinars of ‘Abd al-‘Aziz II come in several different varieties, and are astoundingly common for so short a reign.

541 AV ½ dinar

Either without mint, or with mint Fès, Marrakesh or Sijilmasa. This relatively common type was unknown to Hazard.

541A AV ¼ dinar

Either without mint, or Sijilmasa.

542 AR square dirham (0.80g), without mint

Actual specimens vary from about 0.72 to 0.86g. Types 542 & 543 cite the ruler’s name, thus easily distinguished from the anonymous issues. Given the relative availability of ‘Abd al-‘Aziz II’s silver coins and the lack of any silver coins of his immediate successors ‘Abd Allah and ‘Uthman III, one might conjecture either that these continued to be struck until some point just before or during the reign of ‘Abd al-Haqq II (823-869), or had been produced in sufficient quantities that no further production was needed until after 823.

Abu ‘Amir ‘Abd Allah, 799-800 / 1396-1398

544 AV dinar

Hafsid style gold coins only, with short obverse inscription ‘ab‘d Allah / al-mustansir bilah / ‘ab‘d Allah. All later Merinid gold coins follow this Hafsid style.

Mints are Azzamur, Fès and Sijilmasa.

544A AV ½ dinar, known only from Azzamur
Abu Sa'id ‘Uthman III, 800-823 / 1398-1420

545 AV dinar
Mints are Fès, Marrakesh, Sبتa and Sijilmansa.

545A AV ½ dinar, always with mint name
Mints are Azamur, Fès, Marrakesh and Sijilmansa. Although this denomination was unknown to Hazard, it is now quite common.

545B AV ¼ dinar, same four mints as the ½ dinar

Abu Muhammad ‘Abd al-Haqq II, 823-866 / 1420-1465

There is no gold coinage known from this reign.

546 AR square dirham (0.80g), normally without mint name, numerous subtypes
Known with mint names Meknès and Taza, both very rare.203 With Qur'an inscriptions on obverse, the ruler’s name on reverse (sometimes with a short religious expression), of which the variety with Qur’an 3:53 is apparently the least rare.

547 AR square ½ dirham (0.40g), apparently always without mint name
Anonymous

The chronology of these types is unknown. All were probably struck very late in the 8th/14th century or early in the 9th/15th.

547A.1 AR square dirham (0.75g), Asila mint
Obverse al-handu lillah rabb al-‘alamin, reverse la ghalib illa Allah above the mint name.

547A.2 AR square dirham (0.75g), Asila mint
Obverse as last, reverse has duriba bi-madinat Asila without any religious inscription.

547B AR square ½ dirham (0.38g), similar to #547A.2

547E AR square dirham (1.25-1.30g), without mint name, late naskhi style script
As #496 of the Muwahhidun except for calligraphic style and reduced weight standard. Probably struck circa 1280-1350, perhaps as a local regional coinage.

547H AV imitative dinar, religious inscriptions both obverse & reverse
Made for jewelry, sometimes imitating an actual Merinid dinar, more often purely religious inscriptions, identical on both sides. Sometimes fine gold, often debased gold or gilt bronze. Hazard referred to these jewelry items as “hybrids”. They are believed to have been produced from the 14th century until at least the 17th. Many have the Arabic partly or mostly discombobulated, and a few have crosses in the field.

**AMIRS OF ASFI (SAFI)**

The dynastic connection of the only numismatically observed ruler at this city remains unknown.

Muhammad al-Mas‘ud, early 800s / 1400s

547J AV ½ dinar, mint of Asfi
RRR

547K AV ¼ dinar, mint of Asfi
RRR

These two types were found amongst a Merinid hoard terminating with fractional dinars and a few full dinars of ‘Uthman III (800-823). Gold coins of other rulers at Asfi may exist, still unconfirmed.

**WATTASID**

No substantive study exists for the coinage of this dynasty, although a tentative listing of the silver coins appears in the Hoertz work cited under the Muwahhidun.

A minor dynasty, originally majordomos at the Merinid court, independent from 869/1465 until overthrown by the Sa’dians in 956/1549. Their coinage consists of a few extremely rare gold coins and some square silver dirhams half dirhams, and quarter dirhams, and a very few dated anonymous coppers.

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203 The silver coins of ‘Abd al-‘Aziz II and ‘Abd al-Haqq II were unknown and extremely rare, respectively, when Hazard wrote his dissertation in 1952. They were first reported in quantity by Henri Arroyo, “Un trésor de dirhams et d’écaillés de bronzes de Marrakech de la fin de l’empire mérinides”, Revue Numismatique, 6me série, v. 16, 1974, pp. 115-122.

204 Hoertz has reassigned this type to Muhammad III. At present, the precise attribution remains uncertain. Unless this type lacks the laqab nasir al-din, as indicated in my notes, then I would accept Hoertz’ reattribution.

205 According to the French Wikipedia, Abu l-Hasan ‘Ali claimed the throne in 1526 (932-933), and again in 1554 (961), exercising limited power in between. His coins may have been struck at any time between 1526 and 1554. He was executed by the Sa’di ans in 1554.

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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 87
anonymous copper coins, of which only a few dated types can be attributed to individual rulers.

There is no agreement among scholars on the precise dates of reign for the Sa‘dian Sharifs, especially the rivals after the death of Ahmad in 1012/1603. The dates provided here are to be regarded as tentative.

Although large numbers of Sa‘dian gold coins have been published, mainly by Brèthes and auction catalogs during the 1980s and early 1990s, the silver and copper coins are very poorly represented in the published literature.

Most gold coinage was struck at Fès, Marrakesh and al-Kitawa, though about ten mints are recorded in all, including Tafilalt, Sous, Sijilmasa, al-Muhammadiya, and several others. The earlier silver, up until 1012, was struck mainly at Fès, the later silver mainly at Marrakesh. Silver coins of the second ruler, Abu Muhammad ‘Abd Allah are also known for at least two other mints, Sus and Meknès. Early Sa‘dian gold coins are usually rather weakly struck, but the quality of strike was greatly improved beginning in the year 1000.

The new dinars of that year mention part of the Qur’an Verse 33:33, innaha yaridu Allah liyudhhiba ‘ankum al-rijs ahl al-bayt [wa yustubhirakum], “God wishes only to remove the sins from you, O members of the family, and purify you thoroughly”, in the obverse segments, as do most later full dinars. However, most existing Sa‘dian gold coins are holed, mounted or otherwise damaged, having survived because of use in jewelry or cloth ware. The silver is generally rather weakly struck and often found worn or holed. From 1016 onwards, all silver dirhams are square-in-circle on both sides, except perhaps some issues of Zaydan. The copper fulus are generally poorly struck, severely worn, and rarely well preserved.

Most gold full and double dinars bear the phrase bism Allah al-rahaban al-rahim atop the obverse field, followed by the ruler name and some of his titulature. The remaining titulature fills the reverse field, together with patronymic information on the gold coinage.

Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad II al-Shaykh, 923-964 / 1517-1557
Effective ruler 946-964 / 1540-1557, but no coinage was struck prior to his conquest of the Wattasids in 956/1549.

| 552 | AV dinar | RRR |
| 553 | AR square dirham, dated (about 1.45g) | R | |
| 554 | AR square ½ dirham, dated (about 0.72g) | R | |

Production of square dirhams concluded with this issue, after about 400 years, except within the Ottoman Empire, which produced limited quantities of square silver coins until the reign of Mahmud III (1808-1839), mainly in Tunis, which was never under Sa‘dian control.

Types #553 and 554 are anonymous, bearing just the mint and date in words, divided between the two faces. All later silver bears the name of the ruler. This type is dated 956-968, with most years known, including the posthumous years 965, 966 and 968, which could be assigned to his successor ‘Abd Allah al-Ghalib. The great majority of subsequent silver coins are undated.

Abu Muhammad ‘Abd Allah al-Ghalib, 965-981 / 1557-1574
With title al-mutawakkil ‘ala Allah.

| 555 | AV dinar (about 4.0g) | RRR |
| 556 | AV ½ dinar (2.0g) | RRR |
| 556A | AV ¼ dinar (1.0g) | RRR |
| 557 | AR round dirham (about 1.45g) | S |

Found in 2 variants, broad thin flan (typically 18-19mm) and narrow thick flan (typically 13-15mm). Sequence of the two is unknown. At least six different mints known, Fès, Marrakesh, Meknès, al-Muhammadiya, Sus and Tafilalt.

Abu ‘Abd Allah Muhammad III, 981-983 / 1574-1576
With title al-mutawakkil ‘ala Allah.

| 558 | AV dinar (4.0g) | RRR |
| 559 | AV ½ dinar (2.0g) | RRR |
| 559A | AV ¼ dinar (1.0g) | RRR |
| 560 | AR dirham (about 1.45g) | RRR |
| 561 | AR ½ dirham (about 0.72g) | RRR |
| 562 | 1/6 écu (about 4.2g) | RRR |

The term écu derived from French scholars; the coin was perhaps known as mithqal in Morocco, as were the thaler-size coins of the ‘Alawi ruler Muhammad III and his successors (#591, 592, etc.).

Abu Marwan ‘Abd al-Malik I, 983-986 / 1576-1578
With title al-mansur billah.

| 562 | AV dinar (4.0g), date in numerals | RRR |
| 562A | AV ¼ dinar (1.0g) | RRR |
| 563 | AR ½ dirham (0.72g) | RRR |
| 564 | AR ¼ dirham (0.36g) | RRR |

Gold was struck at many mints, including Dra’a, Fès, al-Kitawa, Marrakesh, al-Muhammadiya, Sijilmasa, and Taroudant. His silver was struck only at Fès and Marrakesh.

Abu’l-‘Abbas Ahmad, 986-1012 / 1578-1603
With title al-mansur billah, and on rare occasions al-mujahid fi sabl Allah.

| T564 | AV dinar, first standard (4.0g), used until about 992 | RR |
| U564 | AV ½ dinar, first standard (2.0g) | RRR |
| V564 | AV ¼ dinar, first standard (1.0g) | RRR |
| 564 | AV double dinar, second standard, square-in-circle type, as #565.2 | RRR |
| 565.1 | AV dinar, second standard (4.6g), inner-circle type, struck 992-999 | R |
| 565.2 | AV dinar, second standard, square-in-circle type, struck 1000-1012 | S |
| D567 | AR 1/10 écu (about 2.7g) | RRR | Possibly a double dirham.
| 567 | AR dirham, many variants | RRR |
| 568 | AV dinar | RRR |
| 568A | AV ½ dinar | RRR |
| 568C | AR 2/3 écu (about 18.5g), known only from Marrakesh 1015 | RRR |
| 568F | AR 1/6 écu (about 4.2g) | RRR |

Part of Qur’an Verse 33:33, in the obverse segments, the mint date in the reverse segments. The half dinars omit the Qur’anic text, with one set of the segments for the mint name, the other for the year.

Abu Faris ‘Abd Allah al-Wathiq, at Marrakesh, 1012-1017 / 1603-1608

| V568 | AV double dinar, mint of Marrakesh | RRR |
| 568 | AV dinar | RRR |
| 568A | AV ½ dinar | RRR |
| 568C | AR 2/3 écu (about 18.5g), known only from Marrakesh 1015 | RRR |
| 568F | AR 1/6 écu (about 4.2g) | RRR |

Muhammad al-Shaykh al-Ma’mun, at Fès, 1012-1022 / 1603-1612

| 569 | AV dinar, mints of Fès & Marrakesh | RRR |

Muhammad also controlled Marrakesh briefly in the mid-1010s.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 88

206 The term écu derived from French scholars; the coin was perhaps known as mithqal in Morocco, as were the thaler-size coins of the ‘Alawi ruler Muhammad III and his successors (#591, 592, etc.).
Abu'l-Hasan Muhammad b. Ahmad, rebel at Marrakesh, 1016 / 1070

With principal titles al-nasir li-din Allah and al-qay'im bi-amr Allah, used together on his gold coins. All coins bear his name as Muhammad b. Ahmad.

569M AV dirham, known only from Marrakesh 1016
RRR

569N AR dirham, also Marrakesh 1016
RRR

The obverse legend is Muhammad b. Ahmad / al-qay'im / bi-amr Allah, the date in words in the obverse segments, mint in the reverse segments.

Zaydan al-Nasir, 1012-1037 / 1603-1627

Known as al-imam al-nasir or al-malik al-nasir, often with the remarkable title al-fatimi.

570 AV dirham
Known from Fès, al-Kitawa, Marrakesh and Sus. Some types struck during the latter portion of this reign bear an ornate toughra on the reverse, composed of the ruler’s name.

570A AV ½ dirham, without mint name
RRR

571 AR dirham, known from Fès & Marrakesh
R

Obverse legend is usually al-fatimi / zaydan amir / al-mu'minin. The standard of the dirham was reduced to about 1.25g for this reign, but reduced in later reigns to as low as 0.7g by the end of the dynasty. Further research on the silver standards of the Sa'dians is needed.

571A AV ½ dirham, without mint name
RRR

U571 AR écu (about 27g), known only from Marrakesh

A lovely type with crescent design formed by a small circle tangentially engraved within a larger circle. Abu Marwan ruled only in Marrakesh until 1038, then throughout the kingdom, which thereafter remained united until its demise.

575 AV dirham
R

A lovely type with crescent design formed by a small circle tangentially engraved within a larger circle. Abu Marwan ruled only in Marrakesh until 1038, then throughout the kingdom, which thereafter remained united until its demise.

575A AV ½ dirham, known only from Marrakesh 1038
RRR

576 AR dirham (about 1.05g)
R

Name fills the obverse as abu marwa- / n al-mansu- / r billah (sic), within the square. Square-in-circle on both sides. Specimens are too worn or too poorly struck to reveal the date. Usually found in very worn condition. Normally dated, but most are indeed very rare, as rumors in the 1990’s of an alleged hoard of unknown “immensity” proved to be false. None have been properly published to date. The coins are sometimes assigned to Muhammad al-Shaykh (#579E), which is normally quite carefully struck.

577 AV dinar
From this reign onwards, all coins were minted at Marrakesh, though most of the silver lack the mint name.

577A AV ½ dinar
RRR

578 AR dirham
S

With obverse text al-khalifa / al-walid / ??.

Muhammad al-Shaykh al-Saghir, 1045-1064 / 1636-1654

579 AV dinar
From about 1050 onwards, dinars of this reign are dated in Spanish style numerals, as are fulus from about 1048 onwards. Surprisingly, no known silver coinage of Muhammad al-Saghir, perhaps replaced by the fals kabir.

579E AE fals kabir, “big fals” (11-13g), anonymous, Marrakesh mint, dated 1050-1057
RR

Abu'l-'Abbas Ahmad IV, 1064-1069 / 1654-1659

A580 AR dirham (0.68g)
RR

With obverse text al-sultan / abu'l-'abba- / s ahmad (sic).

`Abd al-Karim, 1069+ / 1659+

The relationship of `Abd al-Karim to the Sa'dian dynasty remains obscure.

580 AE fals, various sizes and denominations, various weights between 1.8 and 6.5g
R

Usually found in very worn condition. Normally dated, but most specimens are too worn or too poorly struck to reveal the date. For that reason, the anonymous copper coins have not been assigned to a specific reign, with the exception of the heavy anonymous fals assigned to Muhammad al-Shaykh (#579E), which is normally quite carefully struck.

INTERREGNUM

Various anonymous gold and silver coins are attributable to the interval between the death of al-Shaykh al-Saghir in 1064/1654 and the rise of al-Rashid (‘Alawi) in 1075/1664. The gold coins are indeed very rare, as rumors in the 1990’s of an alleged hoard of unknown “immensity” proved to be false. None have been properly published to date. The coins are sometimes assigned to the “Dila’ites” because of the power of the clerical movement centered at the rabat (“fortress”) of Dila during this interval. Some types bear the mint name Marrakesh. It is likely that all coins of this series were struck at that city.

Anonymous, circa 1064-1075 / 1654-1664

N581 AV dinar, in the “name” of al muhammad (“family of Muhammad”), Marrakesh mint only
RRR

O581 AV ½ dinar, similar
RRR

Dinar approximately 4g, half dinar approximately 2g. Both are usually undated.

581 AR dirham, known dated 1068-1073
R

With obverse inscription Allah / al-ghalib / bi-qunwatihi, “God is victorious by His power.” Usually dated.

581A AE fals, anonymous, with just mint & date, various weights
RR

AS82 AR dirham, anonymous & undated (circa 0.98g)
RR

Obverse legend in four lines, al-hamdu lillah rabbuna wa ni'm al-wakil.

 Anonymous, circa 1064-1075 / 1654-1664

aluwan Sharifs (FILEYLI)

Eustache, Daniel, Corpus des monnaies ‘alawites (Études sur la numismatique et l’histoire monétaire du Maroc, vol. 6), Rabat, 1984 (three volumes). A masterful work that will remain the standard for many years.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 89
Coins dated in the later 18th and throughout the 19th century have now been listed in detail in the Standard Catalog of World Coins, together with theoretical pricing that allegedly indicates rarity by mint & date.

First period (1075-1171 / 1664-1759): At first rivals to the Sa'dis, the ‘Alawī or Filely Sharifs rose to power with the accession of al-Rashid in 1075/1664 and are still the monarchical rulers of Morocco. Their early coinage consists of gold dinars of about 3.5g (called bunduqi, i.e., “venetian”, because they shared the ducat standard) and a silver muzuna, 1.15g under al-Rashid, subsequently 0.94g.

Gold coins of the first period were struck mainly at Fès and Meknès, silver coins mainly at Fès, Marrakesh, Meknès, Rabat-al-Fath and Sijilmasa. Both the gold and silver are usually rather haphazardly manufactured, with considerable weakness of strike. Only the silver muzunas of al-Rashid bear the ruler’s name; all other coins of this period are strictly anonymous, but are identified by their characteristic inscription, Allah al-haqiq nazir al-haqiq al-mubin.

There are a few very rare coins tentatively assigned to various rulers between 1118 and 1123. Dates often indicated by the two last digits, especially before 1100. Scarce with clear mint & date.

In general, throughout the ‘Alawī series, the mint name Fès is preceded by the word hadrat. For Rabat-al-Fath, al-fath is occasionally omitted.

al-Rashid, 1075-1082 / 1664-1672

582 AR muzuna (1.15g), in his name, arrangement as type #584

582A AE fals, known dated 1081 and 1082 only

Isma'il al-Samin (“The Fat”), 1082-1139 / 1672-1727

583 AV dinar bunduqi, date in words

Eustache has assigned an AV dinar allegedly dated 1141 to Ahmad b. Isma’il (1139-1141 / 1727-1729), but the only post-1139 dates that can be confirmed are later in the 1140s, thus during the time of ‘Abd Allah b. Isma’il (#585K).

A hoard of at least several hundred pieces enter the market about 2006, with additional groups still emerging (2011).

584 AR muzuna (0.94g), date in numerals

Square-in-circle design, with date and mint in margin, usually repeated on obverse and reverse, with date and mint repeated on each side.

585 AE fals (various weights), date normally in words

‘Abd Allah b. Isma’il, 1141-1171 / 1729-1757

585K AV dinar bunduqi, known dated 1147 or 1149

Eustache’s illustration (#137) shows the date either sub'ar or tis'a followed by what is indisputably arba'; presumably short for arba’an, as the engraver had run out of space to complete the date. The undated coppers assigned by Eustache to this ruler cannot be confidently accepted as issued of ‘Abd Allah. The silver coin allegedly dated 1153 (Eustache #138A) is more likely 1113 with an accidental die cut above the third “1”.

Second period (1171-1212 / 1757-1797): Regular coinage resumed with the accession of Sidi Muhammad III in 1171/1757. The denominations of the later coinage have been determined by Eustache, and his definitions are used here. All coins of Muhammad III are anonymous, except #A589. Due to rival successors to Muhammad III, the second and third periods overlapped 1206-1212 / 1793-1797.

Gold coins were struck almost exclusively at Fès, with some very rare examples known from a few other mints. For the silver coinage, by far the most common mints of the 2nd period are Fès and Marrakesh, though from time to time al-’Ara’isha, Meknès, Rabat-al-Fath (Rabat), al-Sinaway and Tetuan were relatively common, and Tanja moderately rare. Rare silver mints include Asfi, Radana, Sala and Fadala. Coppers were produced mainly at Fès and Marrakesh, but are also reasonably common from Rabat-al-Fath and Tetuan, as well as the

209 Eustache #136-150. The gold coins are probably all normal types of Isma’il or contemporary imitations, the silver coin is a misinterpreted example of Isma’il, the coppers are undated types which Eustache correctly admits are assigned to ‘Abd Allah only for convenience.

210 Misattributed by Hazard to the Muwahhidun (Almohades). All silver coins of the ‘Alawī Sharifs are round.

211 Personally, I consider “Za” merely a stylized form of dariba, rather than a mint name placed along the waqf at Taourirt.

Sidi Muhammad III, 1171-1204 / 1757-1790

586 AV bunduqi (3.5g)

587 AV light bunduqi (originally about 3.12g in 1188, falling to nearly 2.5g by the mid-1190s)

588 AV khumasi (1.95g, often as low as 1.7g), relationship to other standards unknown

The weight standards of the gold coinage of Sidi Muhammad III remain only tentatively comprehensible. Domestically struck gold coins were perhaps intended principally for use as gifts or jewelry, with circulating coins imported (Ottoman?).

Old standard:

A589 AR muzuna, old standard (0.88g), with the ruler’s name, struck at several mints 1172-1179

The presence of the ruler’s name marks the weight standard, which was used simultaneously with the lighter standard reserved for the anonymous coins #589-590. All other silver coins of Muhammad III are anonymous.

First standard, based on a dirham of 2.93g:

589.1 AR dirham, 1st standard (2.93g), with mint & date

This standard was used 1172-1200; subtype #589.1 was used from 1172 until 1184 with a few isolated later issues, replaced in 1184 by #589.2.

589.2 AR dirham, similar, but with mint on obverse and date on reverse

Struck mainly 1184-1188, at some mints into the 1190s, and restored 1196-1199, these later dates rare. Most dirhams struck 1188-1196 are of type #595.

590 AR muzuna (¼ dirham) (0.73g), similar

591 AR 10 dirhams (mithqal or mitkal), 1st standard (29.3g), with ahad ahad (“one one”, i.e., “God is One”) followed by the date on obverse, only the mint name on reverse, round flan

Struck at Marrakesh in 1190 & Rabat al-Fath in 1191.

592 AR 10 dirhams, similar types, squarish flans

Struck only at Rabat-al-Fath, 1188-1189.

593 AR 5 dirhams (14.65g), similar

594 AR 2½ dirhams (7.33g), similar

595 AR dirham (2.93g), similar (ahad ahad type, round flan)

596 AR muzuna (0.73g), similar (round flan)

Types 591-596 normally bear ahad ahad on obverse, the mint and date on reverse. Types 595 & 596 with mint names are dated between 1188 and 1196; those with just the date on the reverse and lacking any mention of the mint were struck between 1186 and 1197, with those of 1180-1188 especially common.

597 AR 10 dirhams of standard, with Qur'an 9:34

This verse adorns those who hoard up gold and silver without spending them in a godly manner, first used on the multiple dirhams of the Samanids and their rivals in the late 4th/10th century.

Struck only at Tetuan in 1195, either on a broad flan of about 39mm or a narrow and thicker flan of about 32-34mm, of equal rarity. Both this type and #591-592 probably failed because they weighed about 8% more than the already circulating Spanish-American 8 real silver coins.

598 AR dirham, similar

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 90
Second standard, based on a dirham of 2.73g:

599 AR dirham (2.73g), 2nd standard, used 1200-1204
S
Mint on obverse, date on reverse. The date appears either in traditional Arabic numerals or in Spanish numerals.

600 AR muzuna (0.68g), 2nd standard, similar
R
Copper, struck throughout the reign, always anonymous:

601 AE fals (theoretical weight 3.5g), many variants, usually dated
R
602 AE ½ fals (theoretically 1.76g), similar
R
The weights of the coppers of this reign are so diffuse that it is not always possible to determine the precise denomination.

Muhammad al-Yazid, 1204-1206 / 1790-1792

603 AV ½ bunduqi (1.76g)
RR
All gold & silver coins of this reign bear the name of the ruler.

604 AV ¼ bunduqi (0.88g)
RRR
605 AR dirham (2.73g)
R
606 AR muzuna (0.68g)
R
Many coins of the following reigns are anonymous, namely Hisham and al-Husayn, and all coinage of Sulayman (whose reign overlaps the last five years of the second period, 1207-1212). Anonymous coins struck 1206-1212 of these three rulers can be distinguished by mint and date:

Hisham — Asfi 1206-1212, al-Sawaya 1207, muzunas of Marrakesh 1208, muzunas without mint name 1209.

All other examples bear his name: al-Sawaya 1206-1208, Marrakesh 1207-1208, without mint name, 1207-1209).

at-Husayn — Marrakesh, without his name 1209-1211, with his name 1211-1212.


Moulay Hisham, at Marrakesh, 1205-1209 / 1790-1794, then at Asfi (now Safi), 1209-1212 / 1794-1797

607 AV ½ bunduqi (1.76g), citing name of ruler211 RRR
608 AR dirham (2.73g), with name of ruler, normally without mint but always dated
R
609 AR muzuna (0.68g), similar
R
610 AR dirham (2.73g), with mint and date only (sometimes just date on both sides), ruler’s name omitted
R
611 AR muzuna (0.68g), similar
RR
612 AE ½ fals? (approximately 1.2g), struck only at Marrakesh in 1208, anonymous
RRR
Moulay al-Husayn, pretender at Marrakesh, 1209-1212 / 1794-1797

613 AR dirham (2.44g), first standard, used 1209-1211, anonymous
R
614 AR muzuna (0.61g), similar, also anonymous
RRR
615 AR dirham (1.95g), second standard, struck only in 1211, anonymous
RR
616 AR dirham (1.95g), second standard, struck 1211-1212, with name of ruler
RR
617 AE fals (3.9-4.8g), struck only at Marrakesh in 1211, anonymous
R

Third period (1207-1299 / 1793-1882): Beginning with the reign of Moulay Sulayman, all coins of the ‘Alawi sharifs are anonymous until after the introduction of machine-struck coinage in 1290/1872 (fourth period). They are assigned to individual rulers by date, design, and weight standard.

Fès is the only common mint for gold. Fès, Marrakesh, Rabat al-Fath and Tetuan are common for both silver and copper. Many coppers lack the mint name, but nearly all are dated. The gold and silver coins almost always show moderate to significant weakness of strike. The cast copper is also quite crudely manufactured, especially before the 1250s. Later copper is usually reasonably well made, but often found worn.

Contemporary forgeries of ‘Alawi silver coins are occasionally found, especially of the reform series of Sidi Muhammad IV dated 1283-1290 (types #651-653). They are usually silver-plated base metal.

Copper fulus were extensively counterfeited during the third period, rather surprising, as they were rarely forged during earlier times. It is widely presumed that during this period, the fulus were generally, if not entirely, produced at private mints (casting operations) under contract with the government. This might help explain why so many of those are so crudely cast that the date is so often unreadable. But what is genuine and what fake? Most issued before about 1260 are appalling primitive, but are some of them fake? From the 1260s until the reform in 1280, there seem to be relatively few forgeries. However, for the 1280-1291 reform series, forgeries abound, typically lightweight copper or brass fakes are easily recognized and are incredibly common. Given the petty value of the coppers, it is conceivable that nobody cared whether they were real or fake, except perhaps the government.

Genuine silver coins of this period typically weigh from 5% to 15% below the weights listed here. Contemporary counterfeit silver coins are usually silver-plated base metal and considerably lighter.

Moulay Sulayman, 1206-1238 / 1792-1822

618 AV bunduqi or dinar (3.52g)
R
Sulayman revived the traditional ducat weight for the bunduqi, the Arabization of the term "venetian".

Struck only at Fès, various dates 1209-1238.

619 AV ½ bunduqi (1.76g)
RR
Struck at Tetuan, Rabat al-Fath, al-’Ara’ish & Fès, 1206-1209, then again at Fès in 1232 and 1236 (RRR).

619A AV ¼ bunduqi (0.88g)
RR
Struck only at Fès, 1206-1208.

620 AR dirham (2.74g), 1st standard, used 1206-1207
R
621 AR muzuna (0.68g), same design as the dirham
RR
622 AR dirham (2.44g), 2nd standard, used 1207-1213
C
623 AR muzuna (0.61g), same design as the dirham
R
This was the last fractional dirham to be struck until the reform coinage introduced in 1283 (types #652 & 653).

624 AR dirham (2.25g), 3rd standard, used 1213-1216
S
625 AR dirham (2.15g), 4th standard, used 1216-1218
R
626 AR dirham (2.93g), 5th standard, used 1218 only
R
This standard represents a revival of the canonical dirham. Although used very briefly, dirhams of Fès struck to this standard are not especially rare.

Surprisingly, no silver coins have been reported dated 1219-1220.

627 AR dirham (1.95g), 6th standard, used 1221-1238
S
The copper coinage of this reign is very complex. It is based on a theoretical fals of about 3.53g, but actual weights vary considerably, usually substantially lighter than the standard.

An attempt was also made to regulate the diameters. The weights and diameters noted here are theoretical. Coppers are usually silver-plated base metal and considerably lighter. Many have the hexagram (known in Islamic tradition as the Seal of Sulayman, i.e., of Solomon). No attempt is made here to determine the minor type varieties, for which Eustache can be consulted.

628 AE 4 fals (14.1g, 31mm), always without mint name
R
629 AE 3 fals (10.6g, 27-28mm), often with mint name
S
630 AE 2 fals (7g, 24-25mm), many variants
C
631 AE fals (3.5-4.2g, 22mm going down to as little as 16mm!), a profusion of variants
C
632 AE ½ fals (1.7g-2.3g, 15-16mm)
S
632A AE ¼ fals (1.0-1.2g, 12mm)
R
Moulay ‘Abd al-Rahman, 1238-1276 / 1822-1859

633 AV bunduqi (3.52g)
C
Fès mint, most years 1240-1275, plus Meknès 1247 (RRR).

211 Eustache assigned to Hisham an anonymous and mintless ½ dinar dated 1208, with al-amr kulluhu lillah on reverse.
658 AE fals (2.9g), struck at Fès in 1291 and at Marrakesh in 1291, 1292, and 1295

Only Marrakesh 1295 is reasonably available, although the intended date might have been 1290 during the previous reign. Coins of this "type" allegedly dated 1299 or 1300 are poorly cast examples of 1289 and 1290 (type #656 above). Many examples that appear to be dated 1295 are likely carelessly cast specimens dated 1290 (also #656).

Fourth period (from 1299/1882 to the present): There are a number of extremely rare pattern cast copper coins, produced at Fès and Marrakesh, between 1295 and 1319, which lie outside the scope of this catalog. Regular machine-struck coinage began in 1299 (patterns are known dated as early as 1297), and was manufactured at European mints, save for a few copper coins struck at Fès beginning in 1306. Both the late cast copper coins and the machine-struck series are described in detail by Eustache and SCWC.

TULUNID

Grabar, Oleg, The Coinage of the Tulunids (ANS Numismatic Notes and Monographs #139), New York 1957.

Updated for gold in Bernardi’s Corpus, cited in the introduction. No updated listing has been published for silver coins found since Grabar’s work.

The first Egyptian dynasty to seek independence from the 'Abbasid caliph, the Tulunids ruled in Egypt and most of Syria 255-292 / 868-905, though they did not proclaim their independence until about 265/879.

Tulunid gold was struck primarily at Misr (= Fustat near Cairo), though some issues of Dimashq (287 only) and al-Raifa' are not rare. Unlike the gold dinars, silver dirhams are rare and were struck mainly at Misr, Dimashq and al-Raifa'. Other gold and silver mints include Antakya, Balis, Halab, Harran, Hims and Filastin, all substantially rare. Except for type #663.1, copper coins invariably lack a mint name. Tulunid gold is always carefully struck, though the calligraphy is often rude, especially at al-Raifa'. The silver is routinely weak, typical of Syrian and nearby silver dirhams of the late 'Abbasid period. Struck copper fulus were usually dependable struck, but contemporary cast copper coins from Cilicia were carelessly produced. All gold and silver coins cite the name of the 'Abbasid caliph, as well as the caliphal heirs when pertinent. All gold and silver coins cite the ruler's name with his patronymic, except for an extremely rare dinar of Misr 276, which cites Khumarawayh without bin Ahmad.

Ahmad b. Tulun, 254-270 / 868-884

661 AV dinar

Coins bear the ruler’s name from 265 onwards. Earlier dinars and dirhams of Misr and other Tulunid cities lack his name and are therefore classified as purely 'Abbasid issues. Ahmad’s gold & silver coins dated 265-270 bear the names of the caliph al-Mu'tamid and his western heir al-Mufawwad.

662 AR dirham

663.1 AE fals, anonymous, Misr mint only

This type, dated 257-259, is anonymous, but bears a symbol believed to be the Tulunid dynastic emblem.

663.2 AE fals, with name of ruler

Normally (if not always) cast, without mint or date, this type is assumed to have been produced at mints in Cilicia, based on style, fabric and calligraphy.

Khumarawayh b. Ahmad, 270-282 / 884-896

664 AV dinar

664.1 — With caliph al-Mu'tamid & first heir al-Mufawwad (270-278), always without the 2nd heir Ahmad b. al-Muwaffaq, cited on many purely 'Abbasid dinars of these years (C).

Tulunid dirams of al-Raifa' are stylistically much coarser than the other Tulunid mintages. Both Tulunid and purely 'Abbasid issues are reported for most years 270-278, both with the same mediocere calligraphy. The Tulunid issues do not cite the second heir Ahmad b. al-Muwaffaq, but the 'Abbasid coins of the same dates always do! Neither type is rare. Politically, the simultaneous production of the two times remains mysterious.
Ivah b. Khumarawayh, 282-283 / 896

Av dinar, citing the caliph al-Mutawakkil

Av dinar, dated 298 only

Av dinar, cast fabric, crudely made, known dated 329

This individual remains unidentified and may not have been connected to the Tulunids except as a subordinate governor.


A succession of Arab amirs who ruled in Crete (Iqritish in Arabic) from 213/828 until 350/961 or shortly after. All gold and silver coins cite the 'Abbasid caliph (except for some rare examples nonetheless do occasionally surface and are highly desired. The rare copper fulus of Tughj are decently manufactured. All gold and silver coins cite the 'Abbasid caliph (except for some donatives).

A dynasty of Central Asian Turkic origin, who ruled in Egypt and Syria from 323/935 until 358/969. The term Ikhshid was a pre-Islamic royal title in the Sogdian language. Only the gold coinage is common.

Ikhsheidid dinars were struck at Misr (Fustat) & Filastin (al-Ramla) and occasionally at Tabariya, save for a few extremely rare issues of Makka. Dirhams were struck mainly at Filastin, occasionally at Misr, Tabariya, Hims and Dimashq. A few additional dirham mints are extremely rare.

Dinars of Misr are usually very well struck, but those of Filastin are mushy, often with some weakness. Silver dirhams are for the most part miserably struck and typically at least 25% illegible; well struck examples nonetheless do occasionally surface and are highly desired. The rare copper fulus of Tughj are decently manufactured. All gold and silver coins cite the 'Abbasid caliph (except for some donatives).

Muhammad b. Tughj, 323-334 / 935-946

Circulation coins of Muhammad were first struck in his name in 331. Except for a few rare donatives (#A676), coins struck under his authority before 331 cite only the 'Abbasid caliph and are therefore classified as 'Abbasid. Muhammad is normally cited only as al-Ikhshid on his coins.

Struck by Tughj in as the 'Abbasid governor in northern coastal Syria, perhaps at Tarabulus (Tripoli in modern Lebanon). Precise dates unknown.

Muhammad b. Tughj, 323-334 / 935-946

Circulation coins of Muhammad were first struck in his name in 331. Except for a few rare donatives (#A676), coins struck under his authority before 331 cite only the 'Abbasid caliph and are therefore classified as 'Abbasid. Muhammad is normally cited only as al-Ikhshid on his coins.

'Ali b. Ahmad, fl. circa 340 / 950

'Abd al-'Aziz b. Shu'ayb, fl. 343-350 / 954-961

Chronological sources state that 'Abd al-'Aziz died in 350/961.

A minor rebel at Nasibin in the Jazira.

'Ubayda b. al-Muhajir, circa 255-256 / 869-870

A Cilician issue citing the local governor Ahmad b. Ya'qub as vassal of Khumarawayh.

Abu'l-Qasim was probably in the 280s / 890s.

This individual remains unidentified and may not have been connected to the Tulunids except as a subordinate governor.

Ibn Abi 'Isa, as governor in Cilicia, probably in the 280s / 890s

Shu'ayb b. Ahmad, early 300s / 900s

'Ali b. Yusuf, towards 320s or 330s / 940s or 950s?

213 Sole known example reported by Mishary Al-Angary, advanced collector in Saudi Arabia.

especially in higher grades.  Some dinars and dirhams of this and the previous reigns bear the initial “K” beneath the reverse, the initial of Kafur, who served as chamberlain under both Abu’l-Qasim and ‘Ali. Anonymous coins with the initial “K” similarly located are assigned to Kafur (see below).

678 AV dinar
679 AR dirham

Kafur, 355-357 / 966-968
Abu’l-Misk Kafur was a black African slave purchased from Ethiopia by Abu’l-Qasim. He rose through the ranks, eventually becoming regent to the young ‘Ali. He became sole ruler upon ‘Ali’s death in 355/966. His normal dinars and all his dirhams lack his name but have his initial kaft beneath the reverse.

680.1 AV dinar, anonymous type with initial kaft only, dated 355 only
680.2 AV dinar, with his full name

Struck only at Mecca in 357 and one of the classic rarities of Islamic gold coinage. Stylistically and epigraphically identical to contemporary Yemeni coins, whence it seems that the die engravers were themselves Yemeni.

681 AR dirham, type as #680.1

Ahmad b. ‘Ali, 357-358 / 968-969
Some issues bear the name Tughj below the reverse (RRR). Most coins of this type cite the governor of Tabariya, al-Husayn b. ‘Ubayd Allah.

682 AV dinar, struck only at Filastin
683 AR dirham, struck at Filastin & Tabariya

Most coins of this type cite the governor of Tabariya, al-Husayn b. ‘Ubayd Allah.

QARAMITA (Qarmatid)
A thorough study of this coinage by Aram Vardanyan is anticipated to appear in Revue Numismatique in the 2010 edition (not yet seen).

The Qaramita, or Carmathians, were a radical Isma’ili sect originally centered in eastern Arabia that seized parts of Syria and Palestine following the collapse of the Ikhshidid kingdom in 358/966. All of their coinage is rare, especially the gold. Most coins of the Qaramita cite al-sadat al-ru’asa, “the chief sayyids”, or al-sayyid al-ra’is, “the chief sayyid” (singular), and usually name a local governor or other official. All cite the ‘Abbasid caliph, notwithstanding the reality that he was a Qaramita, without naming any local official (circa 358-360 / 969-971), and usually name a local governor or other official. All cite the Abbasid caliph, notwithstanding the reality that the Qaramita abhorred the Abbasids.

Although the Qaramita were predominantly based in eastern Arabia, in what is now Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the Emirates, their coinage is entirely restricted to their brief occupation of portions of Greater Syria, 358-366/966-974, minted primarily at Filastin and Dimashq, more rarely at Tabariya. The gold dinars are generally well struck, but the dirhams, as is true for both the preceding Ikhshidid and subsequent Fatimid Syrian dirhams, are almost always abominably struck, usually more than 50% flat, though fully struck examples are occasionally found. Both gold and silver bear the words sali Allah ‘alayhi wa ‘ala alilhi after muhammad rasul Allah.

Anonymous, in the name of the Chief Sayyids, without local official (circa 358-360 / 969-971)

684 AV dinar

Some rare dinars of Filastin bear the word salih or sulh below the reverse, possibly the name of a local governor.

B684 AR dirham, similar

Fatimid Caliphate
Miles, George C., Fatimid Coins (ANS Numismatic Notes and Monographs #121), New York 1951, now totally obsolete. Balog, Paul, “The Fatimid Glass Jeton,” Annali del Instituto Italiano di Numismatica, vol. 18-19 (1971-72), pp. 121-212. Spahr, Rodolfo, Le monete siciliane dai bizantini a Carlo I d’Angiò, Zürich 1976, for the Sicilian issues. De Luca, Maria Amalia, Le monete con leggenda araba della Biblioteca Comunale di Palermo, Palermo 1998, for some Sicilian issues. Nicol, Norman D, A Corpus of Fatimid Coins, Trieste 2006. This will remain the basis for all future research in this series (except glass jetons). For publication in about 2012, Nicol is currently accumulating descriptions of additional types and photos of types listed without an illustration. He would welcome any information and can be contacted at ndnicol@epix.net.

Although descended from North Iranian sectarians, this Isma’ili Shi’ite dynasty first arose in the Maghreb (North Africa), seized Ifriqiya from the Aghlabids in 297/909 and conquered Egypt in 358/969, where they founded their new capital al-Qahira (Cairo) adjacent to the ancient city of Fustat. They achieved their apogee under al-Mustansir by the 410s/1019, briefly occupying Fès to the west and Baghdad to the east, but by the death of al-Amir in 524/1130, their territory was restricted to Egypt. The dynasty was ultimately extinguished by the Ayyubid conqueror Saladin (Salah al-Din Yusuf b. Ayyub) in 567/1171.

While Fatimid gold coinage generally maintained its fineness until the end of the dynasty, the silver was rapidly debased. By the end of al-Hakim’s reign in 411/1021, the dirhams had become much copperier than silver and no longer remotely followed any sort of weight standard. There is no true copper coinage; glass-paste jetons of several denominations (not distinguished here) took their place.

Prior to the conquest of Egypt in 358/969, Fatimid gold and silver coins were struck primarily at al-Qayrawan, al-Mansuriya, and al-Mahdiya, all located within what is now modern Tunisia. After 358, M iss (al-Qahira) became the most common mint until the end of the dynasty, though at times, the mints of al-Iksandariya (Alexandria), Sur (Tyre), Tarabulus (Tripoli), Tarabulus (Tripoli), and Filastin were also major producers. After the accession of al-Amir in 495/1011, the mints of

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215 A large Egyptian hoard of Ikhshidid dinars terminating in 344 or 345 was discovered circa 1955. Dinars of this reign with later dates are much rarer, especially in higher grades.
216 Dirhams of Filastin 353 have recently become much less rare, presumably from an unannounced hoard.
217 A few rare examples of Tabariya cite al-Husayn b. ‘Ubayd Allah, who had earlier been governor of Tabariya for the last Ikhshidid ruler.
al-Iskandariya & Misr are the only common mints. Post-470s dinars of Sur, the last Fatimid mint in Syria (loss to the Crusaders in 518), is rare, as is the later Egyptian mints of al-Mu‘izziyah al-Qahirah.

A complete list of known mints can be found in Nicol’s corpus.

For their gold coinage, unlike their contemporary ‘Abbasids and subsequent dynasties, the Fatimids attempted to maintain the canonical weight of about 4.26g for the full dinar and 1.06g for the quarter dinar. By the reign of al-Zahir (411-427), the theoretical weight was increasingly ignored. By the end of al-Mustansir’s reign in 487/1094, dinars would weigh between about 3.5g and 5g, and must have been weighed rather than counted. An accurate weight standard was not reestablished in Syria and Egypt for more than 300 years.

Rare examples of additional fractional gold denominations, such as the ¼, ⅛, 1/6, ½ and ⅝ dinars and a few irregular fractions, have been reported, and are only listed here when their denomination has been securely demonstrated.

Early Fatimid silver coinage, up to and including the reign of al-Hakim, was based on a dirham close to the traditional weight (roughly 2.85-3.0g) and consisted of various fractions, of which the half dirham was the principal denomination, scrupulously adhering to a weight of about 1.45g. The earliest issues are primarily from the mints of al-Qayrawan (until 307), al-Mansuriya and the Mahdiya, but after 358, silver dirhams were also produced at Misr, followed by al-Iskandariya, and eventually several Syrian mints that are not especially rare. Under al-Mu’izz and al-‘Aziz, ¼ and ½ dirhams were also struck at reasonably accurate weights, usually from special dies for each denomination, and always labeled dirham in the mint/date formula (some scholars regard the silver coin of about 1.45g as a full dirham, rather than a half dirham).

There are also some rare full dirhams struck at Syrian mints under al-Mu‘izz and al-‘Aziz, after the initial Fatimid conquest of that province in 358 until about 370, principally at Dimashq, Filastin and Tabariyya. Their style, weight, and broadness were inherited from the previous Ikshidid silver coinage at these mints, without a secure weight standard – individual specimens vary from less than 2 grams to more than 6 grams, and they are almost always horribly struck.

During the reign of al-Hakim the silver fineness and accuracy of weight collapsed, so that distinctive denominations are no longer perceivable. “Silver” coins were struck in various degrees of billon, probably at many mints, mainly in Syria & Palestine, though except for the moderately common mint of Sur, most of these billon coins lack both date and mint name. The billon “dirham”, known as dirham aswad or “black dirham”, varies tremendously in weight, randomly from less than half a gram to several grams. During the last 4 reigns, some full dirhams were struck at Misr, with a silver fineness likely in the 60-70% range and a weight standard of about 2.9g.

Nicol has identified several issues at Makkah: 356, 363, 364, 365 of al-Mu‘izz, 366 (& possibly 380) of al-‘Aziz, 394 of al-Hakim, 420 of al-Zahir, and 442 of al-Mustansir. All are gold dinars, although the gold dinar of 356 is enigmatically inscribed dirham. There is also a quarter dinar of Makkah dated 442. All are exceedingly rare.

Although his personal name is ‘Ubayd Allah, it always appears on the coins as ‘Abd Allah, for unknown reasons. The name of al-Mahdi was retained on dinars of type 688A after his death until 333, presumably at Sijilmassa, then under control of the Midrarids. Midrarid dinars were struck 334-347 (types #453 & 454), with Fatimid coinage resuming in 347.

Some of the malevolently crudest examples were conceivably struck in Mali itself, possibly at the city of Timbuktu (not to be confused with the nearly abandoned Timbuctoo, California).

Well-struck coins of this type were struck mainly at al-Qayrawan 297-307, then at the newly established capital named al-Mahdiya after this caliph, from 308 onwards. Other dinars, normally without mint name, are moderately to terribly crude, and are now listed separately as #688A.

Posthumous dirhams were struck at al-Qayrawan in 335 & 336, and½ dirhams at al-Mahdiya in 335. Posthumous issues are also known for later rulers, especially al-Hakim and al-Zahir, struck at mints in Sicily and North Africa.

For Yemeni issues in the name of this caliph, see #A1067-1067.

al-Qa’im Muhammad, 322-334 / 934-946

His full title is abu l-qasim al-qa’im bi-amr Allah. Posthumous dirhams were struck at al-Qayrawan in 335 & 336, dinars and½ dirhams at al-Mahdiya in 335. Posthumous issues are also known for later rulers, especially al-Hakim and al-Zahir, struck at mints in Sicily and North Africa.

For Yemeni issues in the name of the caliph, see #A1067-1067.

Abu Yazid Makhld b. Kaydad, rebel at al-Qayrawan, 333-334 / 945-946

Anonymous, inscribed with the Kharijite proclamation la hukm illa Allah “there is no command other than God’s”, also rabhuna Allah al-haqq al-mubin in the obverse field, al-‘izza lillah khatim al-nabiyin on the reverse.

The idea that the glass-paste jetons were coins is not universally accepted, though in my opinion, it was persuasively argued by Balog. Similar glass-paste objects from the Umayyad, ‘Abbasid, and Tulunid periods were weights, many for weighing coins, as their inscriptions clearly indicate, but others for weighing all manner of other material, mostly drugs, including cannabis (Arabic qansus). Fatimid jetons may also have served as weights, but their principal function was most likely that of a fiduciary small coinage, as they are found in large quantities, far more than would likely have survived were they intended solely as weights. There were several denominations, especially during the 5th/11th and early 6th/12th centuries, but these have not yet been clearly distinguished.

Up to and including the reign of al-Mustansir, most glass jetons were made of transparent glass, now generally greenish as the result of ageing. Later jetons show a greater variety of color and are often opaque. The opaque jetons are found in many more colors than the translucent.
694. AV dinar
Both dinars and ¼ dinars were struck at al-Mahdiya and, from 338 onwards, al-Mansuriya, named after himself. Quarter dinars were also struck at Siqilliya starting in 337.

695. AV ¼ dinar

696. AR ½ dirham (1.45g)
Known from Fès and al-Mansuriya, with his kunya Abu 'l-Tahir on the issues of Fès.

697. AR ¼ dirham (0.72g), usually without mint & date

698. AR ½ dirham (1.45g)

699. AR broad dirham
Three concentric circle pattern, as the gold, but struck on broad flans, nearly always extremely weak. Struck at Dimashq, Sur, Tabariya and Filastin until soon after 370. Attractive, well-struck specimens are extremely rare.

700. AR full dirham, citing the heir apparent al-Mansur (later al-Hakim as caliph), his name & title divided between the obverse & reverse centers
Struck 382-386 at Dimashq and Tarabulus. Usually well struck. Average weight about 2.2-2.5g, but individual specials vary from about 1.75g to well over 3g.

701. AR ½ dirham (1.45g)
Struck mainly at al-Mansuriya & al-Mahdiya, with modest quantities from Misr, Tarabulus and Filastin. All other mints are rare.

702. AR kharuba (about 0.2g), struck in Sicily

703. AV dinar
All dinars and most silver coins & fractions have two concentric circles of text with a relatively broad empty band between, and a pellet in the center. For the dinar, Misr is by far the commonest mint, with al-Mansuriya and al-Mahdiya also quite common, and Filastin only slightly rare. All other mints are rare.

704. AV ¼ dinar
Most examples are without mint name or with mint off flan. The mint of Siqilliya is rare, other legible mints extremely rare.

705. AV ½ dinar

706. AV ¼ dinar

707. AV ¼ dinar

708. AV ½ dinar

709. AV ¼ dinar, stellate type

710. AV ¼ dinar, without mint and date

X700. AV dinar, 4-line text in center, struck at Dimashq, Sur, 370-373. Attractive, well-struck specimens are extremely rare.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 96
711 AR ½ dirham (1.25-1.65g), struck mainly at Misr and al-Mahdiya

Fixed weight standards for silver and billon coins collapsed during this reign. Random weights became the standard under his successors, with the exception of a few extremely rare full dirhams of al-Hafiz and later.

711F AR or BI fractional dirham, usually without mint or date

Although most “silver” half dirhams of this reign continued to adhere to the traditional half dirham weight, the weight of smaller fractions became increasingly haphazard. Moreover, the silver fineness was increasingly debased, at first in North Africa, later throughout the Fatimid territories. By the end of this reign, the billon coins can no longer be divided into separate denominations.

712 AR kharuba (0.2g), struck in Sicily

The central legends vary from 3 to 5 lines on both obverse and reverse, and are separated from the margin by two plain circles, on both types #719.1 and 719.2. Also struck at Sabra (Sfax in Tunisia) in 439-440 (R) under Zirid auteurship, but solely in the name of al-Mansurs.

719.2 AV diran, 2nd standard type, as #719.1 but with the added titulation ‘abd Allah wa wa’lidihi, struck 439-440 and resumed 474-487

Also struck periodically between the 450s and 474 at Dimashq, Sur, Tarabulus (in Lebanon) and ‘Akka, of which all but Tarabulus 463, 465 and 471 are very rare, also at Misr 460-461 (R). Misr is the most common mint in the first brief period, al-Iskandariyya, followed by Misr, in the second period.

719A AV diran, 3rd standard type, three concentric circular legends (“bull’s-eye” type), struck 440-473

Stylistically identical to #669.1 of al-Mu’izz, always with central pellets on both sides. A few rare dates after 473 are known from mints other than Misr. Overall, Misr is the most common mint, but some dates of Sur, Tarabulus, Filastin and al-Iskandariyya are only scarce.

719B AV diran, issued during the rebellion of al-Basasari in the name of al-Mustansir

Design type as #719.2, dated 450 & 451, struck at Madinat al-Salami and al-Kufa. A unique diran of Madinat al-Salami 451 is known with type of #719A (3 concentric circular legends). Calligraphically, examples of this type resemble Great Seljuk dinars of western mints.

719M AV diran, two horizontal lines of legend with two concentric circular legends

Struck only at al-Mahdiya, 455-469. A few miscellaneous types are reported, as well as dates outside the normal periods. Some of these may be incorrectly published pieces.

720 AV diran (or bezant), Crusader imitations, without Latin letters, 13th century

The chronological order of #720, 720A and 720B is unknown. Seltman has suggested that B = Bohemond and T = Tripoli.

720A AV diran (or bezant), Crusader imitation, as #720 but with Latin B above obverse and T above reverse, without cross, 13th century

Some of these may be incorrectly published pieces.

721 AV ¼ diran, normal Fatimid types, denomination al-diran (when legible)

Only Siqilliya is common, with seemingly endless different subtypes, often within a single year. These were last struck in the year 464, save for an issue struck at Qil‘at Kirkant (Fortress of Agrigento in Sicily) dated 468 (RRR). Quarter dinars of Sur, ‘Akka, Misr and al-Mansuriya are only moderately rare, all other mints at least very rare. Examples without mint name or with mint off flan are very common, and exist in innumerable varieties.

721R AV ¼ diran, with denomination al-ruba‘i, known only from al-Mansuriya during the 430s

RRR

722 AV ¼ diran, stellate type

Struck principally in Sicily (non-Sicilian mints are extremely rare). The legends are arranged as a complex hexagram, and are very difficult to decipher. The mint & date are usually off flan. Debased examples are common, both in silver and in copper, often gilt, probably forgeries, although some are perhaps emergency issues officially struck during conflicts with the Normans.

A723 AV ¼ diran, no mint or date

B723 AV 1/16 diran, no mint or date

RR?

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221 Ironically, 420 is also the year the Ghaznavids added the month to dirhams at Herat and Ghazna, and to dirhams at Balkh, both continuing into 421.
723 AR or BI dirham & fractions, usually heavily alloyed

Silver and billon types of this reign vary from region to region, with a great diversity of local types. Although some series seem at least vaguely to preserve some sort of weight standard, most were struck at random weights. By the end of the reign, the silver content was typically 25% or less, and the coins have a blackish color, for which they appropriately came to be known as the black dirham, *dirham aswad*. Sur and 'Akka are the only mint names occasionally seen (R); all others are at least very rare. The great majority of these "dirhams" lack both mint and date.

For Yemeni issues, see #1078A.

724 Glass-paste jeton, various types, weights & denominations

al-Musta'li Abu'l-Qasim Ahmad, 487-495 / 1094-1101

Beginning with this reign, all Fatimid gold dinars and nearly all fractions (and all dinars of the Ayyubid ruler Saladin) bear the legend *'al ghaya* in the reverse center, "extremely pure", undoubtedly an intentional reference to the fineness of the gold, perhaps to assure the population that the gold content was not following the increasing debasement in the east.223

725.1 AV dinar, 1st series, 5 or 6 horizontal lines of text within a single marginal legend, dated 488-490

725.2 AV dinar, 2nd series, short 2-line inscriptions in center, surrounded by two marginal legends, dated 490-495

726 AV ¼ dinar, various types

726A AV ¼ dinar, similar to type #725.2 but with only one marginal legend

727 BI dirham & fractions

From this reign to the end of the dynasty, the billon coins are rather ghastly produced "black dirhams". Most are grossly struck on irregular flans of variable thickness and shape, showing only partial inscriptions. After AH525 there are also a few carefully struck round dirhams of what appears to be tolerably good silver224, all extremely rare, as noted in the listings.

728 Glass-paste jeton

al-Mustafa Nizar, rebel at Alexandria, 488 / 1095

729 AV dinar, al-Iskandariya 488 only225

al-Amir Abu 'Ali al-Mansur, 495-524 / 1101-1130

His full title is *al-amir bi-ahkam Allah*.

730 AV dinar

Despite his lengthy reign, there is only one type, a short 2-line central inscription within two marginal legends. Mints are Misr (C), al-Iskandariya (C), Sur (R), al-Mu'izziya al-Qahira (R), 'Asqalan (RR), Qus (RRR), and Ayla (RRR).

731 AV ¼ dinar

Based mainly on dinars of Misr 506 and Misr 515, though many other "dates" have been reported, as well as rare examples engraved with the mint name al-Iskandariya or Sur. An especially rare variant is derived from a dinar of 'Asqalan mint. These imitations were struck by the kings of Jerusalem, presumably at the fortress town of Acre.

The bezants can be readily distinguished by their calligraphy, which gradually degenerates from slightly coarse to utterly meaningless between the first issues at some point after the conquest of Sur (Tyre) in 1124 until the expulsion of the Crusaders from Acre in 1291.

731 AV ¼ dinar

732 BI dirham aswad & fractions

733 Glass-paste jeton, various types & denominations

**Interregnum, 524-526 / 1130-1131**

Coins in name of Abu'l-Qasim al-Muntazar bi-'amr Allah, "the expected".

734.1 AV dinar, in the name of al-Imam Muhammad

734.2 AV dinar, in the name of the vizier, al-Afdal Abu 'Ali Ahmad

Coins of this type also cite the hidden Imam al-Mahdi, as evidence of al-Afdal's Twelver Shi'ite predilection.

Types #734.1 and 734.2 are effortlessly distinguished:

#734.1 has *al-imam Muhammad* within obverse center, *'al ghaya* within reverse center, each within two marginal legends.

#734.2 has *'al* within obverse center, *ghaya* on reverse, each surrounded by three marginal legends.

735 AR dirham, generally as #734.1 but reverse field text is *Allah al-samad*, full strike on round flan

Because *'al ghaya* refers to the purity of the gold, all full dirhams from this reign onwards instead bear the inscription *Allah al-samad*, "God the Eternal".

During this and subsequent reigns, all coins were struck in Egypt (Misr, al-Iskandariya, and rarely at al-Mu'izziyah al-Qahira), although the mint is rarely visible on billon coins and never included in the inscriptions on glass jetons. Syria and Palestine had been lost to the Seljuqs, Crusaders and local Syrian dynasties.

735.1 AV dinar, 1st series, with *'abd Allah wa walihi* in obverse field, struck 526-527

All dinars, ¼ dinars and full dirhams of al-Hafiz bear a horizontal inscription within the field, as indcicated here, surrounded by two marginal legends.

735.2 AV dinar, 2nd series, with *al-imam 'abd al-majid* in two lines in the obverse field, struck 527-531

735.3 AV dinar, 3rd series, with *al-imam 'abd al-majid* in three lines in the obverse field, struck 532-544

736 B735 BI dirham aswad & fractions, on round or irregularly shaped flans

**al-Hafiz Abu'l-Maymun 'Abd al-Majid,** 526-544 / 1131-1149

His full title is *al-hafiz li-din Allah*.

737 BI dirham aswad & fractions, on round or irregularly shaped flans, many subtypes

738 Glass-paste jeton

al-Zafir Abu'l-Mansur Isma'il, 544-549 / 1149-1154

His full title is *al-zafir bi-ahkam Allah*.

738 AV dinar

One type only, 5-line obverse and 6-line reverse, each within a single marginal legend.

738A AV ¼ dinar, Misr only, type as last

738B AV ¼ dinar, no mint or date


739 AR full dirham, Misr only, full strike on round flan, with *Allah al-hamid* in reverse center

740 BI dirham aswad & fractions, on round or irregularly shaped flans

741 Glass-paste jeton

223 The term *'al* ("line") was added to the dinars of al-Mustansir beginning with issues of al-Iskandariya dated 467. All Fatimid dinars, up to the very last issues, retain a high gold purity, normally 96% or higher, which was maintained by the Ayyubids and the Mamluks. The earliest Crusader bezants imitate the dinar of al-Iskandariya 465 but were struck after about 520/1125. For a few years, they followed a fineness of 92-95%, but were soon alloyed to roughly 78-80% for many decades, eventually to about 65%. Contemporary Byzantine gold coins were also of lesser fineness. For a somewhat discombobulated analysis, see A.A. Gordus & D.M. Metcalf, "Gold Coinages of the Crusader States", in Alex G. Mallow, Irene Fraley Preston & A.J. Seltman, *Coins of the Crusader States* 1098-1291, New York 1994, pp. 90-114.

224 Without the results of fineness analyses, one can only guess the fineness, but I would suspect in the range of 60-70% silver, opposed to less than 25% for the standard black dirhams.

225 Sotheby’s, 18 April 1994, lot 391.
al-Fa’iz Abu’l-Qasim ‘Isa, 549-555 / 1154-1160

Mosul (al-Mawsil), Sayf al-Dawla of Halab came to be regarded as one of the greatest Islamic rulers, due perhaps to his support of the remarkable poet al-Mutanabbi.

None of the mints in the Syrian region are common, whereas al-Mawsil and secondarily Nasibin in the eastern territories of this dynasty are relatively available. Hamdanid gold is always well struck, but the silver is variable, better struck at eastern than at western mints, a difference inherited from the previous ‘Abbasid caliphs and Ikhshidid rulers. There is no known copper coinage.


Both were sons of ‘Abd Allah b. Hamdan, who served as caliphal governor in al-Mawsil, 293-317.

In addition to the common mint al-Mawsil, other mints citing both brothers, dated 332-336, include Antakiya, Dimashq, Halab, Hims, al-Jazira, al-Masisa, Mayyafarqin, Nasibin, al-Rafqa, al-Raqqa, and Tarsus, all of them very rare. One remarkable dirham dated 356 cites the mint as khazanat al-shamiya min Halab, “the Syrian treasury of Aleppo” (RRR).

NORMANS OF SICILY

Arabic and bilingual Latin/Arabic coins struck by the Normans of Sicily and several of their contemporaries are not Islamic and are therefore not catalogued here. See Lucia Travaini, La monetazione nell’Italia normanna, Rome, 1995, for the most recent study of this series.

REVOLT OF MUHAMMAD B. ‘ABBAD


Muhammad b. ‘Abbad, 616-619 / 1219-1222

In rebellion against Frederick Barbarossa.

HAMDANID


Later Hamdanid coins, as well as those of their ‘Uqaylid and Marwanid contemporaries, have never been properly studied.

A 4th/10th century dynasty in Syria and the Jazira, with two branches, their respective capitals at Aleppo (Halab) and

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 99

227 Published in Schweizer Münzblätter, v. 206 (June 2002), p.23.
228 For al-Mawsil 360, see Sotheby’s 25 May 2000, lot 415.

Sinan al-Dawla Abu Mus’ab, in Nasibin, 393-396 / 1003-1006

With additional laqab Dhu’l-Majayn, “Possessor of two splendors”.

Nur al-Dawla Abu Mus’ab, in Nasibin, 393-396 / 1003-1006

A753

AR dirham

RR

Not a member of the Hamdanid dynasty, but the successor to their Syrian possessions.

AR dirham

RR

Although ‘Uqaylid coins are cited in numerous references, no overview of the coinage has yet been published. A pro-Shi'ite Bedouin dynasty that ruled in the Jazira and parts of Syria from about 990 to 1096. Their coinage consists of relatively pure silver dirhams (except the billon #761). A much earlier member of the clan declared his independence at Qarqisiya in Iraq, where he struck coins in 275/889, both gold and silver (#L753 & M753).

There are several regional branches of this dynasty, many of whose rulers issued coins. The selection presented here is undoubtedly incomplete, due to the lack of publications. The various rulers used different forms of their names and titles on their various coinages, leading to much confusion over correct attribution. All rulers from 380 to the 430s acknowledged Buwayhid suzerainty (except for type #759.2). The only known ‘Uqaylid issue after about 435 is the billon dirham of Sharaf al-Dawla Muslim.

The listings here are tentative, due to lack of publication.

Muhammad b. Safwan, fl. 275-276 / 889-890

RR

Ibn Safwan’s gold and silver coins cite the caliph al-Mu’tamid, together with his two heirs al-Mufawwâd and Ahmad b. al-Muwafiq.

AR dirham, similar, Qarqisiya mint only

RR

M753

As vassal of Sinan al-Dawla & the Buwayhid Baha’ al-Dawla, struck at al-Mawsil in 391 (Baldwin’s, 3 May 2005, lot 1106).

M759 AR dirham, name as on #L759

RRR

As vassal of Nur al-Dawla Abu Mus’ab & the Buwayhid Baha’ al-Dawla. Struck only at al-Mawsil in 393-394.

754.1 AR dirham, citing the ruler without his laqab as ‘Ali b. al-Musayyib, AR dirham, dated 385 only RR

RR

754.2 AR dirham, with his laqab Janah al-Dawla, various types

Struck 386-390 at mints other than al-Mawsil, mainly Nasibin.

Muhammad b. al-Musayyib, in Nasibin, 385-390 / 996-1000

RR


RR

Suited to Nasibin 405 & 409, but because it was struck from very broad dies, the mint and date are rarely visible. The Aleppan issues of the later ruler Sharaf al-Dawla Muslim are typically Syrian, weakly struck and with mere traces of the marginal legend.

The listings here are tentative, due to lack of publication.

Muhammad b. al-Musayyib, circa 380-385 / 990-996

RR

753 AR dirham

RR

Ba’b al-Mawsil until 403; thereafter Sultan al-Dawla

759A AR dirham, the two brothers as joint rulers, see #759B

Also citing the ‘Abbasid caliph. Struck principally at Nasibin 406-408 and 410-411 (see #759B for dirhams of Nasibin dated 409). On this type, the brothers are cited as mu’tamid al-dawla wa abu l-fadl ibna hasam al-dawla,229

ABU’L-FADL BADRAN, as vassal of Muthamid al-Dawla, fl. 405-409 / 1015-1019

R

RRR

Citing Mu’tamid al-Dawla as overlord.

Mu’tamid al-Dawla & Abu’l-Fadl Badran, as joint rulers, fl. 410-411 / 1020-1021

S

759A AR dirham, the two brothers as joint rulers, as vassals under the Buwayhid Sultan al-Dawla

(see also #759B)

759B AR dirham, citing his brother Mu’tamid al-Dawla as suzerain, as vassal of the Buwayhid Sultan al-Dawla

R

Known from Nasibin 405 & 409, but because it was struck from very broad dies, the mint and date are rarely visible. The brothers are cited as mu’tamid al-dawla abu l-fadl ibna hasam al-dawla

For the two brothers as joint rulers, see #759A. Types #759A and 759B were apparently unknown before the hoard in 2009.

C760 AR dirham, Barqa’id mint only

RRR

Ibrahim b. al-Rukhaji, at Barqa’id, fl. 390s / 1000s

RR

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 100

229 A hoard of at least 400 Mirdasid and ‘Uqaylid dirhams appeared in the market in 2009, including at least 100 examples of type #759A (mostly with date and/or mint off flan) and several dozen of #759B, together with more than 50 Marwanid dirhams, almost all of type #765 from the mint of Mayyafariqin. The hoard has not been published, and was distributed piecemeal to various sellers.
Shihab al-Dawla Abu Darra, fl. 399 / 1009

D760 AR dirham, al-Jazira 399 only, citing the Buwayhid ruler Baha’ al-Dawla, no other ‘Uqaylid

Quth al-Dawla, fl. 400 / 1010

E760 AR dirham, Balad mint only, dated 400

Muzahir al-Dawla b. al-Musayyib, fl. 399-424+ / 1009-1033+

With the laqab Dhul-Munaqib.

F760 AR dirham, principally Tikrit mint

Known dated 399 & 400. Overlord undetermined.

G760 AR dirham, known from Nasibin 404, Tikrit 405 & 409

Citing the Buwayhid ruler Sultan al-Dawla.

H760 AR dirham, known from Tikrit 417 & 424

Without any overlord, Muzahir al-Dawla’s name in the inner obverse margin, mint & date in outer obverse margin.232

Najdat al-Dawla b. Qiwarr, fl. 405 / 1015

With the laqab Dhul-Jaliyaq, if correctly read. He is mentioned by Ibn al-Athir during the year 418 as Najdat al-Dawla Abu Mansur b. Qirad al-Ladid.

Additional titles Sayf al-Din and ‘Imad al-Muslimin.

760 AR dirham, generally very carefully struck & with elegant calligraphy

All his coins also cite the Buwayhid overlord Jalal al-Dawla as Abu Tahir, often with the additional title Rukn al-Din, but never as Jalal al-Dawla. Some bear the word haraq (fire) above the obverse field, a reference to the purity of the silver.

An interesting variety of ‘Ukbara 421 bears the names of the Abbasid caliph al-Qadir together with al-Qa’im cited as heir apparent (RRR).233

‘Izz al-Dawla, fl. 426 / 1035

Additional titles ‘Imad al-Din & Sinan al-Umara. Citing the Buwayhid Jalal al-Dawla as overlord (as Abu Tahir).

Sharaf al-Dawla Muslim, 453-478 / 1061-1085

761 BI fractional dirham, struck at Aleppo

Struck circa 472-478 / 1079-1085, typically quite crude.

MARWANID

There is no comprehensive publication of Marwanid coinage (see bibliography for the ‘Uqaylids).

The Marwanids were of Kurdish extraction and ruled in parts of the Jazira from 373/983 until the Seljuq conquest in 478/1085. Their capital was at Mayyafariqin in east-central Turkey, the modern city of Silvan on the highway between Diyarbakur (formerly Amid) and Bitlis. Their coinage consisted entirely of dirhams, increasingly debased after about 410. Nearly all cite the Buwayhid ruler of Iraq as overlord (except 4762).

Mayyafariqin is by far the most plentiful Marwanid mint (except for the coins of the ‘Uqaylids, q.v., and the dies were generally broader than the coins themselves. Little is known about the post-411 debased dirhams, which seem not to have reached the market in significant numbers.

al-Husayn b. Dustak, at al-Mawsil, circa 373-374 / 983-984

A762 AR dirham, al-Mawsil mint only

Citing the Buwayhid overlord Sharaf al-Dawla as shirdhil bin ‘adud al-dawla.


762 AR dirham

Mumahhid al-Dawla S’a'id, 387-401 / 997-1011

763 AR dirham, as Abu Mansur S’a’id b. Marwan (387-391)

764 AR dirham, as Mumahhid al-Dawla Abu Mansur (391-401)

Abu Shuja’ Parwiz b. Muhammad, 401 / 1011

G765 AR dirham, Mayyafariqin 401 only

Nasr al-Dawla Abu Nasr, 401-453 / 1011-1061

765 AR dirham (billion after early 410s)

Known from about 15 mints, of which only Mayyafariqin is common. Other mints include Amid, Anbar, Arzan, Bitlis, al-Husayn, al-Jazira, Is’ird and Mardin. Virtually no coins of Nasr al-Dawla are known dated after 420. See footnote #233.

MIRDASID


A 5th/11th century dynasty in Aleppo. Descended from the Arab tribe of Khilab. Aside from a few rare dinars and fals, their coins are small dirhams (more properly fractional dirhams), increasingly debased after about 440.

When visible, the mint is almost always Halab (Aleppo), sometimes given in the form Thaghr Halab (“Aleppo frontier”).234 Silver and billon coins are generally crudely struck on flans smaller than the dies, with no attempt to maintain uniformity of weight. From the time of Thamal onwards, the alloy of the dirhams becomes severely debased billon, similar to the contemporary Fatimid dirham aswad.

With the exception of the first two rulers, all Mirdasid coinage is complex and poorly understood. Most attributions are tentative, awaiting further research.

It is likely that many of the debased Mirdasid dirhams are markedly less rare than indicated here, as such ugly and uninspiring billon coins are so often passed over, often tossed into inexpensive “junk lots” of Syrian Islamic coppers.

Asad al-Dawla Salih, 414-420 / 1023-1029

N766 AV dinar, citing the Fatimid overlord al-Zahir

766 AR or BI dirham, similar

Shibl al-Dawla Nasr I b. Salih, 420-429 / 1029-1038

N767 AV dinar, citing the Fatimid overlord Mustansir

Two circular inscriptions on either side, with short single line inscriptions in the center, shibl al-dawla on obverse, dhul ghazwain, “possessor of two conquests”.235

767 AR or BI dirham

The Mirdasid territory was temporarily occupied by the Fatimids 429-433 and again 449-452.


768 BI dirham

RR

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 101


231 Shamma collection, now in Qatar.


233 In the late 1990s I was shown a small hoard of about 100 ‘Uqaylid dirhams, nearly all of Kamal al-Dawla Gharib of the ‘Ukbara mint. To my knowledge, these have never again appeared on the market, unless they are same specimens published by Yahya Jafar in the ONS Newsletter.

234 There is a dirham of Asad al-Dawla Salih from Hims and one tentatively assigned to Abu ‘Uwlan Thamal from al-Rahba, both in Tübingen.
‘Um'dat al-U'mara ‘Atiya b. Salih (Abu Dhu’aba), 454-457 / 1062-1065

A769 BI dirham

B769 AE fals


769 BI dirham

Coins of this type normally, if not always, also cite the Great Seljuk sultan, ‘Adud al-Dawla Alp Arslan (455-465).

Nasr II, 467-468 / 1074-1076

A770 BI dirham

Attribution of coins to this ruler remains speculative.

Sabiq, 468-472 / 1076-1079

770 BI dirham

Sabiq was vassal of the Great Seljuk Malikshah, who is cited on most of his coins. Sabiq was succeeded at Halab in 472 by the ‘Uqaylid ruler Sharaf al-Dawla Muslim (type #761). Most of Muslim’s coins cite the Great Seljuk Malikshah I as overlord.

NUMAYRID


An Arab tribal dynasty centered in Harran, with a regional branch located at al-Raqqa. Its coinage consists entirely of small, debased billon dirhams or fractions, similar to those of the Mirdasids, and all are very rare. More or less debased billon dirhams or fractions, similar to An Arab tribal dynasty centered in Harran, with a regional branch located at al-Raqqa. Its coinage consists entirely of small, debased billon dirhams or fractions, similar to those of the Mirdasids, and all are very rare. More or less debased billon dirhams or fractions, similar to those of the Mirdasids, and all are very rare.

The only reported mints for this dynasty are Harran and al-Raqqa, though the mint & date are rarely visible. At least 8 varieties, nearly always overstruck, but the sequence of types has not yet been elucidated. Poorly made specimens are the norm, fully legible examples unknown. None bear the mint name.

Mu’ayyid al-Dawla Watthhab (b. Sabiq), 380-410 / 990-1019

M771 BI dirham

Known dated 409 from Harran. All examples cite the Fatimid caliph al-Hakim as overlord. Sani’at al-Dawla Shabib (b. Waththab), 410-431 / 1019-1040

771 BI dirham

All his coins cite the Fatimid caliph as overlord, al-Zahir until 427, thereafter al-Mustansir.

Muta’in (b. Waththab, Abu Nasr), from 431 / 1040 until perhaps as late as 448 / 1056

772 BI dirham

Citing the Fatimid caliph al-Mustansir. Heidemann has shown that his sole known type was struck at Harran and is dated 436, though the mint & date are rarely visible. Muta’in adopted the title Sani’at al-Dawla, presumably following the death of his brother Shabib.

Najib al-Dawla Mani’ b. Shabib (Abu al-Zimam), 431-455 / 1040-1063

773 BI dirham

Citing the Fatimid caliph al-Mustansir. Heidemann has published some examples of this type struck at Harran dated 447 and at al-Raqqa dated 450.

SELJUQ OF SYRIA


At present, the best publication for the copper coins is the Paris catalog of Gilles Hennenquin, nonetheless very incomplete.

A branch of the Great Seljuk line in Iran that ruled in Syria from 1078-1117. Their coinage consists principally of small, highly debased silver coins from Aleppo and Damascus and some broad thin coppers from Antakya.

Copper fulus of this dynasty were probably struck exclusively at Antakya, though the mint name is very rarely inscribed. The billon dirhams of Tutush were struck at Halab & Dimashq, thereafter mainly, if not entirely, at Halab (Aleppo), formerly under Mirdasid rule, though the mint name is virtually never visible.

Tutush (‘Adud al-Dawla wa Taj al-Milla), 471-488 / 1078-1095

His full titulature was al-sultan al-‘azam rukn al-islam ‘adud al-din abu sa’id tutush bin muhammad, which is found only on his dinars.

774 AE fals, anonymous but citing his overlord Malikshah I of Iran, Antakiya type

Types #774 and 775 lack the name or titles of Tutush.

775 BI dirham, similar, Halab or Dimashq

775A AV dinar, in his own name, struck only at al-Rayy, Zanjan and Madinat al-Salam in 487

Ridwan, 488-507 / 1095-1113

776 AE fals (Antakiya mint)

Very crudely struck, and normally overstruck on earlier types of his or previous reigns.

777 BI dirham, Aleppo type

Duqaq, in Damascus, 488-497 / 1095-1104

As vassal of the Great Seljuk Barkiyaruq.

B778 AV dinar

Style similar to the Fatimid dinar of al-Musta’li (first series), with the simple name duqaq beneath the name barqiyaruq in the reverse field.

A778 BI dirham

Sultan Shah, in Aleppo only, 508-511 / 1114-1117

778 BI dirham

Anonymous, circa 480s-500s / 1090s-1110s

779 AE fals, Antakiya type, many designs, often with pictorial device (elephant, lion, etc.)

At least 8 varieties, nearly always overstruck, but the sequence of types has not yet been elucidated. Poorly made specimens are the norm, fully legible examples unknown. None bear the mint name.

BURID

Except for a few scattered references, there is no literature on the coins of this obscure dynasty.

Also called the Atabegs of Damascus, a line of Seljuq atabegs ruling in Damascus and southern Syria from 1104 to 1154. Most Burid coins lack the mint name, except for the gold, which was minted exclusively at Damascus. A few rare coppers struck at Ba’albak also bear the mint name (#783).

Tuhtagtekin (Zhahar al-Dawla), 497-522 / 1114-1128

780 BI dirham (usually almost pure copper)

Citing the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Mustansir. Most also cite the Great Seljuk ruler Muhammad b. Malikshah. With the word atabek in a central circle on either obverse or reverse.

780B AE dirham (sic), struck at Baniyas in 521

Excellent strike, inscribed in obverse field zahir al-dawla / tuhtagtekin atabek / taj al-muluk bu-‘r. Shi’ite kalima reverse.

236 American Numismatic Society collection (al-Rayy) & Baldwin's, 8 May 2002, lot 423 (Madinat al-Salam), Baldwin's, 10 Jan 2007, lot 543 (Zanjan). These coins bear no relationship to his role in Syria but refer to his disastrous attempt to seize the central Great Seljuk throne.

237 Zamana #165.
For the Crusader imitations, see the brief section on the Crusaders following Nicol, N.D., “Paul Balog’s
N784 AV ¼ dinar, Damascus issue, similar, but citing only M784 AV dinar, Damascus issue by Abaq, but without his
A784 AV dinar, Damascus issue, similar, but without his
M784 AV dinar, Damascus issue by Abaq, but without his
N784 AV ¼ dinar, Damascus issue, similar, but citing only Sanjar (formerly #1693)
984 BI dirham, many variants, probably always with his name

AYYUBID
Balog, Paul, The Coinage of the Ayyubids (RNS Special Publication #12), London 1980. This excellent work remains the standard reference, together with Nicol’s supplement:

For the Crusader imitations, see the brief section on the Crusaders following the Ayyubid listings.

One of the great dynasties of Islam, the Ayyubids were founded by the Kurdish general Saladin (Salah al-Din) in 564/1169 but largely succumbed to the Mongol invasion and the rise of the Mamluks in 658/1260, though a branch persisted in the Jazira until the Ottoman conquest in the early 10th/16th century. Their coinage was quite eclectic, comprising all three metals, as well as billon issues, globular silver, and glass-paste jetons, in a multiplicity of types and variations. The globular silver and glass-paste coinages, as well as most of the billon issues, were restricted to Egypt. Chemical analysis of the billon coins (dirham aswad, i.e., “black dirham”) has revealed an average fineness of about 28%.

The original silver dirham introduced by Saladin at Damascus in 571 had a fineness of about 94%. After 615 this was reduced to about 80-85%, then after 637 to about 75%. Ayyubid silver coins were extensively imitated by the Crusaders in the late 12th and 13th centuries, even after the practice was forbidden by papal decree in 1251. The more frequently encountered types are noted in the type listings.

For the Ayyubid branch in the Yemen, see the chapter on the Arabian Peninsula (#A1087-1099A).

The Ayyubids did not maintain a significant number of mints, but centralized production at a few locations, namely at Cairo (al-Qahira) and Alexandria (al-Iskandariya) in Egypt, at Damascus, Aleppo, Hamah and occasionally Manbij and Hims in Syria, at Masyafariqin and al-Raha in the Jazira (Mesopotamia), and several mints in Yemen (q.v.). Gold was struck only at the Egyptian mints of Cairo and Alexandria, with a few remarkable exceptions.

Silver and gold coins struck from the beginning to the 610s were commonly well struck, but later issues show increasing carelessness of strike, especially the silver. Copper coins of all periods were rarely well struck at mints in Egypt and Syria, though a few types are occasionally available in better qualities. The Mesopotamian copper dirhams are often very well made, but not always well-preserved. The Egyptian dirham aswad was never well struck and is normally found unpleasantly worn and ugly.

The fractional silver coins were most frequently struck from special dies intended for fractional denominations (usually with shorter legends), but often from full dirham dies as well. The latter show only a portion of the total inscriptions.

Ayyubid silver dirhams adhere to the traditional weight standard of about 2.97g, with halves at about 1.48g and quarters at 0.74g. Gold dinars do not follow any strict standard but vary from about 3 grams to well over 5 grams, with later issues after about 610 occasionally even heavier, up to 8 grams or more.

Copper dirhams were struck only at the Mesopotamian mints, preserving the contemporary Artuqid and Zangid tradition. The earliest issues weigh in the 10-14g range, which was gradually reduced to 8-12g in the 610s and below 5-6g by the 630s. Many Artuqid, Zangid, and La’lu’id coins of all metals cite an Ayyubid overlord together with the local ruler. These are listed under the appropriate local dynasty. (The present type listing here represents the description format that I eventually hope to utilize for as many dynasties as possible.)

MAIN LINE IN CAIRO

“Saladin” is a Latinized version of “Salah al-Din”. For Yemeni issues of Saladin, see #G1088, 1088 & 1089.

785.1 AV dinar, citing the caliph al-Mustadi (566-575) Struck 570-575, with three marginal inscriptions on obverse and reverse. Dinars struck 576-569 lack the name of Salah al-Din, citing only his nominal Zangid suzerain Nur al-Din Mahmud and the ‘Abbasid caliph. They are listed under the Zangids (#1849), even though Saladin was effectively in charge in Egypt.

785.2 AV dinar, with the caliph al-Nasir (575-622) Two marginal inscriptions on obverse & reverse, two horizontal lines in obverse & reverse center. Both #785.1 and 785.2 were struck only at al-Qahira (Cairo) and al-Iskandariya (Alexandria). Mint & date on obverse.

785.3 AV dinar (pale gold), similar, but mint of Dimashq, dated 583 and with the title sultan al-islam wa’l-muslimin

Balog #79, easily distinguished by its longer central legends and the placement of the mint & date in the outer obverse margin. Since the year 583 corresponds with his conquest of Jerusalem, the type has generally been regarded as a commemorative of Saladin’s conquest. Coarse style examples of this type, usually pale gold of reduced fineness, are now considered Crusader or European imitations (also RRR). No modern forgeries have been reported.

786 AV ¼ dinar (special small dies) RRR

786 AV dinar (bezant), Crusader imitation of type #785.1 or 785.2 RRR

Identified by style and calligraphy, which is very distinctive, and by frequent spelling errors. Not listed by Berman et al.

787.1 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, with caliph al-Mustadi, struck 571-575 only at Dimashq R

787.2 AR dirham, similar, caliph al-Nasir, struck 575-589 S

Struck at Hims (RR) & Hamah (R) in addition to Dimashq (S), and at al-Qahira (RR) in 585-586 only. Some crude examples are possibly Crusader imitations.

787.3 AR dirham, as #787.2 but with title sultan al-islam wa’l-muslimin added, Dimashq 585 only

“Sultan of Islam and the Muslims” in the upper marginal sector.

T788 AR dirham, inner circle type, struck at Hamah 572-575

RRR

788 AR dirham, six-pointed star type (struck 579-589) S

Struck primarily at Halab, with additional issues of Mardin 581 and Masyafariqin 589 (both RRR).
790 AR ½ dirham aswad (Balog #63-65) R

790 BI dirham aswad (Egyptian) R

791 AR dirham, square-in-circle type only (minted only at the Syrian mints, normally Dimashq & Hamah) R

791.1 AR dirham, facing bust, wearing Sasanian style

791.2 AR dirham, with caliph al-Mustadi, struck at Hamah & Dimashq

791.3 AR dirham, square-in-circle, with caliph al-Nasir, struck from dies intended for the full dirham (longer inscriptions), normally Dimashq mint

791.4 AR dirham, six-pointed star type, struck only at Halab

791.5 AR dirham, with caliph al-Nasir, struck principally at Dimashq

792 AE fals, single line central inscriptions, al-malik al-nasir on obverse, al-imam al-nasir on reverse, Halab 588-589 only

792A AE fals, citing the caliph al-Mustadi

793 AR ½ dirham, square-in-circle type with caliph al-Mustadi, struck only at Dimashq

793.1 Glass-paste jeton, citing the caliph al-Nasir

793.2 Glass-paste jetons of this reign cite only the ‘Abbassid caliphs al-Mustadi (1170-1180) or al-Nasir (1180-1225), the latter struck under Saladin and subsequent Ayyubid rulers until 1225, without mention of the Ayyubid. Used only in Egypt.

al-‘Aziz ‘Uthman, 589-595 / 1193-1198

(‘Imad al-Din, b. Yusuf)

794 AV dinar

794A BI round quarter dirham (about 0.7g), no mint or date (Egyptian) R

795 AR dirham, square-in-circle type only (minted only at the Syrian mints, normally Dimashq & Hamah) R

796 AR ½ dirham

796.1 AR dirham aswad (Egyptian) R

797 BI dirham aswad (Egyptian) R

800 AR dirham aswad (Egyptian) R

al-‘Adil Abu Bakr I, 592-615 / 1196-1218

(Sayf al-Din, b. Ayyub)

801.2 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, with added name of heir (wali ’ahduhu) al-Malik al-Kamil

(Al-Qahira 597-605) RR

802 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, citing Abu Bakr only (Dimashq 596, Hamah 596-597) RR

802A AR dirham, double octolobe type, also citing al-Malik al-Kamil as heir (Hims 598-599) RR

803 AR dirham, double intertwined trefoil type

(Dimashq, 598-609) RR

804 AR dirham, fancy hexafoil type (Dimashq, 609-611), usually with date off flan octogram RR

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 104
805 AR dirham, six-pointed star type (Dimashq 611-615, also al-Ruha in the Jazira in 615 and Harran 596-598).
This is the only six-pointed star type ever struck at Damascus, relatively common, even with legible date. Al-Ruha is rare, Harran is RR.
Balog mentions this type at Dimashq in 600 and 610, not inconceivable given the use of the type at Harran in 596-598.
A806 AR ½ dirham, square-in-circle type (as #802.1, probably struck only at Hamah in 596).
B806 AR ½ dirham, double octalobe type as #802A (Hims, not known with legible date).
Presumably struck only circa 598-599.
806 AR ½ dirham, double trefoil type (as #803, published as Balog #311, presumably struck at Dimashq, not known with legible date).
806A AR ½ dirham, fancy hexafoil type (Dimashq, not known with legible date) (Balog #310).
Presumably struck only circa 610-611.
807 AR ½ dirham, six-pointed star type (as #805, but with shorter legends).
Struck regularly from 600-615, nearly all dates now known. A few examples were struck using full dirham dies on either the obverse or reverse (R).
808 BI dirham aswad (Egyptian).
Several variants, following the gold types (#801).
A809 BI denier, no mint or date (circa 0.82g).
Struck according to the alloy and weight of one of the European or Crusader deniers, the actual prototype not determined (Leu sale 56, #116, = Balog #136). This type is now believed to have been struck at Dimashq circa 611, quickly protested and withdrawn from circulation.236
809 AE dirham, facing bust, wearing headdress.
Struck at Mayyafarajin in the Jazira, normally dated 591-592, with rare dates also reported between 595 and 608.
809A AE dirham, two intertwined geese, struck at Sinjar (date unknown).
810.1 AE fals, central circle with outer margin, struck at Dimashq 598-599 and 608-610.
Mint & date repeated in both obverse & reverse margins. All four subtypes of #810 have identical designs on obverse & reverse.
810.2 AE fals, hexafoil with outer margin, struck at Harran 588-591.
810.3 AE fals, plain circle with 3-line inscription, struck at Harran 596 & 598-600, Qal\'at Ja\'bar 601-602 and al-Ruha 602-605 (possibly also 606).
810.4 AE fals, concave-sided hexagon, struck at al-Ruha in 611, 612 and 614 (last two dates very rare).
Types Balog #327-328 reported as Harran in 615-622, probably struck only at Harran in 615.

al-Kamil Abu\'l-Ma\'ali Muhammad I
(Nasir al-Din, b. Ab\'d Bakr), 615-635 / 1218-1238

For Yemeni coins of al-Kamil, see #A1098, 1099 and 1099A.

811.1 AV dinar, caliph al-Nasir, Kufic calligraphy, dated 616-622.
811.2 AV dinar, caliph al-Zahir, Kufic calligraphy, dated 623 only.
811.3 AV dinar, caliph al-Mustansir, Naskhi calligraphy, dated 624-635.
812.1 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, caliph al-Nasir, Dimashq mint, dated 615-622.

812.2 AR dirham, as last but caliph al-Zahir, 622-623.
812.3 AR dirham, as last but caliph al-Mustansir, usually poorly struck, dated 623-634 and posthumously in 637 (RR).

813 AR dirham, as last, struck at al-Ruha in 615-617.
814.1 AR ½ dirham, similar to #812.1 (caliph al-Nasir).
814.2 AR ½ dirham, similar to #812.2 (caliph al-Zahir).
814.3 AR ½ dirham, similar to #812.3 (caliph al-Mustansir).

814A AR ½ dirham, struck from full dirham dies on one or both sides, caliph al-Mustansir.

815 BI dirham aswad (Egyptian), irregular flans (Balog #401-402), with caliph al-Nasir, always undated.

815.1 BI dirham aswad (Egyptian), globular flans, citing caliph al-Nasir (Balog #403, known dated 622).
The globular shape replaced the irregular shape as part of al-Kamil's coinage reform undertaken in 622/1225.

815.2 BI dirham aswad (Egyptian), globular flans, citing caliph al-Nasir (Balog #403, known dated 622).

815.3 BI dirham aswad, as last but with caliph al-Zahir (Balog #404, not known with legible date).
815.4 BI dirham aswad, as last but with caliph al-Mustansir (Balog #405-408, normally dated 625 when visible).

816 AE fals, circle type, without mint or date but struck in al-Qahira, caliph al-Zahir.

816.1 AE fals, square-in-circle, Dimashq mint, known dated 630-633.

816.2 AE fals, square-in-circle, with name of caliph al-Mustansir, Harran mint, dated 623-634, always with 2 or 3 circles or pellets between top and bottom lines of both obverse & reverse fields.

816.3 AE fals, similar, but stars instead of circles within central inscriptions.

236 The 605 type mentioned by Balog is clearly 615; his 611 type, #332, is almost certainly a misreading.
618.4 AE fals, similar, but no symbols in obverse field and a single pellet or circle in reverse field, between top & bottom parts of name, struck at Qal‘at Ja‘bar in 629, 631 and possibly 634

618E AE fals, without mint or date, miscellaneous types Usually citing the caliph al-Mustansir, most probably of undetermined Syrian mints.

617 Glass-paste jetons
Glass-paste jetons of this reign were struck in the name of the ruler, al-Kamil Muhammad. Several minor variants. al-‘Adil Abu Bakr II, 635-637 / 1238-1240 (Sayf al-Din, b. Muhammad)

618 AV dinar

619 AR dirham, square-in-circle only, struck only at Dimashq

620 AR ½ dirham, square-in-circle arrangement, shorter central legends Struck only at Dimashq, as I now believe that the alleged type of Hish (from my collection, Nicol 515a) is rather a crude imitation of Dimashq, perhaps struck by the Crusaders.

621 BI dirham aswad (Egyptian, globular style) RRR

622.1 AV dinar, caliph al-Mustansir, dated 637-640 Coins of 637-638 retain the variable weight from three to more than six grams. From 639-647 the weight is relatively standard, almost always between 4.10 and 4.40 grams, but later dinars of the Mamluk vary widely.

622.2 AV dinar, as last but caliph al-Musta’sim, dated 641-647

622A AV ½ dinar, caliph al-Musta’sim, year 639 only RRR

622B AV ½ dinar, caliph al-Musta’sim, known dated 645-647 Both 622A and 622B bear two-line inscriptions within the central circle, rather than the 3-line inscriptions found on full dinars. All gold coins were struck at al-Qahira, except for a single example of type 622.2 struck at al-Iskandariya (Balog #533, date missing).

T823 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, struck at al-Qahira 645-646 Mint & date legend in the reverse margin, unlike all other mints. The al-Qahira issues can be easily distinguished from the Syrian mints by the middle line in the obverse field, which reads najm al-dunya wa’l-din instead of najm al-dunya wa’l-din.

U823 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, posthumous issue, al-Qahira 652 only RR

231 Mint in lower quarter of obverse margin, date in reverse margin.

623.1 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, title al-malik, caliph al-Mustansir, struck at Dimashq, 636-637 A similar type is known from the mint of Harran 634 (Balog #567, RRR).

623.2 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, title al-sultan al-malik, caliph al-Musta’sim Struck only at Dimashq in 647, easily distinguishable by 4-line central inscriptions (3-line on #823.1 and all other square-in-circle dirhams of this ruler).

623.3 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, as #823.1 but caliph al-Musta’sim, struck only at Hamah in 645 and 646 Obverse central line najm al-dunya wa’l-din.

623C AR dirham. Crusader imitation of type A-823.1, dated 638, 640, 641 and 643 Issues dated 638 & 640 cite the caliph al-Mustansir, 641 & 643 the caliph al-Musta’sim (Balog #546c, 546d, 546e), all believed to have been struck at Acre (’Åkka).

824 AR dirham, dodekalobe type, struck at Dimashq 644-646 and possibly also 647 S

T825 AR ½ dirham, square-in-circle type, struck at al-Qahira, type as T823 with 3-line legends within the square R Almost always found with date off flan. Balog #539 is perhaps dated 645.

R 825.1 AR ½ dirham, square-in-circle type, two-line legends within the square, caliph al-Mustansir S Square-in-circle Dimashq half dirhams of al-Salih Ayyub are not distinguishable from those of al-Salih Isma’il of Dimashq (type #850.1) except by date, which unfortunately is rarely legible.

R 825.2 AR ½ dirham, similar, caliph al-Musta’sim S

826 AR ½ dirham, dodekalobe type (644-647) R 2-line inscription within dodekalobe, as opposed to three or four lines on the full dirhams.

S 827 BI dirham aswad (Egyptian, globular style) RR

828 AE fals, crude square-in-circle, struck at Hamah, dated 641 S Balog’s al-Qahira (#541-542) and Dimashq (#564) types are contemporary forgeries of silver coins. His large copper (#565) is probably correctly attributed (RRR).

R 828A AE fals, six-pointed star type, caliph al-Mustansir, struck at Amil 636-640

828B AE fals, as last but caliph al-Musta’sim, unknown with legible date RR

al-Mu’azzam Turanshah IV (Ghiyath al-Din, b. Ayyub), 647-648 / 1249-1250

829 AR dirham, title al-malik al-mu’azzam, Dimashq & Hamah, both dated 647 (3-line legends) RRR

829A AR dirham, with extended title al-sultan al-malik al-mu’azzam, Dimashq 648 (4-line legends) RRR

830 AR ½ dirham, similar to #829 RRR

830A BI dirham aswad (Egyptian, globular style) RRR

Upon the death of Turanshah IV, his Egyptian territories passed to the rising Mamluks, his Syrian provinces to the Aleppo branch of the Ayyubids, then ruled by al-Nasir Yusuf II. See #843 & 844.

al-Ashraf Musa II (Abu’l-Fath Muzaffar al-Din), 648-652 / 1250-1254

Musa II was nominal suzerain to the Mamluk ruler Aybak. All his coins are extremely rare, despite his relatively lengthy nominal reign.

831 AV dinar RRR

832 AR dirham, al-Qahira mint only RRR

833 BI dirham aswad (globular dirham, also known as nuqra), Egyptian issue RRR

All coins in the name of Musa II were struck under the authority of the Mamluk ruler Aybak, who used the nominal Ayyubid Musa II as a formal justification of his own de facto rule. Musa was the son of al-Mas’ud Yusuf, a former Ayyubid ruler in the Yemen.

Anonymous, circa 589-652 / 1193-1254 From the duration of the dynasty after Saladin.

A834 Glass jeton, imitative legends C Some are obviously imitations of #793 in the name of the caliph al-Nasir. The transitional date between type #793 and this type has not yet been determined, nor is it known whether this type is an official issue or a private imitation of #793. My impression is that the glass jetons of this period were privately manufactured, with little concern about their appearance or legibility. Only their weight and general appearance were important.

231 Technically this is a Mamluk issue under Aybak, but is listed here as an Ayyubid issue, as it cites only an Ayyubid individual, albeit posthumously.
Dirhams and half dirhams of al-`Aziz Muhammad citing the caliph al-Zahir have not been reported, but copper is known (#841.2).
843.1 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, no overlord and caliph al-Musta’sim, struck at Dimashq and Hamah in most years from 648 to 657.

843.2 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, similar, but struck at Halab in 654 only.

Differs from the Dimashq and Hamah type #843.1 in that the bottom obverse square is always yusuf bin muhammad.

843.3 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, no overlord and no caliph, struck at Dimashq only in 658.

844.1 AR ½ dirham, six-pointed star type, caliph al-Mustansir, normally undated (RR with date).

844.2 AR ½ dirham, six-pointed star type, caliph al-Musta’sim, normally undated (RR with date).

844.3 AR ½ dirham, square-in-circle type, Dimashq, caliph al-Musta’sim, frequently dated.

844.4 AR ½ dirham, square-in-circle type, Dimashq, no caliph, dated only 658 but date rarely visible.

All 844 types are two-line obverse and reverse legends. Some dirhams and half dirhams of this ruler are now believed to be Crusader imitations, theoretically distinguishable by style, alloy and fabric, occasionally by text layout. However, the criteria for separating purely Ayyubid from Crusader imitations remain to be ascertained.

844K AR ½ dirham, various types struck from full dirham dies.

Very rare with fully legible date. Many of these were probably struck by the Crusaders. Further research necessary.

844A AR 1/6 dirham, various types and flans, almost always undated or date off flan.

Tiny coins, typically 0.4-0.6g, struck from full or half dirham dies. All are probably Crusader imitations.

845 AE fals, various types, all believed struck at Halab, usually without mint name, always undated.

These types, at least ten different ones, have not been adequately studied. Because they are never dated, their order of issuance has not been determined.

**Branch at Damascus (Dimashq)**

Only those coins struck in the names of local rulers are listed here. Other Damascus and Syrian issues are in the name of the mainline Ayyubid ruler until 648/1250, thereafter the branch at Aleppo.

al-Afdal ‘Ali, 589-592 / 1193-1196
(Nur al-Din, b. Yusuf)

846 AR dirham, octofoil type only.
Struck at Dimashq and Hims, 589-592.

847 AR ½ dirham, similar, but two-line legends inside the octofoil.
No copper coins are reported in the name of al-Afdal ‘Ali.

After ‘Ali’s expulsion in 592/1196, Damascene coins were struck until 635 (and again 636-637) in the name of the Ayyubid ruler in Cairo.

al-Salih Isma’il (‘Imad al-Din, b. Abi Bakr)
635 / 1237 and 637-643 / 1239-1245

All Islamic coins of this reign were struck at Dimashq. The Crusader imitations also bear the mint name Dimashq but were undoubtedly struck elsewhere, probably Acre in Palestine.

848.1 AR dirham, square-in-circle type (as are all dirhams of this reign), no overlord, caliph al-Mustansir, dated 635 and 637-640.

848.2 AR dirham, overlord Kaykhusraw II and caliph al-Mustansir, dated 640 only.

848.3 AR dirham, overlord as last (Kaykhusraw II), caliph al-Musta’sim, dated 640 only.

848.4 AR dirham, uncertain overlord, with the caliph al-Musta’sim, dated 641 only.

The overlord is merely named al-sultan al-a’zam, which is probably a vague reference to the Seljuq Kaykhusraw II.

848.5 AR dirham, overlord Najm al-Din Ayyub, caliph al-Musta’sim, dated 641 only.

Najm al-Din Ayyub’s titulature fills the obverse square as on his own normal dirhams. The name al-malik al-salih Isma’il appears below the caliph within the reverse square. This type is often assigned to Ayyub as vassal of Isma’il, which is incorrect.

848.6 AR dirham, no overlord, caliph al-Musta’sim, dated 641-643.

849.1 AR dirham, Crusader imitation with Hijri date, usually 641 but known at least as late as 648.

Only the year 641 is common. Years 642 and 643 are occasionally found, all later dates very rare. See note to #849.2.

849.2 AR dirham, Crusader imitation with Christian year 1253, written out in Arabic words.

Coins of Isma’il were copiously imitated by the Crusaders. The Crusader copies are distinguished by calligraphy, style, date, or inscription. For example, most bear the short legend bism Allah al-rahman al-rahim in lieu of the full kalima in the reverse margin. They have not yet been systematically studied. There are many varieties, most of which are very common. In general, they bear either the Hijri dates 641-648 (#849.1) or the Christian year 1253 (#849.2), but always retain the name of the deceased caliph al-Mustansir. True issues of Isma’il dated 641 and later bear the name of the then current caliph al-Musta’sim.

It is possible that the alloy of the Crusader imitations contains somewhat more copper that the standard Ayyubid pieces. Further reference needed.

850.1 AR ½ dirham, caliph al-Mustansir, as #848.1, dated 637-640.

See note to #825.1. Type 850.1 can only be assigned to Isma’il if the date is legible, or by die-link.

850.2 AR ½ dirham, caliph al-Musta’sim.

This type with this caliph was not struck by Ayyub, so can be assigned to Isma’il even when date is illegible. Known dated 641 and 642 (very rare with readable date).

850A AR ½ dirham, Crusader imitation with Hijri date, type as #849.1.

850B AR ½ dirham, Crusader imitation with Christian year 1253, usually only partly visible.

No copper coins are known in the name of Isma’il.

**Branch at Hamah**


al-Mansur Muhammad I (b. ‘Umar, Nasir al-Din), 587-617 / 1191-1220.

851 AE dirham (sic), seated cross-legged figure, mint of Harran, known dated 587 and 589.

The title and name of al-Mansur Muhammad appear in the obverse marginal legend, often off flan or illegible. The reverse cites al-Mansur Yusuf I (Saladin) in the central square (date & mint around), and for that reason, this type is often misattributed to Saladin alone.

852.1 AE fals, without overlord, caliph al-Nasir, known only from Hamah dated 589.

852.2 AE fals, with overlord al-Zahir Ghazi, caliph al-Nasir, struck at Hamah and Manbij, undated.

852.3 AE fals, with overlord al’ Aziz ‘Uthman, caliph al-Nasir, struck at Hamah and Manbij, undated.

No coinage was produced at Hamah during the reign of al-Nasir Qilij Arslan, the Ayyubid ruler at Hamah 617-626, neither in his name or in any other name.

al-Muzaffar II Mahmud, 626-642 / 1228-1244
(Taqi al-Din, b. Muhammad I)

853 AR dirham, known only from Hamah 636.

Citing al-Salih Ayyub as overlord and the caliph al-Mustansir.

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243 It is possible that “589” is actually a careless engraving or misreading of “587” (Balog-832, correctly attributed).

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 108
853 AE fals, citing al-Nasir Yusuf II as overlord, without caliph, no mint or date. Style and text arrangement as #855.  

al-Mansur Muhammad II, 642-683 / 1244-1284 (Sayf al-Din245, b. Mahmud)  

854.1 AR dirham, as vassal of the Mamluk ruler, al-Muzaffar Qutuz, struck at Hamah, dated 658 RRR  
854.2 AR dirham, similar, but as vassal of the Mamluk ruler al-Zahir Baybars, struck at Hamah, known only with date missing (can only be 658 or 659) RRR  
855.1 AE fals, as vassal of al-Salih Ayyub S  
855.2 AE fals, as vassal of al-Mu'azzam Turanshah RRR  
855.3 AE fals, as vassal of al-Nasir Yusuf II S  
856.1 AE dirham, facing bust, plain circle reverse, struck at Mayyafariqin in 605 C  
856.2 AE dirham, as last but hexagram reverse, struck at Mayyafariqin in 605 C  

al-Ashraf Musa (Muzaffar al-Din), 607-617 / 1210-1220 (later at Damascus)246  

857.1 AR dirham, six-pointed star type, citing al-'Adil Abu Bakr as overlord (on obverse), struck only at Ahat in 615 RRR  
857.2 AR dirham, as last but overlord al-Kamil Muhammad (on reverse), struck at Ahat in 617 RR  
857A AR dirham, square-in-circle type, citing al-Kamil as overlord, struck at Harran in 617 & 618 RR  
858.1 AR ½ dirham, six-pointed star type, as #857.1 RRR  
858.2 AR ½ dirham, square-in-circle, as type #857A, known from Harran 618 RRR  
859.1 AE dirham, seated figure holding orb obverse, ornamented triangle reverse, dated 608 & 612 C  
859.2 AE dirham, similar obverse but reverse in plain circle, struck at Sinjar in 615 and 617 with overlord al-Kamil Muhammad of Egypt S  

al-Muzaffar Ghazi (b. al-'Adil Abu Bakr, Shihab al-Din), 617-642 / 1229-1257  

860 AE fals, inscriptive types only, numerous subtypes S  

One type is from Khilat with date 618 (RR), the rest from Mayyafariqin dated between 618 and 641, though rarely found with legible dates. At present, the chronology of at least seven types cannot be determined.  

245 On types #854.1 and 854.2, Muhammad II took the laqab Nasir al-Din, perhaps to distinguish himself from Qutuz, who was also known as Sayf al-Din. From some time in 659 onwards all coins of Hamah cite only the Mamluk ruler.  

246 al-Ashraf Musa ruled in Damascus 626-635 / 1229-1237, but all coins struck during that period in Damascus bear only the name of al-Kamil Muhammad I, together with the caliph.
Balog, Paul, “Supplement”, eventually be elected to the office of sultan. Most of the Mamluks were trained for various duties in service to the ruling establishment. Some would

248

247

Silver coins: Gold coins:

The Crusader states in Tripoli and Acre produced imitations of Fatimid gold and Ayyubid silver coins. These are listed here together with their prototypes, as follows:

Gold coins:

Fatimid style bezants, types #720, 720A & 720B (al-Mustansir) and 730 (al-Amir). There are also some rare Ayyubid style bezants, types #785.3 and 786 (al-Nasir Yusuf I, i.e., Saladin).

Silver coins:

Ayyubid style, types #823C (al-Salih Ayyub), 836 & 837 (al-Zahir Ghazi), 849.1, 849.2, 850A & 850B (al-Salih Isma'il). Additional silver issues in the name of the Ayyubids exist, including al-Nasir Yusuf I, al-Kamil Muhammad, and al-Nasir Yusuf II, tentatively struck by the Crusaders, noted in the Ayyubid listings above. (Purely Christian types were struck in gold & silver, dated AD 1251-1258, struck at ‘Akka, i.e., Acre, with the mint & date written out in Arabic. These are not listed here.)

CRUSADERS


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MAMLUK


The term Bahri, “of the sea”, refers to the island fortress within the Nile River, whereas Barji, “of the tower” refers to the inland citadel used as their principal fortress. Coinage was voluminously produced in all three metals. Coinage in each metal underwent radical changes over the 250 years of Mamluk rule, but only the barest outlines of that development are limned here.

Until the reforms of Barsbay, most gold coins were struck to random weights and traded by weight. These are technically known as ingot dinars. Their weights vary from less than 3g to 15g, with exceptional specimens hunks of gold surpassing 18g. After about 824/1421 most issues were struck to the same standard as the Venetian ducat and are known as askhafis, stemming from the laqab of Barsbay, al-Malik al-Askhaf (about 3.42g, thus somewhat lighter than the traditional European ducats). The weight and purity of the askhafis were generally carefully maintained, though during the reign of Qansuh II, the alloy was often debased. Thus all Mamluk gold coins are of the highest purity, except for those of the last two rulers, Qansuh al-Ghurī and Tumanbay II.

Silver coins were struck from alloyed metal (most often about 25%) until the introduction of a pure silver coin during the interlude of al-Mustu’in in 815 / 1411-1412, whose dirhams were struck to a standard of about 2.8 grams (thus somewhat lighter than the canonical dirham of 2.97g). The weight standard was subsequently gradually lowered, as noted in the listings, falling to slightly over one gram by the end of the dynasty. In general the post-815 silver coins retain a high degree of purity, though some later issues of Qansuh al-Ghuri exhibit some modest debasement of the silver content. In nearly all periods, silver seems to have circulated far more widely in Syria than in Egypt.

Copper coinage was an important component of Mamluk coinage until about 808/1405, particularly during the 14th century. Copper was little used from 808 until well after the accession of Qa’itbay in 873/1468, whereby again became common, though almost exclusively in Egypt. Balog has examined the remarkable use of heraldry on Mamluk coppers, though quite a few more heraldic types have subsequently been discovered.

The Mamluks operated just eight mints during their 275 years of rule. The six principal mints are al-Qahira (Cairo) and al-Iskandariya (Alexandria, closed after death of Shakh in 824) in Egypt, together with Dinarsh, Hamah, Halab and Tabarubs in greater Syria. These six mints struck coins in all three metals, though not for every period (gold coins of Tabarubs & Hamah, as well as silver coins of al-Iskandariya, are very rare). The other two temporary mints are Ladhiqiya in Syria (730s-770s, RR) and at Malatya in Anatolia (780s-790s, RRR). In addition, some rare coins were struck by various Anatolian rulers in the name of one or another Mamluk ruler, often with mint name and/or date. Though properly regarded as coins of the various Anatolian beyliks, they are categorized under the Mamluks for the sake of convention and convenience.

Ingot style gold dinars are generally tolerated struck, often showing either mint or date, but usually with some weakness, especially on heavier examples. For some reigns, specimens struck with full mint and date are relatively scarce, frequently when the mint is at the top of the obverse, the date at the bottom. After the introduction of the askhafis by Barsbay, relatively few gold coins reveal the mint date, as the planchets became narrower than the dies and increasingly thick. However, many can be assigned to a specific mint by epigraphy, layout, and die-link. Most of the askhafis are undated.

244 Coins of this al-Zahir Khalif were occasionally been misidentified as issues of the Aq Qoyunlu ruler Khalif (e.g., Zeno-4925 & 4926).

246 The Arabic word *mamluk* means “slave,” and refers to the theory that the Mamluks should be purchased as young boys, technically as slaves, and trained for various duties in service to the ruling establishment. Some would eventually be elected to the office of sultan. Most of the Mamluks were imported from Russia and the Central Asian steppes. In practice, however, most of the Mamluk sultans, especially during the Barhi period, were the sons or brothers of previous sultans.
The silver coinage of the early and middle periods, produced until the introduction of the fine silver mu‘ayyidi dirhams by Shaykh, is usually weakly and carelessly struck, and commonly found in worn condition. Fully legible specimens are rare, especially for the 14th century. In general, silver coins with full mint & date command a substantial premium. Nonetheless, because each mint utilized a distinctive style for its silver coins, it should be possible to assign nearly all specimens to the appropriate mint once a thorough corpus is published.

Prior to the reforms of al-Musta’in in 815, both full dirhams and fractions were regularly struck, both with significant variation in the weights of individual specimens. See the description of these two denominations following the listing for #884.

For gold and silver coins of the Mamluks, I have defined the side with the ruler’s name and titles as the obverse, the religious side as the reverse. The mint and date can appear on either side, sometimes divided between the two. Coins of Shajar al-Durr and Aybak, as well as some issues of Qutuz and Baybars I, cite the ‘Abbasid caliph, always on the reverse.

The copper fals were generally better produced than the silver, at least before 815/1412. Many are found overstruck on earlier types. A careful study of these overstrikes should eventually permit a reliable sequencing of the many undated issues.

The Mamluk rulers are listed here by their personal names, together with their additional titles, usually three different ones, one in the form al-malik al-X, another normally in the form Y al-dunya wa’l-din, and the third, the kunya, in the form of abu Z. As these titles frequently appear on the coinage, they are noted in parentheses after each name. Since many Mamluk coins were struck from dies rather larger than the flan, not all names & titles are visible on every specimen. Beginning with the reign of Barsbay (825-841), the formula Y al-dunya wa’l-din as the reverse is rarely seen.

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The first few Mamluk rulers adopted only the title al-malik until Baybars I extended his claim to al-sultan al-malik in 659, thereafter used by all his successors.

### Bahri Mamluk

**Shajar al-Durr, Queen, 648 / 1250**

Her name is never mentioned on the coins, but her issues can be easily determined by the feminine titulature, of which waliyat al-malik al-mansur appears on both gold & silver coinage. The gold coins also bear the title malkat al-muslimin, ‘Queen of the Muslims’.

Coins of Shajar al-Durr are exceedingly rare and should be considered uncollectible. None have appeared at auction or on fixed price lists in recent decades (except for a few misattributed!). none are illustrated in Zeno.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Legend</th>
<th>Mint</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>868</td>
<td>AV dinar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>869</td>
<td>AR nuqra (globular dirham)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aybak</td>
<td>648-655 / 1250-1257 (al-Mu’izz ‘Izz al-Din)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For coins of Aybak struck before 652 in the name of the Ayyubid scion al-Asfar Musa 649-651 (types #831-833) and of the deceased Ayyubid ruler al-Salih Ayyub in 652 (type #U823). His later gold & silver coins, struck 652-653, also cite the deceased Ayyubid al-Salih Ayyub as his theoretical overlord above his own simple name aybak.

All silver coins of Aybak, ‘Ali I and Qutuz were struck only at al-Qahira, gold of each struck at al-Qahira and al-Iskandariya. Both gold & silver of these three reigns bear the kalima in the obverse margin (ruler side), the mint & date in the reverse margin (Imam side).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Legend</th>
<th>Mint</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>870</td>
<td>AV dinar, in his name</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>871</td>
<td>AR dirham, square-in-circle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>872</td>
<td>AR ½ dirham, similar</td>
<td></td>
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<td>R</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


Coins of ‘Ali and his successors no longer cite an Ayyubid or any other overlord.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Legend</th>
<th>Mint</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>873</td>
<td>AV dirar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>874.1</td>
<td>AR dirham, square-in-circle type, citing the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Musta’sim, dated 655-656</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>874.2</td>
<td>AR dirham, as last but without the caliph, dated 657 only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

251 Full dirhams were usually struck on round planchetts, either punched out from a large thin plate or from a hammered globule. The squarish and rectangular fractional planchetts were chopped out of a long thick wire, then struck either immediately or after the blank was roughly hammered down. This wire method is strongly suggested by the occasional fractional dirham shaped somewhat like a teardrop, whose point represents the end of the wire (e.g., Zeno-66627 of Haji II).
Dirhams and fractions from the time of Baybars to the mid 8th/14th century are occasionally found struck in very low-silver alloy with a blackish color, but apparently from official dies. These may have been illegal issues of the official mints or counterfeits made privately from stolen dies. They are not rare for Baybars I, Qala‘un, and above all, for Muhammad I.

884Q  AR fractional dirham, square-in-circle, similar to type #881, lion in lower left corner of square, (Al-Mujahid ‘Alam al-Din),

M886  AR dirham, citing Baybars as overlord
Square-in-circle both sides, Dimashq 658 and 659.

     Baraka Qan, 676-678 / 1277-1279
(al-Sa’id Nasir al-Din, b. Baybars)

     All gold and silver coins of Baraka Qan retain the lion below the obverse field, as with Baybars, thereafter abandoned.

886  AV dinar RRR
887  AR dirham S
888  AR fractional dirham R

     Salamish, 678 / 1279 (al-‘Adil Badr al-Din, b. Baybars)

889  AR dirham, both al-Qahira & Dimashq R
890  AR fractional dirham R

     Sunqur, Muharram to Rabi’ I 679 / 1280, rebel in Syria (al-Kamil Shams al-Din)

891  AR dirham, Dimashq only RRR
892  AE fals, known from Dimashq & Hamah, normally dated (679 only) RRR

     Qala‘un, 678-689 / 1279-1289
(al-Mansur Sayf al-Din al-Salihi)

893  AV dinar S
894  AR dirham C
895  AR fractional dirham S
896  AE fals S

     Khalil, 689-693 / 1290-1293
(al-Ashraf Salah al-Din, b. Qala‘un)

897  AV dinar Many of Khalil’s gold & silver coins bear the additional titles nasir al-milla al-muhammediya & mubhi al-dawla al- ‘abbasiya (‘succour for the Muhammadan community’ and ‘reviver of the ‘Abbasid dynasty’).

     AR dirham
898  AR fractional dirham S
900  AE fals R

     Muhammad I, 1st reign, 693-694 / 1293-1294
(al-Nasir Nasir al-Din, b. Qala‘un)

     These titles were used in all three of his reigns.

     Coins of Muhammad’s first reign should theoretically be recognized by style (all metals), currently only with difficulty, as too few specimens of the various types of this ruler have been published with illustrations.232

901  AV dinar RRR
902  AR dirham R

     No fractional dirhams have yet been assigned to this reign. A peculiar dirham of Muhammad, struck at Dimashq in 696, does not represent another short reign but is presumably a muling of an old obverse die of Muhammad with a dated reverse die of either Kitbugha or Lajin (RR).

232 For the mint of Hamah, see SNAT IVc, as listed for the Ayyubids. For al-Qahira, see Baloğ-154B for the gold dinar, 154C for the silver dirham, both clearly dated 693, both illustrated.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 112
Anatolian types in his name:

923.1 AR dirham, struck only at Antalya by the beys of Hamit, normally undated RR

923.2 AR dirham, struck at ‘Ala’iyya (Alanya) by the local beys, often dated (710s & 720s) RR

Sometimes countermarked at the city of Akshehir with just the name of the city.

923.3 AR dirham, Silifke and Pazaric mints, style derived from the normal double dirham of the Ilkhan ruler Jihan Timur (#2247)

923.4 AR 2 dirhams, unknown mint (perhaps Kayseri), dated 740 RR

This remarkable type was struck by the Eretnid ruler Eretna before he introduced his own coinage in 742.

923.5 AR dirham or fraction, various Anatolian types RR

Abu Bakr, 741-742 / 1341-1342
(al-Mansur Sayf al-Din, b. Muhammad)

924 AV dinar S

925 AR dirham S

926.1 AE fals, anonymous C

The fulus of Damascus & Aleppo are anonymous and assigned to this reign by their date (741 or 742). Some anonymous fulus dated 742 could have been struck for Kujuk or Ahmad I as well, but are conventionally ascribed to Abu Bakr.

926.2 AE fals, with the ruler’s title al-Mansur, Tarabulus mint only C

Kujuk, 742 / 1341-1342 (al-Ashraf ‘Ala al-Din)

927 AV dinar S

928 AR dirham S

Anonymous copper coins dated 742 are conventionally assigned to Abu Bakr, but could as well have been struck by Kujuk or Ahmad I. No known coppers bear Kujuk’s name or titles.

Ahmad I, 742-743 / 1342-1343
(al-Nasir Shihab al-Din, b. Muhammad)

929 AV dinar C

930 AR dirham C

931 AE fals C

The fulus of this reign, like those of Abu Bakr, are anonymous and assigned by date, only 743 for this ruler.

Anonymous, circa 741-743 / 1341-1342

931H AE fals, Hamah mint, undated C

Inscribed diriba on obverse, bi-hamah on reverse (SNAT 398ff.).

Isma’il, 743-746 / 1342-1345
(al-Salih ‘Imad al-Din, b. Muhammad)

932 AV dinar C

933 AR dirham C

934 AR fractional dirham C

935 AE fals C

The issue of Hamah 744 is fully anonymous, lion right on reverse.

From this reign onwards, virtually all fulus bear either the name or the title of the ruler, often both.

Sha‘ban I, 746-747 / 1345-1346
(al-Kamil Sayf al-Din, b. Muhammad)

936 AV dinar C

937 AR dirham C

938 AR fractional dirham C

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939 AE fals C

Hajji I, 747-748 / 1346-1347
(al-Muzaffar Sayf al-Din, b. Muhammad)

940 AV dinar S

941 AR dirham S

Dirhams and dinars of Dimashq of this reign normally bear the month as well as the year of issue. A few very rare dirhams of Hamah dated 746 present the ruler’s name as amir hajj.

942 AR fractional dirham S

943 AE fals S

Hasan, 748-752 / 1347-1351 and 755-762 / 1354-1361
(al-Nasir Nasir al-Din Abu’l-Mahasin, b. Muhammad)

Coins of the two reigns of types #944-947 can only be distinguished when legibly dated or appropriately die-linked. Given the present state of research, undated coins can seldom be assigned to one of the two reigns.

944 AV dinar C

945 AR dirham C

946 AR fractional dirham C

947 AE fals, Syrian types C

947E AE fals, Egyptian type, introduced in 759, struck only at al-Qahira R

Broad flan, obverse has ruler’s name & titles, all in a dodekalobe, reverse has mint & date, within an octogram. Always dated in words, but often illegible on poorly struck or badly worn examples. This special type continued until 807 under Faraj, usually dated, but later examples are carelessly struck.

948.1 AR akçe (or double dirham), struck at Amid by the local Artuqid ruler (struck 759-760) R

Weight standard about 1.2g. Designs similar to contemporary Artuqid issues (#1839), with inscriptions in coarse calligraphy, with the ruler called merely al-sultan al-malik al-nasir and pseudodated AH749 (as were many regular Artuqid akçes). Weakly struck, and normally found heavily worn. The mint name is only rarely indicated (below obverse field). This attribution is confirmed by type #948.2.

948.2 AR akçe (or double dirham), struck at Mardin, known dated 760 R

Same design & weight as #948.1, but fine calligraphy, ruler’s name al-sultan al-malik al-nasir al-dunya wa l-din hasan bin muhammad.

Salih, 752-755 / 1351-1354
(al-Salih Salah al-Din, b. Muhammad)

949 AV dinar R

950 AR dirham R

951 AE fals C

Muhammad II, 762-764 / 1361-1363
(al-Mansur Salah al-Din, b. Hajji I)

952 AV dinar R

953 AR dirham R

954 AE fals, Syrian types C

954E AE fals, Egyptian type, style of #947E S

Sha‘ban II, 764-778 / 1363-1376
(al-Aschraf Nasir al-Din, b. Hasan)

955 AV dinar C

956 AR dirham C

957 AR fractional dirham C

958 AE fals, Syrian types A

958E AE fals, Egyptian type, style of #947E C

Struck at all years at al-Qahira, occasionally at al-Iskandariya. Issues of al-Iskandariya of this and all later reigns are always poorly struck, rarely with clear date, typically at least 40% flat.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 113
Anatolian types in his name:

967 E AE fals, struck at Konya by the Karamanids\(^{254}\) RR

\[\text{‘Ali II, 778-783 / 1376-1381 al-Mansur ‘Ala Al-Din, b. Sha‘ban II}\]

960 AV dinar

961 AR dirham

Some rare dirhams & fractions have for unknown reasons the title Nasir al-Din instead of ‘Ala al-Din. Further research needed.

962 AR fractional dirham

963 AE fals, Syrian types

963E AE fals, Egyptian type, style of #947E

All years at al-Qahira, usually undated at al-Iskandariya.

Hajji II, 1\(^{st}\) reign, 783-784 / 1381-1382 (al-Salih Salah al-Din, b. Sha‘ban II)

964 AR dirham

965 AR dirham

966 AR fractional dirham

967 AE dirham, struck at al-Qahira in 783 only (approximately 33-35g)

The relationship of the wuqiya ("ounce") to this and the following \(\frac{1}{2}\) wuqiya copper coin remains obscure.

According to the historian Ibn Taghrî Bâdi', the copper wuqiya and \(\frac{1}{2}\) wuqiya were introduced in 783 at a fixed value of \(\frac{1}{4}\) dirham and \(\frac{1}{3}\) dirham, respectively, but were quickly rejected and presumably removed from circulation, hence their rarity.

B967 AE \(\frac{1}{2}\) wuqiya, al-Qahira 783 only (about 17g)

967 AE fals, Syrian types

967E AE fals, Egyptian type, style of #947E

Both dates from al-Qahira & al-Iskandariya, also undated examples of al-Iskandariya.

Hajji II, 2\(^{nd}\) reign, 791-792 / 1389-1390 (al-Mansur Salah al-Din)

Note that Hajji II changed his title from al-Salih to al-Mansur for his second reign. On some gold & silver coins of Halab he is entitled Nasir al-Din instead of Salah al-Din, once again for abstruse reasons.

968 AR dirham

969 AR dirham

970 AR fractional dirham

971 AE fals, Syrian types

971E AE fals, Egyptian type, style of #947E, reported only for al-Iskandariya, always undated

Anonymous, 8\(^{th}/14\) century, undated

971X AE fals

The most common type is of Hamah mint, central bar bendy / chalice or table in central fesse (Balog #905). It is likely that further research shall enable most of these anonymous coppers to be assigned to specific reigns.

Buri Mamluk

Barquq, 784-791 / 1382-1389 and 792-801 / 1390-1399 (al-Zahir Sayf al-Din Abu Sa‘id)

In general, unless there is a visible date or a die-link to a clearly dated specimen, coins of Barquq’s two reigns cannot yet be distinguished (all metals).

972 AV dinar, many variants

973.1 AR dirham, horizontal inscriptions

Struck primarily at Halab, usually dated (in words only) but the date is predominantly off flan or illegible (R when legible).

973.2 AR dirham, obverse has barquq ‘izz nasruhu within a circular cartouche, the balance of the royal legend in the surrounding margin

Struck only at al-Qahira in 789 & 790, dated in words.

974.1 AR fractional dirham, type as #973.1

974.2 AR fractional dirham, type as #973.2

Unreported with legible mint name but of the style unique to al-Qahira.

975 AE fals, Syrian mints

975E AE fals, Egyptian type, style of #947E

Probably struck all years at al-Qahira, but nearly always undated at al-Iskandariya.

Anatolian types in his name:

976 AR akçe, struck at Mardin or Amid by the local Artuq ruler, ‘Isa (about 1.2g)

Mintash, rebel at Aleppo, 791-793 / 1390-1391 (al-‘Adil Salah al-Din)\(^{255}\)

The obverse inscription contains al-malik al-sultan al-‘adil sultan al-islam wa l-muslimin, but without Mintash’s actual name or laqab. The laqab appears only on the gold. The precise issuer of these coins is uncertain, perhaps Mintash, his rival Yalbugha al-Nasiri, or even the supporters of Hajji II, whose title had been Salah al-Din during his first reign.

A977 AV dinar, Halab, only dated 791

B977 AR dirham, anonymous, Halab mint only, some specimens known dated 791

For an illustration, see Zeno-5508.


977 AV dinar, ingot style (struck 801-810)

Ingot style dinars were struck to rather random weights, from less than six to more than 18 grams. They were traded strictly by weight. Coins heavier than about 15 grams are rare and command a substantial premium.

A978 AV mithqal (about 4.3g)

Types A978, B978 and C978 were struck to a fixed standard, in three denominations. They are readily distinguished by the name Faraj in a central circle on the obverse. Struck at al-Qahira in 804-805 only, a failed attempt to replace the ingot style with fixed denominational weights.

978 AV bunduqi (or ducat), struck only at al-Qahira, 810-815

Struck to the Venetian standard of about 3.4 grams. All have the obverse legend divided horizontally into three panels.

979.1 AR dirham, obverse legend in horizontal lines

Struck only at Dimashq, Halab & Hamah, circa 801-808; none confirmed for al-Qahira.

979.2 AR dirham, reform type

Obverse has faraj in central circle, with clockwise legend around. Struck at Dimashq only, 810-812, under a theoretical weight standard of about 2.7 grams.

980.1 AR fractional dirham, obverse as #979.1 (horizontal lines on obverse)

Fractional dirhams can usually be distinguished by shape, which is either squarish, oblong or irregular, but almost never round. The heaviest “fractions” can sometimes weigh more than the lightest round full dirhams!

980.2 AR fractional dirham, obverse as #979.2 (faraj in central circle on obverse)

981 AE fals, Syrian mints

981E AE fals, Egyptian type, style of #947E, struck only at al-Iskandariya, sometimes dated, until 807

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\(^{254}\) Ölçer, Karamanids, #37.

\(^{255}\) This laqab is found only on the gold coinage. Unfortunately, the word Salah is not altogether clear on the sole known specimen, but likely.
All known copper fulus of this reign, both Syrian & Egyptian, appear to have been struck before 808, after which copper largely disappeared throughout the Mamluk empire until large-scale production was revived by Qa'itbay in 886, mainly in Egypt.

‘Abd al-Aziz, 808-809 / 1405-1406 (al-Mansur ‘Izz al-Din)

A982 AV dinar, ingot style

982.1 AR dirham or fraction, title al-malik al-mansur

982.2 AR dirham or fraction, title al-malik al-’adil

Jakam, 809 / 1406 (al-’Adil)

983 AR dirham or fraction

Struck only at Halab, known dated Ramadan 809 & Sha’ban 809.

al-Musta’in billah, 815 / 1412 (Abu’l-Fadl al-’Abbas)

Al-Musta’in was not a Mamluk, but the shadow ‘Abbasid caliph in Cairo, with the title al-‘imam al-a’zam on some of his gold dinars. Although al-Musta’in was nominal sultan for a few months before Shaykh seized power in his own name, real power was always in the hands of Shaykh.

984.1 AV dinar, ingot style (unknown to Balog)

984.2 AV bunduq (about 3.4g)

985 AR dirham, fine silver, several types

These dirhams represent the restoration of fine silver coinage after more than 150 years in the Mamluk lands.

986 AE fals

Shaykh, 815-824 / 1412-1421

(al-Mu’ayyad Sayf al-Din Abū’l-Nasr)

From this reign onwards, all Mamluk silver coins were struck from relatively pure silver to a fixed standard (al pezzo).

987 AR dinar, ingot style

Typologically similar to ingot style gold of his predecessors, normally with 5 horizontal lines of inscription on both sides. Shaykh employed the title sultan al-islam wa'l-muslimin only on the ingot style dinars.

988 AV bunduq (or dinar), ducat style, to a standard of about 3.4g

Obverse inscription in three segments, divided by horizontal lines.

989 AV dinar, mithqal type, to a standard of about 4.4g

Coins of this type bear the denomination mithqal in a central circle on obverse.

990 AV ½ dinar (nisf), mithqal standard

Coins of this type bear the denomination nisf ("half"), located as on #989.

991 AR dirham (2.7g)

This coin and its successors were known as a mu’ayyidī dirham after the ruler’s title. The term became mu‘ayyid under Ottoman rule in Egypt and used until the 19th century, found as médin or medinino in European sources.

992 AR ½ dirham (1.35g)

993 AR ¼ dirham (0.68g)

Ahmad II, 824 / 1421

(al-Muzaffar Shihab al-Din Abū’l-Sa’adat, b. Shaykh)

T994 AV ingot style dinar, known only from al-Qahira dated 824.

994 AR ½ dirham (1.35g)

995 AR ¼ dirham (0.68g)

Tatar, 824 / 1421 (al-Zahir Sayf al-Din Abū’l-Fath)

996 AR ½ dirham (1.35g)

Muhammad III, 824-825 / 1421-1422

(al-Salih Nasir al-Din)

997 AR ½ dirham (1.35g)

Anatolian types in his name:

997E AR akçe, local issue struck in the Mamluk’s name by the emir of Alanya (‘Ala’iya) (0.80g)
### Aynal, 857-865 / 1453-1461 (al-Ashraf Abu’l-Nasr)

Gold & silver often dated, always in numerals. Copper fulus are sometimes dated, probably always in words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Variant</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1012</td>
<td>AV ashrafi</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1013</td>
<td>AR dirham (standard reduced to about 1.5g)</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1014</td>
<td>AR ½ dirham (about 0.75g)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1015</td>
<td>AE fals</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Anatolian types in his name:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1016</td>
<td>AR akçe, struck at Çemiskezek by the Malkish Kurds in 852 (reference needed)</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1017</td>
<td>AR dirham (about 1.5g)</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1018</td>
<td>AR ½ dirham</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Khushqadam, 865-872 / 1461-1467 (al-Zahir Abu Sa'id)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1019</td>
<td>AV ashrafi</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1020</td>
<td>AR dirham (about 1.5g)</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1021</td>
<td>AR ½ dirham</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1022</td>
<td>AE fals</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Anatolian types in his name:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1023</td>
<td>AR ½ tanka (or akçe), struck at Erzincan and Amid by the Aq Qoyunlu government</td>
<td>RR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1024</td>
<td>AV ashrafi</td>
<td>RR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1025</td>
<td>AR dirham</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1026</td>
<td>AE fals (chalice in inner circle / star in hexagram)</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Timurbugha, 872-873 / 1467-1468 (al-Zahir Abu Sa'id)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1027</td>
<td>AV ashrafi</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1028</td>
<td>AR dirham (about 1.5g)</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1028A</td>
<td>AR “nisf” (about 1.5g)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Anatolian types in his name:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1029</td>
<td>AR ½ dirham (about 0.75g)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1030</td>
<td>AE fals</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During this reign, circa AH886, a heavy fals was introduced at Cairo, typically 8 grams or more, though individual weights vary from less than 3 to more than 10 grams. They are relatively common. The lighter fulus of Syria are much rarer.

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### Muhammad IV, 901-904 / 1496-1498 (al-Nasir Abu'l-Sa'adat, b. Qa'ilbay)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1031</td>
<td>AV ashrafi</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1032</td>
<td>AR dirham (about 1.5g)</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1033</td>
<td>AR ½ dirham (about 0.75g)</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1034</td>
<td>AE fals</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Struck at al-Qahira and Dimashq, with great variation in weight.

### Qansuh I, 904-905 / 1498-1500 (al-Zahir Abu Sa'id)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1035</td>
<td>AV ashrafi</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distinguished from ashrafis of Qansuh II by style and by the title al-Zahir instead of al-Ashraf.

### Qansuh II al-Ghuri, 906-922 / 1501-1516 (al-Ashraf Abu’l-Nasr)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1039</td>
<td>AV ashrafi</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many of Qansuh’s ashrafis and dirhams are clearly debased, notably those struck towards the end of his turbulent reign.

### Tumanbay I, 906 / 1501 (al-‘Adil Abu’l-Nasr)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1040</td>
<td>AV ashrafi</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1041</td>
<td>AR dirham</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Qansuh II al-Ghuri, 906-922 / 1501-1516 (al-Ashraf Abu’l-Nasr)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1041</td>
<td>AV ashrafi</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many of Qansuh’s ashrafis and dirhams are clearly debased, notably those struck towards the end of his turbulent reign.

### Tumanbay II, 922 / 1516-1517 (al-Ashraf Abu’l-Nasr)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1045</td>
<td>AV ashrafi, struck only at al-Qahira</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1045A</td>
<td>AR dirham (about 0.95g)</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Various issuers, throughout the Mamluk period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1046</td>
<td>Glass-paste jeton or weight</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dozens of personal names or titles, nearly all unidentified from other sources, are found on these jetons. Some bear partial dates, and some may have been produced after the Ottoman conquest in 922/1517. All are Egyptian and virtually all are uniface. Most types are rare. The function of these objects remains obscure: were they “coins” or weights?

### Anonymous, anepigraphic & uniface

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1046A</td>
<td>AE fals, anonymous, unassigned to specific ruler</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cf. Balog #905-906, but other types are also known.

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259 Peus, Auktion 345 (1 Nov 1995), lot 1054.
260 The name Timurbugha appears in a central circle, rather carelessly engraved. It can easily be confused with the name Qa’ilbay unless enough of the titulature is legible.
261 This type is Balog-805. His #806 (3-line text / chalice in circle) is actually a relatively common issue of Khushqadam, often mispublished.

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**Yemen**

The most up-to-date list of Yemeni rulers can be found in Sayyid Ayman, Fu’ad, *Sources de l’histoire du Yémen* (in Arabic), Cairo 1974.

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A large and important group of these little researched jetons exists in the collection of the American Numismatic Society, still unpublished.

See also Sylloge of Islamic Coins in the Ashmolean, v. 10.

Zeno has nearly 2600 Yemeni coins (plus about 900 pre-Islamic and nearly 1500 machine-struck modern pieces), in Currency, Medals and Orders in al-Yaman, by Vladimir Suchý, by far the most important reference for a list of general references. http://www.aiys.org/webdate/bates.html

Auction catalogs from about 1985 onwards remain the principal source for published examples of Yemeni coins.

Until about 1980, pre-1900 Yemeni coinage was seldom encountered in the market. Since then, large quantities have emerged, including large numbers of new types, few of which have been published, except in sale catalogs, often superficially described, though large numbers have been posted at Zeno during the last several years, thanks above all to Vladimir Suchý. At first, the new supply stimulated great demand, so that Yemeni coins sold for far more than other Islamic coins of comparable rarity. Further increases in supply have depressed the market and eliminated much of this disparity. However, large quantities ceased entering the market by the early 2000s, and prices have recovered to a limited extent, at least for types that have not become available in massive quantities, such as many of the Rasulid dirhams.

**ABBASID (YEMENI COINAGE)**

The 'Abbasids struck special coins in the Yemen, using local weight standards for gold and silver, invariably lighter than contemporary standard 'Abbasid coinage. They are also delineated by distinctive calligraphy and style. The early dirhams (#1048, 1049, 1050) conform to a standard of about 1.1-1.2g, last issued during the caliphate of al-Ma'mun. Later fractional dirhams, commencing some 50 years later under al-Mu'tamid or perhaps earlier, are much lighter, about 0.49g, presumably one sixth of a dirham (sadais), derived from the contemporary canonical dirham of about 2.97g. Gold dinars maintained the general 'Abbasid standard of about 4.25g until reduced to a local standard of 2.90g in 248/862, then to 1.95g in 304/917. Unlike what happened in other 'Abbasid regions, Yemeni dinars after 248 adhered to the local weight standard with remarkable accuracy.

All coins of types 1048 through 1057A were struck at the San'a mint.

### 1053 AV dinar (2.45g)

Dinars of 234-235 bear the name of the local governor Ja'far. Thereafter a few additional mints came into operation, principally at Zabid. 'Adan and Dhamar, as well as the northern mints of 'Athinah and Baysh (both now in the 'Asir province of Saudi Arabia).

**al-Rashid**, 170-193 / 786-809

1048.1 AR local dirham, citing the 'Abbasid ruler as khalifa, known dated 171-172

1048.2 AR local dirham, without name of caliph, usually with name of governor, known dated 174-192

1049 AR local dirham, usually with name of governor

**al-Ma'mun**, 198-218 / 813-833

A1050.1 AV dinar, without name of mint, citing Muhammad below obverse These “mintless” dirhams are distinguished from other 'Abbasid issues solely by the governor’s name beneath the reverse. This Muhammad refers to Muhammad b. al-Ifriqi, cited only as Muhammad in 202-204, as al-Ifriqi 204-205 (#A1050.3).

1050.2 AV dinar, similar, but citing Muhammad above reverse and ‘Abd Allah below reverse, 204 only

1050.3 AV dinar, similar, but citing al-Ifriqi below obverse, 204-205

1050.4 AV dinar, similar, but citing Ahmad below obverse, reported only for year 213

B1050 AV dinar, with name of mint, struck 214-217, mint and date on obverse, without name of governor (style and weight as type #222A)

T1050 AR full dirham (about 2.9g), without governor, known only from San’a 217

1050 AR local dirham (about 1.1-1.2g), with name of governor

1050R AR ¼ dirham (sic, about 0.67g), fully anonymous, known dated 210

The reverse field legend is lillah / muhammad / rasul / Allah / rub’, where the last word means “quarter”. It is too heavy to be half the local dirham, quite possibly ¼ of the canonical dirham, assuming that its actual weight should be about 0.73-0.74g. (Zeno 18200 & 36999).

**Ibrahim (b. Musa al-Jazzar), anti-'Abbasid rebel, fl. 200-201 / 816-817**

A1051 AR local dirham Rebellious ruler cited as Ibrahim bin rasul Allah, omitting any reference to the actual 'Abbasid caliph. Both years are known.

al-Mutasim, 218-227 / 833-842

1051 AR dinar (2.45g) Although types #1051, 1052 and 1053 retain the traditional dinar weight standard of 4.25g, many extant examples were clipped down to the later standard of #1054 (2.90g). 263

1051D AR ¼ dirham (probably 0.7g), dated 221

1052 AV dinar (2.45g) Some examples of this type bear the name of the local governor Itakh (al-Turki, 230-231), the Ja’far (232).

al-Mutawakkil, 232-247 / 847-861

1053 AV dinar (2.45g) Dinars of 234-235 bear the name of the local governor Ja’far. No dinars were struck 239-248.

al-Musta’in, 248-251 / 862-866

1054 AV dinar, reduced standard (about 2.90g) This reduced standard was carefully maintained, with undamaged examples almost always weighing between 2.86 and 2.91g, unlike the increasingly variant 'Abbasid dinars of other regions.

al-Mu’tazz, 251-255 / 866-868

N1055 AV dinar (2.90g), without his heir, dated 252 only

al-Muhtadi, 255-256 / 869-870

T1055 AV dinar (2.90g)

al-Mu’tamid, 256-279 / 870-892

1055 AV dinar (2.90g) The subtypes are as follows, courtesy Giulio Bernardi:

- Without any additional name, 256-279
- Citing the vizier Dhu’l-Wizaratayn, 270-272
- Citing al-Muwaqqaf, 273-274
- Citing al-Muwaqqaf and Ahmad b. al-Muwaqqaf, 274-278
- Citing al-Mu’tadid, 279

There are crudely cast base-metal forgeries dated 271, probably made in the 1950s or 1960s, perhaps for cheap jewelry or knickknacks.

1055B AR full dirham, known dated 271

1055A AR 1/6 dirham (about 0.45g)

al-Mu’tadid, 279-289 / 892-902

1056 AV dinar (2.90g)

1056B AR full dirham, known dated 280 only

Many are clipped down to between 3.50g and 3.58g. It is conceivable that a nominal standard at that weight existed during the dinar hiatus of 239-248, i.e., between the dinars of 4.25g and 2.90g.

263 Many are clipped down to between 3.50g and 3.58g. It is conceivable that a nominal standard at that weight existed during the dinar hiatus of 239-248, i.e., between the dinars of 4.25g and 2.90g.
AMIRS OF SAN'A

A local dynasty of undetermined origin, active in San'a, presumably in support of the 'Abbasid dynasty and opposed to the Rassids, as all their coins cite the 'Abbasid caliph al-Muqtadir and were struck only at San'a.

Al-Muzaffar b. Hajj, fl. 296-297 / 909-910

M1065 AV dinar (2.90g), dated 296-297

Muhammad b. al-Muzaffar, fl. 298/911

R1065 AV dinar (2.90g), dated 298 only

RASSID (1ST PERIOD)

The Rassids were leaders of a moderate Shi'ite sect with origins near the Caspian littoral of Iran. They settled in Yemen, which they correctly believed to be a fertile ground for proselytizing their philosophy. The Imamate they founded in 284/898 survived more than a millennium, until 1382/1962, when the modern republic was proclaimed, surely one of the longest surviving ruling houses in all of history. Their coinage was somewhat sporadic, though some of the gaps may eventually be filled by new discoveries.

Coinage of the first period was struck principally at Sa'da in northern Yemen, though some rare issues of San'a and a few other mints are known. Most coins in the name of the Fatimid caliph al-Mahdi were struck at Tukhla' and 'Aththar, both now the Saudi province of 'Asir.

al-Hadi (b. Qasim), 284-298 / 909-911

His actual name was Yabya b. al-Husayn, which never appears on his coinage.

1065 AV dinar

Coins of this type struck at Sa'da and dated 298 were probably struck as an immobilized type for at least a decade, with only minimal variation of style & calligraphy. All other dates (pre-298) of this ruler are very rare. His full title was al-hadi illa al-haqq amir al-mu'minun.

1066 AR sudaysi

The sudaysi (“piece of a sixth”) weighed approximately one sixth of the canonical dirham, or just under half a gram. The canonical dirham was known in the Yemen as the qafila.

In the name of the Fatimid caliph al-Mahdi, circa 298-301+/ 911-913+

It is now understood that al-Mahdi was not a Rassid, but the contemporary Fatimid caliph in Ifriqiya. Fatimid proselytizers were active in the Yemen and seem to have gained the upper hand for a few years after the death of al-Hadi in 298 in opposition to the Rassid line.

There are no known coins bearing the name of the Rassid al-Murtada (298-301), as his pro-Fatimid rivals must have gained the upper hand in the regions where coins were minted.

A1067 AV dinar

Fractional dinars have also been reported (reference needed). See also #1069N.

B1067 AR full dirham (about 3g), mint of Tukhla’

The Tübingen specimen is dated 303. The mint has also been read as 'Aththar, which seems unlikely.

1067.1 AR sudaysi, with title al-mahdi amir al-mu'minin, usually mint of 'Aththar

Similar sudaysi were also struck at Sa'da and perhaps Ibb.

1067.2 AR sudaysi, similar, but with title al-mahdi khalifat Allah, without mint or date

Muhammad b. al-Qasim, circa 300 / 912

1067Q AR sudaysi, mint of San'a only

The reverse inscription is muhammad bin al-qasim amir al-mu'minin.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 118
al-Nasir (b. al-Hadi), 301-325 / 913-937

His actual name was Ahmad b. Yahya.

A1068 AV dinar
Known only from Sa’da 321. Another example, without mint & date, has Qur’an Surat 112 in the reverse center (Zeno-84842).

1068 AR sudaysi, coarse style similar to posthumous examples of the Rassid ruler al-Nasir. Citing the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Qadir. Zeno has categorized this type as Ziyaid.

AMIRS OF ‘ATHTHAR

Governors of ‘Aththar in the Mikhlafl Saluayman (now in the Saudi province of ‘Asir), perhaps related to the Tarafid dynasty cited below.

‘Aththar is the only known mint. All types are stylistically the same, with the ruler’s name following amara bihi al-amir in the 3-line obverse field text, the kalima in two lines followed in the third line by the ‘Abbasid caliph’s name on the reverse.

Abu ‘Ali Muhammad b. al-Qasim, fl. 346-359 / 957-970

C1070 AV dinar

Shu‘ayb, circa 390s / 1000s

1069W AR sudaysi, coarse style similar to posthumous examples of the Rassid ruler al-Nasir. RRR

Citing the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Qadir. Zeno has categorized this type as Ziyaid.

YAZIDID

Abbasid coins of Sa’da mint dated 304-340 were actually struck under the local Ya’furid dynasty, but are listed here as ‘Abbasid issued of Yemen (type #1058 ff). For Zeno, Suchy has classified them as pseudo-‘Abbasid, listed as Ya’furid. A minor dynasty of unknown origins centered in the ‘Asir (southwestern Saudi Arabia), in an area known as the Mikhlafl Saluayman. Their coinage consists of gold dinars and a few very rare minuscule silver fractions. Nearly all coins of this dynasty were struck at Zabid. This reading of the mint name is now universally accepted. Ya’furid dinars stylistically identical to the Amirs of ‘Aththar dynasty.

Ya’furid

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AMIRS OF YEMEN

Unknown ruler, possibly connected to the Rassid or perhaps a Rassid amir opposed to the main Rassid Imamate. However, the mention of the ‘Abbasid caliph discourages a Rassid relationship.

The mint name remains unread, due to its coarse engraving. Suchy has suggest the mint of Zabid, but it is never clear.

268 Published by Ibrahim al-Jabir, Qatar museum, item #3054.
269 First published by Minzun und Medaillen, Auktion 69, October 1987, lot 37 (was #A1070 in the 2nd edition). See also Zeno. Although al-Mansur al-Qasim al-Ayyani was the formal ruler at the time (not of the Zaydi Rassi family), the coins cite only the name of the local governor at Sa’da, al-Qasim b. al-Husayn al-Zaydi.
270 Peus, Catalog 341 (3 Nov 1994), lots #1769-1771 (was #B1070 in the 2nd edition). Sudaysis of Sa’da are sometimes dated 392 or 393, last digit only.
271 Private collection of M. Jazzar, now illustrated as Zeno-10076.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 119
B1071 AV dinar RRR

1071 AV dinar S
This and the following ruler were previously thought to be of the Najjahid dynasty. Dates on #1071 & 1072 are usually highly stylized and barely interpretable. With few exceptions the mint is always Zabid, often barely discernible. 275

‘Ali b. al-Muzaffar, fl. 430s-440s? / 1040s-1050s?

1072 AV dinar, stylistically similar to #1071, with the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Qa’im S
Examples dated 438 and 442 bear the name Rushd below reverse.

KHALWANID
A minor dynasty based in and around San’a, of which only one ruler is known to have issued coins.

Yahya b. Abi Hashid, fl. 438 / 1046-1047

K1073 AV dinar. San’a 438 (about 2.1g) RR
The date is coarsely engraved in words, usually quite illegible. Struck on moderately to significantly debased gold, probably for several years with 438 as a frozen date.

NAJJAHID
A minor dynasty of Ethiopian slave origins, successors to the Ziyadids at Zabid.

Gold coins were struck principally at Zabid, occasionally at the obscure town of Dathina under the later rulers. The calligraphy is often quite degenerate, though usually still (barely) legible. Most coins are passably well struck. After about AH500, the gold alloy seems to have been increasingly debased. Because of increasingly abominable calligraphy, the later issues are somewhat tentatively assigned to specific rulers.

No silver or copper coins have been attributed to this dynasty. The gold dinar standard probably began at about 2.3g, but may have declined after about 500.

The rulers al-Muzaffar b. ‘Ali & his son & successor ‘Ali b. al-Muzaffar were not Najjahid, as once assumed, but Ziyadid, listed here under the Ziyadid dynasty (#1071-1072).

al-Mu’ayyad Najjah, circa 412-452 / 1021-1060

1073 AV dinar RR
Struck at Zabid, sometimes clearly dated (late 420s-440s), normally recognizing the Ziyadid ‘Ali b. Muzaffar, presumably as overlord. On an example dated 437, he bears the additional titles al-mu’ayyad najjah nasr al-din.

al-Fadl b. Fatik, circa 440s / 1040s

1073F AV dinar, struck at Zabid RRR
Citing the Ziyadid ‘Ali b. al-Muzaffar and ‘Abbasid caliph al-Qa’im. Known with date xx9, presumably either 439 or 449. I have found no references to al-Fadl b. Fatik — he might have been a non-Najjahid rebel against al-Mu’ayyad Najjah.

Jayyash b. al-Mu’ayyad, fl. 465-482 / 1073-1089

1074 AV dinar R
With frozen year 465, the only Najjahid coin that is occasionally available. An example dated 482 has recently been discovered.


A1075 AV ½ dinar (?), mints of Dathina and Zabid RRR

B1075 AV dinar

al-Fatik II b. al-Mansur, 521-531 / 1127-1137

C1075 AV dinar RRR

D1075 AV ½ dinar (?) RRR
al-Fatik III, 531-553 / 1137-1158

E1075 AV dinar RRR

SULAYHID
An indigenous Yemeni dynasty with affiliations to the Fatimid caliphate, whose name is featured on most Sulayhid coins. Aside from plentiful gold coinage, a few debased silver coins of Lilliputian dimensions are known (approximately 0.2g or lighter).

Mints are noted for individual types. Most coins were rather carefully manufactured, but the calligraphy is often highly stylized. The dates on many examples of #1077 and #1078 are often so stylized as to be indecipherable. All types are rarely seen worn, except for the imitative type #1075.3.

A purely Fatimid gold dinar is known from Zabid dated 445 & 447, from San’a dated 451.276

1075.1 AV dinar, citing the Fatimid caliph al-Mustansir in obverse field, dated 445-447, fine style, Zabid mint RR

1075.2 AV dinar (about 2.45g), citing the Fatimid caliph al-Mustansir in the obverse margin, struck at Zabid with frozen year 451 S

1075.3 AV debased dinar, crude imitation of #1075.2 C
These imitations may have been struck across the Red Sea in what is now Ethiopia or Eritrea, though most known specimens are said to have Yemeni rather than African provenance. The gold is usually heavily debased.

1075.4 AV dinar, with his title Sharaf al-Ma’ali, struck only at ‘Aththar in 459277 RRR

1075D AR fractional dirham, in his name ‘ali bin muhammad & the Fatimid al-Mustansir RR
Zeno-84727, 84729-84732 are five examples, without clear denomination, mint or date. All are damaged, and the weight is never given, but I would suspect a fraction of a gram, similar to type #1078A.

For similar silver coins lacking the name of ‘Ali b. Muhammad but citing al-Mustansir and likely struck during this reign, see #1078A.

al-Mukarram Ahmad b. ‘Ali, 473-484 / 1081-1091

1076 AV dinar (‘Adan mint only), dated from 475 to 484, about 2.4g R
All coins in the name of this ruler, including later types struck in his name by his successor ‘Arwa, bear the name of the Fatimid caliph al-Mustansir, even after the latter’s death in 487 (those dated 485 and later are classified as type #1077).

1076A AV ½ dinar, Dhu Jibla mint, identical to type #1078.1 but dated 484 or earlier RR
Only the year 481 is occasionally seen. Post-484 dates are reckoned as year #1078.1.

temp. ‘Arwa bint Ahmad, Queen, 484-532 / 1091-1137 C
All coins of ‘Arwa were struck in the name of her deceased husband, al-Mukarram Ahmad. However, it appears that she might have assumed power earlier, when al-Mukarram was still alive, though there is no numismatic evidence for this presumption. Coins assigned to al-Mukarram and ‘Arwa are identical in type (#1076-1078), but can only be distinguished by date or die-link. Specimens with unclear or barbarous date are relatively late, certainly after al-Mukarram’s death and thus assignable to ‘Arwa.

1077 AV dinar, ‘Adan mint, normally dated, about 2.4g C
Citing the deceased Fatimid caliph al-Mustansir, struck 485-504. For dates 507 and later, see the Zurayid #1079.

1078.1 AV ½ dinar, Dhu Jibla mint, known dated 487-498, citing Fatimid al-Mustansir, about 1.2g C
Coarse calligraphy, frequently with indecipherable “date”. Only the year 487 is truly common.

275 A large hoard of several hundred dinars (circa 400-600 pieces) of al-Muzaffar and his son ‘Ali entered the market in the late 1980s, but are now so thoroughly dispersed that they are once again infrequently available.

276 San’a 451 in private collection, Trieste.

277 Sotheby’s, 30 September 1988, lot 173.
MAHDID OF ZABID

Mahdid coins are anonymous and of a single type, assigned to ruler by their date. Their silver dirhams, of which the earliest known date is 556, were the first pure silver dirhams struck in the central Islamic world after a gap of more than 100 years. All coins were struck at Zabid, all rather indifferently struck on carelessly manufactured planchets. Most are at least 10% weak, and the date is usually somewhat coarsely engraved. All are anonymous and bear the protocol al-imam shams shari’at al-islam.

temp. ‘Ali b. Mahdi, 554-558 / 1159-1163

1081 AR dirham, dated 556 and 558 only RR

temp. ‘Abd al-Nabi b. ‘Ali, 558-569 / 1163-1174

1082 AR dirham, dated 559 through 567 R

RASSID (2ND PERIOD) (BANU HAMZA)

Lowick, N.M., “The mansuri and the mahdawi dirham”, Numismatic Chronicle, 143 (1983), pp. 121-138. While still typologically accurate, some mints and numerous dates have since surfaced, whence an upgrade is badly needed.

Numerous mints were active under these rulers, notably Zafar, San’a, Sa’da, Huth, Dhirwah, Kahan, Muda’, ‘Ayyan, Bukur and al-Jahili before 656, mainly San’a and Dhamar thereafter. Virtually all coins of this dynasty are beautifully struck with carefully engraved but stylistically complex designs, and are normally quite well preserved.

al-Mansur ‘Abd Allah, 583-614 / 1185-1217

Z1083 AV dirham, with the mint name al-Qahira

The only known example is dated either 584 or 594, probably the latter, once misattributed by me as a common Fatimid dirham of al-Qahira (yike’!). It has not been determined where the coin was actually minted, presumably a locale in Yemen; silver dirhams of this reign are also known from al-Qahira.

1083 AR dirham (mansuri dirham, about 1.75g), complex hexagram on both obverse & reverse, many mints S

Coins of al-Mansur were struck posthumously until shortly after 700. All issues have an elaborate hexagrammoid arrangement of the inscriptions. Some posthumous issues have the name of a later Rassid Imam in the margin and are listed below under that Imam’s name, even though the posthumous name of al-Mansur is retained in the central area (cf. #1084 & A1086).281

1083A AR 1/6 dirham (sudaysi??) RRR

Without mint or date.282

al-Mutawakkil Ahmad, 623-656 / 1226-1258

1084 AR dirham, same design as #1083 (1.75g) RRR

Dirhams of al-Mutawakkil retain the name of al-Mansur in the central area, but add that of al-Mutawakkil in the margin.

al-Mahdi Ahmad, rival, 646-656 / 1249-1258

1085 AR dirham, in his sole name, quatrefoil within square on both sides (about 1.92g) R

Known as the mahdawi dirham. The name of the deceased al-Mansur is omitted.

al-Muntasir Da’ud, 656-689 / 1258-1290

A1086 AR dirham (1.75g) RRR

As #1084, but the name of al-Muntasir in margin.

al-Mutawakkil Salah al-Din ‘Ali, 674-697 / 1276-1298

D1086 AR dirham (1.75g) RRR

Coins of this ruler are of distinctive type, without the name of any earlier Imam. Stylistically similar to contemporary Rasulid dirhams.

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279 Alternatively, this type might have been issued by an independent rebel belonging either to the Sulayhid or to the Zaray’id dynasty. A unique variant of this type lacks the mint name and bears the inscription al-malik al-sayyid after the date, but nonetheless retaining the Dhu Jibla style and calligraphy.

280 Called ‘al-wali Allah below reverse field. The full obverse inscription is muhammad bin ibn Al-Mansur bin al-malik al-awlad al-malik al-da’ud. Coins of Mahdhi Ahmad above in 556, only al-matuk al-malik above in 539, muhammad above & al-mutawakkil below on dirhams dated 541-554, the latter either a posthumous issue or an issue of his son ‘Imran but still in his father’s name. The Fatimid caliph al-Mansur died in 524, but his name appeared on the Zaray’id’s coins until 554.

281 A modest hoard of this type, together with some examples of #1084 and 1085 have been filtering into the market since circa 2007. The hoard size is unknown, probably no more than several hundred pieces. Many specimens are from the previously very rare mint of Kahan dated in the 640s.

282 Reported by Reinhard Huther.
F1086 AR dirham, Dhamar 731 only
Known in the texts also as Ahmad b. ‘Ali.283
al-Wathiq billah al-Mutahhar, 730-750 / 1330-1349
G1086 AR dirham (about 1.05g), dated 750 only, San’a mint
An enigmatic issue, known only from a smallish hoard of a few dozen specimens found in the 19th century. Al-Mutahhar was the grandson of al-Mutawakkil (#D1086). This present reattribution was suggested by Vladimir Suchý, to whom I am thankful.

al-Nasir Muhammad, 773-793 / 1371-1390
1086 AR dirham (about 1.48g), struck at Dhamar & San’a
1086A AR ½ dirham (about 0.74g), struck at San’a

AYYUBID (BRANCH IN THE YEMEN)
References cited under the main Ayyubid rubric.
The sole mints for the early period are Zabid for silver and ‘Adan for gold (fine or debased, as noted). After about 590, gold coinage ceased and silver was also struck at Ta’izz and ‘Adan, occasionally at San’a and al-Dumlwaha. Under al-Mas’ud Yusuf, the additional mint of Bukar came into operation (extremely rare). Copper coins are known from Ta’izz, Zabid and the unusual mint of Mahyan, but the majority lack any mint name and are commonly undated. Most coins of all three metals are well struck, with surprisingly little weakness. The principal exceptions are the silver coins of the first two rulers, Turanshah and Saladin, stylistically and calligraphically similar to the previous issues of the Muhids of Zabid. All later silver was masterfully produced.
Ayyubid silver coins struck in Yemen follow Yemeni denomination weights and are not related to contemporary Syrian or Egyptian issues.

al-Mu’azzam Turanshah (b. Ayyub), 569-575 / 1174-1180
His titles include al-malik al-mu’azzam malik al-yaman shams al-din.
A1087 AV dinar (about 2.45g), debased gold, mint of ‘Adan
1087 AR dirham (about 1.6g), normally dated 569
A1088 AR ½ dirham (0.8g), undated
B1088 AE fals 284

al-Nasir Yusuf (Saladin), as overlord above Tughtekin, 575-589 / 1180-1193
G1088 AV dinar, debased gold, mint of ‘Adan
Saladin never had direct authority in the Yemen, but as suzerain over Tughtekin, his name was placed on the coinage in lieu of Tughtekin himself.
1088 AR dirham (1.4-1.5g), known dated 576-581
These dirhams and the half dirhams cite only Saladin (Salah al-Din), without reference to Tughtekin, who is not cited on the coinage until after Saladin’s death in 589, as was also the case for al-Zahir Ghazi at Aleppo in Syria (cf. type #788).
1089 AR ½ dirham (0.70-0.75g), always undated
al-‘Aziz Sayf al-Islam Tughtekin (b. Ayyub), 579-593 / 1183-1197
As independent ruler after the death of Saladin in 589/1193.
A1090 AV dinar (fine gold)
All coins of this ruler, in all metals, are characterized by having the central field in two triangles, one within the other, with an Arabic inscription in the central triangle, between the triangles, and in the three segments of the outer margin.
B1090 AR dirham, always dated (about 1.6g)
1090 AR ½ dirham, always undated (0.8g)
This is the only Yemeni Ayyubid ruler for whom the half dirham is more common than the full dirham.
1091 AE fals

al-Mu’izz Nasir al-Din Isma’il (b. Tughtekin), 593-598 / 1197-1202
Isma’il was assassinated without reference to the main Ayyubid ruler of Egypt & Syria.
1092 AR dirham (approximately 2.10-2.15g), as malik (593-597), citing the ‘Abbasid caliph
For this series, the dirham weight was increased from about 1.6g (half a qafla?) to about 2.10-2.15g, which may have been more-or-less equivalent to 2/3 of the then current qafla. This standard was retained until the end of Ayyubid coinage in Yemen in 634. However, issues struck before the accession of al-Mas’ud Yusuf in 612 include many underweight examples (even in superb condition), often as light as 1.7g. Both this type and #1093 have an octagon within circle on both obverse and reverse.
From this reign onwards, silver coins are exquisitely struck, with at worst only minimal weakness. Copper coins were also well made, but surviving specimens are usually worn or corroded.
1093 AR dirham, as Imam, with title al-Hadi (597-598)
Isma’il was assassinated for the audacity of declaring himself Imam. On coins of this type, he styles himself a member of the long-vanished Umayyad dynasty in (Arabic, al-amawi).
A1094 AR ½ dirham, type as #1092 (approximately 1.05g)
B1094 AE fals, ‘Aziz mint only, type undetermined
al-Nasir Abu’l-Muzaffar Ayyub (b. Tughtekin), 598-611 / 1202-1214
All issues of this ruler cite his name, together with the name of his Egyptian Ayyubid overlord, al-‘Adil Abu Bakr in the reverse margin (side with kalima in center).
1094.1 AR dirham, type A, dated 599-600 (square with annulets attached outside each quarter)
Struck principally at al-Dumluwa.285
1094.2 AR dirham, type B (central octfoil within a circle, both sides), dated 600-607
1093.3 AR dirham, type C (interlaced octfoil without an outer circle, both sides), dated 607-611
The dirham standard remained about 2.10g, but specimens often weigh considerably less, occasionally below 1.7g.
A1095 AR ½ dirham, Zabid 598, type not noted
1095 AE fals, mainly mint of Mahyan (mint unknown for silver!)

al-Mu’azzam Sulaymanshah, 611-612 / 1214-1215
A1096 AR dirham, known only from Ta’izz 611
al-Mas’ud Yusuf (b. al-Kamil Muhammad of Egypt), 612-626 / 1214-1228
Al-Mas’ud Yusuf is never cited as actual ruler, but as heir-apparent (wali ‘ahd) to al-Kamil Muhammad, who is in turn cited as heir-apparent to al-‘Adil Abu Bakr on dirhams dated 612-621, i.e., six years after the death of Abu Bakr in 615. Abu Bakr no longer appears on Yusuf’s coins dated later in 621 until 627, again produced.
1096.1 AR dirham, citing the Egyptian overlord al-‘Adil Abu Bakr & al-Kamil Muhammad as heir apparent (in Cairo)
1096.2 AR dirham, citing overlord al-Kamil Muhammad (known dated 621-627)
His coinage continued after Yusuf’s death into the year 627 (type #1096.2). From 612 onward, lightweight dirhams are seldom encountered, unlike dirhams of previous reigns. Only in the early 630s (type #1099) were underweight examples once again produced. Dirhams 621-623 have the caliph al-Nasir, some dated 623 & 624 have al-Zahir (RR), those dated 624-627 cite al-Mustansir.
1096A AR ½ dirham (just over one gram), struck only at Mecca
Denomination uncertain.286

283 ICA London #8 (2004), lot 253, ruler misread as “Hamud”.
284 Peus, Katalog 341 (3 Nov 1994), lot 1796.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 122
RASULID


The eponymous founder of the dynasty, Rasul, was a Turkoman official in 'Abbasid service in the late 12th century. His grandson, al-Mansur 'Umar I, was first an officer under the 'Abbasid caliph al-Mustansir in Baghdad to place his own name on the coinage.

The Rasulid coinage consists principally of silver dirhams to a standard of about 1.85g, described in contemporary sources as 5/6 of a qafila. The Yemeni qafila appears to have weighed slightly under three grams during the Rasulid period, thus approximately the same as the canonical Umayyad dirham. There are a few very rare gold dinars patterned after the North African dobla. Coppers of the first two reigns are modestly struck. Silver coins are usually reasonably well struck, though because they are occasionally available. All other mints are very rare.

Dirhams from 648 until the late 650s were usually well struck and with clear elegant script. Thereafter, both the epigraphic and manufacturing quality rapidly degenerated, with the strange exception of a brief period in 664-665 of remarkably elegant calligraphy and production.

Some issues of 648-649 have the father’s name ‘Umar at the end of the bottom line in the obverse field. Some of 649 and all later dates have ‘Umar above the top line of the obverse field.

Rasulid coinage is usually without mint name, always undated. No meaningful catalog of these fulus has ever been assembled. Many types, usually without mint name, always undated.

A1102 AR dirham, one type only (central circle, both sides) C

1102 AR dirham, struck at Zufar in 711 only

al-Mansur ‘Umar I, 626-647 / 1229-1249

V1100 AV dinar, Zabid 635 only, type as #1100.2 RRR

RRR

1100.1 AR dirham, type A (notched inner circle, struck 634-635)

RRR

1100.2 AR dirham, type B (square-in-circle, struck 635 only)

RRR

1100.3 AR dirham, type C (diamond with excursive sides, struck 636-638, Mabyan mint only)

RRR

1100.5 AR dirham, type E (hexafoil superimposed on a hexagram, struck 640) (Zeno-95214) S

RRR

1100.4 AR dirham, type D (double intersecting trefoils, struck 641-648, possibly also 640) S

RRR

No coins dated 630 are currently known.

No coins dated 630 are currently known.

al-Mu'azzafir Yusuf (b. ‘Umar), 647-694/1249-1295

A1102 AV dinar RRR

1102 AR dirham, one type only (central circle, both sides) C

Dirhams from 648 until the late 650s were usually well struck and with clear elegant script. Thereafter, both the epigraphic and manufacturing quality rapidly degenerated, with the strange exception of a brief period in 664-665 of remarkably elegant calligraphy and production.

Some issues of 648-649 have the father’s name ‘Umar at the end of the bottom line in the obverse field. Some of 649 and all later dates have ‘Umar above the top line of the obverse field.

al-Asraf ‘Umar II (b. Yusuf), 694-696/1295-1297

A1105 AV dinar RRR

1105 AR dirham, one type only (notched circle) C

Dirhams from 648 until the late 650s were usually well struck and with clear elegant script. Thereafter, both the epigraphic and manufacturing quality rapidly degenerated, with the strange exception of a brief period in 664-665 of remarkably elegant calligraphy and production.

Some issues of 648-649 have the father’s name ‘Umar at the end of the bottom line in the obverse field. Some of 649 and all later dates have ‘Umar above the top line of the obverse field.

al-Wathiq Sayf al-Din Ibrahim (b. Yusuf), d. 711/1311

A1105 AV dinar RRR

1105 AR dirham, one type only (notched circle) C

Dirhams from 648 until the late 650s were usually well struck and with clear elegant script. Thereafter, both the epigraphic and manufacturing quality rapidly degenerated, with the strange exception of a brief period in 664-665 of remarkably elegant calligraphy and production.

Some issues of 648-649 have the father’s name ‘Umar at the end of the bottom line in the obverse field. Some of 649 and all later dates have ‘Umar above the top line of the obverse field.

Rasulid dirhams can be classified into types based on the geometric frame surrounding the central fields on both obverse and reverse. During the reigns of al-Asraf Isma’il I (778-805) and especially his successors, there are numerous types with different patterns on each face.

The gold dinars follow a style closely derived from contemporary Merinid or Hafsid dinars of the Maghreb, but vary in weight from about 4 to 5 grams. Given their rarity, they were perhaps produced solely for presentation purposes. All known dirhams were struck at ‘Adan, except for the year 635 issue of ‘Umar I struck at Zabid.

288 Private collection, Dubai.

289 I preferred to retain the number of #1100.4 for type D, even though type D is later than the very recently discovered type E (#1100.5).

289 Known only from an example mounted into jewelry (see my list #212).

90 Peus, Katalog 345, 1 Nov 1995, #1071

Al-Mujahid was the first Rasulid ruler to issue multiple types for the dirham.

M1108 AV dinar, known only from ‘Adan dated 735, small sword in obverse center

N1108 AV ½ dinar, always without mint or date

1108.1 AR dirham, type A, central circle with 3 or 4 stars in margin (722-726)

1108.2 AR dirham, type B, central circle, no stars in margin,
star-in-circle in center (obverse & reverse) (struck 727-735)

1108.3 AR dirham, type C, hexafoil, pictorial device in obverse center (736-763)

Al-Mujahid was the first to introduce pictorial devices on the Rasulid silver coinage, a practice continued by all subsequent members of the dynasty. Type 1108.3 dirhams bear pictorial devices specific to mint, a lion at al-Mahjam, a hawk at Zabid, two fish at ‘Adan, and a seated man at Tha’bat. The first three mints are common, Tha’bat very scarce.

An immense hoard was retrieved from the Red Sea circa 1990, not far from the modern Saudi city of Jeddah, containing an estimated 25,000 Rasulid dirhams terminating in about the year 748, along with thousands of Syrian and Egyptian Mamluk dirhams and fractional dirhams. These Rasulid dirhams were mostly brittle and easily broken, not surprising for these unprecendently thin silver coins.

1108A AE fals, several types, poorly struck

al-Afdal Dhirgham al-Din al-‘Abbas (b. ‘Ali), 764-778 / 1363-1376

1109.1 AR dirham, type A, central circle, inscriptions only (764-772)

1109.2 AR dirham, type B, pictorial device above or below obverse field (772-778)

Pictorial types are mint-specific, as on type #1108.3, except that coins of ‘Adan have only one fish (someone ate the other?).

al-Ashraf Mumahhid al-Din Isma’il I (b. al-‘Abbas), 778-803 / 1376-1400

Unless otherwise noted, all types of this reign have the same shape on both obverse & reverse. All pictorial devices are mint-specific, whereas geometric patterns are normally common to all mints.

1110.1 AR dirham, type A, inscriptions only, central fancy hexafoil (779-782)

1110.2 AR dirham, type B, inscriptions only, intersecting double trefoil, as #1100.4 of ‘Umar I (783-784)

1110.3 AR dirham, type C, pictorial obverse, single or double plain circle (784-787)

Two fish at ‘Adan, lion attacking bull at al-Mahjam, mounted hunter holding falcon at Ta’izz, hawk attacking different bird at Zabid. The single circle type is 20-22mm in diameter, the double circle about 25mm. Usually somewhat weakly struck, with full bold images rare. This is the first Rasulid type to spell dates in numerals rather than words, though some varieties of this type still use words rather than numerals. All later types have dates in either numerals or words, usually one form for each type.

1110.4 AR dirham, type D, plain circle, semi-pictorial, marginal variations (787-790)

The type is distinguished by the obverse margin: a ring of large pellets at ‘Adan, mint & date inscription at al-Mahjam (date usually in ciphers), stars at Ta’izz (sometimes alternating with either pellets or anulets), a circle of tiny swimming fish at Zabid.

1110.5 AR dirham, type E, pictorial, identical to type 1108.3 of al-Mujahid ‘Ali (791 only)

The mint of Ta’izz is not known for this type.

1110.6 AR dirham, type F, pictorial, complex central area, pictorial devices in the outer margin, usually together with words or ciphers (792-794)

The pictorial devices are repeated 4 times in the margin (8 times at ‘Adan): fish at ‘Adan, hawk, lion or hare at al-Mahjam, seated man at both Ta’izz and Zabid. Coins of this and all successive types are very broad and thin, usually poorly struck.

1110.7 AR dirham, type G, pictorial, small central circle (795-796)

Not enough specimens are known to determine the full range of this rather complex type, but the presence of a small pictorial device within the relatively narrow central circle is the primary distinguishing factor.

1110.8 AR dirham, type H, inscriptions only, plain circle as central encircel (797-798)

Arrangement as the common type #1102 of al-Muzaffar Yusuf.

1110.9 AR dirham, type I-1, pictorial, plain double circle, with an additional tangential small circle inscribed at the top of the double circle on the obverse only (799-801, also 802 at Zabid)

The pictorial device appears in the tangential circle: lion at ‘Adan, seated man at al-Mahjam (by far the most common mint), eight-petal rosette at Zabid (not confirmed for Ta’izz). Types #1110.9 and 1110.10 are dated in numerals.

1110.10 AR dirham, type I-2, quasi-pictorial, same design as type I-1 but a new set of symbols (802-803)

Chalice at ‘Adan, foliate ornament at al-Mahjam, three swords at Zabid (not known from Ta’izz).

al-Nasir Salah al-Din Ahmad (b. al-‘Abbas), 803-827 / 1400-1424

1111 AR dirham

At least 15 types were struck during this reign, most quite rare. Most are pictorial or geometric and not necessarily mint-specific. Unfortunately, most are undated, so that the sequence of types cannot be fully determined until a sufficient number of hoards from this reign are adequately published (unluckily!). Despite the frequent type changes, overstrikes that might help determine the type chronology are unknown.

al-Mansur Dihya’ al-Din ‘Abd Allah (b. Ahmad), 827-830 / 1424-1427

1112 AR dirham, several types, normally dated

al-Ashraf Isma’il II (b. Ahmad), 830-831 / 1427-1428

A1113 AR dirham, at least 3 types unknown

Zeno illustrates three separate types, all of extraordinary complexity and elegance.

al-Zahir Hizir al-Din Yahya (b. Isma’il II), 831-842 / 1428-1439

B1113 AR dirham, number of types unknown

HUSAYNID SHARIFS

Nur al-Din Muhammad b. Mika’il, 763-765 / 1362-1364

In rebellion against the Rasulids at al-Mahjam.

R113 AR dirham

Two subtypes reported, one struck in 763, the other in 764, about equal rarity.

UNKNOWN DYNASTY

The ruler listed here is apparently unrecorded, and matches neither the known Rasulid rulers who might have succeeded Yahya upon his death in 842 / 1439, nor the Rassid Imams, who might have taken over San’a in 842.

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291 Morton & Eden, 23 Nov 2004, lot 469.
292 Some portions of the hoard were eventually recovered by the Saudi government, but large quantities remain in the market, especially in the United States, Canada and Great Britain.
al-Nasir li-din Allah Muhammad, fl. 842 / 1439

1113N AR dirham, San’a 842, style similar to last issues of the Rasulids RRR

TAHRID


Porter, Venetia (reference needed).

A minor dynasty, originally chief amirs to the later Rasulids. Only the last ruler is known to have struck coins, though some uncertain types have been conjecturally assigned to other rulers. Only silver was struck, in the form of very coarse dirhams with illegible calligraphy, truly disgusting.

The only known mint is ‘Adan, though the capital of the Tahrids was at Rada’, at least at the time of ‘Amir b. Da’ud.

The Tahrids of the Yemen bore no relationship to the similarly named Iranian dynasty of the 3rd/9th century.

From approximately the 830s until the end of Mamluk rule in Egypt in 922, Yemen was supplied with massive quantities of Mamluk silver dirhams from Syria, which presumably formed the basic currency throughout the Yemen. After 922, for roughly a century, most of the circulating silver coins in the Yemen consisted of old Mamluk silver together with Ottoman silver, the latter mainly maydans from the mints of Halab and Misr, together with limited numbers of Ottoman ‘uthmanis struck at Yemeni mints.

‘Amir III b. Da’ud, 923-945 / 1517-1538

Murdered by the Ottomans in 945. It is doubtful that ‘Amir III retained any significant power after about 935/1529.

1114 AR dirham or fraction, occasionally dated R

All coins of this reign are extremely crude and of uncertain denomination, showing a wide distribution of weights, mainly between 1g and 2g.

RASSID (3rd PERIOD)

Sharaf al-Din, 912-965 / 1506-1558

1115 AR dirham (about 1.4-1.5g), usually undated C

Inscribed 'abd Allah al-mutawakkil 'ala Allah sharaf al-dirham, often without the final word al-dirham. Clearly dated examples are rare.

1116 AR ½ dirham (0.6-0.7.5g), always with mint & date RR

Known from the mints of San’a, dated 945 (R), and Zafir (RRR); the latter was Sharaf al-Din’s residence from 961 to 965.

1117 AE fals, inscription & date on obverse only, design on reverse (scare with legible date) C

Name given only as al-mutawakkil, sometimes with ‘ala Allah in outer margin. Known dated in the 930s and 940s.

Mutahhar, as rebel against Sharaf al-Din, circa 958 / 1551 RRR

1117C AR ½ dirham (0.5g), struck only at Thula & dated 958 R

Mutahhar, as Imam, circa 965-980 / 1558-1572 RRR

1117F AR dirham (probably about 1.2g) RRR

Without mint name, probably dated 965, but all known specimens lack a clearly coherent date. A copper fals assigned to this ruler is reported (Zeno-32427).

OTTOMAN (YEMENI MINTS)


Nauta, D., several excellent articles on copper coinage (arranged by mint) in ONS Newsletter: Nº 137 (Summer 1993), pp. 6-10 (Zabid); Nº 138 (Autumn 1993), pp. 2-5 (al-Mukha); Nº 139 (Winter 1994), pp. 5-9 (Kawkaban & Sa’d); Nº 140 (Spring 1994), pp. 5-10 (Malath); Nº 146 (Autumn 1995), Supplement, pp. 17-28 (San’a, first part), Nº 153 (Summer 1997), pp. 6-12 (San’a, second part), with more to come.


The Ottomans seized Zabid in 937/1531, taking San’a in 952 and ‘Adan shortly afterwards. They retained their hold on most of the Yemen until 1045/1635, when their authority was transferred to the Qasimids.

For the silver, Zabid is the most common mint, though San’a and ‘Adan are no longer very rare, especially for Süleyman. Other mints include Kawkaban, Ta’izz, and ‘Adan for silver coins, together with Sa’da, al-Mukha and Malath, which are known only for copper. The contemporary terminology for the Yemeni silver and copper denominations remains undetermined.

The gold & silver always bear the name of the sultan, whereas the copper is usually anonymous. Anonymous copper is assigned to ruler by date, and undated coppers are consolidated here as type #1128. Silver coins bear the actual date until about 962, after which they bear only the accession year, in conformity with metropolitan Ottoman coinage.

By the end of the Ottoman period increasing quantities of European thalers were imported into Yemen. Until the early 20th century, these thalers, together with later European & Ottoman crowns and British India rupees, formed the principal silver coinage circulating in the Yemen, alongside locally produced small silver or copper coins for petty change. The Maria Theresa thaler was used from about 1770 until at least the 1940s.

Süleyman I, 926-974 / 1520-1566

A1118 AV sultani RR

Struck only at Zabid, this sultani is identical to the usual sultanis of this ruler (#1317), except for the mint name. All Zabid sultanis bear the actual year of issue, rather than the accession year 926, namely 932 (error for 942?) and various years 945-962. (Can also be regarded as type #1317, if you prefer?) A sultani said to be Huda ya 936 is uncertain (Zeno-9117)

1118 AR ‘uthmani C

Typical weight of the ‘uthmani is about 0.6g. Issues of San’a and ‘Adan appear to follow a slightly heavier standard than those of Zabid, but further research is needed to confirm this.

Coins of this type initially bore the actual date of issue, from the conquest in 937 until between circa 956 and 961, varying from mint to mint. Later issues are dated with the accession year, 926.

1119 AE fals or mangur S

The Yemeni name of this copper denomination is unknown. San’a is by far the most frequently seen mint.

Selim II, 974-982 / 1566-1574

1120 AR ‘uthmani RR

1121 AE fals or mangur R

Struck at Mukha (Mocha, famous for its coffee293) and Kawkaban.

Murad III, 982-1003 / 1574-1595

T1122 AV sultani, mint of San’a (Zeno-30384) RRR

1122 AR ‘uthmani RR

A1123 AE fals or mangur RR

Struck at Sa’da in 983.

Mehmet III, 1003-1012 / 1595-1603

T1123 AV sultani, mint of San’a (Zeno-20768) RRR

1123 AR ‘uthmani RR

Ahmed I, 1012-1026 / 1603-1617

1124 AR ‘uthmani RR

Osman II, 1027-1031 / 1618-1622

1125 AR ‘uthmani RRR

Mustafa I, 2nd reign, 1031-1032 / 1622-1623

1126 AR ‘uthmani RRR

Murad IV, in the Yemen 1032-1045 / 1623-1635

1127 AR ‘uthmani RR

1127A AE fals or mangur, dated 1032 at San’a RR

293 However, when I visited the city of Mukha in 1986, the only available coffee was Nestlé instant!

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 125
### QASIMID IMAMS


The Qasimid coinage consists principally of silver coins of various denominations, few of which are properly understood. The denominational names given here should be regarded as tentative. Determination of the denomination is complicated by the fact that the weight range for each denomination is unprecedentedly broad. For example, the small denomination of the mid-11th/17th century was the buqsha, with individual specimens in the range of 0.3-0.5 grams. In 1700/1660, a heavier coin called khums kabir was introduced at a weight of 0.8-1.0 grams. In the early 18th century, a coin possibly called a dirham and weighing 2.5-3.0 grams was struck. Under al-Mahdi al-‘Abbas, 1748-1775, there were four concurrent denominations, of which the coin of about 0.8 grams was probably the buqsha. About after 1190/1775, the silver coins were increasingly debased, nearly pure copper by the end of the series.

The larger copper coin was probably a fals, the smaller one a dawari, as inscribed on some coins of Muhammad III (1687-1718). However, normal copper coinage ceased to be produced after about 1720. Gold coins are all extremely rare, as are all larger silver coins weighing more than about 3 grams. The function of the gold and heavier silver coins is unknown, but they are clearly far too rare to have been a successful circulating medium. Most of the large silver coins are holed or ex-mount, which suggests that they were probably struck primarily as award pieces or for jewelry.

For most silver denominations, individual specimens exhibit a wide variation in weight, with the heaviest examples of one denomination occasionally heavier than the lightest examples of the next larger one. They are, however, distinguished by their designs, although for many series the pattern has yet to be categorized. In any case it seems likely that in all transactions silver coins were weighed, rather than counted, and that the formal denominations mentioned in contemporary documents were units of account rather than actual coins, especially because these documents normally quote a fixed ratio between the local silver coins and foreign coins such as the Mexican real, the Austrian thaler or the Indian rupee.

The Qasimids traced their descent to the earlier Rassid Imams.

### OTTOMAN (ARABIAN MINTS)

A few local issues were produced in what is now Saudi Arabia circa 1730-1770, primarily at the mint of ‘Ar’ar, as well as a few other mints, mostly of which remain unknown. Many of the attributions remain tentative, as they are based on a very limited number of currently known specimens. Also, the actual denominational name is unknown, hence the generic term fals is used here.

**Ahmad II, 1115-1143 / 1703-1730**

- **A1129**: AE fals, inscriptions above lion on reverse, coarsely engraved lion on the reverse.
- **B1129**: AE fals, lion reverse (1.00-1.20g) RRR

**Mahmud I, 1143-1168 / 1730-1754**

- **A1129**: AE fals, inscriptions above lion on reverse (1.15-1.45g) RRR
- **C1129**: AE fals, mint of ‘Ar’ar (1.05-1.35g) RRR
- **D1129**: AE fals, name as Sultan Mustafa, mint unread RRR
- **G1129**: AE fals, without ruler’s name, with lillah al-mulk on obverse, mint (Najran) on reverse RRR

**Osmans III, 1168-1171 / 1754-1757**

- **C1129**: AE fals, mint of ‘Ar’ar (1.05-1.35g) RRR
- **D1129**: AE fals, name as Sultan Mustafa, mint unread RRR
- **E1129**: AE fals, without ruler’s name, mint of ‘Ar’ar (0.85-1.10g) RRR
- **G1129**: AE fals, without ruler’s name, with lillah al-mulk on obverse, mint (Najran) on reverse RRR

**Mustafa III, 1171-1178 / 1757-1774**

- **E1129**: AE fals, without ruler’s name, mint of ‘Ar’ar (0.85-1.10g) RRR
- **G1129**: AE fals, without ruler’s name, with lillah al-mulk on obverse, mint (Najran) on reverse RRR

Examples in attractive condition are uncommon. Many types lack the mint name, but were probably struck principally at San’a. Some are totally without inscription, having just geometric patterns. Dated coppers are assigned to the ruler in whose reign the year falls.

Yemeni Ottoman coins struck after 974 remain rare but will perhaps become more common as new hoards are brought to market. In the Yemen, gold and silver coins were routinely melted for bullion until the early 1980s, copper coins discarded for scrap. Few were saved for collectors.

**Anonymous, circa 937-1045 / 1530-1635**

- **A1129**: AE fals or mangır, many mints, undated S
- **D1129**: AE fals, his name as al-Mahdi al-‘Abbas, 1748-1775. There were four concurrent denominations, of which the coin of about 0.8 grams was probably the buqsha. About after 1190/1775, the silver coins were increasingly debased, nearly pure copper by the end of the series.

For most silver denominations, individual specimens exhibit a wide variation in weight, with the heaviest examples of one denomination occasionally heavier than the lightest examples of the next larger one. They are, however, distinguished by their designs, although for many series the pattern has yet to be categorized. In any case it seems likely that in all transactions silver coins were weighed, rather than counted, and that the formal denominations mentioned in contemporary documents were units of account rather than actual coins, especially because these documents normally quote a fixed ratio between the local silver coins and foreign coins such as the Mexican real, the Austrian thaler or the Indian rupee.

Well-struck coins are rarely seen, except for the reigns of al-Mahdi al-‘Abbas (1748-1775) and al-Mansur ‘Ali (1775-1809). It was during the reign of al-Mansur ‘Ali that silver coinage first became debased. After 1724/1809, silver debasement rapidly worsened. The larger billon denomination (0.6-0.9g) was soon abandoned with only the minuscule coppery harf (0.25-0.4g) still in production, of little true value and so poorly struck that most surviving specimens are unreadable, even when still in excellent condition. These appalling petty coins are said to have circulated at the rate of 4,000 harf to the Maria Theresa thaler, an imported Austrian silver coin that became the de facto basis of Yemeni currency, together with an assortment of foreign coins such as the Mexican real, the Austrian thaler or the Indian rupee.

### Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 126

297 During my 1986 visit to Yemen, circulating currency consisted of 25 fils, 50 fils and one rial (= 100 fils) coins, together with 5 rial and 10 rial banknotes, the latter then worth about US$1. The most common large banknote was the United States $100. Maria Theresa thalers were widely available, but I did not observe them still in use as active currency. The “antique” shops often had piles of obsolete silver and copper modern coins (1904-1963), together with modest amounts of Maria Theresa thalers (and occasionally other European thalers), Ottoman coins, and British Indian coins. Gold coinage was readily available in the jewelry shops, consisting predominantly of newly struck “British” sovereigns, half sovereigns, and quarter (!) sovereigns, normally with dates outside the reign of the portrayed king or queen, apparently a legal requirement to distinguish them from genuine sovereigns!
From 1036-1109, silver coins were struck at al-Damigh, Dhamar, Dimmar, al-Khadra’, Ibb, Kawkbaban, Qasr ‘Amrath, Rada’, Rawda, Sa‘da, San’a, and Shihara, though most mints operated only sporadically. Thereafter, virtually all coins were minted at San’a, though many lack any mint name whatsoever (alternative mints for the later types are indicated under the descriptions, when known).

**al-Mu‘ayyad Muhammad I, 1009-1054 / 1602-1644**

1129  AR buqsha (0.2-0.35g), struck from 1036 onwards

1129K  AE fals, known only from Ibb dated 1039

**al-Mutawakkil Isma‘il, 1054-1087 / 1644-1676**

1130  AR buqsha (0.2-0.35g) struck mainly 1054-1066

The obverse of this type bears the name al-mutawakkil ‘ala’Allah together with his personal name isma‘il, the latter name usually within a central oval.

1130A  AR buqsha, similar, but with name on obverse merely al-mutawakkil ‘ala’Allah without isma‘il

Struck circa 1078-1087, normally without date, but its flowing calligraphy distinguishes it from the earlier buqsha (#1130).

1131  AR khums kabir (“big fifth”), obverse as #1130 (about 1.0-1.1g, struck from 1066 until about 1075 or slightly later)

San’a is the only common mint.

1131A  AR khums kabir, similar, but with name on obverse merely al-mutawakkil ‘ala’Allah

Struck circa 1078-1087, normally without date, as #1130A.

1132  AE fals, usually without name of mint

Known mints include al-Damigh, Damascus and Shihara.

**al-Mahdi Ahmad I, 1087-1092 / 1667-1681**

Same weight standard as al-Mutawakkil Isma‘il.

A1133  AV (buqsha??), without name of mint, several variants

This is the only gold coin of the Qasimids (pre-machine-struck) that is occasionally offered for sale.

1133  AR khamsiya

1133A  AR buqsha (0.20-0.30g), without mint

Obverse al-mahdi li-din Allah, reverse ahmad bin muhammad.

1133B  AR buqsha, with mint

Obverse merely al-mahdi, reverse mint, usually with date.

**al-Mu‘ayyad Muhammad II, 1092-1097 / 1681-1686**

1134  AR khamsiya

Muhammad III, 1098-1130 / 1687-1718

**as al-Nasir (1098-1105 / 1687-1693):**

S1135  AR heavy dirham, known from Kawkbaban 1104 (Zeno-57569, 4.32g)

U1135  AR ½ dirham? (normally about 1.5g), mints of Dhamar & Kawkbaban

1135  AR khamsiya (about 0.45-.065g)

Normally struck at al-Khadra’, or without mint name, usually dated.

1136  AE fals, struck mainly at Rada’

The fals weighs around 1.2g, the dawari 0.6g, with considerable variation.

1137  AE dawari (½ fals), struck mainly at Rada’

Copper coins of this denomination are inscribed dawari. Also known from the mints of al-Ghars & Rabban.

**as al-Hadi (1105-1109 / 1693-1697):**

1138  AR khamsiya

This type was sometimes struck at al-Khadra’, but commonly lacks the mint name altogether, usually dated.

1139  AE fals, usually without mint name

1140  AE dawari (½ fals), similar

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Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 127
al-Mansur ‘Ali II, 1251-1252 / 1835-1837
RRR
1154 BI harf, normally dated

al-Nasir ‘Abd Allah II, 1252-1256 / 1837-1840
RR
1155 BI harf, normally dated (cf. Zeno-11129)

al-Hadi Muhammad IV, 1256-1259 / 1840-1844
RR
1156 BI harf, always undated

al-Mutawakkil Muhammad V, 1261-1265 / 1845-1849
S
1157 BI harf, always undated (cf. Zeno-11157)

al-Mansur Ahmad III, 1265-1269 / 1849-1853
R
1158 BI harf

Coins assigned to al-Mansur Ahmad may actually be imitations or contemporary counterfeits of issues of al-Mansur ‘Ali II. The ruler is cited only as al-Mansur. Cf. Zeno-11096 for a variety most likely of al-Mansur Ahmad III.

al-Hadi Ghalib, rival at Sa‘da, 1267-1268 / 1851-1852
RRR
1158G AR kabir? (about 0.9g), Sa‘da 1267 only299

al-Mansur Hamid al-Din, 1307-1322 / 1888-1904
All coins of al-Mansur bear the mint name San‘a.

B1159 BI kabir (approximately 0.5-1.0g), dated 1311-1321
R
Many subordinate types, some of which are rare (see SCWC). This denomination was called “buqsha” in my earlier editions.

A1159 AE harf (approximately 1.5g), known dated 1312-1313
RR

C1159 AE buqsha (approximately 3.0g), known dated 1312-1313

al-Hadi li-din Allah, fl. 1322 / 1904
F1159 AE buqsha? (about 2g), without mint name, dated 1322 (Zeno-11093)
RRR

al-Mutawakkil Yahya, 1322-1367 / 1904-1948
G1159 BI kabir (formerly called “buqsha”), dated 1322-1323
RR

All later coinage of this ruler is machine-struck, albeit with primitive equipment and from handcut dies, and is not included here (listed in detail in SCWC).

SULAYMANI SHARIFS

Suchy, Vladimir, listing on Zeno.ru, under “Post-Ottoman Rulers in the Tihama and ‘Asir” in his Yemen section of the Special Reports.

Rulers in the Mikhail Sulayman, a region in what is now the ‘Asir district of Saudi Arabia. They briefly extended their power along the coastal regions as far south as Zabid.

Always very weakly struck, and usually badly preserved. Some examples of Zabid 1223 (##1159.2) may have a somewhat different obverse inscription.

temp. Hammud b. Muhammad (known as Ibn Mismar), circa 1217-1232 / 1802-1817

1159.1 BI buqsha?, with al-mulka lillah on obverse, mint & date on reverse, mint of al-Zahra, dated 1224
RRR

1159.2 BI buqsha?, al-hamdu lillah on obverse, mint & date on reverse, Zabid 1223 or 1230
RR

1159.3 BI buqsha?, Allah hashi on obverse, mint name on reverse
RR

Known from Abu ‘Asir 1227 & 1233, Mukhtarah (near Hudeidah in Yemen) 1126.

AMIRS OF MECCA

Ja’far b. Muhammad, fl. 360 / 971300

1159J AV dinar, struck at Makka in 360
RRR

FULAYTID (HAWASHIM) SHARIFS OF MECCA

A succession of sharifs at Mecca prior to the Qatadid takeover circa 600/1200, of whom coins have thus far been discovered only for Mukaththir b. ‘Isa.

Mukaththir b. ‘Isa b. Fulyata, 584-593 / 1188-1197

1159M AR dirham (approximately 1.15g) RRR

Inscribed merely al-amir mukaththir on obverse, al-imam ahmad on reverse, without mint, date, denomination, etc. (Zeno-30128).

QATADID SHARIFS OF MECCA

An ‘Alid family who served as sharifs at Mecca from about 600/1200 until 1335/1916. One ruler, Jammaz, attempted to exercise his independence during a time of struggle between the Ayyubids and the Rasulids for political control of Arabia.

Jammaz b. al-Hasan, 651 / 1253-1254

Jammaz ruled for only about four months.

A1160 AR dirham301 RRR

Struck at Mecca and dated 651, to a weight standard of about 1.4-1.5g, thus possibly better regarded as a half dirham.

WAHHABI SHARIFS OF MECCA

The Wahhabi Sharifs struck anonymous copper coins from 1219 to 1240, with the possible addition of a few coins dated earlier in the 1210s. They are rather heavy and resemble contemporary copper paisa’s of western India, whence it is conceivable that Muslim manufacturers from India came to Arabia to prepare these coins.

Anonymous, circa 1219-1240 / 1805-1825

S1160 AR mahmudi, inscriptions only, known from 1219-1222, average weight around 10-14 grams
R

T1160 AR mahmudi, with bird or fish on one or both sides, several varieties struck between 1223 and 1230, weight as #1160
R

U1160 AR ½ mahmudi, inscriptions only, probably dated only in the 1210s and again in 1240
RR

OMAN

GOVERNORS OF OMAN (*UMAN*

Central Bank of Oman, History of Currency in the Sultanate of Oman, Muscat 1990 (written by Robert E. Darley-Doran), for this and subsequent Omani dynasties.

With the disintegration of ‘Abbasid authority over Oman, local governors began to add their names to the coinage.

All coins bear the mint name *Umán*, irrespective of their actual mint site, which was probably at Suhat. ‘Uman (Oman) and ‘Ammam (in Jordan) are written alike in Arabic, but coins of these two mints can always be distinguished by type and style. All coins also cite the current ‘Abbasid caliph.

Ahmad b. al-Husayn, fl. 289 / 902

E1160 AR dirham (Zeno-97916) RRR

It is possible that Ahmad b. Hilal and Ahmad b. al-Husayn refer to the same individual.

---

299 Published by Wolfgang Schuster in ONS Newsletter #169 (2001), probably still unique.
300 This appeared at auction, perhaps in the 1980s. I have forgotten which auction and lot number.
Ahmad b. Hilal, fl. 290-312 / 903-925

F1160 AR dirham

‘Abd al-Halim b. Ibrahim, fl. 311-313 / 923-926

H1160 AR dirham

WAJHID

An Arab dynasty in Oman, originally empowered as ‘Abbasid governors in the region.

All coins bear the mint name ‘Uman and cite the then current ‘Abbasid caliph, and are stylistically similar to contemporary ‘Abbasid and Buwayhid coins. Most are quite attractively struck, though not always well preserved.

Yusuf b. Wajih, 314-332 / 925-943

N1160 AV dinar, with heir Muhammad b. Yusuf

1160 AR dirham, without heir (314-326)

1160D AR presentation dirham, similar, but on broad flan with broad outer margins

The outer margins bear inscriptions, ya’azz Yusuf bi-‘izz Allah on the obverse, yatayakkil Yusuf ala Allah on the reverse.

1161 AR dirham, similar, but with heir Muhammad b. Yusuf (326-332)102

Muhammad b. Yusuf, circa 332-341 / 943-952

A1162 AV dinar

1162 AR dirham

1162A AR dirham, medallion style with broad outer margins on obverse & reverse

Known dated 332, ostensibly issued to commemorate his enthronement.303

‘Umar b. Yusuf, fl. 341-350 / 952-961

A1163 AV dinar

1163 AR dirham

‘Umar b. Muhammad (al-Sada), fl. 358 / 978

1163E AR dirham, citing the ‘Abbasid caliph and the Buwayhid rulers ‘Adud al-Dawla & Rukn al-Dawla304

AMIRS OF OMAN

After the collapse of the Wajihids, various local amirs gained authority over separate Omani regions. One of these amirs is known to have issued coins. His coins cite the Buwayhids ‘Adud al-Dawla and Rukn al-Dawla as his overlords, as well as the then current ‘Abbasid caliph, al-Muti’.

Hallaj b. Hatim, fl. 358-361 / 978-982

A1164 AR dirham, mint of ‘Uman

MUKRAMID

Originally governors to the Buwayhids, the family of Mukram was briefly independent in Oman. Most Mukramid coins bear the name of their Buwayhid overlord.

All Mukramid coins bear the mint name ‘Uman. The billon dirhams are carelessly made on broad flans, usually poorly struck and seriously worn. The dinars are relatively well struck and rarely exhibit much wear, though their calligraphy is often abominable.305

802 Dirhams of Yusuf b. Wajih dated 326 cite his heir merely as muhammad, with the name seemingly added in the lower right corner of the obverse field on a die originally intended to omit the heir (Baldwin’s auction 43, lot 3124). All later issues present his full name, muhammad bin yusuf.

803 Islamic Coins Auction 10, lot 217.

804 ‘Umar Muqram, in a private collection, Dubai.

805 A small hoard of perhaps 75-100 Mukramid dinars with terminal date circa 430 appeared in 2006, but seems to have been dispersed by 2010.

Coins of Hasan lack his personal name or titles, but all later Mukramid coins cite the actual name of the Mukramid ruler.

temp. Abu Muhammad Hasan b. Mukram, fl. 408-411 / 1017-1020

M1164 AV dinar

With only the word mukram above obverse field. The ruler’s personal name is omitted; only his Buwayhid overlord, Sultan al-Dawla, is cited with his actual name and titles.

N1164 BI dirham

With shah above either obverse or reverse field.

Nasir al-Din, fl. 411-427 / 1020-1036

With additional titles yamin al-dawla abu l-qasim.

A1166 AV dinar

B1166 BI dirham

Pre-modern Omani coins command a large premium due to strong demand in Oman and the Gulf region. They are far more expensive than coins of similar rarity from less avidly collected mints.

After the Mukramid Abu’l-Hasan there was no further coinage in Oman until 1311/1893, except for a few customary Buwayhid coins during the early 19th century. Imported coins were later used, mainly from India, at first from Gujarat until the 19th century, then from the Mughal empire, finally from British India.

NORTHERN & EASTERN ARABIA

BANU MISMAR


A local gubernatorial state in Eastern Arabia, with its capital at al-Qatif, now in Saudi Arabia.

Issued in copper, sometimes silver-plated, of which only the silver-plated version is sometimes known dated (always AH273). Neither a mint name nor a denomination is mentioned, but it is likely that all were struck at al-Qatif. Both types have lillah mismar bin salm in the obverse field, muhammad rasul Allah in the reverse field.

Weight roughly 1.4-1.8g for the silver-plated version, 0.4-1.5g for the copper.

Mismar b. Salm, fl. 273 / 886-887

F1166 AR “dirham”, date in obverse margin, la quvwah illa billah in reverse margin

All “silver” coins are probably copper or bronze with a heavy silver plating.

G1166 AE “dirham”, circles of dots instead of text in obverse & reverse margins

Some examples reveal one side struck from dies presumably intended for #W1160. This type may have been struck before or after 273.

LOCAL COPPER FULUS

A few cities in Arabia began producing autonomous minuscule copper coins after Ottoman control essentially vanished in the second half of the 18th century, culminating with the thick anonymous issues produced by the Wahhabids in the early 19th century (#S1160-U1160), most of which can be assigned to specific locations.

Most copper fulus are small and thick, either more or less round, square or rectangular. Most are anonymous, but those citing an Ottoman sultan or otherwise tentatively assigned to the Ottomans are listed under the Ottoman coinage of Arabia (#A1129 ff.). The principal mint is ‘A’ar, now located in Saudi Arabia along the northern oil pipeline, not far from the Iraqi border. A second mint is tentatively interpreted as Najran, always engraved without the ‘r’ as

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 129
Najan, but still uncertain. Several other apparent mint names remain unidentified.

Nearly all examples are undated, unlike the previous Ottoman issues. The weight varies widely, usually between 0.5g and 2.0g.

Anonymous, circa 1165-1215 / 1750-1800

M1166.1 AE fals, mint of ʻAr'ar, duriba fi obverse, hazz ʻar'ar on the reverse, occasionally with a date written on one side or the other

M1166.2 AE fals of ʻAr'ar, duriba (fi) ʻar'ar on obverse, coarsely engraved lion on the reverse

M1166.3 AE fals of ʻAr'ar, uncertain word above ʻar'ar on obverse (ba'dun?), crude lion on reverse

N1166 AE fals of “Najan”, mint name on obverse, lion on reverse

Fulus without mint or with undeciphered mint may be generically termed type #M1166. Several varieties are known.

SABAHID (ÁL SABAH)

The ruling dynasty of Kuwait since 1756, still in power (2011), issued a pre-modern copper baiza in 1304/1887, listed as KM-1 & KM-A2. Modern coins were introduced in 1961.

ʻAbd Allah II b. Sabah II, 1283-1309 / 1866-1892

S1166 AE baiza, al-Kuwait 1304

The normal baiza (from the Indian term paisa) has a cryptic Arabic monogram on the obverse, probably the ruler’s name (KM-1), the much rarer type has his name written normally, perhaps followed by the patronymic (KM-A2).306

MOGADISU


See also Sylloge of Islamic Coins in the Ashmolean, v.10, for the most complete assemblage of East African coins of all the various cities, together with a bibliography.

Minting at Mogadishu in modern Somalia proceeded from shortly after 1300 to perhaps the end of the 17th century, though few of the coins can be dated with any precision. Tentative dates provided here may be off by as much as a century. The following list is not complete.

All coins lack mint and date, though Mogadishu itself is the presumed mint. All are poorly struck on thin flans with an average weight of roughly 2 grams. Mogadishu copper coins were easily obtainable until the 1980s, but have subsequently become difficult to acquire. They are denoted here with higher rarity than in the 2nd edition.

Abu Bakr b. Muhammad, fl. 722 / 1322-1323

1166 BI dirham

al-Rahman b. al-Musa‘id, probably 8th/14th century

1167 AE fals

Yusuf b. Sa‘id, 8th/14th century

1168 AE fals

Sultan Muhammad al-Mujahid, 8th/14th century

1169 AE fals

Freeman-Grenville dates this piece after 1388, but his reasoning is based on information now regarded as obsolete.

Anonymous, inscribed al-sultaniya al-mujahidiya, probably 9th/15th century or later

1176 AE fals

Muhammad al-‘Adil al-Zafir, probably late 9th/15th century or later

1176G AE fals

Possibly two denominations, a “fals” with title al-‘adil and a “half fals” without that title.

“al-Bahuni”?, perhaps 10th/16th century

1177 AE fals

“al-Baha’ Lillah”, date unknown

Quite different from #1177, with unread reverse inscription, perhaps containing the issuer’s name.

1177A AE fals

“al-Dibr”?, perhaps 10th/16th century

1178 AE fals

It is not known whether al-Bahuni and al-Dibr are names or parts of some other inscriptions, perhaps honorific.

Anonymous, anepigraphic, 10th-11th / 16th-17th centuries (??)

1179 AE fals, various designs, often engraved in the form of a monogram or toughra

Most variants have a toughra-like inscription on one side that has tentatively been deciphered as a reference to God, wa huwa yakfi, “and He sufficeth”. The other side normally bears either the formula al-mulk lillah or a toughra-like legend very tentatively deciphered as agbunni kulli, “He hath enriched me entirely”. Usually very poorly struck.

KILWA


There are other articles, by Walker, Freeman-Grenville, Chittick, Brown, and others, but no convenient summary of the coinage exists. The articles by Freeman-Grenville are especially frustrating to use, as the distinction between the issues of Kilwa and Zanzibar had not yet been ascertained.

A small sultanate on the tiny island of Kilwa Kiswani and the adjacent coastal regions, now part of Tanzania. The coinage consists of copper fulus, though a few gold dinars were recently shown at the Ashmolean Museum. Most of the copper coins

306 Several years ago (early 2000s), I acquired a group of 18 pieces, 17 of KM-1 and the first known example of KM-A2 (illustrated in SCWC, possibly still unique). To my immense surprise, they had been owned by a family here in Santa Rosa, California, for more than 20 years, unbeknownst to the numismatic world!

307 Read by Freeman-Grenville as “al-Bahuq”, but the final letter is clearly not a qaf. I now believe that this “name” is actually a crudely written form of wa huwa yakfi (as on #1179) or something similar.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 130
bear their inscription in the form of a rhymed couplet, a rhetorical device known as saj' in Arabic.

Reign dates are from Mitchiner, The World of Islam, and should be considered highly conjectural.

All copper coins cite neither mint nor date. Most examples are poorly struck, with considerable weak areas. The few known gold coins bear mint and date, and are rather carelessly struck.

A large accumulation, allegedly more than 7,000 pieces, was marketed in London during the 1950s and 1960s (at the modest price of 6 d each), but now they are increasingly difficult to obtain. All rarity indications have been raised since the 2nd edition.

‘Ali b. al-Hasan, 7th/13th century
1180  AE fals  R

Da’ud b. al-Hasan, 7th/13th century
1181  AE fals  RR
al-Hasan b. Talut, circa 700/1300

1182  AE fals  RR
al-Hasan b. Sulayman, circa 715/1315

1183  AE fals  R

Sulayman b. al-Hasan, fl. 732/1331
A1184  AV dinar, with mint & date  RRR
Two types, stylistically based on Mamulik and Rasulid prototypes, respectively. The mint is always kilwa, not always visible.

1184  AE fals  S

Da’ud b. Sulayman, mid-8th/14th century
1185  AE fals  R

Muhammad b. Sulayman, unknown dates
1186  AE fals  RRR

Sulayman b. al-Husayn, unknown dates
1189 (sic)  AE fals  RR

“Nasir al-Dunya wa’l-Din”, 9th/15th century, copper imitation of a Rasulid silver dirham,
1187  AE fals  R

Once believed to be an imitation of a Mamulik fals of Dimashq 735, recent research has demonstrated that this type was derived from one of the silver dirhams of the Rasulid ruler al-Nasir Ahmad (#1111).

ZANZIBAR
The local sultans of Zanzibar struck a number of coins similar to the Kilwa issues during the 8th/14th century. More precise dating of the rulers and their coinage is unavailable. Even the sequence of rulers has not been determined.

All coins lack mint and date, and nearly all are poorly struck.

al-Husayn b. Ahmad
1188  AE fals  R
(#1189 has been moved to Kilwa, after #1186.)

Ishaq b. Hasan
1190  AE fals  R

al-Hasan b. ‘Ali
1191  AE fals  RR?

Coins of al-Hasan b. ‘Ali may have been struck both in Kilwa and Zanzibar. If so, fulus of the two different mints cannot presently be distinguished.

MADAGASCAR
A small number of imitations of Fatimid and Ziyadid dinars were found in the harbor of Diego Suarez, and are presumed to be local imitations, though it remains to be established whether they were indeed minted in Madagascar or at a nearby location such as Kilwa.008 They are believed to date from the 8th/11th century.

Anonymous, circa 8th/11th century
A1192  AV dinar imitating Fatimid or Ziyadid prototypes, pseudo-dates (if any)  RRR

HARAR

An Islamic state in eastern Ethiopia which struck coins from 1197-1304 / 1782-1887.

The coinage of Harar consists of some early billon and copper coins (fals?), later brass coins (perhaps known as mahallek) and a few later silver coins (probably also called mahallek).

Except for the issues of Ahmad II, all coins bear the mint name Harar or al-Harar. Most are dated, though coins of Ahmad II frequently have the date off flan. They are usually decently struck, but often found corroded or worn. Many coins are anonymous, as indicated in the listings.

‘Abd al-Shakur, 1197-1209 / 1782-1794
F1192  BI “unit” (about 0.5g)  RR
G1192  AE fals (normally about 2g), anonymous, dated 1203-1205  R

Ahmad II, 1209-1236 / 1794-1821
H1192  Brass mahallek (0.1-0.3g), anonymous and without mint  S

Usually struck without a date. Some are known dated between 1222 and the early 1230s, much rarer than undated examples. There is considerable design variation.

Abu Bakr II, 1250-1268 / 1834-1852
I1192  Brass mahallek (about 0.5-0.7g), anonymous, dated 1257-1258  R

Muhammad b. ‘Ali, 1272-1292 / 1856-1875
J1192  AR mahallek (0.1-0.15g), anonymous, dated 1284-1288 least rare  S

‘Abd Allah b. Muhammad, 1302-1304 / 1885-1887
L1192  Brass “unit” (0.8-1.5g)  S

Instead of his name, these coins bear the title al-`abd al-da’if; “the weak servant” (i.e., of God). They were said to have been minted from Remington cartridge cases left behind by the Egyptians when they withdrew from Harar. Normally dated 1303, occasionally 1304 or undated.

PEMBA (MTAMBWE MKKU)

A large hoard of some 2000 minuscule silver coins was found on the Tanzanian island of Pemba. The hoard is preserved at a museum in Tanzania, which anonymously donated one of each ruler to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, illustrated and described in SICA 10.

The ten rulers are listed here in random order, as in SICA 10, as their actual dates are unknown. They likely ruled at some point during the 6th/12th and 7th/13th centuries, contemporary with the Ayyubids of Egypt & Syria.

008 Sulayman’s rule in 732 was confirmed by the author Ibn Battuta, who visited him on the island in that year. This is the only confirmed date for this sultanate.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 131
All are tiny silver coins weighing in the 0.10-0.22g range, always without mint or date. Each bears the ruler’s name on the obverse, a brief religious phrase on the reverse. None have ever been available on the market, so rarity is not indicated here.

P1192 ‘Ali b. al-Hasan, AR fractional
Conceivably the same ruler as ‘Ali b. al-Hasan of Kilwa (#1180).

Q1192 Bahram b. ‘Ali, AR fractional
Bahram is an Iranian, not an Arab name, suggesting that there might have been an Iranian trade connection with Pemba.

R1192 Shu’ayb b. Ishaq, AR fractional

S1192 Muhammad b. Ishaq, AR fractional

T1192 Ibrahim b. Ishaq, AR fractional

U1192 Khalid b. Ahmad, AR fractional

V1192 Ahmad b. Khalid, AR fractional

W1192 Muhammad b. ‘Abd Allah, AR fractional

X1192 Muhammad b. (Yahya? or ‘Ali?), AR fractional

Y1192 Muhammad b. Sulayman, AR fractional

Maria Theresa 1780 thalers and other 19th century coins are known countermarked penbus in Arabic within a clove, either once or twice. These are now regarded as fantasy countermarked coins produced circa 1960, but nonetheless popular amongst collectors.

Other medieval and early modern East African Islamic coinages are known to exist, including some unusual silver coins said to date from the 4th/10th to 7th/13th centuries, usually inscribed only with the kalima, divided between both sides as on the common Umayyad copper (type #153), and a larger 17th or 18th century silver coin found together with Mexican silver coins at Mombasa.\(^{310}\) There are also some 18th or 19th century tin coins of Mombasa & Lamu, whose authenticity has been queried (cf. Zeno-25140).

SELJUQ OF RUM (RUM SELJUQ)


Tevhid, Ahmed, Musée Impérial Ottoman. Section des Monnaies Musulmanes. Quatrième Partie, Constantiopole, 1321/1903 (text in Ottoman Turkish).

Eti, Mehmet, http://mehmetetti.150m.com/index.htm, where some 484 coins are currently listed and illustrated, together with useful information on how to decipher the abbreviated dates.

Eron, Kamil, www.eroncoins.com, listing more than 1100 coins, all of which are illustrated, the site is excellent but slow.

Over 650 pieces, including many rarities, are illustrated on www.zeno.ru, Izmirlier, Yilmaz, Anadolu Selçuklu Paraları / The Coins of Anatolian Seljuqs, Istanbul 2009. Now the standard catalog of Rum Seljuq coinage, with more than 1550 coins beautifully illustrated, but the reader must create his own table of contents.

Further work is currently in progress by Johann-Christoph Hinrichs, Bremen, and by the heirs of the deceased Michael Broome, Reading. A pirated version of Hinrichs’ work was circulated in Turkey but subsequently withdrawn. My thanks to Hinrichs for having frequently sent me comments and corrections. Broome’s catalog is now promised to appear at last, sometime in 2010 (maybe?).

The Seljuqs overran much of Anatolia after the defeat of the Byzantine emperor Romanus IV by Salamyan b. Qutalmash in 471/1077, founding a dynasty that lasted until about 707/1307, though under Mongol suzerainty from 639/1241 onward s. Byzantine emperor Romanus IV by Sulayman b. Qutulmish in 471/1077, founding a dynasty that lasted until about 707/1307, though under Mongol suzerainty from 639/1241 onward s. The reign dates provided here, especially of the later Seljuqs, are based on traditional sources, adjusted by the dated silver coinage. The later reigns overlap, as the various princes allied with one or another Mongol faction in Iran.

Most copper coins lack the mint name, though some show a mint type (especially of Kayqubad I and Kaykhusraw II), usually Sivas, Bilveren or Ankara. Earlier silver coins were struck primarily at Sivas, Konya and Kayseri, other mints being considerably rarer. From the time of Qilij Arslan IV, the number of mints increased rapidly, with coins of Erzincan, Gümrükbazar (“silver market”), Kayseri, Konya, Lu’lu’a (Lusah), Ma’danshahr and Sivas most common. Sivas and Samsun are relatively available for Mas’ud II. More than 40 mints operated under the Seljuqs, most of them only in the last twenty years, at the Rum Seljuq western rump was collapsing into semi-autonomous regions that were soon to emerge as the Beyliks.

Until 2010 only the gold dinar of Konya 635 (type #1215) was considered modestly rare, but since the recent hoard, the three brothers type of Konya 648 has now become surprisingly available, together with modest numbers of Konya 642 of Kaykhusraw II and Konya 644 of Kayk’usus II. Others remain rare, but some seem to be less rare than formerly. The size of the recent hoard has questioned the traditional assumption that all Rum Seljuq gold coinage, except the Konya 635 issue, were strictly for presentation purposes.\(^{311}\) It is likely that dinars were struck quite regularly from about 690 until just before 700, as previously unrecorded dates continue to arise from time to time. Gold was minted mainly at Konya, occasionally at Sivas or Kayseri, plus a few other extremely rare mints.

Silver dirhams were generally carefully struck until the early years of the reign of Kaykhusraw III, but later pieces were increasingly haphazardly struck. They were all struck to the standard of just under 3 grams (theoretically the classic 2.97g dirham) until 697, when the contemporary Ilkhan standard of 2.16g was embraced. Half dirhams were struck during most reigns until the 680s, normally from dies intended for the smaller denomination until the 640s, thereafter from the same dies used for the full dirhams; They are all very rare, having been struck in negligible quantities.\(^{312}\) Early coppers, through Kayqubad I, tended to be reasonably well struck, though extant specimens are often quite worn or corroded. Later coppers are increasingly crude. For unknown reasons, relatively few copper coins were produced after the 640s/1240s, usually crudely struck and poorly preserved...

After about 640, dates on silver and gold Rum Seljuq coins are often written wholly or partly in the diwani script, a sort of shorthand that used monogrammatic forms of the written Arabic numeric words in lieu of the full orthography (diwan = chancellery). Unfortunately, there are many variations of individual diwan icons, and no satisfactory analysis of Rum Seljuq diwani dates has yet been published. Fortunately, a useful guide to deciphering these dates may be viewed on Mehmet Eti’s website noted above, and somewhat confusingly in Izmirlier’s catalog.

Mas’ud’s I, 1,510-551 / 1116-1156

1192 AE fals, enthroned figure obverse, holding globus cruciger & labarum, always without mint or date
Derived from near contemporary Byzantine folles, probably of John III Comnenus.

Qilij Arslan II, 551-588 / 1156-1192

T1193 AV dinar, struck only at Konya 573

1193 AR dirham, Konya mint, all years 580-589
Struck at Konya, all years 580-589 (R) and Sivas 581 & 583 (RRR).

A1194 AR 1/6 dirham, always undated

The denomination of this type is uncertain, as specimens range from about 0.45 to over 0.65g. It seems reasonable that these


\(^{311}\) A few examples from a hoard of Rum Seljuq gold dinars first sprinkled up in e.g., three examples in CNG Auction 85). Allegedly, there were about 300 pieces in the hoard, of which a significant majority are of Konya 648 in the name of the three brothers, together with modest numbers of Konya 642 & 644 of earlier reigns, and undetermined coins of other dates, perhaps as late as Qilij Arslan IV (655-664). But how many dinars were really in the hoard? Which types? How are they being marketed? Did the Turkish authorities really seize nearly half the hoard, and if so, where are they? These questions cannot yet be answered (June 2011).

\(^{312}\) Some alleged half dirhams of the later reigns may be clipped-down full dirhams. Genuine halves tend to be noticeably thinner than full dirhams.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 132
fractional dirhams were produced as a donative, for which a precise weight would have been rather irrelevant.\(^\text{131}\)

1194.1 AE fals, horseman obverse

1194.2 AE fals, enthroned figure obverse

Local rulers:

Several of the sons of Qilij Arslan II received the right to produce coinage in their own name within their apanages. Most of these coins were probably struck during the 580s/1180s, to judge by the few dated examples, with a few later, especially at Erzurum, where coins were dated until at least 616/1219.

Malikshah II b. Qilij Arslan II (Abu'l-Fath), at Sivas & Aksaray, late 6\(^{th}\)/12\(^{th}\) century

T1195 AR dirham, struck at Kayseri dated 593 & 594 RRR

1195 AE large fals, horseman right, with small human figure (angel?) standing behind rider

Qaysarshah b. Qilij Arslan II, at Malatya, late 6\(^{th}\)/12\(^{th}\) century

1196 AE large fals, horseman slaying a dragon with his lance

Mas'ud b. Qilij Arslan II, at Ankara, late 6\(^{th}\)/12\(^{th}\) century

A1197 AR “dirnar” (thus inscribed on the coin), known dated 587 & 589

No gold dinar is known. It is conceivable that the silver coins were called dinars because contemporary large copper coins of eastern Anatolia and northwestern Iran were known as dirhams.

1197 AE large fals, square-in-circle type obverse & reverse, known dated 587-592

Tughril b. Qilij Arslan II (Mughith al-Din), at Erzurum, circa 580s-618 / 1180s-1221

1198 AR “dirnar”, mint of Erzurum

Known dated 608-616 (possibly also 618). All are denominated dinar, even though made of silver. See note to A1197.

1199.1 AE fals, horseman right on obverse, always without mint or date

Probably struck only at Erzurum.

1199.2 AE fals, anonic type, Erzincan mint, undated

Jahanshah b. Tughril (Rukan al-Din), at Erzurum, 620s / 1220s

1200 AE fals, enthroned ruler type, undated

Regular dynastic successors resumed:

Kaykhusraw I, 1\(^{st}\) reign, 588-595 / 1192-1198

(b. Qilij Arslan, Ghiyath al-Din)

1201 AR dirham, struck at Konya 589-595, always without the kunya Abu’l-Fath

1202 AE fals, horseman obverse

Coins of the first reign lack the kunya Abu’l-Fath. However, Hinrichs and Izmirlier recently postulated that some coppers without the kunya may in fact belong to the second reign, now confirmed by a coin without the kunya clearly dated 601 in a private American collection.\(^{134}\) A few examples bear the mint name below the horseman, of which Malatya is the least rare (R). Both this and type #1207 are known in several different styles, mostly with coarsely engraved horsemen and equally coarse calligraphy. However, there are some carefully struck fals with fine late Kufic script and a well-engraved horseman (R), comparable with the horseman on the silver dirhams of Sulayman (type #1204).  

1203 AE fals, imperial bust obverse

Half bust facing, holding spear.

1203A AE fals, enthroned imperial obverse

Full portrait facing, seated on Byzantine-style throne.

Sulayman II (b. Qilij Arslan), 592-600 / 1196-1204

T1204 AV dinar, horseman right (as #1204), Konya 597

1204 AR dirham, horseman right, struck at Kayseri & Konya, known dated 595-600

Sulayman’s handsome dirhams portray a mounted warrior, the earliest occurrence of this motif on circulating Islamic coinage.

1205.1 AE fals, horseman obverse, with title al-malik al-qahir, large flans

Invariably without mint & undated, this version is presumed to have been struck during Sulayman’s tenure as governor of Tokat, presumably in the 570s-580s.

1205.2 AE fals, horseman obverse, with title al-sultan al-qahir, sometimes dated (595-600), always without mint

The purported mint name Rasht is a misreading of the often poorly engraved fi sana, “in the year”. The year 595 is common, other dates rare. Some are illegibly dated.

Kaykhusraw I, 2\(^{nd}\) reign, 600-607 / 1204-1210

1206 AR dirham, struck at Kayseri, Konya & Malatya, always with the kunya Abu’l-Fath\(^{136}\)

1206A AR ½ dirham, similar

The Rum Seljuqs copied the Ayyubid practice of striking half dirhams together with full dirhams, from special smaller dies until the 640s. They are usually well struck, unlike the contemporary Ayyubid halves.

1207 AE fals, horseman obverse

With the kunya Abu’l-Fath (but see note to #1202). As with type #1202 there are many varieties.


A1208 AV dinar, square-in-circle design

Known from Konya 609 & 613, Sivas 614 & 615.

1208 AR dirham, square-in-circle type

Struck mainly at Konya & Sivas, also Kayseri 608 & Tokat 610.

1209 AR ½ dirham, similar

1209 AE fals, inscriptions only, normally without mint or date

A rare variety struck at Sivas, dated 610 or 614.

(#1210 is now assigned to Kayka’us II, and listed as #1225A.)

Kayqubad I, as malik of Tokat, 607-610 / 1210-1213

As malik, entitled al-malik al-mansur, with the additional titles ‘al-a-`in abu’l-muzaffar on the dirhams.

Kayqubad I, as sultan, 610-634 / 1210-1236

(b. Kaykhusraw I, ‘Ala’ al-Din Abu’l-Fath)

A1211.1 AV dinar

Obverse & reverse have central double circle, citing the ruler & caliph, respectively. Struck at Konya & Sivas, of which Sivas is the least rare.

A1211.2 AV dinar, other designs, normally same as the dirham

Mints of Kayseri, Konya, and possibly Sivas.

\(^{131}\) Six pieces weighing 0.2-0.6g are now illustrated on Zeno, where they are called ¼ dirham based on the heaviest examples.

\(^{134}\) For convenience, I shall continue to assign all copper coins without the kunya Abu’l-Fath to the first reign of Kaykhusraw I. All silver coins of Kaykhusraw lack the kunya for the 1\(^{st}\) reign, but include the kunya for the 2\(^{nd}\) reign.

\(^{136}\) See Zeno-55247 for an example of Malatya 605 with very clear mint and date, one of the rarest Rum Seljuq mints. Dirhams of Kayseri are known dated 608 (sic).

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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 133
1211 AR dirham
Struck almost exclusively at Sivas, Kayseri (until 619), and Konya (also Erzurum and Dar al-Jalal, both RRR). Coins dated 610-622 bear the caliph al-Nasir (#1211.1), 622-624 (sic) al-Zahir (#1211.2, S), and 624-634 al-Mustansir (#1211.3). A modestly rare variety of #1211.3 bears the date 624 in ciphers, the earliest confirmed example of a numeral date on any Islamic silver coin.

For a similar type struck in Dunaysir 624-626 & 632-636 but also citing the Artuqid ruler Artuq Arslan in addition to Kaykubad, see #1831.2. There are no purely Seljuk coins struck at Dunaysir.

1212 AR ½ dirham, similar
1213.1 AR dirham, inscriptions only, with the caliph and an additional name (normal Ankara, Sivas or Konya) C
1213.2 AR dirham, circular margin type but without inner cartouches C
1213.3 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, struck only at Sivas & Konya R

1213.4 AE fals, without caliph’s name, undated (Types #1213A & #1213C are now listed between #1209 & 1211.)

1214 AR bilingual tram, in Arabic & Armenian
Actually an issue of the Cilician Armenian king Hetoum I (1226-1271) as vassal of Kaykubad. Normally undated.

1214A AR bilingual ½ tram, as #1214

Kaykhusraw II (Giyath al-Din), 634-644 / 1236-1245

1215 AR ½ dirham, similar to #1216.1
1216.1 AR dirham, inscriptions only, with the caliph and Mustansir, struck 634-638, without central cartouches C
1216.2 AR dirham inscriptions only, square-in-circle types, usually with zil Allah fi’l-‘alam (“shadow of God on the world”), struck 642-644 C

Both variants struck only at Sivas and Konya and cite the caliph al-Musta’sim.

1217 AR ½ dirham, similar to #1216.1
1217.2 AR ½ dirham, similar to #1216.2
1218 AR dirham, lion & sun motif
Struck only at Sivas and Konya in 638-641. There are many minor variations for this type. The lion & sun side is traditionally regarded as the obverse.318

1218R AR dirham, two rampant lions (as #1215R), Sivas 640 only
1219 AR ½ dirham, lion & sun motif
1220 AE fals, inscriptions only, occasionally with mint name (normally Ankara, Sivas or Konya) C
1221 AR bilingual tram, in Arabic & Armenian
Issued by the Armenian ruler Hetoum I as vassal of Kaykhusraw II, minted only at Sivas in Cilicia (now called Kozan, about 68 km north of Adana in south central Turkey). Normally dated, though often the date is so incompetently engraved as to be illegible. Reported for all years 634-644, of which 634-636 are without the mint name.

1222 AR bilingual ½ tram, similar, normally undated, occasionally dated 639. R

Kayka’us II (b. Kaykhusraw, ‘Izz al-Din), first reign as sole ruler, 643-647 / 1245-1249

A1223 AV dinar, known only from Konya 644 RRR
1223.1 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, struck only at Konya & Sivas, 643-647 C
1223.2 AR dirham, circular margin type but without inner frame, struck only in 645 S
1224 AR ½ dirham, normally as type 1223.1 though other varieties exist RRR
1225 AE fals, inscriptions only, in square on both sides C
1225A AE fals, enthroned emperor obverse (formerly listed as type #1210) R

Formerly assigned to Kayka’us I, but stylistically this type must belong to Kayka’us II, either his first or second reign.

Qilij Arslan IV, at Sivas, 646-647 / 1248-1249 (b. Kaykhusraw, Rukn al-Din)

1226 AR dirham, struck only at Sivas in 646 R

This type portrays a mounted archer right. No copper coins of Qilij Arslan IV can be securely assigned to this reign.

The three brothers (Kayka’us II, Qilij Arslan IV & ‘Ala al-Din Kayqubad II), 647-657 / 1249-1259

Kayqubad II did not issue any coins of his own.

A1227 AV dinar, Konya 648 & 653, also Malatya 65019 R
Identical style as silver dirham #1227, denominated al-dinar on the dinars of Konya, without denomination at Malatya. Izmirli lists a dinar and dirham of Malatya (his #555 & #573) struck from the same pair of dies. As explained in footnote #311, Konya 648 is no longer extremely rare.

1227 AR dirham, struck primarily at Sivas & Konya C
Also known from Kayseri (R), Malatya (RRR) and Lu’lu’a (S).

A1228 AR ½ dirham RRR
1228 AE fals, normal inscriptive type as #1227, mint of Konya or Sivas R
1228A AE fals, king seated on throne, short inscription, always without mint or date RRR

The two brothers (Kayqubad II & Qilij Arslan IV), at Kayseri, 652 / 1254

1229 AR dirham RRR
Struck predominantly at Kayseri in 652 only, but extremely rare issues are known of Sivas & possibly also Konya, all dated 652. One variety of Kayseri bears a large star-in-circle in the obverse center (Zeno-20562).

Qilij Arslan IV, 2nd sole reign, 655-664 / 1257-1266

A1230 AV dinar, struck at Konya or Sivas, several years RRR
1230 AR dirham C
Many variations, sometimes with the seal inscription al-manna littah in reverse center. Some have month as well (S).

At least 15 mints known, of which Erzincan, Gümüşbazar, Konya, La’lu’a and Sivas are the most common.

1230A AR ½ dirham RRR
1230K AE fals, several varieties R

Kayka’us II, 2nd sole reign, at various places, 655-660 / 1257-1261

A1231 AV dinar, Konya 657, also without mint & date RRR
1231 AR dirham C
Only the mints of Lu’lu’a and Konya are common, most often dated 658. About half a dozen additional mints are rare.

A1231A AR ½ dirham, mint of Sivas only RRR

317 Sotheby’s, 7 March 1997, lot 506.
318 Dirhams of this type dated 638-640 cite the caliph al-Mustansir, those dated 641 the caliph al-Musta’sim.
319 Both the gold dinar and silver dirhams of Malatya are more likely dated 650 rather than 655, as read by Izmirli. He suggest that if before sana is another number 5, but this is very unlikely.
1210 (sic) AE fals, enthroned emperor obverse
Formerly assigned to Kayka’us I, but stylistically this type must belong to Kayka’us II, assigned to his second reign by Izmirlir.

Kaykhusraw III, 663-682 / 1265-1283 (b. Qilij Arslan, Ghiyath al-Din Abu’l-Fath)

A1232 AV dinar, struck at both Konya and Sivas

AR dirham
Normally with the seal inscription al-mulk lillah in reverse center, sometimes with month (R). Struck at about 16 mints, of which Erzurum, Gümüshbazar, Lu’lu’a and Sivas are abundant. Some have coarse or even illegible mint/date inscriptions. Dirhams dated in the 660s are generally well struck, but by the mid-670s, production quality had drastically disintegrated.

1232A AR ½ dirham, mint & date normally off flan
Known specimens struck from full dirham dies, so that the marginal mint & date are virtually entirely off flan.230

1233 AE fals, inscriptions only

Siyavush, rebel at Konya, 675-676 / 1276-1277 (b. Kayka’us, ‘Ala al-Din Abu’l-Fath)

All coins of this rebel bear his formal name Siyavush, but he was known to contemporary chroniclers by his nickname Cmnr, which never appears on his coins.

A1234 AV double dinar (8.6-8.9g), Konya 675
The double dinar of Siyavush is now accepted as a modern forgery.

B1234 AR dirham, several variants
Known from the mints Konya & Lu’lu’a, both dated 675 & 676.

Mas’ud II, 1st reign, 679-697 / 1280-1298 (b. Kayka’us, Ghiyath al-Din Abu’l-Fath)

C1234 AV dinar, struck at Konya or Sivas

AR dirham, many subtypes
Normally with the seal inscription al-’azuma lillah (“greatness is God’s”) in reverse center, though the phrase was more often replaced by the calima after about 688. Over the course of this reign, most mints adopted distinctive coin designs of their own. Most known examples were so poorly struck that all too often the mint or date is off flan or illegible. Over 20 mints known, of which Erzincan, Lu’lu’a and Sivas are the most common.

1234A AR ½ dirham

A1235 AE fals, many varieties
Some versions bear al-’azuma lillah on the obverse. Also known with obverse image, including a human face, a horsemen, lion & sun, and double-headed spread eagle.231

Kaykhusraw III, 697-701 / 1298-1302 (b. Faramurz, ‘Ala al-Din)

His seal script was either al-manna lillah, al-’izza lillah or al-’azuma lillah. Strictly speaking, only types #T1235 and 1235.3 were proper issues of Kaykhusraw III, as vassal under the Ilkhan ruler Ghazan Mahmud, cited on these coins. All other coins were technically issues of various local beyliks, but in the name of the Rum Seljuq instead of the Ilkhan.

S1235 AV dinar, in his sole name, with his seal inscription al-manna lillah on the reverse
Known mint is Samsun, clear on one specimen published by Izmirlir.

T1235 AV dinar, citing the Ilkhan Ghazan Mahmud on the reverse (also Samsun)

1235.1 AR dirham (2.16g), in his sole name, with inscriptions only
Nearly 20 mints, most using distinctive subtypes, all located in southwest Anatolia.

1235.2 AR dirham (2.16g), in his sole name, lion & sun type (sometimes without the sun)232
The best known example of this type was struck at a mint once identified as Bafra in northern Anatolia, now identified by Izmirlir as Bafi or Bafa, which is now known to have been located within the beylik of Aydin in far western Turkey. There are several arrangement variations for this type.

In all likelihood, the great majority of types #1235.1 and 1235.2, dated 697-701, were struck by local beyliks in the name of Kaykhusraw III, whom they regarded as a nominal overlord, in opposition to the contemporary Ilkhans and Byzantines. Only type #1235.3 was genuinely issued by the Seljuqs of Rum themselves.

1235.3 AR dirham, citing the Ilkhan Ghazan Mahmud as overlord (2.88g)233
Struck at Erzincan, Erzurum, Konya, Ma’danshahr, Samsun & Sivas, dated 697-700. Subsequent issues from these six mints are ordinary Ilkhan types until after the death of Abu Sa’id in 736/1335.

Mas’ud II, 2nd reign, circa 701-708 / 1302-1308?
As rival to Kaykhusraw III 699-700 / 1298-1300 (no coins), then as independent ruler circa 701-708 / 1302-1308.
His seal script was either al-mulk lillah, al-’izza lillah, or al-’azuma lillah.

1236 AR dirham (2.16g, often lighter)
Coins of this reign are known dated 702-703 and possibly later, from southwest Anatolian mints exclusively (Antalya, Bafi, Burguit, Finike, Makri and Milas). All are like beylik issues in the name of Mas’ud II.

1236E AE fals, without mint or date
Pictorial obverse, short text on reverse. Several specimens are listed on Zeno (but excluded by Izmirlir).

In 699/700 the central and eastern portions of the Rum Seljuq kingdom were incorporated into the Ilkhanate, and local Seljuq coinage was suppressed except in those few far western districts where the Ilkhans were exerted no influence. These far western regions were ruled by local beyliks who issued their coins in the name of the last Seljuqs.

DANISHMENDID

Estelle J. Whelan, “A Contribution to Danishmendid History: The Figured Copper Coins,” Museum Notes, v. 25 (1980), pp. 133-166. This important work does not include the purely Arabic inscriptive issues such as #1244A.

A Turkish dynasty, originally rivals to the Seljuqs in Anatolia. Not all coins lack the name of the mint, and nearly all are undated. Only copper coinage was produced.

Amir Ghazi, 497-528 / 1104-1134

1237 AE dirham, bust of Christ on obverse, Greek inscriptions on reverse

The Danishmends were not Christian but Muslim, though the majority of the population under their authority remained Christian. This coin type was derived from Byzantine prototypes that were familiar to their subjects (see also Artuqid types #1820.1 and 1826.1 and Zangid #1850 for similar motifs).

Malik Muhammad, 528-536 / 1134-1142

1238 AE dirham, Greek inscriptions only, both sides

The text translates to “Great King of the Land of the Romans” on obverse, “and Anatolia, Muhammad” on reverse.

320 Beware of full dirhams cut down and flogged as the half dirham.
321 Many subtypes illustrated by Izmirlir and on Zeno.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 135
1239 AE dirham, Greek inscriptions only, both sides, with most of the second obverse line in cursive Greek

Dhu’l-Qarnayn, at Malatya, 547-557 / 1152-1162

1240 AE dirham, head right with Greek inscription around / Arabic inscription in central circle, Greek inscription around

The obverse Greek text means “the second indiction”.

Nasir al-Din Muhammad, at Malatya, 557-565 / 1162-1170 and 570-573 / 1175-1178

1241.1 AE dirham, investiture scene (two standing figures), dated 555 in Arabic (flanking the figures) 

1241.2 AE dirham, mounted horsemance laning the serpent, handsomely engraved, undated

Fakhr al-Din Qasim, at Malatya, 565-567 / 1170-1172

1242 AE dirham, lion sejant

‘Imad al-Din Dhu’l-Nun, at Kayseri, 536-570 / 1142-1175

1243 AE dirham, lion-rider right (Whelan type B) 

1244.1 AE dirham, royal inscriptions only, bilingual in Arabic & Greek on both sides (Whelan-A).

1244.2 AE dirham, similar, but Arabic inscriptions only, with central field and outer margin on both sides (Whelan-C), title Nasir al-Din

It remains uncertain whether the title Nasir al-Din refers to Dhu’l-Nun or to a subordinate official, though on the basis of #1244A it seems more likely to be an alternative title of Dhu’l-Nun.

1244A AE dirham, 3-line Arabic inscriptions on obverse & reverse, without margins or pictures

Dhu’l-Nun is entitled both Nasir al-Din and Abu’l-Muzaffar on this purely Arabic type.

Nizam al-Din Yaghi-Basan, at Sivas, 536-559 / 1142-1164

1245 AE dirham, bust right within a circle, surrounded by an Arabic text / 3-line Arabic text

1246 AE dirham, inscriptions only

Shams al-Din Isma’il, at Sivas, 559-567 / 1164-1172

1247 AE dirham, enthroned seated figure

Layout of text & design as on #1245.

ANATOLIAN BEYLIKS


Small selections are published in the Istanbul (both the Ottoman catalog and Artuk). Paris and British Museum catalogs. Numerous short articles on beylik coins have appeared in Bülten, the journal of the Turkish Numismatic Society.

Turkish scholars and collectors are currently actively researching most of the beylik series, and it is anticipated that over the next decade or so, many new publications will become available. Some pre-1990s publications should be used with caution, due to more recent research. Reference titles on specific beyliks are noted with the beylik principalities.

Following the collapse of Seljuk rule and the decline of Ilkhan influence, a number of small principalities (known as beyliks) emerged in Western Anatolia, spreading into central Anatolia with the waning of Mongol rule, even prior to the Ilkhan disintegration after 736/1335. At least 20 of these principalities are known, but not all produced an identifiable coinage of their own. Nearly all beylik coinage until about 1350 comprises imitations of Ilkhan or Mamluk prototypes without citing the beylik ruler’s name. Only some of these imitative coinage can securely be assigned to a specific beylik, but fortunately, current Turkish research is gradually resolving this uncertainty. By the 1350s-1370s, easily identified beylik coinage became the norm, usually bearing the name of the bey, sometimes with mint or date as well. One of these beyliks, centered at the two small towns of Bilecik and Sugut, ultimately grew into the Ottoman Empire.

Most of the beyliks were swallowed up by the Ottomans in the 1380s and 1390s, but received a reprieve after the Timurid invasion and defeat of the Ottomans in 805/1402. By the 1480s, all the revived beyliks had been permanently reabsorbed into the Ottoman state.

In addition to the types listed here, there are numerous anonymous silver and copper coins struck from about 1300 until the various beys began putting their names or other dynastic symbols on the coinage towards the second half of the 8th/14th century. Most utilized designs and arrangements were drawn from Ilkhan prototypes. Only some have been successfully assigned to a given beylik. Many are relatively common, especially the imitative types that closely resemble actual types of the Ilkhangs, but on which the mint and date are illegible “squiggles”. This series is generally lumped together as Anatolian imitations of Ilkhan coins, principally of Uljaytu & Abu Sa’id, and should for now be classified as Anatolian imitations of their respective Ilkhan prototypes.324

KARESI

Ender, Celîl, Karesi, Saruhan, Aydn ve Menteşe Beylikleri Paraları, Istanbul 2000. A superb and carefully arranged analysis of the coins of these four beyliks.325

A small Beylik state located in the northwest corner of the Asian portion of Turkey, which struck coins during the 2nd quarter of the 8th/14th century. All coins lack mint and date, though their capital, Berghama, had appeared as a mint name on some very rare Ilkhan coins of Uljaytu. See Ender’s work for details.

Some early issues are from the mint of Bergama, all later issues without mint name.

Temur Khan Beg, 728-735 / 1327-1335

C1248 AR akçe

Yahshi Khan Beg, 727-734 / 1327-1343

D1248 AR akçe

Beylerbeyi Çelebi, from 744 / 1343 onwards

1251.1 AR akçe

Obverse in pointed hexafoil, reverse in octfoil. This type was formerly assigned to the Saruhan Beylik, as an issue of Khizr Beg’s first reign, as the name beylerbeyi was misread as khisr bey, now corrected by Ender.

1251.2 AR akçe, as last but inscriptions in plain circle both sides

A1248 AE magnir, pointed quatrefoil / plain hexafoil

The term magnir is a generic term for the beylik and Ottoman copper coins before 1687. The actual names used may have been different.

SARUHAN

See Celîl Ender 2000 (listed under the Karesi Beylik).

Type #1248 is now confirmed as an issue of Ishaq. Type #1250, formerly ascribed to a proposed circa 790/1388 reign of Urhan, has been reassigned to the Ottoman sultan Orhan, exactly as originally suggested by Pere in 1968 (his no. 3), and included within type #1288.1. Type #1251 has been reassigned to the Karesi dynasty, listed above.

All coins of this dynasty lack a mint name, and unless otherwise noted, are also undated. All except #1253N bear the ruler’s name.

324 Had the Turkish government adopted a treasure trove law based on the British model, the reporting of find-spots would have been encouraged, with the result that many of these anonymous imitative types could be localized and assigned to specific issuers.

325 The only disappointment of Ender’s excellent research is the use of unnecessarily cumbersome numbering for types and subtypes.
Ishaq b. Ilyas, 759?-792 / 1358?-1390

1248 AR akçe, several designs
   One subtype (R), with toughra obverse, bears the date 776 (or 772, presumably 776 with retrograde “6”).

1249 AE mangur
   Khizr b. Ishaq, 1st reign, 792 / 1390, and 2nd reign, 804-813 / 1402-1410
   (Because the 1st and 2nd reign akçe of Khizr cannot be readily distinguished, I have reused the number 1251, formerly of his first reign, for the Karessi ruler Beylerbeyi Çelebi, just after D1248).

1252.1 AR akçe, obverse & reverse in plain circle
   Obverse text al-malik / ishaq / khizr bin, full kalima on reverse.

1252.2 AR akçe, similar design but different legends
   Obverse inscription ishaq / khizr bin and reverse khalada Allah mulkahu, with double line separating top and bottom section on both sides.
   Stylistically, 1252.2 seems earlier than 1252.1, but there is at present no means of assigning these to either the first or second reign. Given the stylistic similarity, it may be that both belong to his second reign, and no coins are known of his short first reign.

1253 AE mangur, inscriptions generally as #1252.2
   Urkhan (Orhan), circa 806-810 / 1403-1407

1253B AR akçe, toughra obverse, dated “87” or 807
   Easily confused with the toughra subtype of #1248. The reverse legend khalada mulkahu is in naskhi calligraphy rather than Kufic.

1253A AE mangur, dated 806
   Saruhan Bey, fl 814 / 1411

1253D AE mangur, dated 814
   Ruler’s name written as Sar Khan bin Ishaq.
   A second type with just the name Ishaq may belong to this same tentative ruler (Ender’s types 05-SAR-001 to 101A).
   Anonymous, circa 790s-814+/ 1390s-1411+

1253N AE mangur, designs similar to named Saruhan types, but without name of any ruler or mint, always undated
   The normal type has hexagon obverse & vertical eye-shape lozenge reverse.

   MENTESE
   See Celili Ender 2000 (listed under Karase Beyli), which is a major reanalysis of Menteşe coinage, replacing all earlier references.
   Unless otherwise noted, all coins of this dynasty lack a mint name.
   With the exception of the Ilkhan type #A1254, all akçe follow a standard of about 0.75g, with individual examples weighing between 0.55 and 0.95g.
   Mostly without mint name, but some issues from the mints of Ayasuluk, Sultanhisar, Milas & Balat.
   L1254 AR akçe, without mint or date
   Obverse inscription muhammad bin ibrahim / khalada mulkahu.

1254 AR akçe, struck at Balat & Milas, undated, two variants known for each mint
   Musa b. Ibrahim, 759-793 / 1377-1391
   Ahmed Ghazi b. Ibrahim, 759-793 / 1377-1391

1254.1 AR akçe, fancy quatrefoil / plain octofoil, without mint and date
   Mehmet Beg & Ahmad Ghazi were sons of Ibrahim Beg who ruled conjointly in distinct portions of the beylik.

1254.2 AR akçe, plain circle / highlighted square, without mint and date
   Ilyas b. Muhammad, 2nd reign, 805-823 / 1402-1420
   No coins are assigned to his alleged first reign, circa 791-792 / 1388-1389.

1255 AR akçe, as independent ruler, plain circle / square, dated 805 or undated
   S

1256 AE mangur, dated 805 or 818
   R

1257 AR akçe, dated 823, 824 or 825
   The name is usually written as ways rather than layth.

1257A AE mangur, usually dated 823 (often written erroneously as 832)
   R

1257B AR akçe, as vassal of the Ottoman sultan Mehmet Çelebi, dated 818 or undated, several variants
   Layth b. Ilyas, 823-825 / 1420-1422

1257C AR akçe, dated 823, 824 or 825
   R

1257D AR akçe, square / square
   AYDIN
   For more recent and much more complete research, see Celili Ender 2000, cited above under Karase.
   Beginning with ‘Isa Beg, all akçe follow a standard of about 0.75g, with individual specimens varying from about 0.55 to 0.95g.
   Mostly without mint name, a few citing the mints of Ayasuluk and Ladik, some late anonymous pieces of Ayasuluk or Tire.
   Muhammad b. Aydin Beg, 707-734 / 1307-1334
   Ibrahim Bahadur Beg, 735-746± / 1334-1347±
   Sulayman Beg b. Muhammad, 734-750 / 1334-1349

P1258 AR akçe, without mint or date
   Hexagon obverse & reverse, with title al-sultan al-malik al-jalal, followed by name and patronymic.

R1258 AE mangur, with name ibrahim alone in obverse octogram, khalada Allah mulkahu on reverse
   R

T1258 AR akçe
   Obverse inscription, sulayman ibn muhammad Khalada Allah mulkahu, kalima on reverse.
   ‘Isa Beg, circa 762-789 / 1361-1387

1258 AR akçe, (about 0.75g), plain circle / square, without mint or date
   About ten different symbols are found beneath the name ‘Isa, for ambiguous purposes. These simple variants are popularly collected; Ender’s list of symbols is probably incomplete.

1258A AR akçe, several other designs, also without mint & date
   R

   For more recent and much more complete research, see Celili Ender 2000, cited above under Karase.
   Beginning with ‘Isa Beg, all akçe follow a standard of about 0.75g, with individual specimens varying from about 0.55 to 0.95g.
   Mostly without mint name, a few citing the mints of Ayasuluk and Ladik, some late anonymous pieces of Ayasuluk or Tire.
   Muhammad b. Aydin Beg, 707-734 / 1307-1334
   Ibrahim Bahadur Beg, 735-746± / 1334-1347±
   Sulayman Beg b. Muhammad, 734-750 / 1334-1349

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 137
1258B AR akçe, with mint name Ayasuluk or Ladik
   Always undated. All subtypes bearing the mint name also show the patronymic, ibn Muhammad.

Khızir (Hzırz) b. Muhammad, fl. 767-768 / 1366-1367

1258K AR akçe (plain circle / concave hexagon), struck at Ayasuluk, dated 768

Musa Beg, 804-805 / 1402-1403

1259 AR akçe, hexafoil / square, without mint or date

Mehmed Beg, fl. 807 / 1404

1260 AR akçe

Obverse mehmet bin umar, reverse khalada Allah mukalaka.

1260A AE mangır, similar inscriptions

The royal inscription on both the akçe & mangır was proven by Ender to be muhammad b. umar and not simply umar. In any case, Umar ruled about half a century earlier, whereas the style and calligraphy clearly belongs to the beginning of the 9th/10th century. The calligraphy is clearer on the copper coins, abysmal on the akçes.

Mustafa b. Aydn, 824-825 / 1423-1424

1260L AR akçe, as vassal under the Karamanid ruler Muhammad b. ‘Ala-al-Din, dated 824 (without mint name)

Cited as mustafa b. muhammad b. aydn, as he was the son of Aydn. He is believed to be the father of Muhammad, which are reckoned as examples of their normal types.

1260M AR akçe, as independent ruler, undated or dated 824 and always without mint name

Cited on the obverse as just mustafa when undated, mustafa bin aydn when dated. Both have khulida mukalaka on the reverse, plus the year when dated.

Junayd b. Ibrahim, 2nd reign, 813-816 / 1410-1413

1261 AR akçe, as vassal of Ottoman Mehmet I, undated

Junayd b. Ibrahim, 3rd reign, 825-829 / 1422-1426

1261A AR akçe, always with toughra obverse, dated 825

1261B AE mangır, lion / junayd ghazi, no mint or date (Zeno-104430)

Anonymous, circa 820s-830s / 1420s-1430s

1261F AR akçe, mints of Ayasuluk & Tire, many subtypes

1261G AE mangır, mint of Tire, dated 822 (usually blundered), always with double-headed eagle on obverse

1261J AE mangır, mint of Ayasuluk, undated, with beg in square on obverse, mint name on reverse

1261K AE mangır, various types without mint or date

Ender lists six different mintless types, three of which are sometimes alternatively offered as Ottoman issues, his #12 (square / square), 13 (square / circle), 14 (hexagon / knotted circle) and 15 (circle / circle), all with just the kalima, divided between the two sides.

Mehmed Beg, fl. 807 / 1404

1262 AR akçe, imitation of type of the Eretnid ruler Muhammad b. Eretnas

RR

P1262 AR akçe, with name muhammad bik, usually at the bottom of the obverse

Sulaymanshah, 762-789 / 1361-1387, aka Shah Çelebi

1262 AR akçe, with his name sulaymanshah, usually at the top of the obverse

1262A AR akçe, with his name shah çelebi, usually at the bottom of the obverse

1262M AE mangır, shah çelebi on obverse, khulada Allah mukalaka (often misspelled) on reverse

Ya’qub b. Sulayman, 1st reign, 789-792 / 1387-1390

Q1263 AR akçe, with name ya’qub bik or just ya’qub (Zeno-44881)

Anonymous, 2nd half of the 8th/14th century

1263 AR akçe, local coinage of Simav mint, undated

Anonymous, citing Timur, circa 805-806 / 1402-1403

T1264 AR akçe, Germiyan mint, dated 806 (date usually retrograde)

Ya’qub b. Sulayman, 2nd reign, 805-832 / 1402-1429

1264.1 AR akçe, as vassal of Timur (Tamerlane), circa 805-808, Germiyan mint, known dated 808

1264.2 AR akçe, as independent ruler after 808, known from Germiyan mint, possibly also Simav

Àkçes of Germiyan dated 825-826 are solely in the name of the Ottoman Murad II, and thus regarded as Ottoman akçes.

1264C AE mangır, similar to #1264.2

HAMIDID


Earlier coins assigned to this dynasty bear only the names of the Rum Seljuqs (usually Kaykubad III or Mas’ud II) or the Ilkhan Ghazan Mahmud, which are reckoned as examples of their normal types.

Most of the Hamidid coins are struck from crudely engraved dies, with somewhat barbarized inscriptions. The dates are rarely legible, and it is likely that many of the coins in the names of the Ilkhan or Mamluks were struck posthumously, either frozen dates or undated.

Anonymous, citing the Ilkhan Uljaytu, ca. 710s / 1310s

1264F AR dirham (square / square), struck at Burdur, Burgulu, Felekabad, Göllhisar, Karaağaç and Antalya, dated 705-716

Some examples have the reverse in pointed pentfoil, thus similar to Uljaytu’s normal type A but with large star in center (Burgulu only, 705).

Anonymous, citing the Mamluk Muhammad I, circa 720s / 1320s

1264H AR dirham (square / diamond), Antalya 718-720

Anonymous, citing the Ilkhan Abu Sa’id, circa 730s / 1330s

1264J AR dirham (square / diamond), Antalya 714 (sic) or undated

1264K AR dirham, other designs, struck at Göllhisar, Felekabad & Karaağaç, dated 719-721

Mahmud b. Yunus, d.724 / 1324

1264M AR dirham, mint of Antalya, dated 714 & 716, about 1.40g

Husam al-Din Ilyas, 750s? / 1350s?

1264P AR akçe, of Mamluk Mahmud b. Aydin, approximately 0.75g

Usually named just al-Husami on his coinage.

329 Published by T. Şengün by the Turkish Numismatic Society in 2005.

329 There are no coins known from his 1st reign, 806-809 / 1403-1406.

330 Unlike Ender, Kabaklarlı assigned this anonymous type to the Ottoman ruler Murad II (his variants numbered from Tra-15 to Tra-29). Had the Ottomans seized Tire as early as 822?

331 Eron has attributed this type to Ya’qub I, 700-741 / 1301-1341 (his #1849 & #2403), but the style and calligraphy closely resembles issues of Isbaq Beg of Saruhan (ca. 759-792) and ‘Isa Beg of Aydin (ca. 762-789).

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 138
1264R AR dirham (about 1.5g), mint of Felekabad, design of Abu Sa‘id’s type C (#2200) RRR

1264S AE fals, no mint or date RRR

Izmiriler #166C, with obverse retrograde. Several other names are noted by Izmiriler, all of which are on crudely struck coins of queried attribution. Some anonymous coins also exist, tentatively assigned to the Hamidids.

DENIZLI (İNANJIDS)


Murad, circa 735-762 / 1334-1360

A1265 AR akçe, often with 6-point star countermark RRR

Isbaş Bey, circa 762-769 / 1360-1368

B1265 AR akçe (Other types ending in 1265 are now placed after 1266.) RRR

BEYS OF ALANYA


Most coins of the Beys of Alanya bear the mint name ‘Ala‘iya (= Alanya). All coins bear the hexagram, on the obverse of #1266, on the reverse of all other types. See #997E and 1003.2 for earlier issues in the sole name of the Mamluk sultan.

Anonymous, in the name of the Ilkhan Uljaytu (his type A), circa 710-717+ / 1310-1317+

A1266 AR dirham, about 1.85g, mint of ‘Ala‘iya RR

Dated 710-717, thus after Uljaytu replaced his Sunni type A (#2180) of the Ilkhan coinage with his Shi‘ite type B (#2185).

Anonymous, in the name of the Ilkhan Abu Sa‘id, circa 718-720s / 1317-1320s

Either based on type C of Abu Sa‘id (#2201) or local variants.

B1266 AR dirham, about 1.85g, undated, mint of ‘Ala‘iya RR

For coins in the name of the Mamluk Muhammad I, see #923.2, dated 719-721.

Anonymous, countermarked type, circa 720s / 1320s

Countermarked on type A1266 or B1266, with the name of a city.

M1266 AR dirham

Struck at Sültemanşehr, Aşkhehr, Ermenek and Bekşehr, of which the first 2 mints are the least rare.

Anonymous, countermarked type, circa 720s / 1320s

Also countermarked on type A1266 or B1266, anepigraphic with unassigned symbols.

N1266 AR dirham

The beys of Alanya struck no coins from about 730-824 / 1330-1421. For the first issue in the name of the Mamluk al-Salih Muhammad III, see #997E (struck circa 1421-1422), and of his successor Barsbay, see #1003.3 (struck circa 1422-1423).

Anonymous, probably circa 826-827+/ 1423-1424+

1266 AR akçe, with title amir al-sawahil, “amir of the coast” around the hexagram, undated S

Possibly also struck afterwards, simultaneously with akçes in the name of Saveji.

Saveji b. Shams al-Din, fl. 827 / 1424

All coins of Saveji are undated.

K1265 AR akçe, without mint name RR

With inscription amir al-sawahil khulidat dawlatuhu around hexagram on the reverse. Royal title al-sultan together with his name and patrimony on obverse.

L1265 AR akçe, similar, but with mint name ‘Ala‘iyya & epithet dar al-amr around the hexagram, with title al-sultan atop the obverse RR

M1265 AR akçe, as #L1265 but with title amir al-a‘zam RR

Qaraman b. Saveji, fl. 827-834 / 1424-1431

1265 AR akçe

Usually undated, but known dated 833 in numerals below obverse and 834 in words in margin around the hexagram on reverse.

ESHREFİD

A small principality centered about Beşeyhür.

Sülayman, d. 726 / 1326

Anonymous, early 8th/14th century

B1267 AR dirham, mint of Beşeyhür (usually in square on obverse) RR

KARAMANID


Konya (Quniya in Arabic) is the principal mint of the Karamanids, but a few rare coins were struck at Larende, Kayseri, Nigde, Ermenek and Egridir. Coins of the period roughly 811 to 840 exhibit some of the finest calligraphy ever seen on Islamic coins, but sadly most surviving examples are either poorly struck, worn, or damaged.

In the following listing, for convenience, I have termed the thin, relatively broad silver coins dirhams and the thick narrow coins akçes. The actual contemporary names are undefined. Type #1269 comes in both varieties.

Anonymous, early types, circa 710-730 / 1310-1330

1267 AR dirham, broad thin fabric, mints of Larende & Ermenek, occasionally dated RR

Some examples cite either the Mamluk ruler Muhammad I or the Ilkhan ruler Uljaytu.

“Badr b. Qaraman,” circa 720s / 1320s

1268 AR dirham, countermarked badr bin qaraman on coins of the previous type RR

It is not known to whom the name Badr refers, though Hinrichs has suggested that the intended individual is Badr al-Din Ibrahim. The countermark normally appears on coins dated in the late 700s and the 710s.

‘Ala‘al-Din, 762-800 / 1360-1398

1269 AR dirham (or akçe)

Many variations, mints of Konya (least rare), Larende and Nigde, always undated.

Muhammad b. ‘Ala‘al-Din, 1st reign, 805-822 / 1402-1419

1270.1 AR dirham, as vassal of Timur (805-807 / 1402-1404) R

1270.2 AR dirham, as independent ruler (807-822 / 1404-1419) S

Many variations, sometimes dated, mints of Konya, Larende, Egridir and Kayseri, of which only Konya is relatively common.

1270A AE mangır, as independent ruler, mint of Konya RR

‘Ali b. ‘Ala‘al-Din, 822-824 / 1419-1421

1271 AR dirham RR

Ibrahim, 1st reign, 824 / 1421

1272 AR dirham RRR

Muhammad b. ‘Ala‘al-Din, 2nd reign, 824-827 / 1421-1423

1273 AR dirham RR

332 J.-C. Hinrichs has persuasively argued that this attribution may be incorrect, on the basis that during Eshrefid times the city was known as Sültemanşehr rather than Beşeyhür.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 139
Ibrahim, 2nd reign, 827-868 / 1423-1463

The Karamanids were defeated by the Ottomans in 846/1443, but were permitted to rule as underlings and strike their own silver coinage until 871/1466, anonymous copper until about 892/1487.

1274 AR dirham, broad flan, ornate style, several types (827-840) R
1275 AR akçe, thick narrow flan (dated 841 and later) Silver coins of Ibrahim and his successors are normally dated, always in numerals.
1275A AE mangır, without mint or date RRR

Ishaq b. Ibrahim, 868-869 / 1463-1464

1276 AR akçe RR
1277 AR akçe RR
1277A AE mangır, same design as the akçe Both the akçe and mangır of Pir Ahmad are of Konya 870.
1278 1 AE mangır, inscriptions on both sides Anonymous, 9th/10th century

1278.1 These coppers bear the Persian (!) phrase 'a'qebat bi-khayr, "may (his) destiny be good", or a slight variation thereof, sometimes with the mint or the date (875 or 886), but never both.
1278.2 AE mangır, late 9th/10th century, 'a'qebat bi-khayr on obverse, design or animal on reverse Always without mint, sometimes dated 886.

Anonymous, 9th/10th century

Isfendiyarid (Candar ogluları)

This dynasty should properly be called Candarid (Candaroğulları in Turkish), as it was founded circa 692/1293 by Shams al-Din Demir Candar Bey. The European name has always been Isfendiyarid, though the first Isfendiyar of the dynasty did not ascend the throne until 794/1292, a century later, about 70 years after their first coins were struck.


The chronological order for the akçes of Süleyman II and Isfendiyar are conjectural.

1281 AR akçe (1.11g) (looped hexagon / square), with title amir a’dal S
1282 AR ½ akçe (0.76g) (plain circle / plain circle), with title amir a’dal RR
1283 AR akçe (0.90g), similar C
1283.1 AR ½ akçe (0.90g), similar C
1283.2 AR ½ akçe (0.90g), similar C
1283.3 AR akçe (1.53g) (lobated square / hexafoil), also with title amir a’dal R
1283.4 AR akçe (1.20g) (square / square), without any title, just süleyman zayyida mulkuhu in obverse square, without mint or date C
1284 AR akçe (0.60g), as #1284.4 R
1285 AR akçe (1.53g) (square / square), obverse inscription isfendiyar khulida mulkuhu, Sinop mint C
1286 AR ½ akçe, as type #1286.1 RR
1286.1 AR akçe (1.20g) (hexafoil / square), obverse inscription isfendiyar bin bayezit izza nasruhu R? Given the weight and primitive calligraphy of this type and #1285, it is possible that they were struck after Süleyman’s death, as it seems that the weight reduction to 1.20g was undertaken several years after Isfendiyar succeeded him. Further research needed?
1286.2 AR akçe (0.78g), based on type #1302.3 of the 1302.3 AR akçe (1.20g) (lobrated square / hexafoil), with title amir [a]’zam R
1286.3 AR akçe (1.02g) (border of dots, usually in the form of a quatrefoil / plain square), name & patronymic only, no additional titles R? E
1286.4 AR akçe (0.78g) (toughra / plain circle divided by horizontal lines into two sections) RR
1286.5 AR akçe (0.78g), design based on type #1299.2 of the Ottoman ruler Mehmet I, but lighter standard, from Kastamonu and dated 824 RRR
1286.6 AR akçe (0.78g), based on type #1302.3 of the 1302.3 AR akçe (0.78g), based on type #1302.3 of the Ottoman Murad II, Kastamonu 834 RRR
1286.7 FE mangır, several types, of which the principal type is of Kastamonu, dated 832 RR
1286.8 AR akçe (0.78g), based on type #1302.3 of the Ottoman Murad II, Kastamonu 834 RRR
1287 FE mangır, various types, of which the principal type is of Kastamonu, dated 832 RR

Kötürüm Bayezit, 762-787 / 1361-1385

1282 AR akçe, 1st standard (1.80g) (square / square), with title amir a’dal (top line of obverse field) S
1283 AR akçe (0.90g), similar R
1284 AR akçe (1.80g) (square / square), with jalal al-din instead of amir a’dal on obverse C
1285 AR ½ akçe (0.90g), similar R

Additional coins were struck by the beys of Tekke, Hamit, Geredi and others, mostly anonymous, mostly very rare. I intend to include these in the fourth edition.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 140
OTTOMAN EMPIRE

In addition to the Standard Catalog of World Coins333 and the principal museum catalogs, the following works are useful:


Schaeffler, Anton C., Osmanische Numismatik, Braunsweg, 1973, especially useful for the discussion of Ottoman mints, now replaced by:

Srečković, Slободан, Ottoman Mints & Coins, Belgrade 2002.

Srečković, Slobodan, Alkhes (Volumes One through Six), Belgrade 1999-2009. Every coin illustrated with line drawing or photo or both, English language (except volume 6, which is only in Serbian). Volumes 1-6, cover the akçe until 1413/1370, without references to other Middle Eastern and North African denominations.

Kabaklari, Necdet, Mangır, Istanbul 1998. A massive work, with virtually all types illustrated by both line drawings and photos, but with an unnecessarily complex system of catalog numbers. Yemeni mints reserved for the following volume:


Cineyt Öğür and Ibrahim Artuk published a number of volumes in the 1960s and 1970s, on individual reigns or groups of reigns. Most of these works are still very useful, specially for undated copper mangurs not included in Kabaklari’s books.

Damali, Dr. Atom, Osmanlı Sikkeleri Tarihi / History of Ottoman Coins, to be published in Ankara in 8 volumes, of which two volumes were available as of June 2010. See www.niluferdamalivakfi.org for further information. (I have not yet examined these first volumes.)

The Turkish numismatic journal, Bülten, is devoted largely to short reports of new discoveries in Ottoman coinage.

Rolf Ehler is currently studying the Ottoman coinage of the 16th and 17th centuries. It is hoped that his results will be published soon. From what I have thus far seen of his work, it will be an amazing contribution.

www.ottomancoins.com, this is extremely important for all Ottoman coins, and it the authors continue their excellent work, the site might threaten to scare away books, but fortunately books can still be useful. Printed and online specialized research publications will also survive.

Ottoman coinage may be divided into three periods, the early period of maximum power and prestige (918-1099 / 1512-1687), the middle period of maximum power and prestige (918-1099 / 1512-1687), and the late period of declining fortunes (1099-1341 / 1687-1924). Only the first two periods are included here.

Although no truly comprehensive study yet exists for the entire Ottoman series, the coinage is relatively well researched, particularly the early and late periods. The late period, commencing in 1687, is excluded because the coinage generally follows European models (milled coinage until the 1840s, thereafter machine-struck) and is adequately treated in the Krause-Mishler catalogs (deluxe editions of 1986 & 1991, now replaced by the century volumes334).

For additional Ottoman listings of coins struck in areas occupied by the Ottomans for relatively short periods, see #A1118-1128 (Yemeni mints), #1128R-1129 (Arabian peninsula), and 2706-2711 (Iranian mints).

Ottoman gold coinage was the first introduced by Mehmet II in 882/1477, with a single denomination based on the Venetian ducat (about 3.5g) and commonly known as a sultani. It was the solitary gold coin denomination issued under the Ottomans until after 1099/1687, except for a brief issue at Tlemçen in Algeria from 1556 until about 1620 that followed local Ziyanid tradition. The sultani is also popularly called altın, the Turkish word for “gold”.

Through the first and second periods (1300-1687) the akçe remained the most profusely issued silver denomination, gradually declining from about 1.25g to less than 0.5g. Multiple akçes were first successfully introduced in the traditional portions of the Empire under Osman II (1616-1622), as the bezgik (≈ 5 akçes) and the onluk (≈ 10 akçes). However, regional denominations dominated throughout Syria, Iraq, Egypt and North Africa from their conquest in the 16th century until modern times. This regional coinage has not yet been satisfactorily studied.

The normal copper denomination before 1099/1687 was known generically as a mangır in the central and northern Ottoman lands, but often as fals or falsus in the Arab provinces of the Empire.

Up to and including the reign of Bayezid I (1389-1402), all but a few extremely rare types lack the mint name, and nearly all are undated (except #1291). From the time of Mehmet I onwards (after 816), the mint name was a regular feature on all Ottoman gold and silver coins, later on most copper as well. The level of activity at most mints varied considerably over time, though from 886 onwards, Constantinople (Kostantiniye) is usually the most plentiful mint for silver and copper, Misır for gold. Other common mints are Edirne, Bursa, Novar (later written Novard), Sivrihisar, Sidrekipsi, Qaratova (Kratova), Uskub (Skopje) for the main series, as well as the Turkoman and Arab mints of Halab, Dimashq, Baghdad, Amīd, Khaṇa (Gęna, modern Gümüşhane), Erzurum, and Misır (al-Qahira) for local currencies. For specific types, several other mints are also quite common. In all, more than 100 mints have been attested for the pre-1687 Ottoman coinage, many of them extremely rare.

Most 14th and 15th century Ottoman coins were well struck, as was most of the gold in all periods. However, the gold from the time of Selim I (1512-1520) onwards, the quality of both the silver and the copper rapidly degenerated, reaching abysmal levels in the 17th century. The gold was usually better struck, at least in the 16th century. It is generally assumed that the dismal quality of late 17th century Ottoman coinage was the chief reason for the adoption of European minting technology during the reign of Suleyman II (1099-1102 / 1687-1691).

The Ottomans developed the concept of dating coins with the initial date of a type or reign, rather than stamping the actual year of issue on them, as had been the predominant Islamic tradition since the Umayyad reform. The first dated coins (with a few extremely rare exceptions) are mangurs of Murad I dated 790 and akçes of Bayezid I dated with his accession year 792. From then until 886/1481, silver coins bear “series” dates, which were changed at intervals of from a few to as many as 14 years (similar to modern United States banknotes). Thereafter, most Ottoman coins were dated with the accession year of the ruler. Regnal years were added in the time of Mustafa III (1711-1727), long after the time covered in this Checklist. The principal exception to this rule was the coinage of the Ottoman possessions in the Maghreb (modern Algeria, Tunisia and Libya), which after about 1020/1610 reverted to the actual year of issue.

Several scholars have attempted to assign various anonymous types to Osman I (699-724 / 1300-1324), but none of these suggestions is convincing. However, it is likely that some imitative Ilkhan types might have been struck in areas under the authority of Osman I. Further research is needed.

Orhan (b. “Uthman”), 724-761 / 1324-1360

T1288 AR akçe (ornate octfoil / highlighted square), Bursa mint

Two varieties, both of Ilkhan style, the first bearing the date 727 in words within the obverse margin, reversed by the names of the four Rashidun on the undated second variety.

1288.1 AR akçe, citing Orhan but without name of a caliph, several designs

Srečković divides this series into 5 subtypes. all without mint or date.

In the previous Checklist, I had assigned type Pere #3 to the beylük of Sarhan as #1250, but Ender has convincingly demonstrated that the coin belongs to this Ottoman sultan.

1288.2 AR akçe, similar, but citing the long-deceased caliph al-Mustansir (d. 640/1242), without mint or date

Murad I (b. Orhan), 761-791 / 1360-1389

1289 AR akçe, always without mint or date

According to Srečković, three distinct design types.

1290 AE mangır, similar

A somewhat scarcer subtype is dated Ramadan 790.

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333 SCWC has catalogued Ottoman coins by their appropriate countries, beginning in 1601. The earlier volume, intended to cover 1453-1600, has not appeared and seems unlikely ever to be completed.

334 Sadly, the quality of SCWC has been deteriorating since its publisher, Krause Publications, was acquired in 2002 by F&W Publishing of Cincinnati, which has in turn been acquired by an investment holding company (with a mailing address in London). When I was recently cataloguing some 18th century Ottoman coins, I was so frustrated by the errors and inconsistency of the 4th edition of the 18th century (published about 2007) that I grabbed my copy of the 1991 hardbound general edition. To my pleasing surprise, the 1991 issue was easy to use, a true time-saver, and the prices for 18th century Turkish coins in the 1991 edition had never been updated for the 2007 18th century edition!
Bayezit I (b. Murad), “the Thunderbolt”,
791-804 / 1393-1402

1291 AR akçe (about 1.18g)
One design only, invariably with the frozen year 792, but without mint name.

1292 AE mangır, always without mint name but sometimes dated 794 (R)

Comming with the accession of Mehmet Çelebi in 806/1403, virtually all silver coins and many copper coins bear the name of a mint, as do all gold coins after their introduction in 882.

Mehmet Çelebi (b. Bayezit), as vassal, citing Timur (Tamerlane) as overlord, 806-808 / 1403-1405

1294 AR akçe (about 1.18g). Bursa mint only, dated 806
See #2384 for an akçe struck in the sole name of Timur.

Mehmet Çelebi (b. Bayezit) (later Mehmet I), as independent ruler, 808-816 / 1405-1413

1293.1 AR akçe (about 1.18g for both types)
With title al-sultan al-a‘zam, struck only at Amasya, dated 808. Some bear the additional text hashi Allah within a square in the obverse center (R).

1293.2 AR akçe, with title ghiyath al-dunya wa’l-din, reverse normally in quatrefoil
Struck at Amasya (sometimes dated 810), Bursa (rarely dated 813) and Engüriye (sometimes dated 806), but usually undated at all mints. It may be presumed that the year 806 at Engüriye (Ankara) is Mehmet’s first accession year, and that the coins were not struck before his actual independence in 808.

1295 AE mangır

Süleyman Çelebi (b. Bayezit), 806-813 / 1403-1410

1296 AR akçe (about 1.18g), toughra on obverse, date, khalilda mukhahh and Rashidun on reverse, always dated
Dated 805 (RRR) and 806 (C), also “802” (R), where ‘2’ is just a retrograde ‘6’.

This is the earliest Ottoman coin to employ the toughra, a stylized depiction of the sultan’s signature. The use of the toughra was occasionally used until 834/1430, then abandoned, only to be revived, initially at the eastern mints at the beginning of the 11th/12th century, then generally throughout the Empire from 1106/1695 until the end of Ottoman rule in 1924.

1296A AR akçe (about 1.18g), royal inscriptions and date 813 on obverse, caliph and mint Edirne on reverse

1297 AE mangır, always without mint name

Musa Çelebi (b. Bayezit), rival, 813-816 / 1410-1413

1298 AR akçe (probably 1.18g), dated 813, either with mint name Edirne or without mint name

Mehmet I (b. Bayezit), as sultan, 816-824 / 1413-1421
Known as the Sultan Çelebi before 816. All akçes about 1.15g

1299.1 AR akçe (about 1.18g for both types), dated 816
One variety, Bursa mint only, has four ornate knots surrounding the reverse (RR). Seven mints reported.

1299.2 AR akçe, second series, dated 822
Five mints reported.

1300 AE mangır

Mustafa Çelebi (b. Mehmet), rival, circa 822-825 / 1419-1422

1301 AR akçe (about 1.18g)
Struck at Sere (undated) and Edirne (824).

Murad II (b. Mehmet), first reign, 824-848 / 1421-1444

1302.1 AR akçe (about 1.18g), first series, Bursa mint only, dated 824
Toughra obverse, date in concave square in reverse center.

1302.2 AR akçe (about 1.18g), second series, dated 825
Date above toughra on obverse.

1302.3 AR akçe (about 1.18g), third series, dated 834
Toughra replaced by name and patronymic in horizontal text only.

1302G AR akçe, local designs, mint of Germiyan only, dated 825 or 826

1303 AE mangır, either reign, many variations
Only dated varieties can be securely assigned to a specific reign.

Mehmet II (b. Murad), “the Conqueror”, 1st reign, 848-850 / 1444-1446

1304 AR akçe (about 1.05g), always dated 848
The word bin occurs after (to the left of) muhammad; the inscription is read upwards as muhammad bin / murad.

The location of bin distinguishes this type from #1304N, listed under the 2nd reign of Murad II.

1305 AE mangır, usually dated 848 or 852
Known dated 848 from Amasya, Bursa & Edirne, 852 from Ayasuluk.
Undated types cannot be assigned to the 1st reign, and are thus included with #1309.

Murad II (b. Mehmet), 2nd reign, 850-855 / 1446-1451

1306 AV sultani (also known as funduk ot altın), Constantinople mint only (Kostantiniye)
The gold sultani was based on the weight of the Venetian ducat and was introduced in the year 882. Only the year 883 is occasionally available, 882 much rarer, 885 exceedingly rare.

1307 AR 10 akçes (onluk), Constantinople mint only
Failed attempt to introduce a larger silver denomination.

1308 AR akçe (about 0.98g), first series, dated 855

1308.2 AR akçe (about 0.90g), second series, dated 865

This was the first series to be struck at Kostantiniye (Constantinople) (RR).

1308.3 AR akçe (about 0.90g), third series, dated 875

1308.4 AR akçe (about 0.75g), fourth series, dated 880

1308.5 AR akçe (about 0.75g), fifth series, dated 886

1309 AE mangır, numerous variations, often anonymous
All undated types in the name of Mehmet II are conventionally assigned to his 2nd reign.

Jem Sultan, rival at Bursa, 886 / 1481

1310 AR akçe (about 0.75g)

Murad II (b. Mehmet), 886-918 / 1481-1512

1311 AV sultani

1312 AR akçe (about 0.75g), one type only
Dated 886 only at all mints, but struck throughout the reign. Bayezit II was the first sultan to date all gold & silver coins solely by the accessional year, the Ottoman preference until their demise in 1924.

1313 AE mangır, numerous variants

Selim I (b Bayezit), “the Grim”, 918-926 / 1512-1520

1314 AV sultani, normally dated 918 (see note to #1315)

A1315 AR maydın (±0.9g)
Struck at Al-Qahira, Dimashq and Halab, also at Sham, generic term for Greater Syria. All other mints struck the akçe (#1315).

1315 AR akçe, several variants but all one type (±0.72g)
Dated 918, except for a number of eastern mints conquered in 922 and later, including some formerly Safavid and Aq Qoyunlu mints, as far east as Mawsil and Bitlis. Both sultans and akçes of these mints are dated between 922 and 925, and are all very rare.

1316 AE mangır, numerous variants
Weights of this type vary immensely, from about 2 to over 10+ grams. Coins of this denomination of Süleyman and subsequent rulers are sometimes known as para, presumably due to their heavy weight.

1323 AE mangır, usually anonymous

C

With few exceptions, mangirs of this and later reigns are anonymous, assigned to a specific reign only when the date is legible or the type matches dated examples of a specific reign.

The coinage of the remaining reigns listed here (974-1099 / 1566-1687) has not been systematically studied. Some of the listings, especially for the silver coins, are oversimplifications of complex patterns still imperfectly researched.

Tentative denominations of the silver coinage of this period:

The dirhem (or dirham, dirhem being the modern Turkish spelling of the word) normally weighed between 2.5 and 3.2 grams, and was struck at mints in Syria, Iraq, eastern Anatolia (especially Gença and Erzurum), and occasionally in parts of Iran and the Caucasus under temporary Ottoman occupation. The spelling dirhem with an “e” is restricted to the Ottoman series.

The para or gümüş was struck mainly after 1003, mainly at Aleppo, Damascus, Khandja (Genç) and Amid (now Diyarbakır). Typical weights ranged from 1.0-1.5g. This denomination was sometimes also known as maydın (gümüş means “silver”).

The maydım was struck only in Egypt (Misr), and normally weighed somewhat under one gram. The term derived from the mu’ayyid, the Mamlik silver coin introduced in 815/1412 by Shaykhī (type #992), whose title was al-sultan al-mu’ayyid. Here the term maydın is used to refer principally to the Egyptian issue, though contemporary Syrian and eastern Anatolian silver coins of similar weight were also frequently known as maydins.

The akçe was still the most common denomination in silver, with a typical weight declining from about 0.66 to less than 0.3 grams (contemporary Ottoman accounts were normally figured in akçes). A wide variety of mints in Anatolia and the Balkans produced the akçe, normally employing a uniform type at any given time. Small quantities were struck at Mısır, Dimasq, and Halab in addition to their larger paras and maydins, each mint with a distinctive type. As many as 40 mints were active prior to the 1030s, but thereafter, most local mints were closed, so that after 1058, only about half a dozen mints remained in operation.

The nasri was a small square silver coin struck at a few mints in Northern Africa.

The onluk (“piece of ten”), a coin of ten akçes, was introduced by Osman II, replacing the dirhem at all mints except Baghdad.

The beslik (“piece of five”), a coin of five akçes, was introduced by Murad IV, but struck mainly at Kostantiniye, most prodigiously under Ibrahim.

Many new denominations were introduced from 1099/1687 onwards, but these do not concern us here.

Selim II (b. Süleyman), “the Sot”, 974-982 / 1566-1574

M1324 AV dinar (about 4.2g), Tilimsan mint only, to the Ziyanid standard, slightly debased gold

RR

Unconforned ½ and ¼ dinars of Tilimsan are rumored to exist.

1324 AV sultani

C

1325 AR dirhem (Near Eastern mints only), about 3.65g

C

1326 AR para or gümüş

C

1327 AR maydın (Misr), about 1.05g

S

1328 AR akçe, about 0.66g

C

A1329 AR square nasri (Tunis mint), about 0.98g

RRR

1329 AE fals (Misr)

R

1330 AE mangır

S

Murad III (b. Selim), 982-1003 / 1574-1595

1331 AV dinar (Tilimsan, to the late Ziyanid standard of about 4.2g, slightly debased gold), several dates

R

1331A AV ½ dinar, similar, about 2.1g

RR

1332.1 AV sultani

C

Reverse inscription: darib al-nadhr wa suhib al-‘izz al-naṣr fl’-hirr wa l-bahr, “the striker of precious metal, and master of glory, the victorious on land and sea”.

1332.2 AV sultani

S2

Reverse inscription: sultan al-birrīyān wa khagāq al-bahrahīn al-sultan bin al-sultan, “sultan of the two lands and khagāq of the

Süleyman I (b. Selim), “the Magnificent”, 926-974 / 1520-1566

R1317 AV ½ dinar, without mint or date, but struck only at Tilimsan (Tlemçen, clear by style)...

RRR

S1317 AV ½ dinar, similar, but unusual rhymed prose in reverse field, probably with both mint & date in marginal segments

RRR

T1317 AV dinar, similar style, but obverse & reverse text at the standard sultani (#1317), Tilimsan 926 only

RRR

1317 AV sultani

C

1318 AR dirhem, struck at mints in the Middle East, several subordinate variants with weight between 3.0g and 4.5g.

 Aside from the akçe (thanks to Srečković), the silver denominations of this and subsequent reigns (until the 1687 reform) have never been adequately codified.

 In general, the dirhem is a coin of about 3 grams, the para about half that, the maydın about 1 gram, and the akçe beginning at about 0.72g, declining to 0.33 grams by the middle of the 17th century. Many akçes are found clipped down to lighter weights, presumably in order to remain in circulation after the standard akçe weight had been reduced, or just plain old cheating.

1319 AR para or gümüş, mints in Syria and the Jazira

S

The denomination of this common type from Syrian and Jaziran mints during this reign remains uncertain, though frequently classified as either para or gümüş (Turkish for “silver”) by modern numismatists. It was more likely maydın, the common denomination of Egypt in the 16th & 17th centuries (see notes after #1323), but I have retained here the tentative usage of para or gümüş.

Weights of this type vary immensely, from about 2 to over 10+ grams. Coins of this denomination of Süleyman and subsequent rulers are sometimes known as para, presumably due to their heavy weight.
two seas, the sultan, son of the sultan”. The two lands refer to Asia and Europe, divided by the Bosporus (in modern Turkish, İstanbul Boğazı), the two seas refer to the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. With a few very rare exceptions (not noted here), all pre-982 sultanis bear the darib al-nadr ... inscription only.

1333 AR dirhem, about 3.65g
Struck principally at Bagdad.

1333A AR dirhem, about 3.10g, struck only at Amid
Examples of both #1333 and #1333A can weigh somewhat more or substantially less. Further research required.

1333S AR shahi, about 4.61g, Basra mint (without the particle el-)
The weight of this and subsequent Basran shahis (#1341S, 1348S, 1359S) correspond to the Iranian mithqal.

1334 AR para or gümüş
The weight of this type remains obscure. At Halab & Dimashq there seem to be several weights, from about 1.5 to about 2.5g. Further research is essential here!

1335 AR maydın (Misr), about 1.05g

1336.1 AR akçe, 1st standard, about 0.66g, struck 1574-1583
There seems to be no design changes between the 1st and 2nd standard akçes of this reign. Both types are known with horizontal inscriptions and with circular inscriptions, the latter rare. Weight variations can be considerable, with 1st standard examples usually between about 0.53g and 0.70g, the 2nd standard between 0.25g and 0.38g. It is possible that an intermediate standard of approximately 0.40g-0.45g was briefly used during the inflationary period 991-993 / 1583-1585. However, it seems more likely that these are just underweight and clipped down 2nd standard akçes.

A1337 AR square nasi (Tunisian mints)

1337 AE fals (Misr)

1338 AE mangır

Mehmet III (b. Murad), 1003-1012 / 1595-1603

1339 AV dinar (about 4.3g, Tilimsan mint only)

1339A AV ½ dinar, similar, Tilimsan mint
Reverse inscription: darib al-nadr wa sahib al-‘izz al-nasr fi l-bizr wa l-bahr.

1340.1 AV sultani
Reverse inscription: sultan al-birrayn wa khaqan al-bahrayn al-sultan bin al-sultan.

1341 AR dirhem, about 3.0g
The dirhem and para (#1342) of this reign revive the use of the toughra, which henceforth becomes common on these two denominations, but not all varieties necessarily bear the toughra. Weights vary considerably, more research needed.

1341S AR shahi, about 4.61g, Basra mint

1342 AR para or gümüş, weights undetermined

1343 AR maydın (Misr), about 1.05g

1344.1 AR akçe, 3-line inscription on both sides, about 0.34g

1344.2 AR akçe, muhammad in center with circular inscription around on obverse (3-line inscription on reverse), about 0.34g

1345 AE fals (Misr)

1346 AE mangır

Ahmed I (b. Mehmet), 1012-1026 / 1603-1617

1347.1 AV sultani, accession date
Reverse inscription: darib al-nadr wa sahib al-‘izz al-nasr fi l-bizr wa l-bahr.

1347.2 AV sultani, accession date
Reverse inscription: sultan al-birrayn wa khaqan al-bahrayn al-sultan bin al-sultan.

From this reign onwards, the sultanis of the three Ottoman mints in North Africa (Jaza’ir, Tunis & Tarabulus Gharb338) are dated with actual years rather than regnal years, whereas Misr, Constantinople and all other mints are invariably dated only with the accession year, as would remain the case until 1924. The same is true of most of the occasional copper and silver coins from the three North African mints.

1347N AV sultani, actual date, struck only at the North African mints of Jaza’ir & Tunis

1347N B1348 AV dinar (about 4.2g), Tilimsan (Tlemçen) mint only

1348.1 AV sultani
Reverse inscription: al-sultan bin al-sultan.

1348 AR dirhem, about 3.0g, struck at Baghdad

1348S AR shahi, about 4.61g, Basra mint

1349.1 AR para or gümüş, eastern Anatolian type, approximately 1.22g
Struck mainly at Khaņa (Gença), Amid and Van.

1349.2 AR para or gümüş, Syrian type, heavy series, approximately 2.25g
Struck mainly at Halab (S) and Dimashq (R).

1349.3 AR para or gümüş, Syrian type, light series, approximately 1.54g
Struck mainly at Halab. The chronology between #1349.2 and 1349.3 is uncertain.

1350 AR maydın (Misr)

1351 AR square nasi (Tunis)
With three horizontal lines of inscription on both sides, known dated 1013.

Another type of Ahmed, with a 4-line inscription on obverse and a religious phrase arranged in a complex anagram, dated between xx15 and xx29 are actually issues of Ahmed III struck 1115-1129. A few rare examples reveal the full date, thus confirming that the anagrammatic type was struck a century later.

1352 AR akçe

1353 AR akçe (Misr)

1354 AR mangır

Mustafa I (b. Mehmet), 1st reign, 1026-1027 / 1617-1618

1355 AV sultani
In general, coins of this reign can only be distinguished from those of Mustafa’s second reign when the accession year is clearly legible, or securely by die link. Uncertain specimens are traditionally assigned to the second reign.

Known only with reverse inscription: sultan al-birrayn wa khaqan al-bahrayn al-sultan bin al-sultan. Unknown from the North African mints.

1355 AR para or gümüş, normally about 1.22g
Only the Amid mint is occasionally available, the least rare issue of Mustafa’s first reign.

1357 AR akçe (0.34g)

Osman II (b. Ahmed), 1027-1031 / 1618-1622

1358 AV sultani
Reverse inscription: sultan al-birrayn wa khaqan al-bahrayn al-sultan bin al-sultan. A very rare variety of Dimashq mint bears the other reverse inscription, darib al-nadr wa.... Both varieties occur on later sultanis, but further research needed before the coins can be accurately divided between the two types. No sultanis are reported from the North African mints.

1359 AR onluk, about 2.8g
The onluk, or piece of ten akçes (on = ten), replaced the dirhem during this reign. However, the average weight is approximately 8-8.5 times that of the akçe, some 15-20% below what might be expected for a coin of “10 akçes”. The dirhem was later revived at Baghdad by Murad IV (see #1370) and his successors.

1359S AR shahi, about 4.61g, Basra mint

1360 AR para or gümüş, about 1.1g
The weight of this denomination seems to vary from mint to mint. Principal mints are Amid and Gença.

338 “Tarabulus Gharb” means Tripoli West, which is Tripoli in Libya rather than Tripoli in Lebanon.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 144
1361 AR maydın (Misr), about 0.95g S
1361N AR square nasri (Tunis) RRR
1362.1 AR akçe, 3-line inscription on both sides (0.30g) S
1362.2 AR akçe, ‘ahtum in center with circular inscription around on obverse (3-line inscription on reverse) (0.30g) C R
1363 AE mangır

Mustafa I (b. Mehmet), 2nd reign, 1031-1032 / 1622-1623

1364 AV sultani, accessional date Normally with reverse inscription: sultan al-birrayn wa khaqan al-bahrayn al-sultan bin al-sultan. RRR
1364N AV sultani, actual date, struck only at the North African mint of Jaza’ir (Algiers) RRR
1365 AR onluk, about 2.8g S
1366 AR para or gümüş Probably about 0.9-1.0g, mainly from mint of Amid. R
1367 AR maydın (Misr), about 0.95g S
1368 AR akçe (0.30g) S
B1369 AE burbe (Tunis), average weight about 2g RRR

Murad IV (b. Ahmed), 1032-1049 / 1623-1640

1369 AV sultani S
1369N AV sultani, actual date, struck at the North African mints of Jaza’ir and Tarabulus Gharb S
1370 AR dirhem, about 2.8g-3.0g Baghdad was reconquered by Murad IV in 1048/1638 from Iranian occupation. On his coins struck at Baghdad he adopted the title Ghazi, otherwise used only under the Ottomans by Mahmud II in the 19th century. R
1371 AR onluk, about 2.60g S
1372 AR para or gümüş Issues of Khanja (Gença) & Amid seem to weigh about 0.9g, those of Halab about 1.1-1.2g. More research needed. S
1373 AR maydın (Misr), about 0.8g C
1373A AR square nasri (Tunis), about 0.8g RRR
1374 AR akçe (0.30g) C
1375 AE mangır R
1375B AE burbe (Tunis), average weight about 2g RRR

Ibrahim (b. Ahmed), “the Mad”, 1049-1058 / 1640-1648

1376 AV sultani, accessional date S
1376N AV sultani, actual date, struck at the three North African mints RRR
1377 AR dirhem (Baghdad), 2.8-3.0g C
1377H AR para? (Halab), circa 1.8g RR
1378 AR onluk (10 akçes) The onluk weight seems to have been increased from the previous reign, as most Constantinople examples of Ibrahim typically weigh in the range of 2.8-3.0g. S
1379 AR beslik (5 akçes) (Constantinople, Damascus, and a few other mints), about 1.4g R
1380 AR maydın (Misr) (0.8g) S
1381 AR akçe (0.30g) C
1381A AR square nasri (Tunis), about 0.8g RRR
1382 AE mangır R
1382B AE burbe (Tunis), average weight about 2g RRR

Mehmet IV (b. Ibrahim), “the Hunter”, 1058-1099 / 1648-1687

1383 AV sultani, accession date S
1383N AV sultani, actual date, struck only at the three North African mints All except Tarabulus Gharb 1078 are at least RR.
1383P AV ½ sultani, struck only at Tarabulus Gharb RRR
1384 AR dirhem (Baghdad), 2.8-3.0g C
1385 AR onluk (mainly Constantinople and Halab), about 2.8g R
1386.1 AR beslik, mint of Constantinople, about 1.4g R
1386.2 AR beslik?, mint of Tarabulus Gharb RR Variable weight from about 1.05-1.45g, dated 1083 or 1096.
1387 AR maydın (Misr), about 0.8g A
1387A AR square nasri (Tunis), about 0.7g RRR
1388 AR akçe, average 0.25g-0.3g S
1389 AE mangır R
1390 AE falus (Tarabulus Gharb & Tunis) S
1390M AE mangır, with mint name but undated, Tarabulus Gharb, “West Tarabulus”, is Tripoli in Libya, not Tripoli in Lebanon. The falus of Tunis is also known as burbe. S
1390N AE mangır, anepigraphic, with geometric or other designs obverse & reverse (16th to 17th Century) R

Anonymous, 15th-17th century

1390M AE mangır, with mint name but undated, unassignable to a specific reign C

Most have geometric patterns on obverse, some have animals, birds, or other motifs.

For coins of types #1390M and 1390N, see Ölczer, Çineyt, The Ornamental Copper Coinage of the Ottoman Empire, Istanbul 1975 (Turkish text, English summary).

1390N AE mangır, anepigraphic, with geometric or other designs obverse & reverse (16th to 17th Century) S

At least 200 varieties are known. With a few rare exceptions, none can be assigned to mint or date. Later reigns fall outside the scope of this volume (except for the Ottoman occupation of part of Iran, #2706-2711). Adequate listings can now be found in the century volumes of the Krause-Mishler’s Standard Catalog of World Coins, where the coins are listed geographically according to region (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey), and divided chronologically between the century volumes of SCWC.

**IRAN — THE EARLY PERIOD**

The first independent dynasties in Iran emerged from the disintegrating ‘Abbasid caliphate during the middle of the 9th to 10th century. Until the Seljuk invasions, circa 425-450 / 1035-1060, Iran and Transoxiana remained fragmented between numerous rivals. A few larger states usually dominated the political scene, each occupying large areas in Iran and Central Asia for many decades, successively the Safavids, Samanids, Buwayhids, and Ghaznavids. Gold and silver coins of these major dynasties, even the Shi’ite Buwayhids, as well as most of the minor dynasties, continue to cite the ‘Abbasid caliph. The dynastic ruler’s name is normally inscribed below the caliph’s name, thus theoretically as vassals under the caliphate.

Whereas I tried to include most of the minor dynasties and rare rulers in the 2nd edition of the Checklist, some omissions undoubtedly persist in this 3rd edition, as for example in more obscure series such as the Sallarids, for which additional types will undoubtedly continue to be discovered, despite Aram Vardanyan’s updated catalog of 2007. There are also many specialized articles, published primarily in Iran and the nations in the Caucasus and Central Asia, which I was unable to consult.

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339 Perhaps also at the third North African mint, Tunis.

340 The sole earlier dynasty was the Tahirids, which struck independent precious metal coinage only 205-211 / 821-827.
Because of their cultural and linguistic connections to purely Iranian rulers, Central Asian dynasties of this period (roughly AH210-500+) are included in this section.

TAHIRID

The proper coinage of the Tahirids is summarized in Zambaur’s “Contributions,” part II, noted in the general bibliography, now somewhat incomplete, due to later discoveries. Only precious metal coins of Tahir and Talha struck between 205 and 211, plus copper coins of Central Asian mints for the entire dynasty, can justifiably be regarded as Tahirid coins. Later silver and gold coins (after 211) lack the name of the Tahirid ruler, and are thus indistinguishable from other ‘Abbasid issues. They are now regarded as ‘Abbasid.

Prior to 205, Tahir had been a high military officer in the service of the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Ma’mun, having been commander of the forces that defeated al-Amin. His name is occasionally found on earlier silver & gold coins, in al-Muhammadiya as early as 195-196, at an undetermined mint in 198, and 200-206 in Egypt, as well as a few other dirham mints, but these coins are traditionally and correctly regarded as ‘Abbasid.

Samarkand is the only rather common mint, specifically for Talha. Specimens of al-Muhammadiya and Zaranj are occasionally found. Other mints are rare, save for the single issue of Herat 206 (#1391A). Like contemporary ‘Abbasid issues, Tahirid silver coins are usually well struck and found in higher grades. The coppers are also well struck, though rarely well preserved. There is no gold coinage.

Tahir I b. al-Husayn, in rebellion, 205-207 / 821-822

Despite his rebellious behavior, Tahir nominally retained the position of military governor (sultān al-sharīa) in Baghdad until 206, hence his name on the purely ‘Abbasid gold coins of Egypt struck 205-206.

1391 AR dirham

Often with name of a local governor. Tahir is frequently cited only by his title of Dhū ’l-Yaminayn (“possessor of two right hands”, i.e., ambidextrous, here meaning both military and civil positions).

1391A AR dirham, with the governor al-Shukr b. Ibrahim, struck only at Herat in 206

1392 AE fals, known from Marw 206 & 207

R

Talha b. Tahir, 207-213 / 822-828

1393 AR dirham, struck until 211

Most coins from mints other than Samarkand also bear the name of a local governor. Only Samarkand is frequently available. Some issues bear the name of ‘Abd Allah al-Tahir as heir.

1394 AE fals, with Sasanian bust, struck at Bust in 209

This remarkable coin is the last example of a Sasanian coin type struck in 205-206.

A1395 AE fals, inscriptions only, Sijistan 209

Citing ‘Abd Allah al-Talhi. It is uncertain whether this name refers to his brother and successor ‘Abd Allah b. Tahir (213-230 / 828-845) or a different ‘Abd Allah serving as an official to Talha in Sijistan. Reverse margin has either the inscription Qur’an 30:3-4 (RR), or an ancient Greek style fillet border (RRR).

C1395 AE fals, similar, but Bukhara 209 & 211

Citing Talat, unknown individual, for 209, Muhammad b. ‘Abd Allah for 211.

‘Abd Allah b. Tahir I, 213-230 / 828-845

H1395 AE fals, in his name alone

Known from Khwarizm dated 224 (Zeno-75476), but most specimens either without mint & date or with one or both off flan.

I1395 AE fals, also citing unknown governor Muhammad b. Yahya

Always without mint & date, the governor on obverse, the ruler on the reverse. Probably not struck at Khwarizm.

J1395 AE fals, dated 224-231, citing only the amir Mika’il as mawla of Tahir, son of ‘Abd Allah and heir-apparent, and the local governor al-Hasan b. Muhammad

Without the name of ‘Abd Allah b. Tahir. First published by Kochnev in 1984. The issue dated 228 portrays a horse, derived from late pre-Islamic coins of this mint, whereas all other dates are text only, standard ‘Abbasid design. Formerly listed as ‘Abbasid, type #B528.

No gold or silver coins citing ‘Abd Allah b. Talha as autonomous ruler (213-230 / 828-845) have been reported.

Tahir II b. ‘Abd Allah, 230-248 / 845-862

B1395 AE fals

Most of his fals have his kunya Abu ‘Abd Allah in the obverse field, his name Tahir in the obverse marginal legend. Normally struck at al-Shash and dated 241, also 240 (RRR). See also #A1441 for a related coin of al-Shash dated 233, citing the Samanid underling together with Tahir II as overlord, thus regarded here as a Samanid issue.

Muhammad b. Tahir II, 248-259 / 862-873

1395 AE fals

Produced at al-Shash 250 & 251 (citing Ahmad and Muslim, struck) and Bukhara 253 (citing Khalid, cast).

QARINID

A minor dynasty in Tabaristan, at times rebellious against the ‘Abbasid caliph.

Muhammad b. Qarin, circa 207-225 / 822-840

His personal name was Mazyar, his title mawla amir al-ma’mūn.

1395Q AE fals, mint name Tabaristan bi-madinat Amul, dated AH22x

Without the caliph’s name, thus possibly struck during his rebellion against the caliphate in 224-225.

HARTHAMID

Only one member of this family, Rafi’ b. Harthama, is acknowledged numismatically. He claimed Khorasan after the death of the last Tahirid in 268/882, but was eventually driven out and, after having attempted a resurgence in central Iran, was killed by the Saffarids.

Coins of Rafi’ were struck primarily at Nishapur, Herat and Marw, except for the gold, which is known only from al-Muhammadiya (al-Rayy).

Rafi’ b. Harthama, in Khorasan 268-274 / 882-888, and in parts of central Iran until 283 / 896

A1396 AV dinar (al-Muhammadiya, dated 278, 281 & 283)

The 278 and 281 issues also cited governor al-Hasan (b. ‘Ali).

B1396 AR dirham, dated 268-270

R

C1396 AR dirham, Herat 274 only, also citing Muhammad b. Ahmad (unidentified)

KHUJISTANID

A minor dynasty in eastern Khorasan, briefly in control of Herat and Nishapur, where coins were struck in 267 and 268.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 146
The broad dirhams were struck at Herat and Nishapur and are usually well-made. The narrow dirhams are from Andaraba, typically crude and unevenly struck, without legible date.

Ahmad b. ‘Abd Allah, fl. 261-268 / 874-881

1396 AR dirham (approximately 5.0-6.0g), broad module with lengthy field inscriptions R
Known dated 267-268 only, struck at Nishapur (R) and Herat (RRR). A variant of Herat 268 is muled with a reverse die of the caliph al-Mutawakkil (232-247) (R).

1396A AR dirham, narrow module, short field inscriptions, presumably Andaraba mint RRR
Recently discovered for Andaraba 268, date & mint very clear (private collection in Dubai).

DULAFID

Ruling in western and central Iran, the Dulafids were ‘Abbasid governors who emerged briefly as independent rulers from 879 until 897. Their earliest coins are dated 270, but earlier gubernatorial lead seals are known.

The only plentiful Dulafid mint is Isfahan (Isbahan on the coins), though for the gold, Hamadan and Mah al-Basra are not extremely rare. Silver coins are generally weakly or unevenly struck, the gold more carefully made. A surprisingly large number of lead seals of the Dulafids have survived.

Ahmad b. ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, 265-280 / 874-881

1397 AV dinar RR

1397P AV donative dinar, with broad outer blank margins RRR
Known from Hamadan 275.

1398 AR dirham S

Coins of this ruler are known dated 270-276 only, with Isbahan the most common mint. Earlier & later coins of Dulafid mints lack the local ruler’s name, and are therefore classified as purely ‘Abbasid.

‘Umar b. ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, 280-284 / 893-897

1399 AV dinar RR

1400 AR dirham, mainly Isbahan mint R

AMIR OF NORTHWEST JIBAL

A Turkish amir, originally an ‘Abbasid governor at al-Mawsil, Adhkutakin was later expelled, after which he set up an autonomous principality at Hamadan & Qazwin. All coins were minted at Hamadan or Qazwin.

Adhkutakin b. Asantakin, fl. 265-275 / 878-888

A1401 AV dinar341 RRR
B1401 AR dirham RRR

SAFFARID (INCLUDING TAMMID)


In light of subsequent discoveries, both references are now obsolete.

The dynastic name derives from the profession of its founder, who had been a coppermith (saffar in Persian) before turning to military adventure. The initial dynasty survived from 247/861 until conquered by the Seljuqs in 440/1048. The Saffarid line was later restored and survived until the Mongol invasions. A fourth dynasty of putative Saffarid origins arose in Sijistan under Mongol auspices, but is better known as the Mehrabanids (q.v.).

The rulers from Ya’qub through al-Mu’addal b. ‘Ali (247-298) are known as the first Saffarid dynasty, and those from Ahmad b. Muhammad through Tahir b. Khalaf (311-390x) are termed the second Saffarid dynasty. The rulers from Sa’d b. Ahmad to the Mongol conquest (430s-619) are known as the third Saffarid dynasty.

Two anti-Saffarid rebels of the Tamimid family, Tahir b. Muhammad and his son al-Husayn, are normally included with this dynasty.

During the first dynasty, Fars342 and Shiraz alternate as the most common mints, though for Ya’qub, Banjhir (i.e., Panjsher, north of modern Kabul) is the most plentiful. For the second dynasty, all coins were struck at Sijistan, except for some gold and copper of Ahmad struck between 327 and 334, on which the mint name is given as Zaranj, the chief town and administrative center of Sijistan.

For the first two Saffarid dynasties, only the extremely rare full dinars and the copper fulus are consistently well struck. Silver dirhams are rarely fully struck, with the exception of the issues of Nishapur and other mints within the province of Khorasan, although the Fars provincial mint dirhams circa 277-289 were more neatly struck. The fractional gold is usually strongly struck but on irregular flans that were typically smaller than the dies; their weight varies from about 0.5g to 2.0g, thus coins that were weighed for transactions rather than counted. The copper fulus, though well struck, are typically found worn, damaged or corroded, most likely from individual finds rather than hoards.

During the third period, the early billion dirhams were somewhat carelessly struck, almost always found badly worn or corroded. On the other hand, the gold coins and the jitals (beginning with the later issues of Harb) were generally well struck, often somewhat off center but nonetheless attractive. Some jitals reveal traces of a very light silver coating, particularly the common types of Taj al-Din Harb. Although their center was based in Sijistan province, the first dynasty conquered large areas of Iran, striking coins at several mints in Fars province, of which Shiraz is the most frequent, and occasional issues at al-Ahwaz, Isfahan, Nishapur, Herat, and even ‘Uman and the distant silver mining towns of Andaraba and Banjhir (both north of Kabul). After the death of al-Layth in 298 their territory was permanently restricted to the province of Sijistan, with the mint name either the provincial name Sijistan or its capital Zaranj. Except for a few gold dinars of Nasr b. Ahmad citing the mint name Sijistan, all coins of the third dynasty bear neither a mint name nor a date, though most types were likely struck at Zaranj.

FIRST DYNASTY

Ya’qub b. al-Layth, 247-265 / 861-879

E1401 AV dinar, struck only at al-Ahwaz RRR

1401.1 AR dirham, narrow flan S
Struck at Banjhir 259-261 only, on narrow thickish flans derived from the common Hindushahi drammas of the Kabul region (dramma = Greek drachm).

1401.2 AR dirham, broad flan R
Struck at al-Ahwaz and Fars 263-265, on broad flans similar to contemporary ‘Abbasid dirhams.

A1402 BI dramma, bull and horseman type with the Sanskrit title Sri Khudaraiyaka above the bull, Arabic ‘adl above the horseman to right S
Believed to have been struck at or near Kapisa (near the modern city of Kabul) by Ya’qub’s governor there, but without the name of either Ya’qub or the governor.

B1402 AE fals, struck only at Zaranj RRR

Anonymous, circa 250s / 860s or later

E1402 AR dirham, bull & horseman type with ‘adl in Arabic (circa 2.8g) S
Similar to type #A1402 but the obverse has Sri Samanta Deva in the Brahmi script above bull, the reverse has Arabic ‘adl above horse’s head.

341 Ilisch, L., MNZ 14/4. p. 30 for Thaght Qazwin ("the frontier of Qazwin"), 268, Peus 378/1260 for Hamadan 275. Both are now illustrated by Bernardi.

342 Fars was the provincial name, and may well have been used as a mint name in order not to differentiate between separate mint sites within the province. Some rare examples of #1402 have the mint name Fars in the normal marginal legend together with Arrajan in the reverse field. The principal “Fars” mint may have been located at Istakhr. Other examples of this type dated 267-270, also citing Fars in the marginal legend, bear no symbol below the reverse field, and others bear the letter ‘s’ or ‘sh’ (about equal rarity). It has been suggested that those without a symbol were struck at Istakhr, those with the symbol ‘s’ at Shiraz.
‘Amr b. al-Layth, 265-288 / 879-901

His name is always written as ‘Amr in order to distinguish it from the name ‘Umar, but the final waw is not pronounced.

M1402 AV dinar, reported only from Zaranj 271 and Jannaba 275

1402 AR dirham, broad flan, many variants, 2.5-3.8g

For dirhams of Khorasanian mints weighing approximately twice as much as the normal dirham, see #1402N.

1402A AR dirham, also citing Mansur, struck at Nishapur in 269 only

Mansur (b. Sharkab), rival opponent in Nishapur in 269, retained his nominal position as vassal of ‘Amr.

1402B AR dirham, narrow flan, struck only at Andaraba and citing a local governor, Hamdan

RRR

1402N AR 2 dirhams, standard type as #1402 but double weight, approximately 5.5-6.5g

Struck mainly at Nishapur in 284. Dirhams of ‘Amr b. al-Layth are virtually unknown weighing between 3.8 and 5.5g, reinforcing the hypothesis that these heavier issues were indeed intended as the double dirham. However, by about the year 300, lightweight and overweight dirhams became so common throughout much of the Islamic world, including all of the Saffarid region, thus effectively ending the concept of a single and double dirham (and occasionally also fractions thereof). After the mid-290s, their weight varies gradually from less than 2 to more than 6 grams, thus weighed rather than counted.

Muhammad b. ‘Amr, as viceroy in Shiraz for his father ‘Amr, 272-274 / 868-888

1403 AR dirham

Struck at Shiraz (R), Fars (R), Arrajan (RRR) and Isbahan (RRR).

Tahir b. Muhammad, as governor of Marw, fl. 281 / 894

With additional title Abu Hafs. It is uncertain whether this Tahir b. Muhammad was indeed the same person as the king with the same name in 288-296.

S1404 AR dirham, Marw 281

RRR

Tahir b. Muhammad, as king, 288-296 / 901-908

1404 AR dirham

Only the mint Fars is frequent. Dirhams of Shiraz are moderately rare, those of ‘Uman and Zarjan very rare. Most were rather weakly struck on broad flans.

al-Layth b. ‘Ali, 296-298 / 908-910

A1405 AV dinar

Struck only at Zarjan in 296.

1405 AR dirham

Struck principally at Fars, which was permanently lost to the Saffarids at the end of this reign.

Subkari, in revolt against the Saffarids, 296-298 / 908-910

1406 AR dirham

Struck at Fars, Zarjan, and ‘Uman, of which only Fars is occasionally available.

al-Mu’addal b. ‘Ali, 298 / 910-911

1407 AR dirham, Zarjan mint only

From 299-305, the local ruler is not named on the coins of Sijistan & Zarjan, which are thus classified as ordinary ‘Abbasid issues of al-Muqtadir (RR).

 INTERMEDIARY RULERS

These three intermediary rulers were not of the Saffarid line.

Kuthayyir b. Ahmad, circa 305-306 / 917-918

1408 AR dirham

Ahmad b. Qudam, 306-310 / 918-923

A1409 AV dinar

RR

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 148

435 Listed in a Poinsignon sale circa 1995, reference unavailable to me.

436 When I first became interested in Islamic coins generally, then living in Tehran in 1965, Prof. David Bivar of the University of London suggested that I take $100 and buy as many different Islamic coins from one of the Tehran dealers. He would then teach me how to identify them, so long as he could select one coin of his choice. Because Islamic coins were outrageously cheap in Tehran in those days, I came back to the British Institute of Persian Studies with more than 200 coins for that $100. He selected a dirham of Ahmad b. Qudam, I believe dated 307. About 20 years later, he donated the coin to the British Museum.

437 On some coins, especially the copper and brass pieces, the ruler is named only by his kunya Abu Ja’far.

438 Peus auction 369, lot 1646.

439 Also known for Sijistan 33x, with weight 3.5-4.0g.

440 I have not investigated why Khalaf would have omitted his father’s name during these years.
Tahir b. Muhammad al-Tamimi, rebel, 353-359 / 964-970

Tahir and his son al-Husayn were not members of the Saffarid dynasty but of the Tamimids, who contested authority over Sijistan with Khalaf b. Ahmad.

A1415 AV full dinar

1415 AV fractional dinar

1415C AR 1/10 dirham (average 0.3g)

Inscribed al-nasir on obverse, walli Allah tahir on reverse. Always without mint or date.

al-Husayn b. Tahir, 1st & 2nd reigns, 359-360 / 970-971 and 360-361 / 971-972

1416 AV fractional dinar

Coins dated 360 cannot at present be assigned to one or the other reign. Hence the coinage to a single type. However, specimens dated 360 (R) has been assigned to his 1st reign, 361 (RRR) to his 2nd reign, but dateless or date-off-flan specimens cannot be assigned to a specific reign.

Khalaf b. Ahmad, 2nd reign, 360-369 / 972-980

A1417 AV full dinar, recognizing the Samanid Mansur I as overlord

1417 AV fractional dinar, no overlord

Khalaf recognized the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Muti’ until 368, despite the fact that al-Muti’ had been deposed by the Buwayhids in 363. Fractional dinars dated 368 are known with either al-Muti’ or his successor, al-Ta’i’.

1418 AE fals, most commonly dated 360 or 361, usually about 24-26mm diameter

al-Husayn b. Tahir, 3rd reign, 369-371+ / 980-982+

1419.1 AV fractional dinar, without overlord, struck at Sijistan in 369 and 370

Tentatively deciphered dates 372 & 374 have been reported.

1419.2 AV fractional dinar, citing as overlord the Samanid ruler Nuh II, known dated 370 only

Khalaf b. Ahmad, 3rd reign, 370-390 / 981-1000

Also known as Wali al-Dawla Abu Ahmad on his coins struck from about 384 onwards.

Y1420 AV full dinar, as wali al-dawla abu ahmad, known dated 384

Coins bearing the name walli al-dawla abu ahmad lack the name khalaf. Full dinars, fractional dinars and silver dirhams bearing this name were struck 384-390. Virtually all coins of this reign were surprisingly well struck.

1420.1 AV fractional dinar, as khalaf, circa 371 to the early 380s

1420.2 AV fractional dinar, as wali al-dawla abu ahmad (without the name khalaf), known dated 385-390

1421 AR dirham, as wali al-dawla abu ahmad, known dated 384-390

1422 AE fals, with name khalaf

Khalaf ruled for a 4th time, Jamuda 1 392-Safar 393 / April-December 1002, but no coins are known for this 4th reign.

‘Amr b. Khalaf, ruled briefly in the 360s / 970s, died 383 / 994

1423 AV fractional dinar, as independent ruler

Although coins were struck in his name, there is no evidence in the written chronicles that he ever actually ruled. However, these coins paint a different picture. Unfortunately, all his coins are undated, whence the actual years of his theoretical “reign” remain undetermined. The caliph al-Muti’ is cited, but the Saffarids continued to cite his name for five years after his dethronement in 363. ‘Amr’s alleged independence represented by this type is nowhere mentioned in the chronicles.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 149

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351 Sotheby’s, 28 May 1987, lot 881.

352 The listings here of gold and billon coins from the reigns of Sa’d b. Ahmad and Nasr b. Ahmad, including contemporary “purely” Seljuq issues, may be inaccurate. Further research needed.
Zanj Rebellion

The Zanj (whose name has survived in the name Zanzibar, zanjbar in Arabic) were black Africans imported into Iraq as slaves to clear salt deposits from agricultural lands. Under the leadership of their Imam, 'Ali b. Muhammad, they staged a revolt against the 'Abbasid caliph.

Most coins were struck at a mint in southern Iraq known as al-Madinat al-Mukhtara. Other coins refer to a camp mint, either mu'askar al-imam or 'askar al-imam, both translated as “the camp of the Imam”.

'Ali b. Muhammad, 258-271 / 872-884

Lawiks of Ghazna & Gardez (Aflahid)

A local kingdom centered mainly around Gardez, probably Muslim, of whom little is known, founded by a certain Aflah. Their coinage consists of mintless and undated copper coins derived from the common Hindu-Shahi prototype.

Aflah (b. Muhammad b. Khaqan), fl. 250s-260s / 870s

Banijurid (Abu Da'ud)


A minor dynasty in eastern Khorasan whose coinage was spurred by their ownership of silver mines in the Panjsher (“Five Lions”) Valley and adjoining regions. The genealogy of this “dynasty” remains obscure. Regrettably, there is no up-to-date reference for this fascinating and complex series.

Most coins of this dynasty were struck at either Andrabur or Banjhir (Panjsher), an argentiferous region in the mountainous Hindu Kush. Most specimens show considerable weakness or flat areas. Until about 280, Andaraba and Banjhir coins were struck on thick narrow flans similar to contemporary 'Abbasid or Samanid issues. Later issues, as well as coins of other mints outside the silver mining region, were struck on broad thin flans similar to contemporary 'Abbasid or Samanid issues. No gold or copper coins are known. See #A1453-B1453 for coins of yet another purported member of this dynasty.

Until a thorough analysis of silver coinage of Andaraba and Banjhir circa 240s-290s is undertaken and published, attributions of these dirhams presented here should be regarded as tentative, especially those of the 280s and 290s.

Abu Da'ud Muhammad b. Ahmad, 260-285 / 874-899

1433 AR dirham, Hindushahi dramma fabric only, many variants

Most of his dirhams bear the full name Muhammad b. Ahmad, but a few coins dated in the mid-260s bear only his title Abu Da'ud. His principal mints are Banjhir for 261-264, then Andaraba from 265-270 and 275-285. After 280, dirhams became thinner & broader, both at the mints Andaraba (S) and Tayyigan (R).

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Florian Schwarz has undertaken a masterful study of the multiple dirhems, which has now been published in Tübingen (SNAT— ). The book is relatively available due to a hoard of at least 200 pieces that surfaced in the 1960s, mostly extremely fine. Schwarz correctly showed that they are dated 378 (SNAT-205).

**1439** AR multiple dirhem, usually citing a Samanid overlord, together with his full name *al-harith bin harb* in the reverse field

Struck mainly at Ma’adin and Kurut Badakhshan, but often without mint name. Some examples of type #1440, 1455, 1461, 1465 and 1469 can also be regarded as variants of this type, when they cite al-Harith in the obverse or reverse field. Numismatists may assign these coins either to #1439 or to the appropriate Samanid numbers.

Examples with *al-harith or harb* (usually abbreviated as *hb*) in the obverse or reverse margin, but not in the central fields, are classified as Samanid, mainly because the margins are rarely fully legible, due to careless striking.

**Sahlan b. Mak tum, fl. 364-378 / 974-988**

1439N AR dirham, smaller flan without broad outer margins, Andaraba mint, known dated 369

Citing the Samanid overlord Nuh III, also the Samanid general Fa’iq. Sahlan is cited without his patronymic.

1439U AR multiple dirhem, without Samanid overlord, struck only at Andaraba in 374 (SNAT 201)

The Samanid ruler’s name has been replaced by the expression *al-‘izza lillah*, with Qur’an 65:5 in the reverse margin. This is the more common version of the year 374. See #A1440 for Andaraba 374 citing the Samanid ruler.

1439V AR multiple dirhem, without Samanid overlord, coarse epigraphy and without mint or date

Citing Maktum below obverse, Sahlan below reverse. This Maktum is either the father or son of Sahlan (SNAT— ).

A1440 AR multiple dirhem, citing the Samanid overlord, Nuh III, struck at Andaraba only

Dated 367/1074 and 378. Most bear Qur’an 9:34 in the reverse marginal inscription, “And there are those who bury gold and silver and spend it not in the way of Allah: (announce unto them a most grievous penalty)”, a most remarkable statement on what were the largest silver coins yet manufactured in a Muslim kingdom! Many examples dated 367 bear Qur’an 9:33 in the reverse margin.

**AMIRS OF AL-KHUTTAL**

A small principality in what is now Tajikistan, with a mint of the dynastic name.

Coins of the early period bear the mint name al-Khuttal, coins of the later period Khuttalan. See also #1437 for coins citing Ja’far b. Ahmad dated 310-313. Additional dirhams of al-Khuttal dated between the 280s and the 360s are purely Samanid issues.

**al-Harith b. Asad, fl. 280-292 / 893-905**

E1440 AV dinar, al-Khuttal 284 only (Dubai collection)

B1440 AR dirham, al-Khuttal mint

For dirhams of al-Khuttal in the name of Ja’far b. Ahmad dated circa 310-313, see type #1437 under the Banjunurids.

**al-harith b. Muhammad, fl. 366 / 977**

F1440 AR dirham, citing the Samanid Nuh II as overlord, al-Khuttal mint

The name *al-harith* is a tentative reading.

**G1440 AE fals, al-Khuttal**

*al-Harith b. Mansur, fl. 420s+ / 1030s+*  

It is probably that all his coins cite the caliph al-Qa’im.

**D1440 AR dirham, Khuttalan mint**

The patronymic of this Harith is unknown, but some 55 years later he was unlikely to have been the old al-Harith b. Muhammad of #F1440. Surprisingly, the sole name *harith* has been added later to the dies, which originally might have been a standard issue of the Ghaznavid ruler Mas’ud I, also named on this type.

**H1440 AR dirham, possibly Khuttalan mint**

Name in full as Fakhr al-Dawla al-Harith b. Mansur, beneath the caliph’s name, without Ghaznavid overlord (Zeno-17173).

**Abu’l-Asad, fl. 432-437 / 1041-1046**

C1440 AR dirham, mint of Khuttalan

Citing the Ghaznavid Mas’ud I as overlord, mint name above the reverse field.

**K1440 AR multiple dirhem, Warwariz 400 only, as vassal of the Ghaznavid ruler Mahmud**

This recently discovered coin is the latest dated multiple dirhem from any mint, an honor formerly assigned to #1608 for the 393 Ghaznavid coin of the same mint, Warwuz.

**SAMANID**


The eight thus far published volumes of the register of Swedish coin hoards, *Corpus numnorum saeculorum EX-XI qui in Suecia reperti sunt*, Stockholm, 1975+, contain many Samanid period hoards.


The website Zeno.ru is gradually creating a complete reference guide to all Samanid copper coins.

One of the major early medieval independent dynasties, they ruled from their capital at Bukhara from 250-395 / 864-1005 (and earlier as governors under the ‘Abbasid caliphate, the Tahirids, or both). The most noteworthy aspect of their coinage is the multiple dirham, a broad silver coin of widely disparate weights but averaging close to four times the weight of a normal dirham (11-12 grams), struck primarily near the silver mines of eastern Khorasan and Badakhshan. *Normal silver* weights but averaging close to four times the weight of a normal dirham (11-12 grams), struck primarily near the silver mines of eastern Khorasan and Badakhshan. *Normal silver* weights but averaging close to four times the weight of a normal dirham (11-12 grams), struck primarily near the silver mines of eastern Khorasan and Badakhshan. *Normal silver*

357 Since comparing Zeno-13883 (#H1440) and 17173 (#H1440), I now suspect that al-Harith b. Mansur and Abu’l-Asad are one and the same person, with the *iqab* Fakhir al-Dawla. The two examples on Zeno are stylistically and calligraphically extremely similar. Type #C1440 is also quite similar (cf. Zeno-13880), also with the caliph al-Qa’im. If this is correct, then type #D1440 is also an issue of the same person, probably his first issue before breaking away from Ghaznavid suzerainty. I would suggest that the chronological order of these four types is #D1440, then C1440, then H1440, finally I1440.

358 Florian Schwarz has undertaken a masterful study of the multiple dirhems, which has now been published in Tübingen *SNAT*, vol. 14c (N. Khorasan). However, new varieties continue to be discovered.
dirhams, together with normal gold dirhams and some copper fulus, were struck in large quantities, though as always, some mints, dates and subtypes are much rarer.

Many of the fulus and some of the dirhams bear the names of local governors, and are collected for these names. These variations are not listed separately here, but for the copper coins, most of these names are now listed on the Zeno charts of Samanid fulus.

Samanid dirhams were extensively imitated in Russia and other parts of Northern Europe. Many types have been conclusively assigned to the Volga Bulgars (see #01481), but most others remain unassigned. Although found in huge numbers in European museums, especially in Sweden and Russia, these imitations still remain scarce in the trade. There are also Central Asian and east Khorasanian imitations, but these have never been adequately studied or classified. Samanid coinage illustrates the distinction between base metal and precious metal coinage in the Islamic tradition. The gold and silver coins cite the ruler (without local governors or other officials until added at various mints between the 310s and 350s) but with minor exceptions always mention the ‘Abbasid caliph, whereas the copper fulus cite the ruler of any mint or maktal but almost always omit the name of the caliph. In other words, their gold and silver coins portray the Samanid ruler as though he were but an ‘Abbasid governor, while the copper coins proclaim him an autonomous ruler in the Central Asian tradition.

The location of mints reflects the changing geographical extent of the Samanid kingdom. The mints of Balkh, Samarqand and al-Shash, plus Bukhara after 335, are most plentiful for silver, though occasional dates of other mints are only slightly scarce, such as Andaraba, Ma’din, Farwan and Nishapur. Some Western Iranian mints produced very limited silver coinage, similar to contemporary gold dinars, but considerably rarer. Nishapur is generally the most common mint for gold, at least from about 300 onwards, though after 358, Herat has recently become relatively common; Samarqand mints are not especially rare before about 350, especially during the 280s and the 320s, but very rare thereafter. Samarqand advance into Iranian regions west of Nishapur during the 310s-350s led to dinar production at about ten mints, of which al-Muhammadiya is somewhat common, and Jurjan, Amul, and Qızvin not especially rare. Bukhara is by far the most common mint for copper after 302, but Samarqand and al-Shash are the most common mints during the previous century. There are some sporadic issues of mints such as Akhsisakh, Balkh, Herat and a few others that are only moderately scarce for short periods. Bukhara fulus are found in massive hoards, and are far more plentiful than all other Samanid fulus put together, as these other fulus are never found in large hoards.

The multiple dirhams are a special case. Kurat Badakhshan and Ma’din are the only two common mints. Andaraba is only scarce (but common for the Ghaznavid multiples), and Warwarliz is no longer extremely rare. Many of the “mints” suggested by Mitchiner (e.g., Yungan, Kishm, Zebak, Jurm, and others) are imaginary, as the names are scarcely legible and their dies are frequently found muled with dies of Kurat Badakhshan or Ma’din—even dies of those two mints were sometimes muled. Although his mint assignments are no longer tenable, Mitchiner’s arrangement of the material is still a good basis for classification, recently substantially upgraded by Schwarz in volume XIVc of the Tübingen syllabe. The Samanid rulers mentioned on the multiple dirhams do not always correspond to the actual ruler at the time of striking, as shown by numerous die links between types naming different rulers sometimes more than one generation apart. It is now proposed that the production of multiple dirhams did not begin until the mid 360s (the earliest confirmed dates are Andaraba 366 and the recently discovered Ma’din 363). However, increasingly broad but not particularly heavy regular dirhams struck at Balkh and other mints were produced as early as the late 340s (typically weighing 3.5-5.5 grams), but without the wide outer margins that characterize the multiple dirhams. Sadly, most multiple dirhams were weakly struck, often quite flat. Nearly all Samanid gold coins of Nishapur, Herat, and the Central Asian mints are fully struck with full margins, and are among the most attractive of all early Islamic coins, perhaps due to their simplicity of design. The principal exception to this is the Samanid fulus. Sasanian fulus put together, as these other fulus are never found in large hoards.

Samanid advance into Iranian regions west of Nishapur about 330, especially during the 280s and 320s, but very rare thereafter. The gold and silver coinage in the Islamic tradition. The gold and silver coins of the major royal mints (Nishapur, Herat, Bukhara, Samarqand, Ma’din) are collected for these names. These variations are not listed separately here, but for the copper coins, most of these names are now listed on the Zeno charts of Samanid fulus.

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Some serious research has been undertaken and published. Can someone kindly inform me of these publications?

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 152
Struck mainly at Samarqand in 244 & 245, also at Ferghana (RRR) in 247 & 250 and Akhsikath 250, despite its lengthy reign. The Samarqand fals cites Ahmad b. Asad in the reverse margin, his son and successor Nasr below the reverse field. See type #B1395 for a Tahirid issue of al-Shash that also cites Ahmad.

Yahya b. Asad, at al-Shash, 204-247 / 819-861

A1441 AE fals, sometimes dated 233, often undated, all from the mints of al-Shash & Binkath

Coins of al-Shash 233 cite the Tahirid overlord, Tahir II b. 'Abd Allah. Also known for Binkath, 214 (sic) & undated, with the name Yahya beneath the reverse field.

Nasr I (b. Ahmad), 250-279 / 864-892

1441 AE fals

Some fulus of al-Shash 255 cite the Tahirid ruler Muhammad (b. Tahir II) as overlord. The most frequent mints are al-Shash and Samarqand.

Silver and gold coins struck at the two active Transoxiana mints, Samarqand & al-Shash, during this and previous reigns (and under Isma'il until 281) are of normal 'Abbasid type, thus classified as 'Abbasid type, usually classified as normal 'Abbasid type. The most frequent are those struck at al-Shash and Samarqand.

A1442 AE fals

Struck only at al-Shash in 265.


B1442 AE fals

Struck only at Khujanda634, known dated 260 (or 266) & 270.

Nuh “II” b. Asad II, at Khujanda, fl. 274-279 / 887-892

C1442 AE fals

Struck only at Khujanda, known dated 274 & 279. The name Abu Muhammad appears below the obverse, and may be the kunya of Nuh b. Asad. See #A1477 for coins of his father Asad at Akhsikath.

Isma'il I (b. Ahmad), 279-295 / 892-907

1442 AV dinar

Samarqand and al-Shash are the least rare mints for both silver and gold.

1443 AR dirham

Dirhams of all mints dated 291 cite the 'Abbasid vizier as al-wazir abu'l-husayn wali al-da'wla. Dirhams of Balkh are known dated posthumously in 296 and of Andaraba until 300. As overlord cited on some coins of the banjirids, he is named solely with his kunya Abu Ja'far.

A1444 AE fals

Struck mainly at Samarqand, but also at Usrushana (280 only, RR) and al-Shash (R). See type #1477U for fulus of Usrushana dated 279.

Ahmad II (b. Isma'il), 295-301 / 907-914

1445 AV dinar

Struck mainly at Samarqand and Nishapur. Nishapur became the primary Samanid gold mint by the end of this reign.

1446 AR dirham

Coins of this type from Balkh and Andaraba dated 299-300 cite a governor Abu Nasr, identified on Zeno as the Banjirid Abu Nasr Ahmad b. Muhammad b. Yahya (R). Samarqand and al-Shash are the two most common mints.

(1447 — the AE fals of Ahmad II was mistakenly listed in the first edition of the Checklist. No such coin is known to exist.)

Muhammad b. Hurmuz, rebel, fl. 299 / 910

1447D AR dirham, mint of Balkh (ANS collection)

Ishaq b. Ahmad, rival claimant, 301 / 914

A1448 AV dinar, struck at Nishapur and Samarqand635

1448 AR dirham, struck mainly at Samarqand

A1449 AE fals, Samarqand only

Nasr II (b. Ahmad), 301-331 / 914-943

1449 AV dinar

Nishapur is by far the most common gold mint for this and all subsequent reigns, though Herat is not especially rare from about 358 onwards (pre-301 dinars are mainly from Samarqand, which remains only slightly scarce through this reign). Some Nishapur dinars of the 320s and 330s bear the signature of a die engraver in the obverse or reverse margins tentatively read as ba harith, i.e., Abu Harith. Unlike Khorasanian and Transoxiana issues, coins from most Iranian mints (e.g., al-Muhammadiya) are usually weakly struck, with distinctive calligraphy and titulature.

1449D AV dinar, donative style with broad outer margins, struck only at Nishapur in the early 300s

1450 AR multiple dirham (SNAT—)

Multiple dirhams in the name of Nasr b. Ahmad are believed to have been struck later in the century, probably in the 370s-380s. Examples are known that mule dies citing Nasr II and Nuh III!

1451 AR dirham

This type was extensively imitated by the Volga-Bulghars, sometimes with the name of a local ruler. The imitations commonly retain the mint & date of the Samanid prototype (N1481ff), even when the Volga-Bulghar ruler is named. A few types bear the name of a local official, especially at Balkh and Andaraba. For another Balkh dirham citing Balkategin, see #15595. L

Early dates of this reign are generally well struck but their quality slowly deteriorates from the 310s onwards.

1451P AR dirham, donative style with broad outer margins, struck only at Nishapur, usually dated 305

1452 AE fals

Most common are the Balkh issues 302-306.636 Other mints include Samarqand, Binkath, Tunkath Iliaq, Akhsikath & al-Shash.

Anonymous, 324 & 335 / 936 & 946

1452N AV dinar, with the caliph's name replaced by the phrase al-qudra lillah (“power belongs to God”), followed by the title amir al-mu'minin

Struck only at al-Muhammadiya and Jurjan, both in 324, during the struggle between the Ziyarid and Samanid armies seeking to gain control of al-Muhammadiya after the demise of Mardawij (Ziyarid), more likely by the supporters of the Samanids than by allies of the Ziyarids.

1452O AV dinar, similar, but without amir al-mu'minin, struck at Hawsam (in Gilan) in 335

Ahmad b. Sahil, in Khorasan, 303-308 / 915-920

This rebel in Khorasan maintained formal recognition of Nasr II on all his coins. He was not of the Samanid lineage, and it has been suggested that he might have been a Banjirid.

A1453 AV dinar637

B1453 AR dirham

Struck mainly at Andaraba, with Andaraba 303 the most common date, also at Nishapur, Balkh and Banjhir. An issue of Andaraba dated 302 is perhaps an unofficial imitation, more likely an engraver’s typo.

Layla b. Nu'man, rebel, 309 / 921-922

E1453 AR dirham, Nishapur mint only, dated 309

Layla was not of the Samanid line. He used the titles al-mu'ayyid li-din Allah & al-muntasir li-al rasul Allah (Zeno-93236).

634 Normally written khujanda, but khujand without the final ta marbuta during the earliest Samanid period and occasionally in later times, most frequently on Chaghatai silver.

635 The Samanqand dinar was reported only in Sotheby’s, 25 May 2000, lot 430.

636 Issues dated 302-304 average 20-21mm at about 2.5g, 305-306 at 24-25mm and about 3.5g. It has been theorized that these might be two separate “denominations”, but that seems unlikely. Also, the local governor Muhammad (al-Jayhani) is cited below the obverse on those dated 302-304.

637 Spink-Taisei, Auction 31, 20 June 1989, lot 419 (Nishapur 306). There is also a dinar of Balkh 302 that cites just the name Ahmad beneath the obverse field, without patronymic. The Balkh 302 type has been assigned to the Banjirid Ahmad b. Muhammad, whose “reign” ended circa 299, but Ahmad b. Sahil seems far more likely.
Yahya b. Ahmad, rebel, 315-319 / 927-931

1453 AV dinar (Nishapur only)  
1454 AR dirham, dated 319, also known from a muling with an old obverse die of Samarqand 299

Possibly a contemporary imitation. A normal dirham, struck at Nishapur in 319, has recently been published (Walton's, 8 May 2002, lot 379).

Nuh II (b. Nasr), 331-343 / 943-954

Nuh did not recognize the deposition of the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Mutakfi in 334, but continued to cite the deposed caliph on all his later silver and gold coins. See also the note to type #1460.

1454 AV dinar

Some Nishapur dinars bear the name of the die engraver near the obverse or reverse margin, either Ba Harith (S) or Abu Bakr (RR).

1454A AV dinar, with reverse field bearing the Qur'an Surat 112, Allah ahad Allah al-samad lam yalid wa lam yulad wa lam yakun lahu kufuwwan ahad

Known from Samarqand 332, and from Saveh, Qazwin, Hamadan & al-Muhammadiya dated 333.

1454D AR dirham, donative style with broad outer margins, known for Nishapur 333

1455 AR multiple dirham (SNAT 243-267)

Believed to have been struck posthumously, after circa 363. One example cite#s b. Nuh on obverse, Nuh b. Mansur, 365-387, on reverse (SNAT 374). Other examples citing nub bin nasr also cite the caliph al-Ta’i (363-381) on the same side (e.g., Mitchiner-M3), proof that some, probably all of the multiples citing Nuh b. Nasr, were actually struck after 363, the accession year of al-Ta’i. Thus one can conclude that on the multiples, nasr was just a stylized form of mansur.

1456 AR dirham, types similar to the dinar

During this reign, in addition to Nishapur and al-Shash, Bukhara also became a common mint (starting in the year 335), which it remained until the end of the dynasty. Balkh is a scarce mint, all others rare.

1457 AE fals

Struck almost exclusively at Bukhara, other mints at least RR. Most fulus of Ferghana and Nasrabad are listed under the Samarids of Akhsikath (#E1477 & F1477).

1457A AE fals, citing his son ‘Abd al-Malik as regent (Samarqand 333-334 only)

‘Abd al-Malik served as regent in Bukhara while his father was in Khorasan for about 7 months in 333-334. On the reverse, the name ‘abdal-malik appears in large type in the center, his father in small type in the standard mimma amma bihi al-amir... legend in the margin.

Ibrahim b. Ahmad, rebel, 335 / 947

1458 AV dinar (Nishapur only)

1459 AR dirham

‘Abd al-Malik I (b. Nuh II), 343-350 / 954-961

1460 AV dinar

Dinars of 343 retain the name of the deposed caliph al-Mutakfi, those of 344 lack the name of any caliph (S), and those of 345 onwards bear the name of al-Muti’. The only common mint is Nishapur.

1461 AR multiple dirham, bearing a name that resembles ‘ubayd below reverse field

The name ‘Ubayd is perhaps a stylized version of ‘Abd from ‘Abd al-Malik. The obverse may cite another, usually later, Samanid ruler. Cf. SNAT 382 for the reverse type.

1461.2 AR multiple dirham, all other forms

The only coin that can at least tentatively be assigned to ‘Abd al-Malik is Mitchiner’s type B43, unclear mint & date (not 350 as he proposed). It cites ‘Abd al-Malik atop the obverse field and his successor Mansur b. Nuh in the usual reverse position. I now consider this piece a later imitation struck no earlier than 363.

1462 AR dirham

Often abysmally struck, the worst of the Samanid dirhams. Truly well-struck examples are rare. Issues of Andaraba mint (RR) are struck on broad thin flans, with crude calligraphy, sometimes citing Harb on obverse or reverse. The quoted ‘Abbasid caliphs follow approximately the same years as on type #1460.

1463 AE fals, mainly Bukhara or Balkh mints, other mints much rarer (see also #1463N)

Nasr (b. ‘Abd al-Malik I), viceroy at Bukhara, circa 349-350 / 960-961

1463N AE fals, Bukhara 349 only

This relatively common type was formerly listed as a variant of type #1463. It cites Mansur b. Nuh II (b. Nasr II) in large type on the obverse. This title probably refers to Mansur rather than his father ‘Abd al-Malik, as this title seems not to appear on any gold, silver or copper coins that also cite the name ‘Abd al-Malik.

Mansur I (b. Nuh II), 350-365 / 961-976

1464 AV dinar

Nishapur is the most common mint, with Herat slightly scarcer. All other mints are very rare.

1464A AV fractional dinar, known from Bukhara 350

1465 AR multiple dirham, name mansur bin nub, believed struck after his death in 365

The name mansur bin nub on types #1465 & 1465A might also refer to Mansur II. Further research essential!

1465A AR multiple dirham, name just mansur, also presumed to be post 365

1465D AR multiple dirham, with Qur’an Surat 112 on reverse (as #1466A), Samarqand 359 only

1466 AR dirham

During this reign, dirhams become increasingly broad and usually of poorer weight, as noted in the general information for the Samarids. The Balkh issues are the larger, often approaching 40mm, but without the thickness and heaviness characteristic of the multiple dirhams.

1466A AR dirham, with Qur’an Surat 112 on reverse

The Qur’anic text is on the same that was used on all standard Umayyad dirhams, but is followed by the names al-mati lillah and al-mansur bin nub. Known from Samarqand dated 358.

For the similar multiple dirham, #1465D.

1466D AR fractional dirham, donative?

About 15mm diameter, small dies, known from Bukhara 355.

1467.1 AE fals, horizontal legends in fields

Struck principally at Bukhara 352-357; other mints are rare. Nearly all weigh 21-22mm. Unlike all other Samanid and related copper coinage of this region, the Bukhara fals 349 & 352-357 are about 10% thinner and in large hoards, sometimes containing more than 1,000 pieces. Perhaps the Samanids attempted to imitate the Chinese policy of copper coinage, accepted both privately and publicly as mass currency, but for unknown reasons, it was abolished in 358.

For a related group, probably not of Badakhshan region and too light to be reckoned as multiple dirhams (4.4-5.6 grams), see SNAT XIVc:240-242. These are best regarded as blundered imitations of ‘Abd al-Malik’s ordinary dirhams. It is described as “Volga-Bulgarian” in Elsen auction 94, lot 1781, which seems plausible.

154 AR dinar, Samarqand 357. The reverse was minted after the name of Mansur (as also RRR). A 0.52gram example bearing the name Mansur b. Nuh II has recently been published (Walton’s, 8 May 2002, lot 379).

156 Copper fulus of Bukhara 315 & 316 bear a monogram below the reverse field that may be that of Yahya b. Ahmad, brother of Nuh II (for inclusion for now with type #1452, R).

157 Illustrations in SNAT-14c illustrate how Mansur magically became Nasr. For example, SNAT #369 shows a clear mansur. #348 is still clearly mansur but with tiny r. #311 shows mansu with the r having fallen below but still a normal r, #250 is the same but with the “fallen” r flipped upside-down, more like a crescent, #267 has lost the r altogether, and m and n of mansu have been merged, but still resembling mansu rather than nasi. #293 is more clearly nasi; finally #253 with a clear nasi!

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159 Private collection in US, 0.66g.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 154
1467.2 AE fals, obverse with 2 circular legends only, reverse normal style as #1467.1. Struck only at Bukhara in 353. Diameter as #1467.1.

1467.3 AE fals, broad flan, struck 358-365. Diameter usually 25-30mm. Struck primarily at Bukhara in 358 and Ferghana in 358-359, whereas the pre-358 of Bukhara cite only the Samanid ruler, 358 and later issues cite from one to three subordinate officials, as do other mints of this series. They do not surface in large hoards (see note to #1467.1).

Nuh III (b. Mansur I), 365-387 / 976-997

Coins of this ruler in gold and silver with name of a Ghaznavid governor are listed as Ghaznavid (#1596ff. & A1602ff.).

1468 AV dinar

Dinars of Nuh III struck almost exclusively at Nishapur & Herat, usually bearing the name of a governor.

A1469 AV fractional dinar, struck only at Sijistan, without name of a local ruler, possibly dated 374 RRR

1469.1 AR multiple dirham, reverse in 4-line legend (SNAT 302-316). The extra line (3rd from the top) cites the caliph al-Ta'i', usually severely stylized and barely legible.

1469.2 AR multiple dirham, reverse in 3-line legend (SNAT 346-376). The very common multiple dirhams of Nuh II also naming al-Harith b. Harb in the central field are included under #1439 (q.v.). Coins categorized as #1469.1 and 1469.2 lack the name of al-Harith. Some examples bear the name of either the governor or some other official in the obverse or reverse margin. Multiple dirhams of Andaraba 364-378 citing both Nuh III and Sahlan b. Maktum are now regarded as Banjurd, listed here as type #1440.

1469A AR multiple dirham, finest calligraphy with clear mint, date, and numerous religious inscriptions RRR

Struck only at Tayyakan in 372 and 380, including Qur'an 9:34 in reverse margin (as on type #1440), but no mention of the Banjurd ruler.

1469W AR multiple dirham, citing Fa'iq, struck only at Warwarliz in 370, with the mint inscribed as “Walwaliz”, one of many common spellings for this city name Standard Qur'an 9:33 in reverse margin. For Warwarliz (“Walwaliz”) 374, see #1476S. SNAT 1251-1253.

1470 AR or Bi dirham (see note to #1468)

Most bear the name of a local governor or other official. There is a great variety of different names, particularly at Bukhara. Balkh is the most common mint after 380, though for earlier years, Bukhara, Samarqand and al-Shash are reasonably common. All other mints are rare.

1471 AE fals (mainly Bukhara mint, with many varieties) S

Fulus of Balkh 368, citing Fa'iq, and Herat 378, citing al-Hasan b. 'Ali, formerly extremely rare, have appeared in moderate quantities in recent years (R).

Mansur II (b. Nuh II), 387-389 / 997-999

1472.1 AV dinar, in his sole name (Herat mint only) R

1472.2 AV dinar, citing the majorodom Abu'l-Fawaris Bektuzun (Nishapur mint) R

1473 AR dirham

Nearly all dirhams of Mansur II struck at Balkh also bear the name of al-Wali Sayf al-Dawla Mahmoud, and are thus classified as Ghaznavid, type #1604.

1474 AE fals, struck at Bukhara & Samarqand, the latter recently discovered and extremely rare RRR

‘Abd al-Malik II (b. Nuh II), 389-390 / 999-1000

1475 AV dinar (Nishapur, citing Abu'l-Fawaris Bektuzun) RRR

1475A AR dirham (Nishapur, Bukhara & Isbijab 389 only) (29)

1476 AE fals (Bukhara) RRR

Isma'il II (b. Nuh II), 390-395 / 1000-1004

1476C AV dinar, struck at Nishapur 391 RRR

1476B AR dirham, struck only at Nishapur 390 RRR

1476A AE fals, struck only at Bukhara 390 RRR

Imitations of Samanid silver coins

C

1476H AR dirham, mostly of Russian origin S

Hundreds of varieties are known, many imitating coins of Isma'il I through ‘Abd al-Malik I (279-350). See also #K1481 for Khazarian imitations and Q1481 for Volga-Bulghar imitations. There are many other imitations not yet assigned to a specific kingdom or tribe, to which I have collectively assigned the type number 1476H.

C

1476K AR multiple dirham, mostly of Badakhshan region S

Most examples bear highly stylized versions of Samanid legends, such as #1465 & 1465A of Mansur I and #1469 of Nuh III, but cannot be assigned to any ruler due to very crude epigraphy.

C

1476L AR multiple dirham, similar, but with 'Ali's text 'ali wali Allah below & tawakkul yakfi above obverse field RRR

Reverse as SNAT 382, with stylized word at the bottom that looks like 'ubayd but is probably a thoroughly stylized version of the name Mansur. See also #1461 for the normal version bearing the reverse of SNAT 382 or similar.

AMIR OF WARWARLIZ

An unknown and apparently local group in what is now the southern region of Tajikistan, who achieved independence from both the Samanids and the Ghaznavids, both of whom were attempting to control the region. I have found no literary evidence for this ruler. The coins are known only from the mint of Warwarliz, always dated AH374, spelled walwaliz.

‘Ali (with title al-Nasir li-din Allah), fl. 374 / 985

1476S AR multiple dirham (SNAT 1254-1256) RRR

The reverse Qur'anic legend is 6:160, rarely found on Islamic coins. The names h.b. bin and mohammad appear above & below the reverse field, respectively. The quality is unusually splendid for a multiple dirham.

SAMANID OF AKHSIKATH (FERGhana VALLEY)


All of these coins are listed in the charts of Samanid copper coins on Zen. A branch of the Samanid family ruling in the Ferghana Valley, with their capital at Akhsikath.

Akhsikath was the sole mint, except for coins of Asad struck at Khasata and of Malik and his son Bakr, which bear the mint names Ferghana and Nasrabad.

Ahmad I b. Asad, 204-250 / 819-864

Ahmad I also ruled at Samarqand and Ferghana, and is listed as a regular Samanid ruler, type #1440 (q.v.). Cf. Zeno-42033, struck at Akhsikath in 250.

Asad b. Ahmad, fl. 268-270 / 881-883

A1477 AE fals RRR

Struck at Akhsikath 268, 269 & 270 and Khasata 269.

349-358 and thereafter. Perhaps the Samanid refusal to eliminate the silver dirhams stymied their attempt to introduce an alternative copper coin currency, just as in the United States for replacing the $1 banknote with a $1 coin, in 1979 and again in 2000 & 2007, where public acceptance of dollar coins failed because paper dollar production was never curtailed.

375 Isbijab & Bukhara reported December 2003 by V. Nastich, Nishapur recently found by me, item #101991.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 155
Ahmad II b. Asad, fl. 270-277 / 883-890
G1477 AE fals
Struck at Akhsikath 270 & 277.

Ishaq b. Ahmad, fl. 277-290 / 890-903
B1477 AE fals

Muhammad b. Ishaq, fl. 294-299 / 907-912
C1477 AE fals

Muhammad b. Asad, fl. 303 / 915-916
D1477 AE fals

Rtveladze, E.V., “K istorii denezhnogo obrashcheniy a b Saganijane VIII-
H1477 AR dirham, with his title al-malik al-‘adil

Bakr b. Malik, fl. 335-341 / 946-952
F1477 AE fals
Struck only at Nasrabad, 335-341. All cite his father Malik (b. Shakartegin).

SIMJURID

A local dynasty who served as governors for the Samanids in Nishapur & Herat 350-387 / 961-997, but their names appear on the coinage, mostly gold & silver, from those two mints between 359 and 384, and on some copper coins of Bukhara in the late 370s. In 384, the Simjurid governor ‘Imad al-Dawla Muhammad II was expelled from Khurasan in 384 and went to Jurjan where he came to peace with the Buwayhid Fakhr al-Dawla. Following the death of Fakhr al-Dawla in 387, Jurjan where he came to peace with the Buwayhid Fakhr

B1478 AE fals

A succession of local rulers at Bust, now called La shkari-

MIR OF

Uztajid

Citing the Samanid Mansur I below reverse field, Muhtajid name below obverse field, dated 355 or 357.

R

In 359-384 has and 1470. No thorough listing of the various names of governors, both Simjurids and others, that appear on Samanid coins dated 359-384 has yet been assembled.

Abu’l-Qasim ‘Ali (b. Muhammad II), 387 / 997
H1477 AR dirham, Jurjan 387 only (Zeno-1334 & 1353) Named ‘alî b. nasîr al-dawla on either obverse or reverse, with his kunya abu’l-qasim on the other side.

MUHTAJID

A minor dynasty in Isbijab (Ispijab) of Turkish origin, first under Samanid suzerainty, later Qarakhanid. Effective independence applies only to Husayn b. Matt (no coins), his brother Ahmad, who succeeded him, and the later ruler Muhammad II b. al-Husayn.375

A succession of local rulers at Bust, now called Lashkari-

ABFShinid (Amirs of Usrushana)

Local amir under the Samanids.

Siyyar b. ‘Abd Allah, fl. 279-280 / 892-893
1477U AE fals, struck only at Usrushana in 279

This type cites Siyar alone (with the patronymic only in the reverse margin), without any Samanid or other overlord. Fulus of Usrushana dated 280 were struck in the sole name of the Samanid Isma’il I, who ousted Siyar in 279 or early in 280. See Zeno-42486 for further information.

AMIR of BUST

A succession of local rulers at Bust, now called Lashkari-

Bazar, in eastern Sijistan. Little is known of this kingdom, most of whose amirs are known only from their coins.

All coins bear the mint name Bust. Generally well struck, they are normally found in poor condition, corroded or worn, though well preserved specimens are often quite magnificent.

Khut-Tegin I, fl. 337-341+ / 948-952+
Formerly read as Jatakin, corrected on Zeno.377

A1478 AE fals

Formerly read as Jatakin, corrected on Zeno.

Muhammad b. Khut-Tegin (Abu’l-Hasan), fl. 347 / 958
B1478 AE fals

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 156

376 Several other Samanid coins cite a Mattid individual, but as officials in other cities where they never ruled (Balikh, Andaraba, Bukhara, etc.). These should be regarded as ordinary Samanid issues. The Qarakhanid issues are similar to typical copper and silver coins of that reign.

Thanks to Vladimir Belyaev for these listings.

377 Jatakîn represents the Arabization of the name, as the coin’s inscription is in Arabic. Thanks for “orientexpert” on Zeno for the correction.
Bekchur, fl. 349-350 / 960-961
C1478  AE fals

There are two separate sizes, one about 25mm weighing 2.5-3.0g, the other about 30mm at circa 4.5-5.0g, possibly a double fals, similar to some nearly contemporary Saffarid fulus.

Baytuz, fl. 359-365 / 970-976
D1478  AE fals

When visible, the date is normally 359, though one specimen dated 356 has been confirmed (SARC auction 10, lot 653).

Takantash, fl. 367-369 / 977-979
E1478.1  AE broad fals, as vassal of the Ghaznavid Mahmud b. Sebuktegin (date undetermined)
E1478.2  AE broad fals, as independent ruler (369 only)

Khit-Tegin II, fl. 368? / 978?
F1478  AE broad fals

Attribution of coins to this ruler remains conjectural.

AFRIGHID OF KATH (BANU ‘IRAQ)

See Zeno, under “Special Projects > Khwarizm Numismatics”.

‘Iraq b. Mansur, circa 280-309 / 893-921

With title mawla amir al-mu'minin.

P1478  AE fals, horse parading right on obverse, reverse as #Q1478, known dated AH280
Q1478  AE fals, kalima obverse, name & title in reverse field, mint undetermined

Ahmad b. Muhammad, fl. 348-366+ / 959-977+

With the additional title khwarizmshah on the dirhams and some fulus, just shah on most fulus.

J1478  AR dirham, known for Khwarizm 348
K1478  AE fals, mint of Khwarizm, usually dated 356

MA’MUNID OF GURJAN (AMIRS OF URGENCH)

See Zeno, under “Special Projects > Khwarizm Numismatics”.

A minor dynasty that started at Jarjaniya in 356/967, then seized Kath in 385. They ruled until 408. They took the title khwarizmshah from the Ifrighids of Kath, and that title appears on many of their coins.

Dirhams were struck at Bukhara, Farawa, Kath, Khwarizm, Nisa, and Jarjaniya. Copper mints are noted in the listings. Both silver and copper are usually rather poorly struck, except for type #M1478.

Muhammad b. ‘Ali, 356-382 / 967-992
L1478  AE fals, mint of Jarjaniya

Coins are reported for the next ruler, Ma’mun I b. Muhammad, 382-387 / 992-997, information needed.

‘Ali b. Ma’mun I, 387-400 / 997-1009
M1478  AR dirham

Known for at least four of the mints listed in the introduction.

N1478  AE fals, sometimes with mint name
Known dated 390 for Bukhara, 391 for Kath.

Abu’l-'Abbas Ma’mun II b. Ma’mun I, 400-408 / 1009-1017
O1478  BI broad dirham, mint of Khwarizm
With his additional titles ‘ayn al-dawla wa zayn al-milla.

AMIR OF RAYY

A rebel against the Sasanids who struck coins only at Damghan in 359.

S1478  AR dirham

AMIR OF FARWAN

Probably several members, dynastic origin unknown, only one of whom is definitely known to have struck coins.

Silver struck at Farwan and Ma’din, copper at Farwan only. Some Sasanid dirhams of Andaraba in the 310s (type #1451) bear the name of Yusuf, possibly the father of the Ahmad cited below.

Ahmad b. Yusuf, fl. 334-348 / 945-959
U1478  AR dirham
V1478  AE fals, known dated 344 & 348

SAJID


The earliest of the minor dynasties of Adharbayjan and Armenia. The father of Yusuf had earlier been named on copper fulus of Aleppo in his capacity as governor of that town (included with type #286).

Bardha’ is the most common Sajid mint. Coins from the mints Ardabil, Adharbayjan, Maragha, Urmia and Arminiya are occasionally seen, as are dirhams of al-Muhammadiya dated 312. The earlier Sajid, Abu’l-Saj Diwdad, served as ‘Abbāsid governor in Halab, where copper fulus bearing his name were struck in 255-256, reckoned here as part of type #286.

Muhammad al-Afshin b. Diwdad, 276-288 / 892-901
Y1478  AV dinar, struck at Maragha and Bardha’
Cited as al-Afshin on his coins.

Yusuf b. Diwdad, 288-315 / 901-927
1478  AV dinar
Dinars dated 297-299 bearing the caliph al-Muqtadir also cite the Sajid vizier Abu’l-Hasan.

1479  AR dirham

1479P  AR dirham, donative issue, distinguished by broad blank outer margins on both sides
Reported for Ardabil 305, and stylistically similar to the Nishapur 305 dirhams of the Samanids (#1451P) and some ‘Abbāsid donative dirhams also dated in the early 300s.

al-Fath b. al-Afshin, 315-317 / 927-929
A1480  AV dinar, struck at Ardabil & Bardha’
B1480  AR dirham, known from mint of Adharbayjan

Muflih al-Yusufi, fl. 317-323 / 929-934
1480  AV dinar

1481  AR dirham

Muflih was not properly a Sajid, but was a client of Yusuf b. Diwdad who later assumed power in the Sajid lands. His coins bear the title mawla amir al-mu’minin, “friend of the commander of the believers”, a title also found (rarely) on dirhams of his predecessor al-Fath (#A1480).

831 Emirates Coin Auction 1, lot 381, dated 285 (Maragha), noted by Vasmer for Bardha’.
832 With the exception of Ardabil 311 (RR), Sajid dirhams citing the caliph al-Muqtadir never cite the caliphal heir apparent Abu’l-‘Abbas.
833 Post-320 coins of Muflih al-Yusufi cite the caliphal heir apparent, the son of al-Qahir, by his personal name ‘Abd al-Samad rather than his kunya Abu’l-Qasim. Earlier dates cite the caliph al-Muqtadir and his heir Abu’l-‘Abbas exactly as they are cited on ordinary ‘Abbāsid coins.
AMIRS OF YUN

A minor dynasty in the Yun district in Tukharistan in north-eastern Afghanistan, the emirate of Yun is known from a single textual reference in the Hudud al-‘Alam and a few coins, recently published in SNVAT vol. 14c.

Muhammad b. Pakh, fl. circa 380s / 990s

E1481 AR multiple dirham, as vassal of the Samanid ruler Nuh III, without the caliph

Muhammad II Pakh, circa 424-430s / 1032-1040+

D1481 AR normal dirham, known dated 424, caliph

F1481 AR normal dirham, as vassal of Ghaznavid Mas'ud I, citing caliph al-Qa'im

G1481 AR normal dirham, as vassal of the Seljuq Chaghi Beg

With the name pakh only (without muhammad).

KHAZARS

Shake, Glen, The Coins of the Khazar Empire, Allen TX, 2000, without coin illustrations.

A supposedly Jewish kingdom in the region comprising what is now eastern Ukraine and parts of Russia. Their only confirmed coinage consists of a few rare ‘Abbasid-style dirhams circa 830s-840s issued with the mint name Ard al-Khazar (“Land of the Khazars”). They are normally found muled with genuine ‘Abbasid reverse dies from earlier decades. However, there is no proof that these were in any way “official” Khazarian issues as opposed to privately produced.

In addition, some imitative dirhams of various sorts have been assigned to the Khazars by various scholars, and a consensus is now emerging on which of the imitations are likely issues of the Khazars (type K1481).

Anonymous, dated in the 220s / 830s-840s

J1481 AR dirham, Ard al-Khazar mint

K1481.1 AR dirham, imitation of an ‘Abbasid dirham, normally citing the caliph al-Mu'tad

K1481.2 AR dirham, imitation of a Samanid dirham of Isma'il b. Ahmad

Khazarian imitations usually copy dirhams of al-Mu'tad or Isma'il, though some seem to copy earlier ‘Abbasid types. Some are mulings of two obverses or reverses, and many have one side or both sides completely retrograde. They are tentatively assigned to the Khazars because their prototypes antedate the earliest prototypes used by the Volga-Bulgars and because they have been found in regions of the former Khazarian domain. They were probably minted in the 280s-290s / 890s-early 910s. Both types are normally without “mint” or “date”, though some attempt to imitate actual ‘Abbasid or Samanid mint names. There are no religious symbols, either Jewish, Christian or Muslim.

Volga-Bulgars


A trading kingdom on the middle Volga River, whose history is very sketchily known.

Coins were minted at either Savar or Bulgar. However, all examples of type #K1481 and most examples of #N1481 & P1481 copy their mint name and date from Samanid prototypes, typically of the period 300-310 of either Samarqand or al-Shash. Volga-Bulgar coins are found mostly in north European hounds and, while not rare in museum collections, are seldom seen in the trade. They normally are found in tolerably decent condition.

“Yaltavar” (= Almsh b. Shalkay), first half of 4th/10th century

N1481 AR dirham

All coins of this type & P1481 bear pseudo mints & dates copied from Samanid prototypes, sometimes illegible. The name was read as Yaltawar by Rispling, correcting the former reading of Barman. Yaltawar was also known by a Muslim name, never found on coins.

Some examples of Yaltavar are braceletes of the reverse only.

Talib b. Ahmad, 338-347 / 949-958

O1481 AR dirham

Coins of Talib and his successor Mika’il (#P1481) normally bear the actual Hijri date.

Mika’il b. Ja’far, mid-4th/10th century

P1481 AR dirham (see note to #N1481)

‘Abd Allah b. Mika’il, fl. 346 or 347 / 957 or 958

T1481 AR dirham, Bulgar mint, citing the caliph al-Mustakfi (Zeno-72609)

Mu’min b. al-Hasan, fl. 359-376 / 970-986

R1481 AR dirham, Bulgar mint, dated 366, with caliph al-Muti’ (Zeno-69193)

‘Abd al-Rahman b. Mu’min, fl. 387 / 997, (‘Adud al-Dawla)

S1481 AR dirham, unread mint, dated 387 (very clearly), with caliph al-Ta’i’ (Zeno-1420, where the mint name is discussed)

Anonymous, imitations of Samanid types (typically “dated”) circa 285-310 / 898-922

Q1481 AR dirham

Coins of this anonymous type are usually marked with special symbols, and are sometimes die-linked to named Volga-Bulgar coins. Some retain the mint names of their Samanid prototypes, usually al-Shash, Nishapur or Samarqand. They were struck after the “dates”, probably circa 920s-960s, though some with pseudo-dates earlier than 300 may have been struck earlier, either by the Volga-Bulgars or other East European traders.

Su’likud

See G.C. Miles, The Numismatic History of Rayy.

A minor Iranian family that briefly held control of Rayy (then known as al-Muhannadiya) and minted coins there.

All Su’likud coins were struck at al-Muhannadiya (Rayy) and resemble contemporary ‘Abbasid coins except for the addition of the local ruler’s name. Technically, the first two Su’likud were Samanid governors at Rayy from circa 298-316, but the Samanid ruler was not named before 314. The Su’likuds themselves were omitted on coins dated before 302, from 303-307 and 312-313, as they simultaneously functioned as ‘Abbasid prefects at Rayy.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 158
Muhammad b. ‘Ali, 1st reign, as independent ruler, circa 301-302 / 914-915

Z1481 AV dinar (al-Muhammadiya 302 only) RRR

Ahmad b. ‘Ali, fl. 304-311 / 917-923

1481 AV dinar RRR

Ahmad did not add his name to the coinage of al-Muhammadiya until 308. Earlier gold and silver coins of al-Muhammadiya during his reign are thus classified as purely ‘Abbasid.

1482 AR dirham R

Muhammad b. ‘Ali, 2nd reign, as Samanid vassal, circa 314-316 / 926-928

A1483 AV dinar R

1483 AR dirham RR

Abu Tahir b. Muhammad, fl. 316 / 928

1483A AV dinar RRR

Possibly an otherwise unknown son of Muhammad b. ‘Ali. Struck only at al-Muhammadiya in 316.

KURDS OF ADHARBAYJAN


There were several undetermined rulers of Kurdish origin in Adharbayjan, of which only one is numismatically relevant. Struck at Bardha’a, Ardabil, al-Maragha, Arminiya and “Adharbayjan” (located at Gunja????), dated 325-330 & 338-341. All cite the current ‘Abbasid caliph, but no other rulers or officials are mentioned.

Daysam b. Ibrahim, circa 325-341 / 937-952

A1484 AV dinar R

B1484 AR dirham RR

SALLARID


A local Adharbayjani dynasty of Daylamite origin, who were able to control parts of Adharbayjan, with their subordinate capital at Ardabil. The dynasty was fragmented into local branches. Dates of rule are only guesswork, despite an exhaustive study (non-numismatic) of this dynasty by Ahmad Kasravi.

Most Sallarid coins were struck at Ardabil, though there seems to be a bewildering variety of local names or name combinations on Sallarid coins in the 340s and 350s. The silver coins are usually weakly struck, the gold rather elegantly made. A few of these coins cite the Buwayhid ruler as overlord, normally Rukn al-Dawla. The listings here derive from Vardanyan’s work cited above, and replace the tentative descriptions of the 2nd edition of the Checklist.

Muhammad b. Musafir, circa 330-337/341 / 942-948/952

R1484 AR dirham, in his sole name, Urmiya 333 only RRR

al-Marzuban b. Muhammad, circa 330-346 / 942-957

V1484 AV dinar, citing his father as al-Sallar Abu Mansur, Ardabil 342 & 343 only RRR

With the additional titulature, al-malik al-mu’ayyid.

1484.1 AR dirham, citing his father Muhammad b. Musafir, Urmiya 333 only RRR

1484.2 AR dirham, in his sole name, Adharbayjan 341 and Ardabil 343 only RRR

Only the Ardabil mint inserted his full titulature.

Wahsudan b. Muhammad, circa 330-357 / 942-968

A1485 AR dirham RR

His titles are al-Sallar, Abu Mansur, al-Sa’id and Sayf Al Muhammad ("sword of the family of Muhammad"). Each of his coins bears one or more of these titles. During his roughly quarter century of rule, Wahsudan was chief of the Sallarids and based in their traditional capital, the Daylamite city of Tabriz. No coins were struck there.

Muhammad b. ‘Abd al-Razzaq, circa 336-338 / 947-949

G1485 AV dinar, Maragha 337 only RRR

Not of the Sallarids but a Buwayhid military commander sent to Adharbayjan by Rukn al-Dawla.

Justan b. al-Marzuban, circa 346-349 / 957-960

1485 AV dinar, Maragha 347 only RR

1486 AR dirham, Ardabil 347 only RR

All coins of Justan cite his brother Ibrahim b. al-Marzuban, with Justan named on the reverse, Ibrahim on the obverse.

Ibrahim b. al-Marzuban (al-Sallar al-Mansur), circa 349-355 / 960-966

1487 AR dirham, Ardabil 354 and 355 only RRR

As sole ruler, citing his vizier Sa’id b. ‘Abd Allah.

A1488 AR dirham, citing his father Wahsudan as Abu Mansur b. al-Sallar, Ardabil 354-356 only RRR

Some issues dated 355-356 cite the Buwayhid ruler Rukn al-Dawla Abu ‘Ali as well as his own father, the first citation of a Buwayhid overlord on Sallarid coinage.

Isma’il b. Wahsudan, fl. 350-355 / 961-966

C1488 AR dirham, Bardha’a 351 and Ardabil 351 only RRR

Citing his father, (al-Sallar) Wahsudan b. Muhammad.

Nuh b. Wahsudan (Abu al-Hasan), fl. 355 / 966

E1488 AR dirham, Ardabil 355 only RRR

Kaykhusraw b. al-Marzuban, ca. 356-357 / 967-968

J1488 AR dirham, Ardabil, possibly dated 357 RRR

Citing his brother Ibrahim b. al-Marzuban as overlord and the Buwayhid ruler Rukn al-Dawla.

Sharmazan b. Mishaki (al-Nasir Abu’l-Qasim), fl. 355-361 / 966-972

B1488 AR dirham, citing Wahsudan b. Muhammad, Ardabil 355 and 357 only, without Buwayhid overlord RRR

Sharmazan was a military general who served Wahsudan b. Muhammad, then became effectively independent circa 359, after the death of Wahsudan.

F1488 AR dirham, in his own name, as vassal of the Buwayhid ruler Rukn al-Dawla, Ardabil 360 and 361 only RRR

Justan b. Sharmazan (al-Musaddad Abu Nasr), fl. 359 / 970

G1488 AR dirham, Ardabil 359 only RRR

Without overlord. It seems peculiar that Sharmazan would first appoint his own son as independent ruler in 359, then ascend the throne himself during the following year.

Rustam b. Justan, fl. 359-362 / 970-973

H1488 AR dirham, al-Maragha 359 and 362 only RRR

Citing his vizier ‘Ubayd Allah b. Muhammad.

388 Vardanyan lists a gold dinar of al-Mansur Abu Ishaq (= Ibrahim b. al-Marzuban) as vassal under the Fatimid al-Mu’izz, struck at Arminiya in 353. However, its authenticity remains questionable.

389 Published by Farhod Mosanef in ONS Newsletter #206. pp. 8-10.

390 ICA auction 12, lot 3437.
A more up-to-date study by Aram Vardanyan is in
T1490 AR dirham RRR

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 160

When I visited the Malik Museum in 1965 (then in Tehran, later in
Masjhad), I saw about 200 examples of the silver dirham, used by the
curator as temporary replacements of coins moved to special displays!

Sotheby's, 20 April 1983, lots 87 (full dinar) and 88 (fractional dinar).

The second publication with clear illustration seems to be Emirates Coin
Auction 2, March 2000, lot 505 (Tabriz 403), after the quoted article.

KANGARID

A minor Daylamite dynasty of little importance, with its capital at
Tarom, a mountain fortress north of Qazvin.

Coins of Wahsudan were struck entirely at Jalalabad in the year 343,
an unknown location, perhaps an administrative foundation at or near
Tarom, perhaps merely an epithet for Tarom itself. All are
exquisitely struck, probably donative issues.

Both the dinar and dirham bear the Isma‘ili line of Imams, muhammad
‘ali al-husayn al-husayn ‘ali muhammad ja’far isma‘il muhammad in
the obverse margin. The reverse is inscribed ‘alī khālifat / Allah /
wahsudan bin / muhammad, with the phrase sayf al muhammad
in addition on the dirham.

Wahsudan b. Muhammad, fl. 343 / 954-955
Not to be confused with the contemporary Sallarid ruler of the
same name (#A1485).

K1488 AV dinar, normally about 7-9g RRR
1488 AR dirham'91

JASTANID (OR JUSTANID)

A minor Daylamite dynasty in southern Gilan, centered at
Radbar (al-Radbar), which is the mint name on all these coins.
The city of Radbar was almost totally destroyed in the
disastrous earthquake of 1990.

Manadhir b. Jastan, circa 336-361 / 948-972
A1489 AV dinar, known dated 359'92 RRR
B1489 AV fractional dinar (approximately 0.7g) RRR

Khusrashah b. Manadhir, fl. 361-368 / 972-979
F1489 AV dinar RRR
1489 AR dirham R

Known dated 361-363 citing the caliph al-Muti’ and 368 with the
caliph al-Ta’i. Modern cast forgeries of this type are plentiful,
produced in the 1950s or 1960s, probably as some sort of advertising
or promotional tokens, rather than to deceive numismatists.

HASHIMID OF DARBAND

V.P. Lebedev, “A dirham of the ruler of Darband, Maymun bin Ahmad…”,
ONS Newsletter, No. 202 (winter 2010), pp. 11-12.

A minor dynasty ruling at al-Bab (Darband) from the 3rd to the
5th/11th century, for whom only minimal information has
survived.

Maymun b. Ahmad, circa 366-382 / 977-982
1489H AR dirham, mint & date unknown RRR

Entitled al-amir al-muzaffar al-mansur abu’l-hasan, Hirvanshahs
parts of which cited on his dirhams.

RAWWADID

S. Album, “Notes on the coinage of Muhammad ibn al-Husayn al-Rawwadi”,

A more up-to-date study by Aram Vardanyan is in Numismatic Chronicle,

Said to be of mixed Arab and Kurdish origin, this minor
dynasty was centered at Tabriz in Ardaburayjan.

Most Rawwadid coins were minted at either Tabriz, Ardabil or
Maragha, though few specimens show the mint.


T1490 AR dirham RRR

Struck only at Ardabil in 351, citing the Sallarid ruler Wahsudan
b. Muhammad as overlord.

Muhammad b. al-Husayn, fl. 387-407 / 997-1016

1490 BI broad dirham RR
Stylistically resembling multiple dirhams of the Ghaznavids, but
of highly debased silver.93

MAZYADID (SHIRVANSHIAH, 1ST DYNASTY)

The Mazyads are now regarded as the first branch of the Khaqanids.
Former type #E1491 has been amalgamated with the identical
Khaqanid type #A1903, of the same individual.

JA’FARID

Molchanov, A.A., “New Evidence of Ja’farid Coinage”, ONS Newsletter
#176 (Summer 2003), pp.7-8.

A local Arab dynasty ruling in Georgia.

With the exception of the recently discovered fals of Ja’far III, all
Ja’farid coins are silver dirhams, and all were minted at Tiflis (modern
Tbilisi). They are typically rather haphazardly struck, with substantial
weak areas. The reign dates given for each of the first three rulers
represent the earliest and latest known dates on their dirhams.

Mansur b. Ja’far, fl. 342-343 / 954-955

P1491 AR dirham RRR

Ja’far II b. Mansur, fl. 364-374 / 975-985
Q1491 AR dirham RRR

‘Ali b. Ja’far, fl. 386-418 / 996-1027
His titles are al-amir al-muzaffar al-mansur abu’l-hasan, all or
parts of which cited on his dirhams.

R1491 AR dirham R*
Though rarely seen in the trade, large quantities of #R1491 are
preserved in museums in the lands of the former Soviet Union.

Ja’far III b. ‘Ali, circa 421-437 / 1030-1046
Titles on his fulus include al-sayyid al-muzzafar abu’l-fadl.
S1491 AE/BI fals, without mint or date, citing the caliph
al-Qa’im R*
Reverse legend al-mansur / ja’far bin ‘ali, of which al-Mansur is
either his own title or a reference to an undetermined suzerain.
At least one other subtype is known.

SHADDADID

Lebedev, V. P. Markov, D.B., and Koifman, A.A., Monetnoe delo
i monetnoe obrashshenie gandzhiiskogo emirata shaddididov,
2006.

A Kurdish dynasty in Armenia, ruling in various places in the
Ardaburayjan region from about 950 to the 1170s. At present,
coins are known for five of the Shaddadid rulers.

All coins dated 385-399 were minted at Bardha’a, thereafter solely at
Janza (when visible). Coins of Fadl are rather well struck on round
flans resembling contemporary Ghaznavid yamini dirhams, but those
of the four later rulers are usually weakly struck on flans of irregular
shape. All dirhams are approximately 50% silver, the remaining 50% mostly
copper, though individual specimens can vary considerably.

al-Fadl I b. Muhammad, 375-422 / 985-1031
(al-Sayyid al-Mansur Abu’l Hayja)

1491 AR dirham (approximately 3g) C
Formerly very rare, a large hoard of several thousand dirhams,
terminal date 400, reached the market in 1990. Some 10-20% of
the hoard coins are dated 385-399, the rest 400, almost always
with the month of Muharram, but only the year 400 dirhams have
become available in the market in quantities. A few coins are
known of Janza 401-404, all extremely rare. Weight & style are
relatively uniform, unlike later issues.

91 When I visited the Malik Museum in 1965 (then in Tehran, later in
Masjhad), I saw about 200 examples of the silver dirham, used by the
curator as temporary replacements of coins moved to special displays!

92 Sotheby’s, 20 April 1983, lots 87 (full dinar) and 88 (fractional dinar).
1491A AR fractional dirham, similar, variable weight 0.8g-1.8g RR
‘Ali b. Musa al-Lashkari (grandson of Fadl I), 425-441 / 1034-1049

1491M AR dirham RRR
When visible, the mint is Janza; known dated 431.

Shawur b. al-Fadl, 441-459 / 1049-1067 (al-Jalil al-Mushaddad, or al-Ajall)

1492 AR dirham R
Weights vary from less than one to more than 7 grams. Actual specimens rarely do justice to the excellent die work, as they are struck on flans far smaller than the dies, often haphazardly shaped. Clearly dated examples are very rare; a few show the mint, always Janza. Lebedev identified 16 subtypes, many with intricate designs.

al-Fadl II b. Shawur, 459-466 / 1067-1075 (Fakhir al-Dawla)

1492F AR dirham RRR
Citing the Seljuq Alp Arslan as overlord, mint & date unknown.

Ashwat b. Shawur, circa 460-461 / 1068-1069
(Sharaf al-Dawla, Abu ‘Ali)

Ashwat is the Arabized version of the Armenian name Ashot.

1492G AR dirham, unknown date & mint
(Ald-Fadl III b. al-Fadl II, circa 466-468 / 1075-1077)
(Fakhir al-Dawla, Shams al-Muluk, Abu’l-Muzaffar, Sayf Amir al-Mu’minin)

1492K AR dirham, often debased RR
Known struck at Janza-466, but almost always without legible mint or date. The name Fadl never appears on the coins, which cite only various portions of its titulature. Citing the Seljuq Malikshah as overlord.

HADHABANI KURDS

A minor Kurdish dynasty centered on the city of Ushni in what is now the Western Azerbaijan province of Iran. When visible, the mint is Ushna (earlier spelling of Ushni, now called Oshnoviyeh). Coins are usually fairly well struck but much worn.


A1493 BI dirham, known struck at Ushna & dated 425 RR
Jastan b. Rabib al-Dawla, fl. 451-452 / 1060-1061

B1493 BI dirham RRR
It is possible that Abu’l-Hayja’ and Jastan are one and the same, rather than brothers.

HABBARD (AMIRS OF SIND)

The Habbarids ruled in Sind from the 3rd/9th century to the early 5th/11th. The sequence of rulers and their dates have not yet been reconstructed. The coinage consists of tiny fractional dirhams and poorly struck coppers, believed to have been struck at either Multan or Mansura, both in modern Pakistan (the mint is never indicated on the coins, all are undated). The coppers first became known in the 1980s, and their rarity is still tentative, with new types and even additional rulers periodically appearing in the market.

The silver coins are usually well struck but often quite off center; except for Ahmad, they are normally found considerably worn. The copper coins are poorly struck and usually found appallingly worn or corroded, or abysmally cleaned. The denomination of the silver, traditionally described rather vaguely as a “fractional dirham”, has lately been provisionally identified by Robert Tye as a damma, a traditional Western Indian coin of about 0.5g previously used by the

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Gurjuras, Pratiharas and other medieval Hindu kingdoms.395 The name of the copper denomination is unknown and has been designated here by the generic term fals. The weight of the damma seems to correspond closely to one sixth of a traditional Islamic dirham, whence the denomination is something called damik, “sixth”. The extent to which this weight standard was applied to individual specimens remains to be determined. Hoards of silver dammas marketed since the 1970s typically contain several thousand examples each.

Da’ud, early 3rd/9th century?

1493 AR damma RRR

1493A AE fals R?

1494 AR damma RRR
‘Abd al-Rahman

1495 AR damma RRR
‘Abd Allah I

1495A AE fals R?

1496 AR damma CRR
‘Ali

1497 AE fals CRR
‘Umar

A1498 AV fractional dinar, without mint & date RRR

1498 AR damma (see #1496 for text) C

1499 AE fals S?

Khatam

C1500 AR damma (see #1496 for text) CRR

E1500 AR damma RRR
‘Isa

Muhammad

1500 AR damma C

1501 AE fals RR?

‘Abd Allah II

A1502 AR damma CRR

Ahmad, fl. circa 420 / 1030

1502 AR or BI damma, without name of the caliph A

Ahmad is generally considered to be later than the others. The reverse bear the words, muhammad rasul Allah al-amir ahmad. His coins are of very different style and may have been struck at Multan. Some examples are of nearly pure copper.

This extremely common type has been forged in modern times, with examples seen in silver, bronze and even aluminum.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 161

395 Robert Tye, Jitals, pp. 84-86.
The forgery is struck on perfectly round machine-punched blanks, easily distinguished from the genuine.

1502A AR or BI damma, similar, later style, with 'izz below both obverse & reverse  

1502B AR or BI damma, similar, with caliph al-Qa’im’s name on the obverse (al-qa’im atop, bi-amr Allah below the obverse field)  

al-Mu’ṭazz (or al-muqir), probably 430s or 440s / 1040s or 1050s  

1502F AR or BI damma, similar to #1502A but with ‘izz only beneath the obverse  

Ya’qub Beg, dates unknown  

1502K AR damma, citing the caliph al-Qa’im (422-467)  

Several types known, all with highly ornamental epigraphy, all without mint or date. This ruler seems to be unrecorded in history, except that Asad, son of al-Munabbih, was ruling in Multan in 305 / 918, as is corroborated in a nearly contemporary chronicle. Only tiny silver coins are known, struck to the same 0.5g standard as the Habbarid fractional dirhams, thus tentatively called dammas.

Munabbih (without definite article), probably late 3rd/4th century  

1503 AR damma  

Asad, fl. 305 / 918  

1504 AR damma  

1504A AR damma, Arabic instead of Nagari inscription on reverse  

The Arabic 3-line inscription is ..../asad ... / baraka.  

Muhammad, dates unknown  

1505 AR damma  

The Nagari inscription is ‘Sri Madhamati’, thus a transliteration of Muhammad.  

Hasan (or Husayn), dates unknown  

1506 AR damma  

Sulayman, dates unknown  

1507 AR damma  

Harun, dates unknown  

1508 AR damma  

The reverse inscription is “Sri Lakshmi”.  

The sequence of the last six rulers is unknown, as is their chronological position relative to Asad and Munabbih.

Shibl, dates unknown  

1509 AR 1/5 dirham (approximately 0.6g), perhaps earlier than the Munabbih issues or struck at a secondary mint  

A large group of several thousand examples reached the market early in 2004. A few other unread names have been reported from the same hoard group.

al-Rabi’, dates unknown  

1510 AR damma  

Instead of a Nagari inscription the reverse bears a thoroughly degenerate “bust left” derived from Sasanian drachms, as found on the last pre-Islamic issues. For that reason, this may be one of the earliest of the series. First found in the 2004 hoard.

PROTO-QARAKHANID  

See Zeno-962 for this type and further references.

Malik Aram Yinal Qaraj, 4th/10th century  

The first two words are clear, the 3rd word Yinal almost certain, the 4th word Qaraj somewhat ambiguous.

1510P AE cast cash, square hole, name on obverse (in late Kufic Arabic), blank reverse, no mint or date  

Assigned to the region of Semirechy, now in southeastern Karakhanid and northern Kyrgyzstan (Kirghizia).

QARAKHANID (ILEK KHANS)  

Barthold, W., Turkestan down to the Mongol Invasion, London, 1928.


Fedorov, M.N., a series of important articles on Qarakhanid coins, arranged by mint or region, published by the ONS Newsletter, either as articles or supplements, beginning with #162, and especially the supplements to #165 & 168.


Kochnev, B.D., The Numismatic History of the Qarakhanid Qaganate, published in Russian in 2006 (see Zeno-34572 for information) (I have not yet had the opportunity to examine this book).

During the past several decades, a large literature on the Qarakhanids has appeared in Russian, principally by Davidovich, Fedorov, and Kochnev. Most of these pre-1995 references can be found in the bibliography to the 1995 article by Kochnev.

Zeno.ru: More than 1500 illustrations, especially of copper fulus, have been recorded by Zeno under “Special projects » Qarakhanid Numismatics”, often with detailed descriptions. They are organized by region and mint.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 162
the actual issuer, though many types, especially those dated from about 415 until the 460s, bear so little information that their precise attribution cannot always be unambiguously determined. The dates of many rulers are very tentative, and are based largely on the coins recorded by Kochnev. Coins of this dynasty are becoming more available (especially the later rulers) as supplies are exported from the former Soviet Union. Over 300 different names appear on the coinage in more than 1000 formulations and combinations, but the actual number of distinct persons is less.

Qarakhanid rulers bear many names and titles. These generally included an Islamic name (in Arabic, the ism), a Turkish name, an Arabic title (normally constructed with al-dawla before about 500, with al-din thereafter), and one or more Turkish titles (frequently constructed with tegin). Most Turkish and Arabic titles were specific to a particular individual, but could be passed on to another individual, not necessarily a direct heir, after the death of the title-holder. A few titles were rather generic and could be used simultaneously by more than one person (e.g., amir, Malik, padshah, etc.).

Gold dinars were rarely seldom issued in the early periods, known only from Herat & Nishapur dated 396 and from Samarkand dated 482-483 (plus a questioned Khujanda 425 at Tübingen). Dinars were frequently struck from the 550s until about 610, usually of pure gold, but horribly manufactured. Known examples of the later period were struck at Bukhara, Samarkand, Tirmidh and Taluqan, and also at Nishapur in the 550s only. Determining the actual issuer of an individual coin can be a difficult and frustrating experience. In general, on the silver coinage of the early period (before 460/1068), the chain of names and titles begins in the reverse field following the mention of the caliph, then continues either in the reverse margin or in the obverse field (more rarely, at the top and bottom of the reverse field). The order of names proceeds normally from the highest to the lowest ranking official, but because of the practice of using multiple names and titles, it is not always routine to determine what parts of the scattered inscription refer to which individual. In the following revised listings I have attempted to assign types to the local issuer, i.e., to the lowest ranking Qarakhanid cited on the coin. Local officials not clearly of the Qarakhanid line, possibly overseers of the mints or other lower ranking officers, are often cited on the coin, especially the copper fulus, and are not considered to be the issuer of the coins. Virtually all of these individuals are known only from the coins. They are usually ignored in the descriptions here, but are cited in both Kochnev’s and Fedorov’s articles.

The copper coins most often have the local ruler cited in the reverse margin, though there is no consistent rule. Many coppers, particularly from the 410s to 440s, cite only rather generic titles and cannot thus be readily assigned to a particular ruler without a good understanding of the allocation of titles at the time of issue. With a few exceptions, proper copper coinage ceased in the 450s, by which time the dirham had become a largely copper coin, sometimes lightly coated with a silver wash. Rather little Qarakhanid coinage is known from the 470s to the middle of the following century. During the third period, from the 530s to the end of the dynasty circa 610, one sees increasing numbers of broad copper dirhams, originally lightly silver-washed, together with small quantities of gold dinars. There was no longer any silver coinage. In the third period, only one person is normally mentioned on each coin (aside from the caliph), usually with his Arabic title XX al-dunya wa'l-din, several Turkish titles (mostly non-specific), and occasionally his Arabic name (ism) and patronymic (nasab), calligraphically often very difficult to read. The attribution of third period coins also presents major difficulties, not all of which have yet been resolved.

In the second edition, the listings for the Qarakhanids were completely renumbered, using the numbers 3300-3499. The type numbers 1503-1522 used in the first edition have been deleted. At least sixty Qarakhanid mints have been reported, almost exclusively in the Russian literature, but a complete list can be found in the Qarakhanid file on Zeno. For the early period (to about 460), the most frequently encountered mints are Bukhara, Uzkind, Quz-Urdu, Akhsikath, al-Shash, Saghaniyan, Taraz and for gold only, Nishapur, though most mints were prolific producers only for restricted periods. Territorial and mint data are given in the following listings (based largely on Kochnev’s articles). For silver-washed copper dirhams of the later period, Samarkand is the most common mint, though coins of Uzkind, Bukhara, Saghaniyan, Kasan and Binkath (aka Banakat) are occasionally available. Gold of the later period is mostly from Nishapur, occasionally from Bukhara.

Qarakhanid silver dirhams prior to 393 follow Samanid traditions, both in design and silver debasement, but are extremely rare. In 393, a new fine silver coinage was promulgated, often of the finest style and calligraphy. By the 410s, the silver became increasingly alloyed, with billon the rule by the 430s, copper by the 450s. Most coins of the early period were carefully manufactured, both silver and copper. Nice specimens of the silver and gold are common, but most extant copper is worn or corroded. For the late period, the gold dinars are generally haphazardly manufactured but rarely found worn, the broad copper dirhams also typically crudely struck, though occasionally quite attractive. The broad coppers were struck from very shallow dies and are often hard to decipher, even when well preserved. They are typically 35-45mm in diameter, with an average weight of about 5-6 grams. Their calligraphy is highly stylized, and often frustratingly difficult to decipher.

Many coins of the 1st period, especially copper, bear only the title Ilek, which was held by the following rulers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Issuer</th>
<th>Coin Type</th>
<th>Mint</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>388</td>
<td>Nasr b. 'Ali</td>
<td>AV dinar</td>
<td>Bukhara</td>
<td>3300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>403</td>
<td>Mansur b. 'Ali</td>
<td>AV dirham</td>
<td>Bukhara</td>
<td>3300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>403-415</td>
<td>Muhammad b. 'Ali</td>
<td>AV dirham</td>
<td>Nishapur</td>
<td>3401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>415-416</td>
<td>'Ali b. al-Hasan</td>
<td>AV dirham</td>
<td>Nishapur</td>
<td>3416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3401</td>
<td>'Ali b. al-Hasan</td>
<td>AV dirham</td>
<td>Nishapur</td>
<td>3416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3416</td>
<td>Yusuf b. 'Ali</td>
<td>AV dirham</td>
<td>Nishapur</td>
<td>3416</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I had hope to have completed a thorough revision of the Qarakhanid chapter in time for the 3rd edition, utilizing Kochnev’s numismatic study published in 2006, Fedorov’s articles in the ONS Newsletter, and the vast accumulation of images on Zeno, but alas, this will have to wait for the 4th edition, or perhaps sooner on our website. Some of the descriptions here may now be obsolete, especially the mints and dates noted for specific types, and to a lesser extent, the suggested rarities.

**First Period (381-431 / 991-1040)**

Types marked with an asterisk (*) continue into the second period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coin</th>
<th>Mint</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V3300</td>
<td>AV dinar, struck only at Bukhara in 381</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3300</td>
<td>AR dirham</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3300D</td>
<td>AE fals</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3300E</td>
<td>AE fals, struck only at Taraz 381</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3301</td>
<td>AV dinar, struck only in 396 at Nishapur and Herat, the latter extremely rare</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3302</td>
<td>AR dirham</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3302A</td>
<td>AR fractional dirham (approximately 0.6g), known from Bukhara 401</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 163
Ahmad b. ‘Ali, circa 384-407 / 994-1016
(Nasir al-Haqq Khan, Qutb al-Dawla wa Nasr al-Milla, Abu Nasr, al-Malik al-Muzaffar)

3304 AR dirham
Ahmad b. ‘Ali is also cited as overlord in his capacity as chief amir on most coins of his brothers Nasr, Mansur and Muhammad struck prior to 406.
His own dirhams were struck mainly at Quz Uru, I Uru, Uzkan and Akhsikath. 398

3305 AE fals
Ahmad’s territory was originally Ilaq399, to which (after 394) Quz Uru (= Balasagun) and Isbijab were later added. In addition, from 388 until his death in 407 he was the Great Khan, i.e., chief of the Qarakhanid dynasty, with his capital at Quz Uru. He is most commonly cited on coins, especially silver, as Nasr al-Haqq Khan, sometimes just as Khan.

Khaqan Simnani, fl. 404-406 / 1013-1015
Only the name khaqan simnani appears on these coins. Khaqan may refer to the Ilek Ahmad b. ‘Ali, but the name of Simnani remains unidentified.403

3305S AE fals, Bukhara 404-406 only
3305A AE fals, Shash mint, dated 394-396

3306 AR dirham, Shash mint
The relationship of this individual to the rest of the dynasty is unknown.

3306A AE fals, Shash mint, dated 394-396
Many specimens have a cat portrayed in the obverse field. Some dated 394 repeat the name yousuf bin ‘abdel Allah within a wreath or dotted circle instead of the cat, 395 with just the name yousuf in a crescent within a square.

Muhammad b. ‘Ali, circa 393-415 / 1003-1024

3307 AR dirham
Muhammad acquired the title of ilek after the death of his brother Nasr in 403. After Mansur b. ‘Ali became supreme khan in 406, Muhammad is commonly cited on the coins merely as ilek, without any other names or titles. He retained the title of Ilek until his death in 415. His residence was at Taraz. The most common dirham mints are Taraz (393-415). After 403, Shash, Uzrushana (aka Ushrushana), Khujanda, Bukhara, and Samarqand and reasonably common mints for this ruler.

3308 AE fals
Many coppers cite Muhammad only as Ilek, together with the name of a subordinate, such as his brother Mansur b. ‘Ali (at Samarqand).
Note that even though Muhammad b. ‘Ali had achieved the title of Ilek, he still remained subordinate to his brother Mansur after 406, when Mansur acquired the title of Great Khan. See #3312. On a remarkable issue of al-Shash 407, there is a large fish in the obverse center (RR).

Ahmad b. Muhammad (b. ‘Ali), fl. 411 / 1020

3309 AR dirham, Bukhara 411 only
3310 AE fals, Bukhara 411 only
On both dirhams and fulus, Ahmad is cited simply as ahmad bin ilek, as his father Muhammad was then the Ilek.

3311 AR dirham, as Shams al-Dawla
3312 AR dirham, as Nur al-Dawla (406-415) and Great Khan
Mansur used the title Shams al-Dawla 403-406, thereafter Nur al-Dawla. For a few months in 403 he briefly assumed the title ilek. However, the relatively plentiful coins bearing the inscription arslan khan ilek (dated 406-415) are issues of Muhammad b. ‘Ali as ilek, citing Arslan Khan (Mansur) as overlord (#3307-08). Mansur’s proper dirhams were struck at Quz Uru (406-414) and Shash (407-411), plus a few anomalous issues of other mints.

3313 AE fals, struck only at Al-Sughd in 411
Other copper coins bearing his name or titles are issues of one or another vassal. See #3308.

Yusuf b. Mansur, at Shalji, 413-414 / 1022-1023
(Samsam al-Dawla, Muwaffaq al-‘Adl, Yaghman-Tegin)
Also known on a fals dated 423, unless that is merely a misreading or “typo” for 413.

3314 AR dirham
3314E AE fals, Usrushana 423 (for 413?)
In his name as samsam al-dawla yaghman-tegin. (#3315 is now listed as #T3439.)

Ahmad b. Mansur, fl. 409-410 / 1008-1009,

3316 AR dirham
Struck only at Uzkan and Akhsikath, always with his name & patronymic in the obverse field, citing the Ilek on the reverse.

(Sayf al-Dawla, Abu ‘Ali, Chaghi-Tegin)

3317 AR dirham, Bukhara only
3317E AE fals, Bukhara only

Ahmad b. Nasr, at Isbijab and Shash, fl. 389-404 / 999-1014
(Mu’izz al-Dawla, Abu Nasr, Matt)

3318 AR dirham
Muhammad b. Nasr, circa 411-447 / 1020-1055
(‘Ayn al-Dawla Malkan, Sayf al-Dawla Malkan, Mu’ayyad al-‘Adil)

3319 AR dirham, with the title ‘Ayn al-Dawla Malkan, circa 411-415
3320 AE fals, similar
Coins of Muhammad b. Nasr as ‘Ayn al-Dawla were struck at Akhsikath (silver) and Uzkan (silver & copper). The vocalization of “Malkan” is uncertain.

3321 AR dirham, with the title Sayf al-Dawla Malkan, 415-416, struck only at Ilaq in 415
3322* AR or BI dirham, as the Arslan Khan in the west, 431-447 (Mu’ayyad al-‘Adl, Arslan Khan)
After 431/1040, Nasr ceded most of the west to his son Ibrahim (or brother?), but retained Khujanda as his personal territory. His own coins were struck at Khujanda 434-444 and at Marghinan and Quba 445-447, the latter two mints always with some local official cited as well. Some of the post-431 coins bear his earlier title ‘Ayn al-Dawla.

3323 AE fals, similar to #3322

Ibrahim b. Nasr, as governor, circa 408-431 / 1017-1040
(Fakhr al-Dawla, Arslan Khan Buri-Tegin)

3324 AR dirham, as governor
3325 AE fals, similar to #408-409 only

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 164

399 On an extremely rare dirham of Samarqand 388 he bears the titles al-malik nasir al-qa’wa quha-kuhan, also citing his brother Nasr as al-mu’ayyad al-‘adil, sometimes followed by the name tungha-tegin (SNAT-881).

398 A district on the Syr-Darya River, not to be confused with the title Ilek.

399 The name Simnani appears only on the 404 & 405 fulus, omitted in 406, but the title Khaqan is retained during all three years.

401 Sometimes Sinan al-Dawla.
Ibrahim b. Nasr, as independent ruler, 431-460 / 1040-1068
(Tafghaj Bughra Khan, Mu‘ayyad al-‘Adl)
Ibrahim also used the titles ‘Imad al-Dawla, Taj al-Milla, ‘Izz

3326* AR or BI dirham, as independent ruler, 431-460 / 1040-1068, as Bughra Khan

RR

3327* AE fals, similar mainly Bukhara

RR

3328* AR or BI dirham, as King of the East and China (453-460)
With the additional title malik al-masrij wa sin, struck 453-460, principally at Bukhara, Samarqand, Marghianin, Isibijah, Shash, and Binkath, after most of the Ferghana Valley was seized from the Eastern Khan. Types #3326 and 3328 were struck simultaneously, often at the same mints, from 453-460. For western issues attributed to a local ruler, often one of his many sons, see #3363 ff. & #3386. The dates on his vassal coinage suggest that he ruled into 461.

(Mu‘izz al-Dawla, Malik ibn Malkan)

3329 AR dirham
Struck only at Akhsikath and Kasan. His personal name al-‘abbas never appears on the coinage.

3330 AE fals, struck mainly at Akhsikath in 426 and Kasan in 433

RR

Nasr b. al-Qasim (Sayf al-Dawla, unidentified), fl. 391-392 / 1001-1004

3331 AR dirham, Shash 391-392 only
Some issues dated 392 bear the laqab Qutb al-Dawla, which may refer to someone else, not identified.

3331F AE fals, Shash 392 only
‘Abd al-Rahman b. Mansur (Abu? Muhammad), fl. 409 / 1018

H3332 AE fals, struck only at Kharashkhat, near Tashkent in 409

RRR

The indicated name appears on the reverse; in the obverse center appears an unknown name or title interpreted as ‘Irsh.

I3332 AE fals, also mint of Kharashkhat
Citing his name in reverse margin and ‘Irsh at the bottom of the reverse field. Mint unknown, perhaps dated either 405 or 415.

Siraj al-Dawla Yinal-Tegin, unidentified, fl. 394-395 / 1004-1005

3332 AR dirham, at Hiftdih only
The relationship of Siraj al-Dawla to the Qarakhanid dynasty is unknown, though his title suggests membership in the dynasty. Kochnev has suggested that this Siraj al-Dawla might be identical to the well-known Mansur b. ‘Ali (#3311-3313).

Nizam al-Dawla Abu’l-Muzaffar Tungha-Tegin, fl. 399-404 / 1009-1014

3332 AR dirham, as Qutb al-Dawla, struck 415

RRR

Probably the same person as Muhammad b. al-Hasan. See #3341.

3333 AR dirham
Struck only at Shash 399-401 and Samarqand 401-404.

3334 AE fals, Samarqand 401-404 only

Nizam al-Dawla Yinal-Tegin, unidentified, fl. 412 / 1021

3335 AE fals, struck at Samarqand only, dated 412

RR


3335 AR dirham, as Nasir al-Dawla
Struck mainly at Isibijah, more rarely at Taraz and Budukhhat. The identity of Atam-Tegin is unknown, but his titles suggest that he was a Qarakhanid scion. Nor is it certain (though quite likely) that Nasir al-Dawla Atam-Tegin (#3335-36) and ‘Adud al-Dawla Atam-Tegin (#3337-38) are indeed the same individual.

3336 AE fals, similar

RR

3337 AR dirham, as ‘Adud al-Dawla, AR dirham, Akhsikath only

RR

3338 AE fals, similar

RR

Kuj-Tegin, at Uzkand, fl. 416-425 / 1025-1034
(Sayf al-Dawla in 416, ‘Adud al-Dawla 418-423, without laqab 424-425)

RR

3339 AR dirham
The identity of this personage remains obscure. His least rare mint is Uzkand. He is normally cited as vassal of Yusuf b. Harun (until 423), then as vassal of one or another of Yusuf’s sons.

3340 AE fals

RRR

Muhammad b. al-Hasan (Tungha-Khan), 1st reign, 415-418 / 1024-1027
As independent Great Khan 415-416, later as vassal of Yusuf b. Harun at Akhsikath.

3341 AR dirham
Muhammad’s own dirhams were struck only at Quz Urdu, his residence as Great Khan. He is cited as overlord at least nine other mints.

3342 AE fals, struck only at al-Sughd 416-417

RRR

Muhammad b. al-Hasan, 2nd reign, 428-433 / 1037-1042
Some coins bear the additional title al-Malik al-Mu‘ayyid.

3343 AR dirham
Mints of Uzkand, Akhsikath and Samarqand, of which only Uzkand is occasionally available.

3344 AE fals, second reign, Bukhara and Samarqand 429-430 only

RRR

(Baha’ al-Dawla 411-416, Qutb al-Dawla wa Nasr al-Milla Tafghaj Bughra Khan 423-426)

RRR

From 416-423 / 1025-1032, he was known as al-malik al-muzaffar, but issued no coins in that capacity (though the title is found on coins of his son Yusuf during that period, citing ‘Ali as overlord). He is known in the written histories as ‘Ali-Tegin, one of the most powerful members of the Qarakhanid dynasty.

His coinage is very complex, with the descriptions here incomplete and tentative.

3345 AR dirham, as Baha’ al-Dawla, struck 411-416

RR

Shash is the most common mint, but Bukhara is also not especially rare. He bore the additional titles of Yangha-Tegin and Arslan Khan 411-415 and Ilk 415-416.

3346 AE fals

RR

3347 AR dirham, as Qutb al-Dawla wa Nasr al-Milla Tafghaj Bughra Khan (thus Great Khan), struck 423-426

R

The least rare mint is Khutlukh Urdu (= Dabusiya), where exquisitely engraved fine silver dirhams were struck.

3348 AE fals, similar

RR

3348A AE fals, similar, but without al-dawla title, citing his full actual name abu’l-hasan ‘ali b. al-hasan

RR

Known from al-Sughd 421.

Yusuf b. ‘Ali, 416-433 / 1025-1042
(Shams al-Dawla, Arslan-Tegin, Arslan-Ilek)

Yusuf succeeded his father as Ilk in 416 or shortly afterwards, and retained that title until 433. On most coins he is identified only as ilk or arslan ilk, without any further name or titulature.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 165
Dirhams of Kashghar are relatively common, but ceased to be struck in 430. The only other mint occasionally encountered is Uzkand, usually bearing the royal title qadir khaqan.

After 423, Sulayman occasionally used the title Nasir al-Haqq and Qadir Khan (or Qadir Qaqqan). He was Khan in the East from 423 or 424 until 448. Some examples of Kashghar dated 427 or 428 bear the additional title malik al-mashriq wa’sin, “king of the east and of China”, believed due to his occupation of the city of Khotan (R).

3360   AE fals, almost always Uzkand mint  RR

Muhammad b. Yusuf, 421-449 / 1030-1057  (Qiwam al-Dawla, Bughra Khan)

RR

3361*  AR or BI dirham  RR

Governor 421-424 / 1030-1033 in Shash and Nawkat, as Bughra Khan 424-448 / 1033-1056 in the east as rival to his brother Sulayman, as malik al-islam (sic) 448-449 / 1056-1057. His coinage was struck mainly at Shash and Nawkat before 448, mainly at Uzkand as malik al-islam in 448-449.

On his latest coins, Muhammad used first the title Mushayyid al-Dawla (circa 447-448), then later Jalal al-Dawla (448-449).


RR

3362*  AR or BI dirham  RR

Struck only at Taraz and Shash.

SECOND PERIOD (431-524 / 1040-1130):  WESTERN KHANATE

The definitive split between the eastern and western khanates occurred in 431/1040. Rulers from before 431 who continued in power afterwards are noted above with asterisks (#3322 etc.).

The Ferghana Valley, which included more than a dozen mints, was repeatedly contested by rival khans. The boundary between the two regions fluctuated widely over the years. The coins constitute the most important primary source for tracing the course of these conflicts.

Most western issues of 431-460 are subsumed under types #3326 and 3328. Only vassal issues of those years are included in this subsection.

During this period, the dirham became a highly debased billon coin, often appearing as virtually pure copper. The fals remained a bronze or copper coin of somewhat larger diameter, retaining its distinctive layout and design. The fals usually has a smaller central area than the dirham, fatter calligraphy, and occasionally geometric frames around the central inscription (usually short). In conjunction with the Seljuk invasion of 482-483, the first Qarakhanid gold dinars after nearly 90 years were struck.

The given rarities for this period are very tentative. These coins have been largely ignored in the past, due to their miserable appearance and difficulty of attribution. It is possible that larger hoards will reach the market in the future.

Shu’ayth b. Ibrahim, at Nawkat, circa 450-454 / 1058-1062  (Yamin al-Dawla, Yaghan-Tegin)

RR

3363  BI dirham, Nawkat mint only, as vassal of Ibrahim (presumably his father)  RRR

For coins of Ibrahim, who was technically the western khan but also enjoyed some power in the east, see #3326-3328.

Da’ud b. Ibrahim, at Uzkand, 458-460 / 1066-1068  (Kuj-Tegin)

RR

3364  BI dirham, as vassal of Ibrahim  RRR

One dirham of this ruler has a fragmentary date tentatively read as 452, suggesting an early commencement of his rule at Uzkand.

Yusuf b. Burhan al-Dawla, ca. 460-461 / 1068-1069  (Qiwam al-Dawla, Wagen-Tegin)

RR

3365  BI dirham, at Quz-Urdu only, as vassal of Ibrahim  RRR

For coins of Yusuf’s father, see #3383. Although Yusuf’s apanage was traditionally a part of the eastern khanate, his only coins were struck as vassal of the western khan, Ibrahim b. Nasr.
Ahmad b. Muhammad, at Nawkat, fl. 436-444 / 1045-1052
(Sana al-Dawla, Arslan-Tegin)

3377 BI dirham, struck mainly at Taraz in 444
Cited as overlord on some coins of Marghinan and Quba,
443-444 (type #3322). His father was perhaps the well-known
Muhammad b. Yusuf.

Bahram, 440-445 / 1048-1053
(‘Adud al-Dawla 440-442, Fakhr al-Dawla 442-445)

3378 BI dirham, as ‘Adud al-Dawla
RRR

3379 AR dirham, as Fakhr al-Dawla
RRR

Both types struck at Marghinan, Quba, and Uzkanad.

Shams al-Dawla Arslan Ilek, 444-449 / 1052-1057

3380 BI dirham, mints of Barskhan and Uch, date
uncertain
RR

Nasir al-Dawla Ghazi, fl. 445-446 / 1053-1054
(Mu‘izz al-Milla, Yanak-Tegin or Yanka-Tegin)

3381 BI dirham
Struck only at Barskhan 445-446 and Uch 445.

Ibrahim b. Muhammad, at Taraz 449-454 / 1057-1062
(b. Yusuf, Arslan Khan)

3382 BI dirham
RRR

Burhan al-Dawla Ayyub, fl. 454 / 1062
(Arslan-Tegin)

3383 BI dirham, at Quz-Urdu
For coins of his son Yusuf, see #3365.

Yusuf b. Sulayman, fl. 460-472 / 1068-1080
(‘Imad al-Dawla, Tughril Khan, probably also Zayn al-Din)

3384 BI dirham
Struck at Marghinan, Taraz and al-Shash, always citing ‘Umar
(presumably the father of Jibra’il, for which see #3389 below).

Nizam al-Dawla Mahmud, fl. 462 / 1069-1070

3385 BI dirham
RRR

Usually as vassal of Tughril Khan Yusuf b. Sulayman. His coins
were minted only at Ghanaj and Chinanchikath, both unknown for
any other issues. All bear the date 462, when legible.

Sharaf al-Dawla Mu‘izz, fl. 459-462 / 1067-1067
(Tughril-Tegin)

3386 BI dirham, as vassal of Ibrahim b. Nasr of the
western khanate (459 only)
RRR

3387 BI dirham, as independent ruler (461-462)
Struck at Nawkat, Binkath and Taraz.

Hasan b. Sulayman, fl. 481 / 1088-1089
(Tafghaj Khan)

3388 BI dirham
RRR

Jibra’il b. ‘Umar, fl. 494 / 1100-1101
(Tafghaj Khan)

3389 BI dirham
RRR

Tafghaj Khan Ibrahim, dates unknown

3390 BI dirham
RRR

Unknown with legible mint or date, but citing the caliph
al-Mustazhir (487-512), “circa 5001100”.

THIRD PERIOD: MAIN SERIES (524-610 / 1130-1214)
The standard denominations of this period were the gold dinar and
the broad copper dirham, normally lightly silver-plated though the silver
wash is rarely preserved. They are noted here as AE dirham. Coins
denoted as AE fals are narrower and thicker, readily distinguished
from the very broad and relatively thin dirham, as well as by the
presence of royal titles in the reverse margin (AE dirhams have either
the mint/date formula or the Prophetic Mission in the reverse margin).

Barskhan seems to have replaced Kashghar as a mint site after 430.
With very few exceptions, all coins of the main series of the third period were struck at Bukhara and Samarqand. Local rulers struck their coins at their respective mints, as noted in the listings. Nearly all coins of the third period, whatever the metal, bear their inscriptions in an angular epigraphy, difficult to read, especially when the coin is, as usual, either worn, corroded, diseased or poorly struck. Moreover, the attribution of the various honorific titles that largely take the place of personal names is all too uncertain, due to the paucity of published sources for this period. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, modest quantities of third period copper dirhams, of both the main and local series, have emerged in the market, predominantly in terrible condition. None are truly common, with the solitary exception of the eastern khanate issue of Sulayman Tafghaj Khan (#3427), of which at least 1000 pieces have reached in market. Most of the copper fulus remain very rare, except as noted in the listings below. All gold dinars remain at least very rare. All are carelessly struck, not unlike contemporary Ghori or Khwarizmshah dinars, usually without legible mint and date, often quite abysmal and difficult to attribute. There is no silver coinage, though most of the copper dirhams were originally very lightly silver-washed. All rulers of this period, with the possible exception of Muhammad III, were vassals of the Qara-Khitai, who had originally been the Liao dynasty in northern China from 947-1123, after which they migrated to Central Asia. The later Qarakhanid vassals never cited the Qara-Khitai suzerain (known as the Gür-Khan), but mentioned only their own names on the coinage, often together with the name of the ‘Abbasid caliph in Baghdad. The Liao Chinese cash coinage lies outside the scope of this Checklist, and are conveniently catalogued by David Hartill, *Cast Chinese Coins.*

Mahmud III b. Muhammad (‘Ala al-Dawla), at Samarqand, circa 530-536 / 1136-1142
(Former #3391 is now listed under the Great Seljuqs as # F1688.)

3392 AE dirham, as local ruler at Samarqand before 536/1142, AE dirham
Some copper dirhams of this type cite the Great Seljuk Sanjar as overlord (rarity undetermined).  

3393 AE fals, similar

Ibrahim b. Muhammad, fl. 537-548 / 1143-1153
(Rukn al-Din)

3394 AE dirham
A dirham of Bukhara 541 cites Sanjar as overlord. Other later issues bear the title Ghurkhun, which probably refers not to Ibrahim but to a Qara-Khitai overlord, as Gür-Khan was the standard title of the Qara-Khitai chieftains. The same title was later revived by the Timurids.

Mahmud b. Husayn, fl. 552 / 1157
(Jalal al-Din Qadir Tafghaj Khan)

3395 AV dinar

3396 AE dirham

Mas‘ud b. Hasan, 556-566 / 1161-1171
(Rukn al-Din Qilij Tafghaj Khan)

3397 AV dinar
Struck at Balkh, with mint name above obverse field. These coins, often of highly debased gold, often have the ruler’s name as mas’ud b. al-husayn, i.e., as son of al-Husayn instead of Hasan.

3398 AE dirham (30-45mm) (former #1517)
Struck mainly at Samarqand. Some issues bear the denomination adjective rukni.

3399 AE fals (about 25mm)
Struck at Samarqand, citing the ruler in obverse center as Qilij Tafghaj Khaqan, with the caliph al-Mustanid.

Muhammad b. Mas‘ud, at Samarqand, 566-574+ / 1171-1179+ (Ghiyath al-Din, probably also Qilij Tafghaj Khan or Akdash Tafghaj Khan)

3400 AV dinar, caliph al-Mustadi (former #1519)  
3401 AE dirham

Ibrahim b. al-Husayn, as khan in the west, 574-599 / 1178-1203 (Nusrat al-Din Kuj Arslan Khan)
See #3415 & A3416 as his earlier issues as local ruler in Uzkand.

First series, with title qhaqan (574-584)

3402 AV dinar

3403.1 AE dirham, mint of Samarqand, similar

3403.2 AE dirham, mints of Balkh and Tirmidh, different style and smaller flans, known dated 583

Normally with name given as ibrahim arslan khaqan.

3404 AE fals, similar to #3403.1

Second series, with title ulugh sultan al-salatin (584-599)

3405 AV dinar

It is not known why Ibrahim would have abandoned the traditional Qarakhanid title of Khaqan for that of Sultan. Struck at several mints, including Balkh & Samarqand.

3406.1 AE dirham, mint of Samarqand, similar

3406.2 AE dirham, mint of Balkh, different style and smaller flans

3407 AE fals, similar to #3406.1

For additional coins of this ruler struck before 574 as local ruler at Uzkand, see #3415 & A3416.

‘Uthman b. Ibrahim, 599-607 / 1203-1210
(Nusrat al-Din)

As independent ruler (599-605):

3408 AV dinar

3409 AE dirham, similar

As vassal of the Khwarizmshah Muhammad b. Takish (606-607):

3410 AV dinar

3411 AE dirham, similar

Third period: Local Rulers

In addition to works cited above:


Denominations and average conditions as the main series.

Coins were normally struck only at the residence of the local ruler, as indicated in the descriptions. The occasional exceptions are also indicated.

Rukn al-Din Muhammad b. Mas‘ud, fl. 560 / 1165

3412 AV dinar, Talijan mint only

Possibly the same person as Ghiyath al-Din Muhammad, who ruled at Samarqand (#3400).

(Type #3413 is now regarded as duplicate listing of #K1523.)

al-Husayn b. al-Husayn, fl. 540s-576 / late 1140s-1180
(Tughril Khan)

Ruled at Uzkand before circa 551, then until at least 576/1180 at an unknown location near Uzkand.

3414 AE dirham

On this and following types of this mint, the mint name is often written as Uzjand instead of Uzkand. Some of his coins are dated in the 560s and 570s, without mint name.

Ibrahim b. al-Husayn, at Uzkand, 551-574 / 1156-1178
(Nusrat al-Din Arslan Khan)

3415 AV dinar

A3416 AE dirham

All his dirhams bear only the text ibrahim / arslan / khaqan in the obverse field. Those dated circa 559-565 have both fields in plain circle, those dated 566-573 have obverse in lobated square within circle of pellets, reverse in complex octogram.

See types #3402-3407 for his later issues as chief ruler.

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808 A private collector has acquired an example citing the caliph al-Nasir, apparently dated xx4, possibly a muling with an obverse dated 574.

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, **PAGE 168**
Ahmad b. Ibrahim, at Uzkand, 574-607 / 1178-1210
(Jalal al-Din Qadir Khaqan)

All of Ahmad’s coins cite only his title, never his personal name.

AE dirham, as independent ruler with title of Khaqan (590s, probably also earlier)

Several variants, of which triple circle / square within triple circle (central circles are of pellets on both sides) is the most common, with his title Jalal al-Din. Other types exist.

AE dirham, as independent ruler with title of Sultan or Ulugh Sultan (601-607)

AE dirham, as vassal of the Khwarizmshah Muhammad (607 only)

Mahmud b. Ahmad, at Uzkand, 607-609 / 1210-1212
(Jalal al-Din or Mu'izz al-Din, Kuj Arslan Khan)

AE dirham, as vassal of the Khwarizmshah

The orthography of the digit 7 or 9 is unclear on all known specimens, but for historical reasons, must be 609, i.e., after his independence in 608. Coins struck when vassal of Muhammad always bear the personal name Mahmud of this ruler, whereas those struck as independent ruler bear only his titles.

AE dirham, as independent ruler (608 only)

Anonymous, dated 610 / 1213-1214

With the remarkable Persian inscription in the obverse field, khanan-khan ‘amrush barad hazar sal ta velayat-e gorosneh sir shavat. “May the khan of khans (cf. shahanshah) live a thousand years, for the starving country to become sated”. Mint & date in the margin on both sides.

Nasr b. al-Husayn (Tughrill Khan), at Kasan, fl. 564-568 / 1169-1173

AE dirham

Jalal al-Din Muhammad b. Nasr, fl. 574-598 / 1178-1202
Son and successor to Nasr Tughrill Khan, ruled only at Kasan.

AE dirham

Mu'izz al-Din Ulugh Tughrill Khan, at Kasan, fl. 605 / 1208-1209

Mu'izz al-Din Qilij Khaqan, at Banakath, fl. 574-578 / 1178-1182

AE dirham (former #1521)

Reverse in double square, each line twisted at the center.

Husam al-Din Ulugh Toghan, at Marghinan, fl. 602 / 1205-1206

AE husami dirham, Marghinan mint

Most examples are dated 602 and have the reverse in a lovely quatrefoil pattern with Allah in the center. The denomination husami appears atop the obverse field.

Shams al-Din Qutlugh Bilga Khaqan, at Parab, late 590s / early 1200s

AE dirham, possibly dated 598

Distinguished by the reverse in a triple circle, the central circle of pellets, the other two a solid line.

‘Imad al-Din Ulugh Akdash Chaghri Khan, at Banakath, fl. 596-602 / 1200-1206

AE dirham, struck at Banakath

Dirhams dated 596-597 are the same style as #3423, those dated 602 have both sides in a plain circle & very ornate calligraphy.

Later Khans of Eastern Turkistan

Known only from copper coins, always without mint or date, but believed to have been struck at Kashghar.

Muhammad Arslan Khan, 553-? / 1158-?

AE fals (former #1518)

Sulayman Tafghaj Khan, in eastern Turkistan, fl. before circa 574 / 1179

AE broad dirham (former #1515)

Always without mint or date, but likely struck at Kashghar. Formerly assigned erroneously (by me and others) to Sulayman-Tegin, who allegedly ruled circa 490/1097. Nearly all coins bear the title al-mustaghfir billah, which looks deceptively like a caliphal title, but whose reference is undetermined.

The relationship of Sulayman to the rest of the eastern Khaqanate remains obscure.

Yusuf Arslan Khan, d. 601 / 1205
Son & successor to Muhammad Arslan Khan.

AE fals

Qarakhanid Vassals

These vassals were not Qarakhanids, but local rulers who normally bore the Persian title of dihqan. Some, but not all of them, recognized a Qarakhanid overlord, as noted in the descriptions.

Mansur b. Ahmad, dihqan of Ilaq, fl. 382-393 / 992-999
(Al-Salih, Yaghun-Tegin, Bughrha Khan)

Both Mansur and his son Muhammad bore the title dihqan al-jallil, which often appears on the coin without the personal name or other titles.

Muhammad b. Mansur, dihqan of Ilaq, fl. 391-395 / 1001-1006

T3430 AR dirham, struck only at Nawkat in 395, citing Ahmad b. 'Ali as Nasir al-Haqq Khan, (formerly listed as #3315)

AE fals, struck only at Ilaq, 391-393, citing Ahmad b. 'Ali similarly

Salar b. Muhammad (Abu Shuja’), dihqan of Ilaq, fl. 399 / 1009

AE fals

Muzaffar Kiya, dihqan at Saghaniyan, fl. 395-406 / 1005-1015

AR dirham, Saghaniyan only

AE fals, Saghaniyan 398-406 only

Anonymous, circa 420s / 1030s

BI dirham, mint of Saghaniyan only, almost always poorly struck

Presumably struck by the local amirs of Chaghaniyan, a name that was Arabicized as Saghaniyan. Dated 412-424, of which 422 is most frequent. These are listed on Zeno as Muhtajid, within “local dynasties and rulers” under the Samanids.

Chaghri Subashi Uka, fl. 417-426 / 1024-1033

AE 417-426 & al-Sughd 421

Most coins also cite the current Ilek, usually only by his title ilek. Numerous arrangements.

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407 Published by Vladimir Nastich in ONS Newsletter #167 (2001). Strictly speaking, this coin should be assigned to the Qara-Khitay rather than the Qarakhanids.

408 Xinjiang Numismatics, Hong Kong 1991, #104-121 (#3426) and 87-88 (#3428), where they are incorrectly attributed.

409 Kochnev has shown that the mint formerly read as Tunkath or Tunkath Ilag should correctly be read as Nawkat for coins of the Qarakhanids.
Il-Kulug, at Kharashkath, fl. 404 / 1013

3436 AE fals, Kharashkath 404

Anonymous, struck at Kharashkath in 404 / 1013

3436A AE fals, also Kharashkath 404
This issue perhaps reflects political uncertainty between the reigns or governorships of Il-Kulug and Ilyas Hajjaj.

Ilyas Hajjaj, at Kharashkath, fl. 405 / 1014

3437 AE fals, Kharashkath 405
Citing the Ilek Ahmad b. ‘Ali as overlord. Kochnev #403.

Anonymous, circa 420 / 1029

3437M AE fals, Kharashkath 420, issuer unknown
Obverse inscription in margin around fancy square.

Mu'izz al-Dawla Yabghu, at Karmina, fl. 415 / 1024

3438 AE fals, Karmina 415

Inanj Kuktuz, at Karmina, fl. 417 / 1026

3439 AE fals, Karmina 417

Yabghu Sayf al-Dawla, at Karmina, fl. 419 / 1028

3440 AE fals, Karmina 419
(Baha' ?) al-Dawla Jibra'il b. Muhammad, at Karmina, fl. 420 / 1029

3441 AE fals, Karmina 420

QARAKHANIDS IN BALKH & TIRMIDH
Michael Fedorov, The Genealogy of the Qarakhanid rulers of Tirmidh and Balkh, ONS Newsletter nos.164 (Summer 2000), pp.19-21 (no photos).

Illustrations of most of the coins are in the Northern Khorasan volume 14c of SNA Tübingen by F. Schwarz.

Recent studies of this coinage by Fedorov, Kochnev and Schwarz have determined that the Qara-Khitay (“black Chinese”), whose leaders were known as the Gür-Khan, were never direct rulers of this area. The Gür-Khans were suzerains to Tirmidh to the Khwarizmshahs in 609/1212. Mas'ud b. Hasan in 560/1165, Mas'ud was technically the last western Qarakhanid ruler, ‘Uthman b. Ibrahim ( #3408-3411). Mahmud was the son of Ibrahim b. Husayn, and brother of the last western Qarakhanid ruler, ‘Uthman b. Ibrahim (#3408-3411). Both brothers were defeated and killed by the Khwarizmshah Muhammad in 609 (SNAT 1078).

Malik Yaghan Khan (Nasir al-Din), at Balkh & Tirmidh, circa 573-574 / 1177-1178

B1523 AE rukni dirham
This ruler was called Malik Toghan Khan in the Second Edition. However, the form Malik Yaghan Khan remains controversial. Issues of Tirmidh bear a central circle on the obverse containing a sword and his name yaghan khan.
A very rare type from Samarqand bears the inscription al-khaqan al-’adil al-’azam nasir al-dunya wa al-din / Malik toghan khan, similar to the legend found on Balkh dirhams of this type.

Anonymous, citing only the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Mustadi (566-575 / 1170-1180)

H1523 AE qarar dirham, mint of Balkh
Khusrawshah (b. Sanjar b. Hasan), at Tirmidh, circa 576-583 / 1179-1186

M1523 AV dinar, with title al-sultan al-’azam rukn al-dunya w’l-din
Presumably struck at the mint of Tirmidh, but specimens with legible mint name not yet reported.

C1523.1 AE dirham, with title al-khaqan rukn al-dunya w’l-din
This type lacks the mint, but was presumably also struck at Tirmidh. Type C1523.2 is said to bear the mint, although I have been unable to confirm its presence. Neither type is in SNAT-14d.

C1523.2 AE dirham, with title al-sultan abu’l-hurath bin sultan

D1523 AE dirham, struck at Balkh, known dated 574
As ruler of Balkh. With caliph al-Mustadi (SNAT 808-810). (For AE dirhams of Balkh & Tirmidh struck by main ruler Nusrat al-Din Ibrahim b. al-Husayn, see #3403.2 & 3406.2.)
‘Uddat al-Dunya wa’l-Din ‘Ali b. Ja’far (with title Ulugh Arslan Khaqan), until 594 / 1198
Ruled at Balkh as vassal of the Ghori of Bamiyan, Baba’ al-Din Sam b. Muhammad.

E1523 AV debased dinar, possibly minted at Tirmidh
Tughril Khaqan, in Tirmidh, fl. 586-591 / 1190-1195

F1523.1 AE broad dirham (30-34mm), as vassal of Nasir al-Dunya wa’l-Din (= Ibrahim, see no. 3406).
Always without mint name but known mainly from finds in the region of Tirmidh. On these coins the name resembles Toghan rather than Tughril, and it is conceivable that both names were used for the same ruler.
F1523.2 AE narrow dirham (22-25mm), with ‘adl tughril khaqan on obverse, tirmidh sultan al-salatin on reverse, without overlord, undated
Ghiyath al-Dunya wa’l-Din Mahmud, in Tirmidh, d.609 / 1212

G1523 AV debased dinar
Mahmud was the son of Ibrahim b. Husayn, and brother of the last western Qarakhanid ruler, ‘Uthman b. Ibrahim (#3408-3411). Both brothers were defeated and killed by the Khawarizmshah Muhammad in 609 (SNAT 1078).

‘ALID OF TABARISTAN

Local Shi’ite rulers in Amul and Jurjan. With few exceptions, all coins were struck at either Amul or Jurjan. Most bear the Shi‘ite epithetical name, al-da‘i illa al-haqq.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 170
**Anonymous, circa 180s / 800s**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z1523</td>
<td>AR dirham, citing the 'Abbāsid caliph al-Rashid and 'Abd Allah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Without mint or date, to a weight standard of about 2.05g, lower than the early 'Abbāsid standard of 2.97g but identical to that of the Tabaristan “hemidrachm” struck until the 810s. There are two dots below obverse field, and the reverse is identical to #219.5 of the ‘Abbāsid caliph Harūn al-Rashīd. Several varieties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1523</td>
<td>AV dinar, known from Nishapur 262 only410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1523</td>
<td>AR dirham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The least rare issues struck at Jurjan in 268 and 269. The religious expression on al-Hasan’s coins is al-‘aḍa’i ʿilā al-ḥaqiq. The obverse outer margin bears Qurʾān 42:23, the reverse margin Qurʾān 22:39.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1523V</td>
<td>AV dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1524</td>
<td>AR dirham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>al-Hasan b. al-Qasim, first reign, 306-311 / 918-924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1524</td>
<td>AV dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1524</td>
<td>AR dirham, similar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ja’far b. al-Hasan, 311-314 / 924-926</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1524</td>
<td>AV dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>temp. al-Hasan b. al-Qasim, 2nd reign, 314-316 / 927-929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1524</td>
<td>AV dinar, al-Muhammadiya 316 only411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The type does not bear the ruler’s name, but only his epithetical title al-rīda min al muḥammad.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**'Alid of Qazwin**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al-Husayn b. Ahmad, fl. 250-253 / 864-867</td>
<td>Originally a commander for al-Hasan b. Zayd of Tabaristan, he was assigned to Qazwin, where he declared himself independent, ruling there until overthrow in late 253.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1524</td>
<td>AR dirham, Qazwin 253 (Zeno-13834)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The word al-thaqīr, “frontier”, beneath the obverse field refers to Qazwin being at the furthest western point under the ‘Alids.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Zaydi Imams of Hawsam**

See Stern (cited before #Z1523 above).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Of ‘Alid origins, these Imams ruled at Hawsam for most of the 4th/10th and the beginning of the 5th/11th centuries. Hawsam is believed to be the modern Rudbar412 in the Gilan province of Iran. Coins are known only of Ja’far.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ja’far b. Muhammad, al-Tha’ir fi Allah, circa 319-350 / 931-961,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K1524</td>
<td>AR dirham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dated in the 340s, of which only 341 is occasionally available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Firuzanid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coins of this dynasty appear to be unpublished, except #P1524.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A minor dynasty in western Khorasan, centered around Damghan and Bistam, normally vassals of the Buwayhids. All of their known coins cite a Buwayhid overlord.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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410 Emirates Coin Auction 2, March 2000, lot 524.
411 Sotheby’s, 25 May 2000, lot 426. No longer extremely rare, as at least several dozen pieces surfaced in the AH323 hoard, first marketed in 2009.
412 Rudbar was devastated by a severe earthquake in 1990.
413 Tübingen, recent acquisition (1999). The precise location of Biyar has not been determined. A specimen in Islamic Coin Auction #14, lot 349, lists the mint as Sari, but that seems impossible.
414 Sotheby’s, 20 April 1983, lot 86.

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 171
ZIYARID (IN TABARISTAN)

Miles, George C., “Coinage of the Ziyarid Dynasty of Tabaristan and Gurgan,” *ANS Museum Notes*, vol. 18 (1972), pp. 119-137, useful but now obsolete. *The first of the two major Daylamite dynasties to arise in north-central Iran, the latter being the Buwayhids. They ruled circa 315-483 / 927-1090, principally in portions of Tabaristan & Jurjan provinces, but their coinage is of shorter duration. A minor branch of the dynasty ruled briefly in the western Jibal, presumably with their capital at Burujird (no coins). One ruler, Farhad b. Mardawij, struck coins, first as vassal of the Kakwayhids, later as vassal of the Seljuq dynasty*.

Zahir al-Dawla Wushmagir (b. Ziyar), 323-357 / 935-967

1527 AV dinar, Sariya mint, several variants

′Ali b. Shahrayr, 511-534 / 1118-1140

1528.1 AV dinar (pale gold), local issue as independent ruler with title al-sultan al-aʿżam

1528.2 AV dinar (fine gold), without titles, as vassal of the Qarakhanid Abu’l-Qasim Mahmud

Rustam b. ‘Ali, circa 534-557 / 1140-1162

1529.1 AV heavy dinar, fine gold

1529.2 AV light dinar (approximately 2g), pale gold

Uncertain mint, perhaps Shihmar in Tabaristan.

ZIYARID (IN THE JIBAL)

Farhad b. Mardawij, fl. 415-425 / 1024-1034

1537F AR dirham, as vassal of the Kakwayhid Muhammad b. Dushmanzar & the Buwayhid Majd al-Dawla

Normal ‗Abbasid dinars struck at Mah al-Basra (= Nihawand) in 318 bear the letters m r or m r / below the reverse field. These initials are now believed to be personal to Mardawij prior to his seizing independence in 322.

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 172

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415 Yet another hoard surfaced in 2009, with terminal date 323, including at least 150 Mardawij dinars, nearly all of Mah al-Basra 322, together with several each of Quum, al-Karaj and Hamadan. When Miles published his article in 1972 only one coin of Mardawij was known!

416 ICA 10, lot 284, possibly from the 2006 dinar hoard, also Zeno-64770.
The most famous of the Daylamite dynasties. Buwayhid rule extended over most of Iran and Iraq 322-454 / 934-1061, but the house was always divided into rival lineages, often in conflict with one another. The Buwayhid “state” was organized as a constellation of several autonomous regional principalities nominally subordinate to the chief Buwayhid amir, who was usually (but not always) the ruler based in either Baghdad or Shiraz. In general, Buwayhid coins name the local ruler, his superiors, and always the current ‘Abbasid caliph. It is sometimes difficult to determine just who was the actual issuer without knowing the historical background from the textual sources. Moreover, Buwayhid rulers are commonly cited on coins by a succession of differing titles over the course of their careers. Fortunately, the magnificent work by Treadwell provides accurate assignment of the coins to individual rulers, their heirs and subordinates. Thanks to his publication, the regnal dates given here should now be reasonably reliable.

Buwayhid coins are struck in gold and silver; there is no copper coinage, though a few extremely rare lead “coins” have been reported from excavations in southern Iran (not listed here, as they are more likely either tokens or seals). Between circa 370 and 410, most silver dirhams are substantially debased, especially in the Jibal and the northern provinces. Nonetheless, the late coinage of Fars province, after about 395/1005, was invariably struck in fine silver from dies of superb aesthetic quality (except for a few issues in the 440s, struck from equally magnificent dies, but on debased billon).

The Buwayhids are also known as the Buyids; the first spelling reflects the Arabic transcription of the name, the latter the Persian. Both forms are correct. Take your choice!

The Buwayhid struck coins at more than 60 mints, many of which are quite rare. For silver coins, the most common are as follows: Madinat al-Salam and al-Basra in Iraq (Wasit and al-Kufa are somewhat rare); Hamadan and Mah al-Kufa in western Iran (al-Dinawar is rather common in the 370s only); Suq al-Ahwaz, Tustar min al-Ahwaz, al-Ahwaz and Ramhurmuz in Khuzestan; Arrajjan, Jannaba, Shiraz, Siraf, Fasa and Kord-Fanakhtura (a royal residence founded by ‘Adud al-Dawla) in Fars; Bardasir and Jirutf in Kirman; Isfahan, Qazwin and al-Muhammadiya in central Iran; Amul and Jurjan in Tabaristan. ‘Uman (Oman) is not especially rare but is highly prized due to its location on the Arabian peninsula. Not all mints are common in all periods. For gold coins, only Madinat al-Salam and Suq al-Ahwaz are truly common, though Hamadan, al-Muhammadiya and Isfahan are also frequently seen. Shiraz, the most common mint of all for silver, is surprisingly one of the rarest mints for gold!

There is considerable variation in the physical quality of Buwayhid coins. Some, particularly those struck at certain mints of types #1547E and 1570, as well as most coins struck after about AH400, are usually carefully struck, with full detail and fine calligraphy. Most types, however, show considerable weakness, unevenness, and are struck on poorly made planchets. Gold dinars were usually more carefully produced than silver dirhams.

Most of the later rulers bore increasingly complex titulature, of which only portions appear on individual coins, especially on weakly struck examples. These are noted directly after the rulers’ names. A few Buwayhid silver dirhams bear the engraver’s signature, always placed above the word qabl in the obverse outer marginal legend, listed separately as types #1547E, 1550E, U1553 and 1554E.


1538 AR dirham
A variant of this type has extra marginal legends on obverse and reverse bearing auspicious formulae (S, raer if nicely struck). Strangely, the two styles were struck simultaneously at Shiraz from 323 to 328.

1539 AV dinar, often with the title amir al-umara (mints in the Jibal) R

1540 AR dirham, similar (mints in the Jibal & Fars) C

Mu’izz al-Dawla Ahmad (b. Buwayh), in Iraq & Khuzestan, as Ahmad b. Buwayh, 328-334 / 939-946

All coins of Mu’izz al-Dawla cite the Buwayhid chief amir as overlord, ‘Imad al-Dawla until 338 (as ‘Ali b. Buwayh 328-334, then as ‘Imad al-Dawla 334-338), Rukn al-Dawla thereafter.

1541 AR dirham, as Ahmad bin Buwayh (328-334 / 939-946) S

Mu’izz al-Dawla Ahmad (b. Buwayh), as Mu’izz al-Dawla Abu’l-Husayn, 334-356 / 946-967

1542.1 AV dinar, citing ‘Imad al-Dawla as overlord S
Madinat al-Salam is the most frequently encountered mint for gold of this reign (all types). Silver is also commonly found from al-Basra, Suq al-Ahwaz, Tustar min al-Ahwaz and Ramhurmuz.

1542.2 AV dinar, as #1542.1, but with Rukn al-Dawla as overlord (338-356 / 950-967) S

1543.1 AR dirham, similar to #1542.1 (‘Imad al-Dawla as overlord) C

1543.2 AR dirham, similar to #1542.2 (Rukn al-Dawla as overlord) C

1544 AV dinar, as #1542.2 but citing ‘Izz al-Dawla & Rukn al-Dawla, struck 348-356 S
Beginning in 348, all gold and silver coins of Mu’izz al-Dawla cite his son ‘Izz al-Dawla as well, presumably to reflect his son’s appointment as heir-apparent.

1545 AR dirham, similar C

Sanad al-Dawla Abu Harb (b. Mu’izz al-Dawla), at al-Basra, 356-357 / 967-968 Rebel or subordinate ruler. Brother of ‘Izz al-Dawla, whose name also appears on his coins.

A1546 AR dirham, struck only at al-Basra 357 RRR


T1546 AR dirham, as vassal of ‘Ali b. Buwayh, 330-331 RRR


As vassal under ‘Imad al-Dawla (335-338):

1546 AV dinar S

1547 AR dirham, similar RR

As independent ruler (338-366):

1546A AV dinar S

For both subtypes of #1546, al-Muhammadiya and Isfahan are the most common mints, though Hamadan and Qazwin are not especially rare (same for the silver).

1547A AR dirham, normal styles C

1547E AR dirham, similar, but with the name of the die engraver added to the obverse RR

Struck at Isfahan in 354 and al-Muhammadiya 361 & 362. The engraver’s name is added above qabl in the outer obverse margin (. . . min qabl wa min ba’d . . .), as ‘anul al-Hasan bin muhammad, “the work of the-Hasan b. Muhammad”.

‘Adud al-Dawla Abu Shuja’ (b. Rukn al-Dawla), as Abu Shuja’, 338-341 / 949-952
His personal name was Fana Khusraw, which never appears on the coinage. His total rule was 338-372 / 949-983.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Mint</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1556 | AR dirham, similar | 'Adud al-Dawla Abu Shuja' (b. Rukn al-Dawla), as 'Adud al-Dawla Abu Shuja', 341-372 / 952-983 | As normal vassal under his father Rukn al-Dawla:  
coins struck for a shorter duration (367-368).  For the Caspian region.  
| 1555 | AV dinar, citing his father Rukn al-Dawla (struck 341-366) | -                                  |                                                                      |
| 1554 | AR or BI dirham, similar | -                                  |                                                                      |
| 1553 | AV dinar, as sole ruler (struck 367-372) | -                                  |                                                                      |
| 1552 | AR or BI dirham, similar | Mu'ayyid al-Dawla (b. Rukn al-Dawla), in central Iran, 356-373 / 967-984 | -                                  |
| 1550.1 | AR dirham, similar, normal round margins | -                                  |                                                                      |
| 1550.2 | AR dirham, similar, but marginal inscriptions in the form of a hexagon on both faces | Struck only at Shiraz, 344-346.                                             |
| 1550E | AR dirham, as #1550.1 but struck from dies signed by the engraver al-Hasan b. Muhammad, Arrajan 354 & 359 (see note to #1547E) | RRR                                                                 |
| 1550.1 | AR dirham, similar | Cited as #1550.1 but struck from dies signed by the engraver al-Hasan b. Muhammad, Arrajan 354 & 359 (see note to #1547E) | -                                  |
| 1550.2 | AR dirham, similar | Cited as #1550.2 AR dirham, similar, but marginal inscriptions in the form of a hexagon on both faces | -                                  |
| 1550 | AR dirham, as #1550 | Citied as #1550.1 but struck from dies signed by the engraver al-Hasan b. Muhammad, Arrajan 354 & 359 (see note to #1547E) | -                                  |
| 1549 | AV dinar, as sole ruler (struck 367-372) | -                                  |                                                                      |
| 1548 | AR dirham, similar | 'Adud al-Dawla Abu Shuja' (b. Rukn al-Dawla), as 'Adud al-Dawla Abu Shuja', 341-372 / 952-983 | As independent ruler without any overlord:  
In 368, 'Adud al-Dawla received the additional title Taj al-Milla, which normally appears on his coins from that year onwards. Silver and gold coins as sole ruler but without Taj al-Milla are scarcer, if only because they were struck for a shorter duration (367-368). For the gold, all mints except Suq al-Ahwaz are rare.  
| 1551 | AV dinar, as sole ruler (struck 367-372) | -                                  |                                                                      |
| 1552 | AR or BI dirham, similar | Mu'ayyid al-Dawla (b. Rukn al-Dawla), in central Iran, 356-373 / 967-984 | -                                  |

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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 174
1569 AR or BI dirham, similar, usually debased
Struck only at Madinat al-Salam & al-Mawsil, the latter.
Samsam al-Dawla Abu Kalijar al-Marzuban, subordinate ruler in Fars, Kirman & ‘Uman, 380-387 / 990-997
Same titulature as #1569, plus his kunya Abu Kalijar. Citing Fakhr al-Dawla as overlord.

1570 AR dirham, as #1570, many mints in Fars and Kirman provinces, also ‘Uman
Struck from carefully engraved dies on fine silver planchets, usually with minimal weakness.
Samsam al-Dawla Abu Kalijar al-Marzuban, as independent ruler, 387-388 / 997-998
Same titulature as #1569, but without overlord.

1570D AR or BI dirham, struck only at Ta’wajj & ‘Uman
Nur al-Dawla Abu Nasr (b. ‘Izz al-Dawla Bakhtiyar), 388-389 / 998-999
Also citing his brother Husam al-Dawla Abu’l-Qasim. Both were killed later in 389.
The attribution of the following two types is tentative.

1570M AV dinar, Shiraz 389 only

1570N AR dirham, same legends as his dinar
Known only dated 389, mints of Shiraz and possibly Siraf.

Taj al-Dawla Abu’l-Husayn Ahmad (b. ‘Adud al-Dawla), in Khuzestan & al-Basra, 373-375 / 984-986
With one exception (#H1571), all his coins cite only his kunya Abu’l-Husayn. His qa’ab Taj al-Dawla is never included, unlike his brother Diya’ al-Dawla. He should not be confused with ‘Adud al-Dawla, whose 2nd qa’ab was Taj al-Milla.

Cited as Ahmad b. ‘Adud al-Dawla (373 only):

H1571 AR dirham, known only from Suq al-Alhwaz 373
Citing the overlord Abu’l-Fawaris, the later Sharaf al-Dawla.

Cited as Abu’l-Husayn b. ‘Adud al-Dawla (373-375):

K1571 AV dinar

1571 AR or BI dirham
All coins in the name of Abu’l-Husayn cite Abu’l-Fawaris as overlord. The earliest issues of 373 cite Mu’ayyid al-dawla as higher overlord, later issues of 373 cite no higher overlord, and all coins dated 374-375 cite Fakhr al-Dawla as high overlord.

Diya’ al-Dawla Tahir Firuzshah (b. ‘Adud al-Dawla), in al-Basra circa 372-373 / 983-984

1572 AR or BI dirham, as independent ruler, cited only as Diya’ al-Dawla, in al-Basra 372 only
Baha’ al-Dawla Abu Nasr (b. ‘Adud al-Dawla), in Iraq & Khuzestan, 379-403 / 989-1012, in Fars after 388-403 / 998-1012
His full titles: al-malik al-adil baha’ al-dawla wa diy’a al-milla wa qiyam al-din Abu Nasr. Each individual coin contain only a fraction of these titles.

1573 AV dinar
His dinars of Suq al-Alhwaz mint are amongst the most common of all medieval Islamic gold coins, especially those dated 399 and 399. Other mints are rare.

1573A AV base dinar, debased imitation of dinars of Suq al-Alhwaz dated 398 or 399, presumably contemporary
Struck in moderately to heavily debased gold, sometimes virtually pure silver (perhaps pure silver with light gold wash), occasionally in poor quality billet. These abundant coins may have been a local currency produced for some considerable period of time after 399, though their function remains undetermined (see note to #B1584).

1574 AR or BI dirham
Baha’ al-Dawla is also cited as overlord on numerous issues of the Hasanwayhid, ‘Uqaylid, and Marwanid dynasties, as well as a few other local issues.

Khusrafuruz (b. Rukn al-Dawla), at Amul and al-Ruyan only, 373-384 / 983-994
A1575 AV dinar as vassal of Mu’ayyid al-Dawla (373 only)RR

1575.1 AR or BI dirham, similar, dated 373 only
RR

1575.2 AR or BI dirham, as vassal of his brother Fakhr al-Dawla, struck 373-384
RR

Majd al-Dawla (b. Fakhr al-Dawla), 379-387 / 989-999
His full titulature is: al-amir al-sayyid shahanshah majd al-dawla wa kaif al-umma Abu Talib.

As Abu Talib bin Fakhr al-Dawla (387-389):

Although Abu Talib did not receive his titles majd al-dawla, etc., until 389, he was an independent ruler during the previous two years.

1576 AR or BI dirham (usually very debased, mostly copper & lead), / 997-999), always weakly struck
Only the mint of al-Muhmmadiya is common.

With his title Majd al-Dawla (389-420):

1577 AR or BI dirham, similar

1578 AR or BI dirham, similar

1579 AR or BI dirham, usually very much debased, mainly Hamadan mint (see note to #1578)

Sultan al-Dawla (b. Baha’ al-Dawla), in Iraq, Khuzestan, and Fars, 403-415 / 1012-1024

1580 AV dinar

1581 AR dirham, normally fine silver

The previous recognition of the 413-414 coins as issues of Musharrif al-Dawla (412-415 / 1012-1024) bearing the name of Sultan al-Dawla is not correct. Sultan al-Dawla lost Iraq to Musharrif al-Dawla for those years, but retained Fars until his death in Shaban 415 (late 1024). There are no known coins of Musharrif al-Dawla for those years, but retained Fars until his death in Shaban 415 (late 1024). There are no known coins of Masharrif al-Dawla.

1581A AR fractional dirham (Sabur mint, ±0.5-1.0g)

His full titles are al-malik ‘rakn al-din jalal al-dawla wa jamal al-milla wa naṣir al-umma Abu tahir. About one word is illegible (before rubbn) on the only dirham specimen thus far reported, not included on the gold dinar.

1582 AV dinar

Known only from Madinat al-Salam dated 435.

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418 Sotheby’s, 15 November 1984, lot 450 (date missing).
419 Musharrif al-Dawla is named on some ‘Annazid coins struck in the early 419s, type #1590, for having assisted Abu’l-Shawk against the Kakwayhids.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 175
420 A modest hoard of the heavily debased dinars of Suq al-Ahwaz 398, 399 and 421 entered the market in 2009, probably several hundred examples of 398 and 399, a few dozen of 421. This hoard convinced me that the 398 & 399 types were struck for many years after their dates. Like the 421 dinars in the hoard, the 396-398 dinars were mostly extremely fine condition or better.

421 My thanks to Muhammad Ali Aravand, for reporting this, March 2009.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 176
**ANNAZID**

A minor dynasty, possibly of Kurdish origin, who succeeded the Hasawnyahids in western Iran, ultimately becoming vassals of the Great Seljuqs. Only Faris seems to have struck coins in any quantity, though dirhams of ‘Ali b. ‘Umar have become less rare in recent years. The dynasty is sometimes called the ‘Ayyarids, and the correct dynastic name remains disputable, though now listed as Annazid in Wikipedia. Most known Annazid coins lack the mint name. Their capital city was Hulwan.

‘Ali b. ‘Umar, fl. 417 / 1026

F1590 BI dirham

Struck by Muhalhil as vassal of the Great Seljuq Tughrul Beg, at the mint of Hulwan.

**KAKWAYHID**

Miles, George C., “The Coinage of the Kakwayhid Dynasty,” Iraq, vol. 5 (1938), pp. 89-104. Supplements by the same author were published in ANS Museum Notes, vols. 9 (1960), 12 (1966), and 18 (1972). Many additional types have subsequently been discovered, most of them still unpublished, except in sale and auction catalogs.

The last of the Daylamite dynasties, independent 1008-1051 in western & central Iran. A branch survived much later at Yazd, but is not known to have struck any coins. Isfahan (i.e., Isfahan) is by far the most common mint for all types, but coins of Saburqawm and al-Karaj are occasionally seen. There are at least a dozen additional mints, most of them very rare.

Kakwayhid dies show exquisite style and calligraphy, especially for the silver coinage of the 410s and early 420s. Unfortunately, few specimens were adequately struck to fully reveal the intricacy of the engraving. A few dies used for type #1591 are signed by the engraver. The majority of Kakwayhid coins also cite their overlord, Buwayhid from about 405 until 434, except for a short period in the early 420s when the overlord at most mints was the Ghaznavid ruler, at first Mahmud, then Mas’ud I after 421. From 435 onward, the overlord is the Great Seljuq sultan Tughrul Beg.

‘Ala al-Dawla Muhammad, 398-433 / 1008-1041

(Abu Ja’far, b. Dushmanzar)

1590 AV dinar

1591 AR dirham, similar

1592 AV dinar, citing the Buwayhid overlord Abu Kalijar, 433-434

1593 AR of BI dirham, usually debased, similar, normally under the suzerainty of Tughrul Beg

**BANI MIZYAD**


A tribal dynasty based in southern Iraq, who ruled from about 350/950 until 558/1163, often centered at Hilla.

Baha’ al-Dawla Mansur b. Dabis, 474-479 / 1081-1087

1593M AR dirham, known from Hilla 476

RRR Citing the Seljuq Malikshah I as overlord.

**GHAZNAVID**

Deyell, J.S., Living without Silver: The Monetary History of Early Medieval North India, Delhi,1990.


Sourdel, Dominique, Inventaire des monnaies musulmanes anciennes du Musée du Caboul, Damascus 1953.


The listings for the Ghazna mint in the Eastern Khorasan volume of SNAT (v.14d) are especially important.

Of Turkish extraction, the Ghaznavids were at first mamlik (“slave”) governors for the Samanids in and around Ghazna in what is now southeastern Afghanistan. They achieved independence in 389/999 and survived until 582/1186, though after about 555/1160 their territories were confined to the city of Lahore and surrounding areas in the Punjab.
Ghaznavid coinage is of great variety, with all manner of local issues. No attempt has yet been undertaken to systematically catalog this complex series. As a result, the type listings given here are surely incomplete. When not otherwise noted, the dirham is a slightly thick coin of about 18mm breadth, weighing 2.5-3.5 grams, derived from the earlier Hindushahi dramma of Kapisa near Kabul. The issues of Mahmud were known as yamini dirhams after Mahmud's title, Yamin al-Dawla, and are frequently inscribed "yamini" or even "yamintya".

After the reign of Mahmud, proper copper coinage ceased. Most yamini dirhams and other early silver coins are of fine alloy, but from the reign of Mas'ud I onwards, much of the silver is substantially debased. Yamini style dirhams of Mahmud and Mas'ud I are sometimes found in base metal, but these are believed to be contemporary counterfeits, perhaps produced at the official mints; such forgeries are relatively common and thus suggest a fair degree of hanky-panky on the part of mint authorities. Actual debasement reached its maximum under Ibrahim, whereas later rulers restored a finer alloy, perhaps about 60% silver, with the rest in base metal.

The rulers are known by various titles in addition to or in lieu of their proper names. The principal titles found on the coins are noted for each ruler. Dates of reign for Mawdud and later rulers are somewhat uncertain. I have followed the dates suggested by C.E. Bosworth, The Later Ghaznavids: Splendour and Decay, Edinburgh 1977, p. viii. Coins of the early members of the Ghaznavid dynasty, Ibrahim b. 'Abd al-Ghaflar through Mansur b. Balkategin, were struck at Ghazna. All gold dirhams of Sebuktegin are from Herat, his silver mainly from Farwan for single dirhams, Andaraba for multiple dirhams. Mahmud and Mas'ud I regularly struck gold at Nishapur, Herat, and Ghazna, silver principally at Balkh, Nishapur, and especially Ghazna, and copper at Ghazna and Bust. After the loss of Khorasan to the Seljuqs in 431, all dirhams and dirhams were struck at Ghazna, jitals at Lahore, fractional dirhams in Sind (probably at or near Multan). Some scarce gold and silver coins were struck at Farwan, but often with considerable carelessness, especially those of the post-500 Ghaznavid incursion from 420 to 427, of which only the gold of al-Rayy is occasionally available.

Ghaznavid gold dirhams were at first carefully struck, initially at the two mints of Nishapur and Herat, later at Ghazna, which first struck dirhams in 405. By the time of Mawdud, the overall quality of the dinar had diminished. Dimars of Ibrahim were not only poorly struck, but the gold alloy deteriorated, probably significantly below 50% by the end of his reign. Subsequent dirhams are horribly struck, barely legible, and increasingly debased. Fine gold was restored only during the last ruler, Khusrav Malik. Multiple dirhams were struck only under Sebuktegin, Isma'il and Mahmud, mainly at Andaraba. Quality and fineness appear to be similar to previous Samanid issues. The traditional dirhams, almost always broader than the yamini dirhams, were struck only at the mints of Khorasan, primarily Balkh and Nishapur, but also in very limited quantities at Herat and Marw. Their fineness remains untested, but my guess would be in the 60-70% range. The most important Ghaznavid silver coinage was the dirham of yamini style, or "standard dirham" as it might be termed, first introduced by Sebuktegin in 380 and produced until the collapse of the dynasty. Although not yet analyzed, the fineness of the standard dirham seems to have been in the 75-85% range until the end of Mas'ud's reign in 432, then perhaps somewhat lower until the earliest issues of Ibrahim. Thereafter, the fineness rapidly depreciated, probably below 10% for some of the scruffiest issues of Ibrahim and his immediate successors. Their fineness returned to somewhere in the 50-70% range during the long reign of Bahramshah, perhaps in the year 525 or thereabouts, and was thus retained until the loss of Ghazna in 568/1173. The fineness estimates provided here are just a guess. Throughout the Ghaznavid period, the standard dirhams were usually struck on planchets smaller than the dies, so that the marginal legends, sometimes containing mint & date on one side or the other, are off flan. Thus the majority struck from dated dies fail to reveal the inscribed date. Before the loss of Khorasan in 431, some standard dirhams were struck at other mints, such as Warwarliz, Andaraba and Farwan, with the mint name usually inserted in the obverse or reverse field rather than in the margin. Jitals were struck in a copper alloy that usually contains a few percent of silver, as well as other base metals, such as lead or antimony. Most were struck in the eastern regions of the kingdom, principally at Lahore. The jitals have been very well catalogued by Ty, though additional types and varieties continue to be discovered.

The copper fulus were often struck from exceptionally fine dies, but often with considerable carelessness, especially those of the principal mint for the fals, Ghazna. The very broad fulus of Bud were never well struck, and most surviving examples are unpleasantly worn, damaged or corroded.

Balkategin, circa 320-326 / 932-938

As governor of Balkh under the Samanid ruler, Nasr II, cited on the coins at the bottom of either obverse or reverse field.

A1594 AR dirham

Ibrahim b. 'Abd al-Ghaflar, fl. circa 338-345 / 949-956

1594 AE fals, Ghazna mint only, often dated 343 RR

Alptekin, circa 343-355 / 954-966

Citing the Samanid ruler, 'Abd al-Malik; it remains unclear whether the Alptekin of this coin is the same as the early Ghaznavid Alptekin. Struck at Andaraba only, known dated 347 or 349.

Balkategin, circa 355-362 / 966-973

1595 AE fals, as Ghaznavid ruler (Ghazna, normally dated 357)

Mansur b. Balkategin, in Ghazna, 358 / 969 & circa 366-373 / 977-983

A1596 AE fals

Struck only at Ghazna in 358 & 368. The above four rulers of this kingdom were not related to Sebuktegin and his successors, who formed a true dynastic line, also known as the Sebukteginids.

Sebuktegin (Nasir al-Dawla), 366-387 / 977-997

From 366, local ruler in Bust & Gardez, seizing Ghazna shortly after 373. According to his coinage, he became the Samanid governor, as follows: Sebuktegin (380), centered at Farwan. Herat also fell under his rule from 384 until his death in 387. All his silver and gold coinage cites the Samanid ruler Nuh III.

1596 AV dinar, Herat mint only, 384-387 R

1597 AR multiple dirham, similar, struck at Andaraba S

A coarsely engraved variant, barely legible, was assigned by Mitchiner to the Ma'din mint (M-M29, SNAT 383).

1598 AR dirham, similar, broad flan, Herat mint RRR

Stylistically similar to contemporary Samanid dirhams of Bukhara.

1599 AR dirham, narrow flan, as autonomous ruler in Ghazna (but citing the Samanid overlord Nuh III) C

Moderately rare with legible date (known from Farwan dated 380-385). These coins were probably struck entirely at Farwan, though most examples lack the mint name. The narrow, thickish fabric of this type was derived from the dramma (i.e., drachm) of the Hindushahi kings of Kabul (Spalapati Deva & Samanta Deva). This denomination was later debased and seems to have been known as a jital from about 500/1100 onwards. However, to separate the Ghazna types from the Lahore types, I have retained the denomination dirham for all the post-500 Ghazna silver issues under this dynasty, since when legible, the engraved denomination is always dirham.

1599A AE fals, Ghazna mint only RR

Known dated 374.

1599K AE jital, probably struck at Ghazna but without mint name (Ty #83), name Sebuktegin above lion RR?

Lion right on obverse, elephant left on reverse, as on the copper coins of Bhima of the Hindushahi dynasty, which were struck for many decades during the 9th and 10th centuries.

Isma'il, 387-388 / 997-998

1600 AR multiple dirham, struck only at Warwarliz in 388 RRR

Citing the Samanid Nuh b. Mansur, who died in 387!

^524 It has not been determined whether the Balkategin of #1594 and #1595 are truly the same individual.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 178
together with his father Sebuktegin (see #1602).

Mahmud (Abu’l-Qasim, b. Sebuktegin), governor of Ghazna, circa 367-384 / 978-994

Coins of this governorate cite his father Sebuktegin as overlord, but without citing a Samanid ruler.

E1602 AE broad fals, Bust mint, very broad flan, normally with sword depicted in field

Coins of this type were struck by Mahmud as governor of Bust on behalf of his father Sebuktegin as early as 368 (without sword). Mahmud was named governor of Ghazna in 367/977-978 by his father Sebuktegin (see #1602).

F1602 AE fals, Ghazna mint

Mahmud (Abu’l-Qasim, b. Sebuktegin), as Samanid governor in western Khorasan, 384-387 / 994-997

Citing the Samanid ruler Nuh III, but without Mahmud’s father Sebuktegin, with titles al-wali sayf al-dawla.

A1602 AV dinar, Nishapur mint only, struck 384-386, with Samanid overlord Nuh III

B1602 AR multiple dirham, Andaraba 385 only, ruler cited as sayf al-dawla wa nasirahu (SNAT 207-209)

C1602 AR dirham

Struck on broad (25-27mm) or narrow (19-22mm) flans, often with a sword in field, principally at Nishapur. It is conceivable that the two distinct sizes represent two separate denominations, such as a single and double dirham (further study needed).

D1602 AE fals, Nishapur mint

Mahmud (Abu’l-Qasim, b. Sebuktegin), as Samanid governor throughout Khorasan, 387-389 / 997-999

Citing the Samanid ruler Mansur II. Struck at Ghazna, Herat, Nishapur, and rarely at Warwarliz & Farwan. Also with title sayf al-dawla.

1602 AV dinar, fine gold

Most coins of this type depict a sword in the obverse or reverse field. Struck only at Nishapur.

1603 AR multiple dirham, similar

Struck at Andaraba in 388. An extremely rare variant is known from Warwarliz, undated.

1604 AR dirham, broad flan

Struck at Balkh and Nishapur, the latter rare.

1604A AR broad dirham (about 24mm), with the complete Qur’an Verse 3:18 (ending in …al- aziz al-hakim), Nishapur 387 only

RRR

1605 AR dirham, narrow flan, yamini type, always without mint name but believed to have been minted at Farwan or Ghazna

Mahmud (Abu’l-Qasim, b. Sebuktegin), as independent ruler, 389-421 / 999-1030

His principal titles are yamin al-dawla wa amin al-milla. Because of the peculiar nature of this part of the title, his dirham became known as yamini, a word that often appears in the obverse or reverse field on coins of all three metals, occasionally in the feminine form yaminiya. Additional titles include nizam al-din, al-amir al-sayyid, and wali amir al-mu’minin.

Most gold and silver coins of this reign from the mints of Herat, Balkh and Ghazna dated in the latter part of 420 and in 421 bear the name of the month as well as the year (types #1606, 1607, 1609, and 1611).

1606 AV dinar, struck in fine gold (Nishapur mint)

Other mints are known, mainly Iranian mints dated 420-421, all very rare.

WARNING: Counterfeits of Nishapur 389 exist, recognized under magnification by the prominent concentric marking in the fields.

1606A AV dinar, citing Mas’ud as governor of the west (al-Rayy 420)

RRR

1607 AV dinar, struck in pale gold (mints of Herat & Ghazna only), similar

Coins were minted at Herat from 389 to 421 and at Ghazna from 405 to 421. The gold alloy at these mints is generally rather good until about 408 and gradually becomes pale thereafter. Late 420 and all 421 issues also bear the month.

1608 AR multiple dirham (typically from about 8g to more than 12g)

Nearly all struck at Andaraba in 389, with sword below the obverse field and the name Balkategin atop the obverse margin. Multiple dirhams were extremely rare until the discovery of the hoard at Andaraba of allegedly more than 30,000 specimens in 1967. About 50% of the hoard was of this type.

A few later dates in the 390s are known for the mints of Andaraba and Warwarliz, terminating in 397, all very rare.

1609 AR yamini dirham (2.5-3.5g), similar (Ghazna & other eastern mints)

Most yamini dirhams have isolated Arabic letters (more rarely Brahmi) or other symbols somewhere in the obverse or reverse field. The meaning of these letters remains obscure. Whereas some may possibly refer to mints that were subordinate to Ghazna, it is more likely that they represent mintmasters or other officials principally at Ghazna itself. The chronology of these symbols is uncertain, nor has it been determined whether they have identical meaning on both silver and gold issues.

Contemporary forgeries in copper or silver-plated copper (subaerata) are often encountered (S). Similar contemporary forgeries are also known for types #1621 of Mas’ud I and #1626 of Mawdud, probably later rulers as well.

1609A AR yamini dirham (2.5-3.5g), similar, but with mint name other than Ghazna, somewhere in the obverse or reverse field

These coins were struck principally at Andaraba(b), Farwan, Warwarliz and gharsh (perhaps an abbreviation of Gharshistan?), with the names placed in either the obverse or reverse field, normally at the top, rather than in the marginal inscriptions.

1609N AR yamini double dirham (5.5-6.5g), as #1609

RRR

1609O AR yamini double dirham (5.5-6.5g), as #1609A, with mint name in field

The double dirham is clearly a distinctive denomination, as the single dirham never exceeds about 3.8g and no coins are known between 3.8g and about 5.5g.

1610 AR bilingual dirham (in Sanskrit & Arabic)

Struck at Mahmudpur (= Lahore) in 418 & 419, dated in words in Arabic, but also dated 418 in Sanskrit numerals on the reverse. A few examples are dated 418 in Arabic, 419 in Sanskrit, or vice versa (RR). Lahore was renamed Mahmudpur in honor of Mahmud the Ghaznavid.

1611 AR broad dirham (usually 22-26mm), normal reverse

S

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 179

425 Unpublished example in the Ashmolean.

426 His effective rule commenced in 388/998, upon the demise of Isma’il. Hence his reign is traditionally regarded as 388-421 / 998-1030, though he continued to recognize Mansur II as his Samanid overlord until well into 389, together with his Isaqb Sayf al-Dawla. His new Isaqb Yamini al-Dawla was acquired during the year 389, after Samanid suzerainty was abolished.
Struck principally at Balkh, Nishapur and Sijistan, the last very rare. Dirhams from mints conquered during Mahmud’s western campaigns in 420-421 are very rare (mainly al-Muhammadiya). Balkh dirhams of 420 & 421 usually cite the month, from Dhu’l-Qa’da 420 to Jumada 1 421.

1611.2 AR broad dirham (normally 28-34mm), with Ayat al-Khlas on reverse (Qur’an Surat 112), Balkh 390-393 only
Balkh issues dated 394 and later belong to type #1611.1. The typical weight of both subtypes of #1611 is in the range of 3.5 to 5.0 grams.

1612 AR ½ dirham (circa 1.0-1.7g), usually Bust mint, rarely visible
Some rather finely engraved examples of this denomination, always without mint name, were likely struck at Ghazna. The issues of Bust are normally undated, though the year 401 is occasionally seen (RR).

1613 AR dama (tiny fractional dirham, about 0.5g), without mint name but struck in Sind
Believed struck at Mansura or Multan in Sind, but always without mint name. Tye has suggested that the denomination may have been known as the damma (see note above #1493). The weight is almost identical to 1/6 canonical dirham, similar to the sudeysi of the Rassids of Yemen.

1614 AE broad fals (Bust, 30-35mm)
More and more interesting varieties have appeared since the mid-1990s, revealing a large number of distinctive types, mostly undated and often without mint name. Few of these types have been widely circulated and not much is realised about their mints of issue.

1615 AE normal fals (principally Ghazna and Balkh, average 25mm), normally lovely fine style
Some bull-only types retain the name of Sri Samanta Deva above the bull, increasingly stylized on later issues. All later bull & horseman types, as well as bull-only types retain the name of Sri Samanta Deva above the bull, increasingly stylized on later issues.

1616 AV dinar
The least rare example of this type is Ghazna 419, apparently the muling of an old obverse die of Mahmud with a reverse die of Muhammad.

1617 AR dirham, normal style, Ghazna mint
Some examples omit the name Muhammad, but can readily be identified by his title Jamal al-Dawla or his kunya Abu Ahmad.

1617D AE fals, with muhammad bin mohammad / wa’di within star of Solomon
The mint for this type has been tentatively read as Maymaneh; always undated. No known coins of Muhammad’s ephemeral second reign (432/1042).

Kingdom of Ghur:

Mas’ud I, 421-432 / 1030-1042
(Nasir Din Allah Abu Sa’id, b. Mahmud)

Additional titles used primarily on the gold coinage: nizam al-din, qutb al-milla, fakhr al-umma, zahir khilaf Allah, or hafez ibad Allah.

1618 AV dinar, fine gold, mainly mint of Nishapur
A few rare issues were struck at the Iranian mints of Hamadan, al-Rayy, and Isfahan. The province of Khorasan, including the mint cities Nishapur and Herat, were lost to the Seljuqs in 432/1040. With the exception of a single variety of #1625 struck at Herat in 433, all subsequent Ghaznavid dirhams were struck only at Ghazna, almost exclusively in pale gold.

1619 AR dirham, pale gold, mints of Herat & Ghazna
Some very rare examples were struck at al-Muhammadiya (Rayy) in both fine Kakwayhid and less elegant Ghaznavid styles.

1620 AR broad dirham, principally Balkh and Nishapur mints
Some rather finely engraved examples of this denomination, as well as bull-only types retain the name of Sri Samanta Deva above the bull, increasingly stylized on later issues.

1621 AR dirham, ordinary style (struck mainly at Ghazna)
Successor to the yamini, with many variations, as for Mahmud, but always without mint name. While Ghazna was the primary mint, some may have been struck elsewhere, to judge by the great variation of calligraphy, layout and symbols.

1622 AR ½ dirham, several variants
Style as the Bust fractions of Mahmud, but without mint name.

1623 AR or BI dirham, bull & horseman type (Lahore?) (Tye #89)
Andarab (sic), undated RR

1624 AR dama (Sind)
Sanskrit name Sri Samanta Deva above bull, Arabic Mas’ud above horseman. Some examples bear a short word or a symbol on the center of the bull’s body. All later bull & horseman types, as well as bull-only types retain the name of Sri Samanta Deva above the bull, increasingly stylized on later issues.

1625 AV dinar, pale gold, Ghazna mint
Also known from Herat dated 433, during the brief local uprising against the Seljuq conquerors, citing unknown Abu Jahl below reverse field (RR).

1626 AR dirham, normal styles (Ghazna, but often without mint name)
Frequently dated, sometimes with month (S).

1627 BI jital, Rajput bull on obverse, horseman on reverse with mawdud above (Tye #91-92)
Two very distinct types, one with the kunya Abu’l-Fath at the top (1627.1), the other with Abu’l-Fath in the second line from the bottom (1627.2). The former is rare.

1628 AR dama (Sind)
Rose, 440 / 1048-1049 (al-Mu’ayyad bi-nasr Allah)

1629K AR dirham (Ghazna)
‘Abd al-Rashid, 440-443 / 1049-1052
(‘Izz al-Dawla wa Zayn al-Milla Sayf Allah)

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1639 BI 'adudi dirham
1640 BI nusayri dirham
1641 BI qarari dirham
1641A BI qahir dirham
1642 BI hafizi dirham
1643 BI 'imadi dirham (known dated 471)
1644 BI zahiri dirham

A1645 AR ½ dirham, Ghazna types
Struck from special smaller dies. A few very rare examples are inscribed nsf, Arabic for “half”. Typically 0.8-1.0g.

1645 BI/AE jital, bull on obverse (Lahore) (Tye 102-103)
1646 BI dirham (Qiwam al-Dawla), heavily debased

This is the last issue of the fractional dirham (damma) in Ghazna.

1639-1646 A1632 AV dinar (Ghazna) RRR
(Qiwam al-Dawla Abu Sa'id)

A1632 AV dinar (Ghazna) RRR
Formerly RRR, but at least 100, perhaps 200+ examples of this type reached the market circa 1999, now dispersed.
Known dirhams of this style but weighing about 5.0-5.5g were perhaps intended as double dirhams (RRR).
Farrukhzad (b. Mas'ud), 444-451 / 1053-1059
(Jamal al-Dawla wa Kamal al-Milla Abu Shuja')
Additional titles are mu'ayyid amur al-mu'minin (used 433-444) and kamal al-milla (from 445 onwards).
Dirhams exist dated 443, and it is possible that Farrukhzad had already claimed the throne before the start of 444. Since his name always appears on the reverse and the date on the obverse, the 443 dirhams may represent a muling with an obverse die of a previous ruler, either Mawdud or the rebel Tughril.

1633 AV dinar
1634 AR dirham, normal style (Ghazna only, not always noted on the coin), occasionally dated
1634A AR ½ dirham, Ghazna style, about 1.0g RRR
1635 BI jital, bull on obverse (Lahore) (Tye #99-100)
1636 AR damma (Sind), about 0.5g, much debased

Ibrahim, 451-492 / 1059-1099
The titles of Ibrahim are not well understood, largely because few dated coins have been published and no thorough research has yet been undertaken. On earlier coins he is either zuhir al-dawla or nusir al-dawla, on most later coins he is styled al-sultan al-a'zam, qahir al-mulk, al-islam, or sayyid al-salatin (or some combination of these). Many dirhams struck 451-465 also bear the kunya abu'l-muzaffar (also found on some later jitals of Lahore).

1637 AV dinar, pale to very pale gold (later coins more debased)
In 1995, a large hoard (circa 1000x coins) of late debased dirhams of Ibrahim reached the market. Dated specimens show 480-484, though examples with clear date are scarce, about 10% of the hoard. These appear to be substantially more debased than earlier types of this reign, which are known dated from 451 to 465. Dinars dated 466-479 and after 485 seem to be unknown, except for a unique specimen dated 475.

1638 AR dirham, normal style, without denominational name, relatively fine to severely debased silver
The billon dirhams of Ibrahim frequently have a denominational name above the obverse or reverse field. Several varieties are listed below. Their chronology is unknown, save for the mention of the 'Abbasid caliph. The meaning of these denominational adjectives remains unknown, though one might conjecture that the names were related to either their silver content or assigned value. The rarities assigned to the named denominations are tentative.

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429 A hoard of perhaps 200-300 pieces, terminal date 456 or 457, appeared in the market beginning in 2007. Portions of the 1995 hoard of 480-484 dirhams continue to relentlessly appear on the market, and I now suspect that the size of the hoard was at least several thousand pieces.

430 In a private collection in the United States.
Khusrawshah, 552-555 / 1157-1160 (Mu‘izz al-Dawla)

Recently discovered normal gold and silver coins in the name of Khusrawshah are dated 548, suggesting that his reign most likely began in 548. There are no coins of Bahramshah known dated as late as 548.

For the time being, I have retained the dates of the reigns of Bahramshah as 511-552 and Khusrawshah as 552-555, although it now seems that either Khusrawshah succeeded Bahramshah in 548 or the two Ghaznavids ruled as rivals between 548 and 552.

The name is often transcribed as Khusro Shah.

1658 AV dinar, very pale gold

A few dozen examples surfaced circa 2000. The calligraphy is truly disgraceful and virtually unreadable. One dinar of noticeably better calligraphy and some relatively well-struck silver dirhams are now known dated 548, with the clearly legible mint name Ghazna.

1659.1 AR dirham, citing the Seljuq ruler Sanjar as overlord, normally debased metal

Known dated 548 & 550 (both RR), or undated with circle of pellets replacing the mint/date formula.

1659.2 AR dirham, similar, but without overlord

Always with circle of pellets instead of date and mint.

1660 BI/AE jital, bull on obverse (Lahore) (Tye 113)

1661 AE jital (perhaps Lahore), as A1658 but mu‘izz in rayed circle (Tye 114)

This type was formerly assigned to the Ghorid Mu‘izz al-Din Muhammad b. Sam. 431

Khusraw Malik, 555-582 / 1160-1186 (Taj al-Dawla)

Other titles were used, as noted in the type descriptions.

The name can also be transcribed as Khusro Malik.

A1662 AV dinar, fine gold, Ghazna mint, good style & calligraphy

1662 AR dirham, normal Ghazna types

Khusraw Malik used three laqabs progressively, first Taj al-Dawla, then Siraj al-Dawla, finally Abu'l-Muluk. The range of silver fineness remains undetermined. The relative rarity of these three types is currently unknown.

1663.1 BI/AE jital, bull on obverse, reverse margin of dotted circles, title Taj al-Dawla (Tye 116)

Cursive calligraphy, circle divided into 4 sections superimposed on bull’s rump. Tye has suggested that this type was struck at Kurraman rather than Lahore.

1663.2 BI/AE jital, bull on obverse, title Taj al-Dawla (Lahore) (Tye 119)

Squared calligraphy, cross on bull’s rump.

1663.3 BI/AE jital, bull on obverse, Arabic khayr in center of bull’s body, title Taj al-Dawla (Tye 118)

1663.4 BI/AE jital, bull on obverse, title Abu'l-Muluk (Tye 117)

1664.1 BI/AE jital, short inscriptions both sides, title Taj al-Dawla (Tye 121)

1664.2 BI/AE jital, short inscriptions both sides, title Siraj al-Dawla (Tye 120)

A1665 AE jital (perhaps Lahore), as A1658 but taji in rayed circle (Tye 122) RR

SHARS OF GHARSHISTAN (sic)

A local ruler whose coins bear the mint name Juzjan and are stylistically similar to contemporary Ghaznavid coins of Balkh. All coins cite the Ghaznavid Mahmud as overlord.

Abu Nasr, circa 396-400 / 1006-1010

G1665 AR broad dirham, ruler cited below obverse field RRR

H1665 AR narrow dirham, ruler below reverse field RRR

Stylistically similar to the standard yamini dirhams of Mahmud.

431 Thanks to Robert Tye for correctly reattributing the rayed circle jitals to the late Ghaznavid kings.

432 Malik originally meant “king” but during the Seljuq period, when “kings” had taken the title of sultan, the title took on the meaning of “prince”, normally assigned to the son of a ruling sultan or some other close relative.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 182

IRAN — SELJUQ PERIOD

GREAT SELJUQ

There is no comprehensive catalog for this complex coinage. In addition to the usual museum and auction catalogs, the following are of some use:


Khodzhanayrazov, T., Donnoe obrazochenia v gosudarstva Velikikh Sel’dzhukov, Ashkhabad 1977 (in Russian).

Khodzhanayrazov, T., Katalog monet gosudarstva Velikikh Sel’dzhukov, Ashkhabad 1979 (in Russian).


The Seljuqs were Turkic peoples from Central Asia who advanced into Iran and the fertile crescent towards the second quarter of the 5th/11th century. They conquered much of Iran from the Buyyayids and their subordinates by about 1040, Iraq around 1060, eastern Anatolia following their infamous defeat and capture of the Byzantine emperor Romanus IV in 1071, and much of Syria by 1080. Their attempts to maintain an empire were thwarted by the Turkish tradition of dividing the patrimony between numerous sons and other heirs, so that a unified state was unsustainable. Nonetheless, from 429 until 485, under the strong military leadership of Tughril Beg, then Alp Arslan and finally Malikshah I, a largely unified empire was maintained, which rapidly disintegrated after Malikshah’s death in 485/1092.

Seljuk coinage is principally in gold, plus some normally very debased billon dirhams, the occasional copper fals, and a few eastern jitals. Gold coins struck east of Nishapur are almost invariably of alloyed gold, whereas issues of Nishapur and points west are of fine gold. Much of the pale gold after about 483 has the appearance of silver. By the 530s, pale gold coinage was typically only 10-15% gold, the rest mostly silver but often containing considerable copper. Nowadays, these later issues are often gilt and immorally sold by spurious dealers as “fine gold”.

There was no fixed weight standard for the gold coinage. Seljuk dinars vary randomly from barely one to more than six grams and were thus intended to be weighed rather than counted.

The most common mint for Seljuk fine gold is Nishapur, but coins of al-Ahwaz, Madinat al-Salam, Hamadan, al-Rayy and Isfahan are also relatively common, at least for some periods. For the pale gold issues, the principal mints are Marw, Balkh, and Herat. In all, some sixty mints struck fine or pale gold dinars, most very occasionally, in some cases known only for a single year.

Seljuk dinars of both find and pale gold were generally rather negligently struck. Fully struck, well-centered examples dated after the 450s are virtually never encountered, except for the mint of Madinat al-Salam and occasional dinars from Isfahan and al-Ahwaz. Some degree of flatness and irregularity is the norm. Most of the later coinage, especially after the death of Ghiyath al-Din Muhammad in 511, is even more crudely struck, typically with 10-20% flatness, often much worse. The rare debased billon “black” dirhams are even more miserably made and, because of their alloy, are usually found severely corroded. Surprisingly, the rare copper fulus of Malikshah were carefully made and may have been intended as a pure copper replacement for the ugly black dirhams of the time.

Each of the Seljuq rulers bore many personal titles, of which only the principal ones are noted in the listings here. However, the titles never appear on the coins in a uniform or consistent fashion; different mints often “selected” their own preferred subset of the titles to include in their coinage. Many Seljuq rulers bore the title “murshid” (prince).
prior to their accession and sultan afterwards. Moreover, the layout of the inscriptions varied dramatically from mint to mint, and often from year to year at some of the more productive mints, even at Nishapur, but especially in the east.

To declare their leadership, the Seljuq rulers adopted the title al-sultan al-mu'azzam rather than the superior title al-sultan al-azam, perhaps formally expressing their presumption that they were theoretically servants of the 'Abbasid caliphate. Virtually all of the silver and gold coins also cite the then current 'Abbasid caliph. Numerous Seljuq coins, especially after the 470s, bear the name of a local governor or dynast in addition to the Seljuq. Some of these governors are noted under the first listing for the ruler, with the known mints in parentheses. Most of these are rare, though a few, especially from Hamadan, are relatively available (the governors of Hamadan are listed separately as #A1707-F1707). However, I have not included the caliphal heirs-apparent and vizers named on Seljuq dinars minted at Madinat al-Salam.

Eastern gold dinars first underwent some debasement under Mahmud of Ghazna in the AH390s at his Herat mint, with further reduction of gold fineness gradually increasing at eastern mints throughout the Seljuq period, often assuming different reductions at different mints. Most eastern gold dinars had fallen to 10-20% fineness by the end of Seljuq period, often assuming different reductions at different mints. More research required!

See also #A1425 & B1425, which also cite the current Saffarid rulers, unlike #1669 and 1669A.

Ibrahim b. Yusuf Inanji Yabghu, at Hamadan, circa 434-441 / 1043-1050

His additional titulature found on the dinars, saf al-dawla wa kaif al-umma.

A1670 AV dinar

B1670 AR dirham (probably fine silver)

Rasultzakin b. Mu'izz al-Dawla, fl. 455 / 1063

E1670 AV dinar, struck only at Isfakhri in 455

Rasultzakin was the son of either the uncle or father-in-law of Tughril Beg. His own titles were husam al-din abu shuja'.

Alp Arslan Muhammad b. Da'ud', as malik at Herat, circa 450-455 / 1058-1063

Alp Arslan’s many titles include ‘adud al-dawla wa taj al-umma, abu shuya’, malik al-islam, shahanshah.

K1670 AV dinar, citing his father Chaghri Beg as overlord, struck mainly at Herat in 450

L1670 AV dinar, without his father, struck at Marw 453

M1670 BI dirham, citing his father as overlord, mints of Balkh & Herat

RRR

Alp Arslan Muhammad b. Da'ud', as sultan, 455-465 / 1063-1072

1670 AV dinar, fine gold

Fine gold was struck at Nishapur and numerous western mints in Iran and Iraq.

For coins also bearing the name of Arslan Khan (struck at Shiraz), see type #A1679.

1671 AV dinar, pale gold (eastern mints)

RRR

From this reign onwards, all dinars of Balkh, Warwarliz, Herat, Sarakhs, Marw, and Marw al-Rud are struck in debased gold, later heavily debased. By the time of Sanjar, these mints were striking “dinars” in virtually pure silver, often with a light gold wash. Some coins struck before 463 still retain relatively good gold content, more than 50%, perhaps much higher. Subsequent debasement seems to have taken place gradually, and possibly at different rates at various mints. More research required!

1672 BI dirham, mainly mint of Nishapur

RR

Takish Beg, in eastern Khorasan, circa 454-477 / 1062-1084 (Shihab al-Dawla)

1673.1 AV dinar, pale gold, as vassal of Alp Arslan

RRR

1673.2 AV dinar, as last but as vassal of Malikshah

RR

Most coins of Takish Beg cite Malikshah I as overlord. His other titles include Shihab al-Dawla, is found on most of his coins, struck only at Balkh and Warwarliz.

1673A AV dinar, pale gold, with his name given as Shihab al-Dawla Takish Arslan

RRR

Struck only at Balkh and dated 476.

1673C AE fals, citing Malikshah

RRR

Zeno-61784, mint & date illegible.

Ilyas (b. Tughril Beg), at Balkh circa 458-465 / 1066-1072

As subordinate of Alp Arslan.

1673E AV dinar, pale gold only

RR

One example cites Ilyas alone, without any Seljuq overlord, struck at Balkh and apparently dated 454 (Tübingen).

1673F BI dirham, similar, known dated 463

RRR

No specimens recorded with legible mint name.

Malikshah I (b. Alp Arslan Muhammad), 465-485 / 1072-1092

The principal titles of Malikshah I are jalal al-dawla, mu'izz al-din, rukn al-islam, and abu' l-fath. No single coin includes

432-450 / 1043-1063

No specimens recorded with legible mint name.

Ilyas (b. Tughril Beg), at Balkh circa 458-465 / 1066-1072

As subordinate of Alp Arslan.

1673E AV dinar, pale gold only

RR

One example cites Ilyas alone, without any Seljuq overlord, struck at Balkh and apparently dated 454 (Tübingen).

1673F BI dirham, similar, known dated 463

RRR

No specimens recorded with legible mint name.

Malikshah I (b. Alp Arslan Muhammad), 465-485 / 1072-1092

The principal titles of Malikshah I are jalal al-dawla, mu'izz al-din, rukn al-islam, and abu' l-fath. No single coin includes

432-450 / 1043-1063

No specimens recorded with legible mint name.

Ilyas (b. Tughril Beg), at Balkh circa 458-465 / 1066-1072

As subordinate of Alp Arslan.

1673E AV dinar, pale gold only

RR

One example cites Ilyas alone, without any Seljuq overlord, struck at Balkh and apparently dated 454 (Tübingen).

1673F BI dirham, similar, known dated 463

RRR

No specimens recorded with legible mint name.

Malikshah I (b. Alp Arslan Muhammad), 465-485 / 1072-1092

The principal titles of Malikshah I are jalal al-dawla, mu'izz al-din, rukn al-islam, and abu' l-fath. No single coin includes

432-450 / 1043-1063

No specimens recorded with legible mint name.

Ilyas (b. Tughril Beg), at Balkh circa 458-465 / 1066-1072

As subordinate of Alp Arslan.

1673E AV dinar, pale gold only

RR

One example cites Ilyas alone, without any Seljuq overlord, struck at Balkh and apparently dated 454 (Tübingen).

1673F BI dirham, similar, known dated 463

RRR

No specimens recorded with legible mint name.

Malikshah I (b. Alp Arslan Muhammad), 465-485 / 1072-1092

The principal titles of Malikshah I are jalal al-dawla, mu'izz al-din, rukn al-islam, and abu' l-fath. No single coin includes

432-450 / 1043-1063

No specimens recorded with legible mint name.
them all. Towards the end of this reign, an increasing number of mints began adding the name of a local governor or atabeg, of which the following are occasionally seen:

Malik al-Maluk Ahmad, son of Malikshah I, died in 481.438
Amir Sharaf (Arrajan) (RRR)
Khutlug Beg (= Öner) (Shiraz, Kazirun) (RRR)
Masnad al-Dawla Sulayman (Warwarliz) (RRR)
*Izz al-Dawla Nuh (Marw, on type 1675 only, often with the additional title Sayf al-Milha) (RRR)

1674 AV dinar, fine gold (western mints)
Nishapur is by far the most common mint, al-Ahwaz & Isfahan are only scarce.

1674A AV dinar, fine gold, with Ayat al-Kursi (Qur’an 2:255) filling the reverse field with minuscule text Known from Isfahan 483, with remarkably fine epigraphy.

1675 AV dinar, pale gold (same eastern mints noted under #1671)
Some late issues of this type, struck at Marw & Sarakhs 483-485, appear as almost pure silver, though analysis at Bochum revealed an average gold content of about 10%, whereas dinars of Nishapur during the same years maintain a fineness of about 92%.

1676 BI dirham, mainly mint of Nishapur
Struck mainly at Isfahan, but often without mint name, with relatively little weakness. For Syrian coppers issued for Tutush & reverse margins.

1677 AE fals, usually broad flan
Struck at Iranian mints, see "Arslan Shah, in Fars circa 458-461 / 1066-1069 (Ghiyath al-Din Abu Shuja', b. Malikshah)

1677J AE jital, without mint or date
With caliph al-Muqtadi, about 4 or 5 pairs of annulets in obverse & reverse margins.

**Toghanshah, in central Khorasan, circa 465-475+ / 1072-1082+**
Toghanshah’s titles were *shams al-dawla, fakhre al-umara*, and *abu l-fawaris*.

1678 AV dinar, pale gold only
Struck only at Herat, Marw and Marw al-Rud. His earliest coins, struck in 465 and possibly for another year or two, lack his titles. The alloy degree varies.

1678A BI dirham, mint unknown
Burhan al-Dawla Mahmud, in Balkh, circa 480-484 / 1091-1092
Burhan al-Dawla Mahmud seems to have also been recognized as ruler elsewhere in Central Asia. The dynastic relationship of this ruler remains unknown. There is no evidence that he might have been either Seljuq or Qarakhanid. His coins of 480 cite no overlord, those of 483-484 cite Malikshah. Only the mint of Balkh is known.

1678G AV dinar, pale gold, Balkh mint only
Struck mainly at Isfahan, though a few other mints are known.

1678J BI jital, with his *laqab* on obverse, his *ism* on reverse, probably without obv. and rev. mints

1678K BI jital, with his *laqab* and *ism* on reverse, citing the Seljuq Mahmud below obverse field
(For dinars of Taj al-Din Tutush struck at Iranian mints, see #775A under Seljuqs of Syria.)

**Arslan Shah, in Fars circa 458-461 / 1066-1069 and at Marw circa 464-467 / 1072-1074**
Arslan Shah was the youngest son of Alp Arslan. His Fars coins cite Alp Arslan as overlord, his Marw coins Malikshah I.
Arslan Shah was later known as Arslan Arghu, and struck coins under that name 486-490 (#1680-A1682).

1679 AV dinar, fine gold (Fars provincial mints)
Struck mainly at Isfahan, though a few other mints are known. A dinar of Shiraz also bears the name of a local governor, Khutlug Beg Öner (RRR).

A1679 AV dinar, very base gold, Nishapur mint only

The son of Alp Arslan Muhammad. The coins are clearly inscribed Arghu, not Arghun as noted in many references. His Muslim name Muhammad is found on some of his dinars. Some fine and pale gold coins dated 488 and later cite the senior ruler of the Seljuqs, Barkiyaruq, as overlord, but the chronology of his relationship to Barkiyaruq remains to be elucidated.

1680 AV dinar, fine gold, Nishapur mint only, struck 486, 488 and 489 (to Barkiyaruq 486-487) R

1681 AV dinar, pale gold, eastern mints, normal reverse
Known mints include Balkh, Herat, Marw, Marw al-Rud, Nisa, Sarakhs and Karwarliz.

1681A AV dinar, pale gold, with Ayat al-Kursi (Qur’an 2:255) in reverse field, Balkh mint only

A1682 BI dirham, probably mint of Nishapur
Barkiyaruq (b. Malikshah), 486-498 / 1093-1105
(Rukn al-Din Malik al-Islam Abu‘l Muzaffar)

Governors found on coins of this ruler include:

Khass Beg (Abhar, Zanjan) (RR)
*Shuja’ al-Dawla Arghush (Amul, Sariya) (R)*
Il-Aba (Amul) (R)
Argush Arslan (Amul) (RR)
Baha’ al-Dawla Yinal (al-Basra) (RR)
*Daqbek (as amir al-umara’, Dughnah) (RRR)*
Bursuq b. Bursuq (al-Rayy) (RRR)
Fakhr al-Muluk Khutlug Beg Öner (Shiraz) (RRR)
Sharaf al-Din Muhammad (Zanjan, 488 only) (RRR)

1682.1 AV dinar, fine gold C

1682.2 AV dinar, pale gold, known only from Sarakhs dated 489 R

**Muhammad I, 492-511 / 1099-1118 (Ghiyath al-Din Abu Shuja’, b. Malikshah)**
Rival to his brother Barkiyaruq until the latter’s death in 498. Dinars of Nishapur citing his name also cite his viceroy Sanjar and are listed under Sanjar (#1685.1).

Governors found on coins of this ruler include:

Il-Aba (Amul, 493 only) (RRR)
Bik Arslan (Abhar, 493 only) (RRR)
(Jalal al-Dawla) Ahmad (Amul) (RRR)
Sharaf al-Din ‘Ali (Qazvin) (RRR)
Khass Beg (Zanjan) (RR)
Sayf al-Din Barbak ‘Ali b. ‘Umar (Garah) (RRR)
Sharaf al-Muluk Ilqashit (Qazvin, 500 only) (RRR)
‘Umar (Qumm, 499-504) (RRR)
Abu Ishaq (al-Ahwaz 502) (RRR) (Qur’an Surat 112 on reverse)

1683 AV dinar, fine gold only

1683A AV dinar, similar, but with Ayat al-Kursi (Qur’an 2:255) in reverse field, known from Isfahan 510

A1684 AE fals or jital (small module), various types Struck at Tirmidh, but mint name usually off flan.

**Sanjar, as viceroy under Barkiyaruq, 490-492 / 1097-1098, (Mu‘izz al-Din Abu‘l-Haribah)**
Sanjar retained these titles on all his coins, as well as most coinage of his subordinates quoting him as overlord.

1684.1 AV dinar, fine gold, Nishapur mint R
On some coins of types 1684-1687, especially those struck before 511, Sanjar takes the title ‘Adud al-Dawla.

1684.2 AV dinar, similar, but pale gold, eastern mints S

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438 Fine gold dinars of Amul dated 483 and 484 cite Malik al-Muluk Ahmad, either posthumously or because 481 was not the year of his death. Dinars of Malikshah, Amul 485, have no governor.
1684A AV dinar, pale gold, with Ayat al-Kursi (Qur’an 2:255) in reverse field, Balkh mint only R

Sanjar, as viceroy under Muhammad, 492-511 / 1099-1118

1685.1 AV dinar, fine gold (primarily Nishapur mint) C
1685.2 AV dinar, pale gold, similar (eastern mints) S

1685A AV dinar, pale gold, with Ayat al-Kursi (Qur’an 2:255) in reverse field, Balkh mint only RR

Sanjar, as independent sultan, 511-552 / 1118-1157

Coins of Sanjar as independent sultan rarely cite a local governor.
Governors found on coins of this ruler:
- Khurmatbeg (Amul 519) (RR)

1686 AV dinar, fine gold C

Only the mint of Nishapur is common.
See also #1690A for the issue of Nishapur 528 citing Tughril II.

1687 AV dinar, pale gold, various numbers C

From the 520s onward, coins of this type contain very little gold and are often virtually pure silver with a light gold coating. The alloy varies from mint to mint, but is probably never more than 30% gold, although after the mid-530s the gold content slipped well below this at some mints. Balkh & Herat are the main mints for this type. Further research on this series is urgently needed.
WARNING: Many of these pale gold coins have been gold-plated in modern times to foist them off as good gold.

1687A AV dinar, pale gold, with Ayat al-Kursi (Qur’an 2:255) on obverse or reverse, Balkh mint R

1687B AV dinar, pale gold, with reverse field divided as honeycomb, typically into 19 hexagons RR

The 19-hexagon type has 12 hexagons each containing the word sanjar, with the remaining seven hexagons citing the caliph al-Mustarshid. Mint uncertain, perhaps Herat.

1687K AR dinar, citing the caliph al-Muqtafi RRR

1687L BI dirham (average 1.9g), citing the caliph al-Râshid RRR

A1688 AE fals (small module), various types R

Struck at Tirmidh, but mint name usually off flan, from a small hoard discovered in the mid-1990s. This type may also be classified as a jital.

Mahmud b. Muhammad, 549-557 / 1154-1162
(Rukn al-Din Abu’l-Qasim)

Supporter of Sanjar during his brief captivity circa 550, then successor to Sanjar after his death in 552, recognized as suzerain by the Ghuzz who had occupied the region. The identification of these coins was published by V.P. Lebedev and A.A. Koifman:

F1688 AV dinar, fine gold, mint of Nishapur, dated 554-558 (formerly type #3391) RR

Reasonably well struck. The issue dated 558 is either an engraver’s type or a misreading of the date.

G1688.1 AR “dinar”, citing the caliph al-Muqtâfi RRR

Type G1668 may contain a tiny fraction on gold, and was minted at Balkh, Tirmidh, Wakhsh & Walwalij (see E1707).
Most specimens are miserably struck, often with the caliph’s name illegible.

G1688.2 AR “dinar”, citing the caliph al-Mustanjid RRR

RULES IN WESTERN IRAN & IRAQ

Founded by a son of Ghiyath al-Din Muhammad, this branch of the Seljuq dynasty was centered in Hamadan and Isfahan, as well as Madinat al-Salam until about 555. Many coins bear the name of a subordinate ruler or governor, especially after the accession of Mas’ud in 529. Very few have been published and correctly elucidated. Except for the mint of Madinat al-Salam, nearly all of the 529 and later issues are poorly struck, rarely with legible mint & date, all too often so ghostly that even the ruler’s and governor’s names are illegible.

Until about 530, nearly all gold coins are of fine gold, but thereafter the fineness varies from mint to mint. Only Madinat al-Salam maintained fine gold throughout the period.

Isfahan, al-Rayy, and Madinat al-Salam are the most common mints for this branch of the Seljuq house. Some issues of al-Ahwaz, Nihawand and Hamadan are only modestly rare.
Several members of this branch struck coins in various gubernatorial capacities prior to their accession to the throne, usually as prince under the tutelage of one or another atabeg. These coins are generally rare, but are not distinguished in the listings, as pitifully little information is currently available.

Mahmud II, 511-525 / 1118-1131
(Mughith al-Din Abu’l-Qasim, b. Muhammad)

Most coins of this ruler cite Sanjar as overlord.
Governors found on coins of this ruler include:
- Inanj Yabarhu Zangi (Rudhrawar) (RRR)
- ‘Izz al-Din Sunqur al-Bukhari (Nihawand) (R)
- Alp Arsalan Beg al-Bukhara (Nihawand) (R) (see #1688A)
- Khass Beg (Sumayyam 512) (RR) (see #1688B)
- Yurunqush (al-Zakawi) (Nihawand) (S) (see #1688B)
- Yurunqush (al-Bazdar) (Qazwin) (RR)
- Fakhr al-Din Muhammad bin Atunlegin (Asadabad) (RRR)
- Bursuq b. Bursuq (‘Akbar Mukram 516) (RRR)

1688 AV dinar C

1688A AV “½ dinar”, citing local ruler Alp Arsalan Beg al-Bukhara, mainly Nihawand mint (519) RR

Probably the same personage whose name appears as ‘Izz al-Din Sunqur al-Bukhari on coins of the same mint & date.

1688B AV “½ dinar”, citing local ruler Sa’d al-Dawla Yurunqush (al-Zakawi), Nihawand mint (520s) RR

Numerous subordinate individuals are mentioned on dinars of Da’ud and later rulers of this line, but so little is known about them that no attempt has been made to indicate them here. All are rare.

Da’ud, 525-526 / 1131-1132
(Ghiyath al-Din, b. Mahmud)
Da’ud survived after 526 and was recognized as Seljuq overlord by the Fars province atabegs until 532/1138.

1689 AV dinar RRR

Tughril II, 526-529 / 1132-1134
(Rukn al-Din, b. Muhammad)

1690 AV dinar, as independent ruler, mainly Madinat al-Salam RRR

1690A AV dinar, as vassal under Sanjar RRR

Struck only at Nishapur, where Sanjar was himself the effective ruler. Known dated 528 only.

Mas’ud, 529-547 / 1134-1152
(Ghiyath al-Din, b. Mahmud)

1691 AV dinar, mints in Iraq and Iran S

Except for Madinat al-Salam, most dinars are miserably engraved. They typically bear names or honorific titles of subordinate officials, not normally members of the Seljuq family, most of whom have not been identified.

(1692 & 1693 are now listed under the Burids of Damascus, as #M784 and N784.)
(No coins are known of Malikshah III, 547-548 / 1152-1153, though his name appears on many dinars of the Salghurid ruler Sunqur, #1925.)

Muhammad II, 548-555 / 1153-1160
(Rukn al-Din, b. Mahmud)

1694 AV dinar, best known from Madinat al-Salam RRR

439 Possibly the same individual as ‘Imad al-Din Zangi, eponymous founder of the Zangid dynasty. A better example in Tübingen reveals that the mint is Rudhrawar, not Burujird as noted in the 2nd edition.
440 ICA #12, lot 3591.
441 Types #1688A & 1688B derive from a heard of perhaps 200± pieces, mostly without legible date, that entered the market circa 1960, now thoroughly dispersed and rarely offered for sale.
442 Or did Sanjar recognize Tughril as his overlord, for some forgotten political necessity?

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 185
Sulayman Shah, 555-556 / 1160-1161
(Ghiyath al-Din, b. Muhammad)
Sulayman Shah was viceroy in Rayy from about 527/1133 onwards.

1695 AV dinar or fraction
Only the coins issued as viceroy, struck at al-Rayy, are occasionally available.

Arslan, 556-571 / 1161-1176 (Mu'izz al-Din, b. Tughril)
A1696 AV dinar, fine gold, Nishapur mint only
Apparently struck only in 558. Thereafter he is cited as suzerain over the Amir of Nishapur, Ay-Abu, with the title Rukn al-Din Abu'l-Muzaffar. See #1707.

B1696 AV dinar, pale gold
Small flan, normally 1.4-1.6g, always poorly struck, known only without legible mint or date. Some bear additional names of what may be local governors or other officials.

1696 AE large dirham, mints in Adharbayjan
Weight and fabric based on the 11th-12th century Byzantine follis.

Tughril III, 571-590 / 1176-1194 (Rukn al-Din, b. Arslan)
1696G AV dinar, pale gold
Similar to #B1696 in style and weight, also known only without legible mint name. This ruler is also cited on coins of various atabegs, notably the Ildegizids, whose coins are relatively common.

**SELJUQS OF KIRMAN**

The Seljuq coinage of Kirman consists mainly of dinars, of good gold up to and including the issues of Iranshah, thereafter increasingly debased. There are also silver dirhams struck during the early reigns, relatively fine silver under Arslanshah I, the dinars are essentially silver with some copper composite. Dates of reign are somewhat uncertain.

The principal mints are Bardasir, Bam and Jiruf, as well as Shiraz for early silver only). Coins of the last four rulers are abysmally struck and rarely show a mint name. The overall quality of the early dinars is good, but by the middle of the reign of Arslanshah I, the dinars are horribly struck, often 75% or more flat, and frequently so weakly struck that they cannot be assigned to a ruler. In fact, the late “dinars” of this dynasty are among the ugliest Islamic coins ever manufactured, little different from the proverbial “squashed milk-bottle tops”.

Qawurd, 440-465 / 1048-1073
(al-Malik al-'Adil 'Imad al-Dawla)
The ruler’s name is generally Qara Arslan Beg on his coins.

1697.1 AV dinar, citing the Great Seljuq ruler Chaghtari Beg Da'ud as overlord, dated 447-451
Some issues dated 452 may still cite Chaghtari Beg, perhaps due to the use of obsolete dies. Confirmation needed.

1697.2 AV dinar, without Chaghtari Beg, struck 451-465

1698 AR dirham, mainly mints of Shiraz, Bardasir and Jiruf

Sultanshah (b. Qawurd), 467-477 / 1074-1085
(Rukn al-Din wa'l-Dawla)
Also known as rukn al-muluk and mulik al-harr wa'l-bahr (“king of the land and the sea”).

1699 AV dinar

Turanshah I (b. Qawurd), 477-490 / 1085-1097
(Muhyi al-Din wa'l-Dawla)

1700 AV dinar

Many specimens also bear the title Mu'izz al-Dunya wa'l-Din for his overlord, the Great Seljuq Malikshah I. He achieved independence after Malikshah’s death in 485.

Iranshah (b. Turanshah I), 490-495 / 1097-1101
(Baha’ al-Din wa'l-Dawla Sayyid al-Muluk)
A1701 AV dinar, without overlord

Arslanshah I (b. Kirmanshah), 495-537 / 1101-1142
(Muhyi al-Islam wa'l-Muslimin, Sayf Muluk al-'Alamin)
1702 AV dinar, usually very debased, numerous subtypes known
The existence of dinars struck at Jiruf, and at dates 491 and 494 suggests that Arslanshah ruled locally at Jiruf prior to 495, either as governor or as opponent to Iranshah. Dinars dated prior to the early 500s were struck in reasonably fine gold. Thereafter, the gold proportion quickly declined, so that by the end of the reign the dinars were essentially pure silver.

After the reign of Arslanshah I, dinars of this dynasty are essentially silver, with no visible trace of gold, and approaching billon towards the end of this dynasty. One can speculate that this debasement was either the result of financial distress or a clever attempt to dissuade the export of precious metals.

Tughrilshah (b. Muhammad), 551-565 / 1156-1170
1703 AR dinar

Bahramshah (b. Tughrilshah), 565-570 / 1170-1175
1704 AR dinar

Arslanshah II (b. Tughrilshah), 570-572 / 1175-1176
1705 AR dinar

Turanshah II (b. Tughrilshah), 572-579 / 1176-1183
(Ghiyath al-Dunya wa'l-Din)
1706 AR dinar

**SELJUQ GOVERNORS OF HAMADAN**

A series of probably unrelated governors who earned the right to place their names on the coins soon after the accession of Malikshah I in 465/1072. The rulers’ tentative dates are based solely on their surviving coins.

Fine gold dinars only, virtually all minted at Hamadan, usually partially weak or flat. Dinars with full mint & date are especially rare. Some of the governor names, as on #B1707 and C1707, may refer to the same individual. It is also uncertain if certain name variations, such as Sayf al-Dawla and Sharaf al-Dawla (for Inanj Yahghub (#B1707), refer to the same governor.

Shams al-Ma’ali Chaghri Tegin, fl. 467-484 / 1074-1091
A1707 AV dinar
On coins dated 467, the title is shams al-ma’ali ‘abbas arslan tegin, and in 470, shams al-ma’ali fulad arslan, both likely referring to the same individual. All of his coins cite the Great Seljuq Malikshah I as overlord.

Sayf al-Dawla Inanj Beg (or Inanj Yahghub), fl. 486-at least 491 / 1093-after 1097

B1707 AV dinar
Sometimes with the additional title Taj al-Muluk. A dinar of Savae 493 bears the name Sharaf al-Muluk Inanj Yahghub, who is possibly the same as this Inanj Beg.

Shams al-Muluk Inanj Tughril, fl. 494 / 1101
C1707 AV dinar
Could Inanj Tughril be the same as Inanj Yahghub or Inanj Beg?

Alp Sunqur Beg, fl. 502 / 1108-1109,
D1707 AV dinar

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444 Most known “dinars” of the last four Kirman rulers are derived from a hoard of several hundred pieces I examined circa 1969. At least ½ of these pieces were utterly unattributable. None showed a date, and it is likely that they were all struck without a date. Only about 10% of the hoard was tolerable.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 186
**AMIRS OF NISHAPUR**

The Amirs of Nishapur were Ghuzz governors, at first nominal vassals of the Seljuqs, then of the Khwarizmshahs, occasionally independent. Nishapur was conquered by the Khwarizmshah in 583/1187.

All coins of these amirs were struck at Nishapur in fine gold (except #1707a). Most are weakly struck, with large flat areas, overall quite ugly, rarely showing clear mint and date. Hence coins with legible date are substantially rarer than those without. The relative rarities of the various overlord types are very tentative at this time.

\[\text{Ay-Abā, 556-567 / 1161-1172}\]

1707.1 AV dinar, citing the Seljuk of Western Iran, Arslan b. Tughril, with his own title malik muluk al-imara ay-aba

Known dated 560.

On all three subtypes, the ruler’s name appears at the bottom of the reverse field, Ay-Abā on #1707.1-1707.3, with the title al-Mu’ayyad added only on #1707.2.

1707.2 AV dinar, citing the Khwarizmshah, Il Arslan b. Atsiz, with his own name as al-malik al-mu’ayyad ay-aba

Known dated 563.

1707.3 AV dinar, citing Il Arslan b. Atsiz, his own name just al-malik ay-aba

Known dated 564-566.

1707A AV dinar, pale gold, Herat mint

Legends similar to #1707.2, but with bow & arrow flanking obverse field. Date not yet determined.

\[\text{Toghanshah, 567-581 / 1172-1185}\]

(‘Adud al-Dawla wa’l-Din Abu Bakr, b. Ay-Abā)\(^{447}\)

1708.1 AV dinar, citing the Khwarizmshah Takish as overlord and the caliph al-Mustadi

Known dated 570. Most, if not all examples of this subtype also bear his son Abu al-Muzaffar Sanjar as heir.

1708.2 AV dinar, citing Takish as overlord, his son Sanjar as heir, and the caliph al-Nasir

Known dated 576-577. On most of his coins, Toghanshah takes the title al-malik al-adil.

1708.3 AV dinar, as independent ruler, citing the caliph al-Mustadi, without his son Sanjar, dates unknown

The dating of this type is peculiar, for there is a later type with the caliph al-Nasir that still cites Takish as overlord (#1708.2). Could this be a type struck between 577 and 581 with an obsolete reverse die that cites the deceased caliph al-Mustadi?\(^{448}\)

1708.4 AV dinar, as independent ruler, citing the caliph al-Nasir and his son Sanjar as heir, dates unknown

Sanjar, 581-583 / 1185-1187

(b. Toghanshah, known as Abu’l-Harīth)\(^{449}\)

1708D AV dinar, as independent ruler

When still heir, Sanjar’s kunya was abu’l-muzaffar. This type has at times been misattributed to the Sanjar of the Great Seljuqs (d. 552/1157), but the caliph’s name al-Nasir confirms this attribution.

\[\text{Khwarizmshahs (Anushetginid)}\]

There is no even remotely satisfactory numismatic study of this dynasty’s complex coinage, except for Tye’s study of the jitals. Aside from the museum catalogs (especially Kabul and London), the following are useful:

Deyell, John S., Living without Silver, Delhi 1990 (for the jital coinage).


Tye, Robert & Monica, Jitals, Isle of South Uist, 1995. This is the most comprehensive catalog of Islamic & Hindu jitals struck in northern India and the eastern fringes of the Islamic world. Jitals are referenced here to Tye’s catalog numbers.

\[\text{Zeno.ru – Especially useful for the broad copper “dirhams”}\]

A Turkish dynasty, originally Seljuq governors in Khwarizm (Khorezm, Chorasmia, many other spellings), who later put together a significant empire, embracing most of Central Asia, together with what is now eastern Iran, Afghanistan and portions of Pakistan. The principal ruler, ‘Ala al-Din Muhammad, never established an imperial coinage, but retained the local monetary structure in each region he conquered, replacing the former ruler’s name with his own.

The type listings given here remain incomplete, though most omitted types are undoubtedly relatively rare. Coins of Atsiz, Il-Arsalan and Takish were struck almost entirely at Khwarizm or Nishapur, as noted in the descriptions. With the exception of some very rare copper and billon coins, only fine gold was struck prior to ‘Ala al-Din Muhammad. Under Muhammad, a host of additional mints became active, normally with distinctive regional types, as noted in the listings. This complex series consists primarily of fine gold, fine silver, along with various kinds of copper-based coinage.

Fine gold coins of nearly all mints show considerable weakness of strike, as do nearly all types of the larger silver dirhams. In general, there was no weight standard, with individual specimens of either metal varying from less than 2g to as much as 7g for any given type, with a few Ghazna specimens even heavier. The only exceptions that adhered to a weight standard are the Kanauj style pale gold dinar (#1713) and a few silver coins mainly from Ghazna (#1714, 1720, 1720A and 1721), plus some issues of the last ruler, Mangubarni.

These standardized silver coins were struck to a theoretical dirham weight of roughly 3.45g, usually with relatively meager variation. Surprisingly, these are the only precious metal types that were carefully struck with minimal weakness at worst.

Normal copper coinage consisted of copper “dirhams” struck at various Central Asian mints and some smaller thin fluits from Khwarizm and Marw. The copper “dirhams” followed the previous Qarakhanid preference, together with a light silver wash rarely preserved on surviving specimens.

The jitals of Muhammad and Mangubarni are often quite well struck, though typically found quite worn, especially those of the western mints located mainly in modern Afghanistan. Because many of these jitals are made of mixed metal (copper, lead and other base metals), they sometimes tend to laminate and can literally flake apart into fragments. For this reason, all jitals should be stored with minimum exposure to changes in temperature and humidity.

Most fine gold dinars were struck without mint name or so weakly that the mint name is illegible. When cited, the mint name usually appears in the obverse or reverse margin, often together with the date. Nishapur and Ghazna are the most common mints. Sometimes the mint name appears atop the central field of the obverse or reverse, especially at Bukhara, Balkh and Tirmidh, with the result that a large percentage of known specimens of those three cities clearly reveal the mint. Consequently, these three mints are also relatively common. For the broad dirhams, Ghazna and Firuzkuh are the least rare, but only the mintless type perhaps struck at Balkh (#1719) is truly common. For the broad copper “dirhams” only Tirmidh is relatively common, with Samarqand only moderately rare.\(^{448}\)

The rarity of the jital mints is indicated in their listings, when appropriate.

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\(^{443}\) ‘Askar Mukram 516 in ICA 12, lot 3592. The Bursuqid dynasty was probably named after this individual (see #A1895).

\(^{444}\) It is possible that Alp Lachin Beg Mankubarz was the same person as Mankubars, the atabeg of Fars circa 524-533 (see type #1923).

\(^{445}\) The father’s name is given only by his title al-mu’ayyad.

\(^{447}\) I am especially thankful for the detailed information regarding the Khwarizmshah copper coinage provided to me by Vladimir Nastich.
Atsiz, 521-551 / 1127-1156 (‘Ala al-Din Abu’l-Muzaffar)

1709 AV dinar (fine gold), mint of Khwarizm RR
Most, but not all dinars of Atsiz bear the Great Seljuk ruler Mu’izz al-Din Sanjar as overlord.  

Il-Arslan, 551-567 / 1156-1172 (Taj al-Din Abu’l-Fath)

1710 AV dinar (fine gold) R
Normally cited as taj al-dunya wa l-din il-il-arslan bin atzic, Known mints are Khwarizm and Nishapur.

1710D BI dirham, citing also Arghun (?) b. ‘Abd al-Hamid, caliph al-Mustanjud, mint unknown (Zeno-4810) RRR

1710G AE dirham, caliph al-Mustanjud, at least two varieties (Zeno-27199) RRR
Sultanshah, 567-589 / 1172-1193 (Jalal al-Din)

A1711 AV dinar, mint unknown, tentative attribution Takish (aka Tekish), 567-596 / 1172-1200 (‘Ala al-Din Abu’l-Muzaffar)

1711 AV dinar (fine gold), mints of Nishapur (after 583) and Khwarizm (entire reign) S
Prior to 583 dinars of Nishapur citing Takish also mention the amir of Nishapur and are therefore listed under that rubric (#1707 -1708D). Takish is normally cited as takish bin khwarizmshah.

1711A AE “dirham”, known only from Marw, probably undated 449

1711B AE fals, Khwarizm mint, caliph al-Mustadi Square in center on both sides (Zeno-68118)

1711C AE fals, Khwarizm mint, without caliph Trofoil in obverse center, triangle in reverse center; undated (Zeno-95643 and 99663).

1711D AE fals, Khwarizm mint, caliph al-Nasir Central circle with name takish on obverse, caliph’s name in reverse central circle (Zeno-27190 and 27191).

Muhammad, 596-617 / 1200-1220 (‘Ala al-Din Abu’l-Fath, b. Takish)

1712 AV dinar, various types, fine gold C
Gold content seems to be (1) about 80-85% in most areas, including the mints of Khwarizm, Bukhara, Samarqand, Balkh and Tirmidh, (2) nearly 90% at Nishapur and Ghazna, the most common mints for the reign, and (3) roughly 75% for some of the southern mints, particularly Dawar and Shafurqan, all rather rare.

1712D AV dinar, various types, fine gold

More than 20 mints are known for the gold dinar, with each mint utilizing its own style, calligraphy and weight variation.

WARNING: “Rare” gold dinars of Dawar resembling the jital #1728 are modern fantasies, first seen about 1994.

1712A AV dinar, as last but with ruler’s additional title sikandar al-thami (“the second Alexander”), mint unknown

1712B AV dinar, as last but title burhan amir al-mu’minin, struck at Firuzkuh and other uncertain mints

1713 AV dinar, Kanaui fabric, very pale gold (tentatively estimated at about 40% gold) S
Mitchener #911, misdescribed as silver. The fabric and style derive from the Kanaui issues of Muhammad b. Sam (#1764). Always without mint, but more likely to have been struck at or near Ghazna rather than either Kanaui or Bayana, neither of which was controlled by the Khwarizmshahs.

1714 AR double dirham (about 6.0-7.0g), Ghazna type, undated RRR
Generally as #1721, but twice as heavy and with longer inscriptions in four horizontal lines. Almost without mint name.

1715 AR broad dirham, Ghazna type (inner circle, modified Kufic calligraphy, with mint name) S
Weights vary from less than 2g to more than 9g, with the lightest coins usually on unusually thin small planchets. Because there is a continuous series of weights from lightest to heaviest, they must all be considered as one and the same denomination. Known dated 612-618 (sic), after Muhammad seized Ghazna from Taj al-Din Yildiz in 612.

1716 AR broad dirham, Farwan mint (central inscriptions in hexagon on both sides) R
Always dated 614. Another, perhaps later variety of Farwan bears the obverse in a central circle as #1715 but with 6-petal margin around on both obverse & reverse (RR).

1717.1 AR broad dirham, Herat type (square-in-circle type, mint name not usually cited, cursive calligraphy, fine silver) RRR
Some mintless pieces might have been struck at other mints.

1717.2 AR broad dirham, Herat type (inner circle, as #1715 but cursive calligraphy) RRR

1718.1 AR broad dirham, Firuzkuh type (central inscriptions in plain or lobated square) S
Struck at Firuzkuh and Dawar, but the mint has not yet been identified for each of several subtypes, as most examples of this crudely struck series have the mint off flan.

1718.2 AR broad dirham, Hadrat Firuzkuh (bull’s-eye type, three circular legends, with sultan in obverse center, Allah in reverse center) RRR

1719 AR broad dirham, without mint name, with sultan and muhammad bin in plain circle central areas on obverse and reverse, respectively (Balkh?) C
The assignment of this type to Balkh is hypothetical, at best. Balkh produced large quantities of copper dirhams, but no silver dirhams citing the mint are reported. Several subtypes.

1719A AR broad dirham, different from types 1715-1719, unsigned to mint or date S
Several subtypes known, mostly mintless or without discernable mint name, usually undated, normally weakly struck, probably from several locations within western & southern Afghanistan. The descriptions of types #1715-1719A remain somewhat tentative and require further research. Will someone help us, please?

1720 AR medium dirham, hexagram type, dated 614 S
This type imitates the common Ayyubid coinage of Aleppo. Like the Ayyubid prototype, it is found as both a full and a half dirham, but unlike the Ayyubid coins, both are identical in design and struck from the same dies. The mint name is never inscribed, but it can be argued that the coins were almost certainly struck at Ghazna. The weights of the two denominations are 3.45g and 1.73g, rarely with more than 5% variation.

1720A AR ¼ medium dirham, type as last, struck from the same dies, also dated 614. RR

1721 AR medium dirham, fine silver, prototype for Chingiz Khan #1967 (Ghazna), undated S

449 Peus auction 386, lot 1149, Khwarizm 544, very clear date and citing Sanjar as overlord. A dinar of (Khwarizm) clear dated 551 omits Sanjar (Zeno-63828).
450 For a variant without mint and date, see Zeno–40675, found in Turkmenistan.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 188

451 The adoption of an Ayyubid style from Aleppo is not surprising, as a group of Muhammad’s soldiers had supported one of the Ayyubids in eastern Anatolia, especially after the death in 613 of the Ayyubid ruler in Aleppo, al-Zahir Ghazi.
452 The calligraphy on this type is identical to the broad dirhams of Ghazna (type #1715). They have normally have been found in the market in Kabul.
The mint name never appears on this type and on #1714 but is presumed to be Ghazna for stylistic and historical reasons. Always undated, probably struck circa 615-617. Nonetheless, it seems perplexing that a standard broad dirham of variable weight (#1715) and a fixed weight special dirham might have been produced simultaneously at the same mint.

1722 AE broad “dirham”, Samarqand type (average about 45mm, but some as small as 35mm), dated 610 and 613-616

Six varieties, with the mint & date inscription normally in both the obverse & reverse margins. Each year of issue exhibits a distinctive border setting, and a unique denomination epithet above the obverse or reverse field. These are sikanduri or jamshidi for 610, zafari for 613, mansuri for 614, qadiri for 615 and jamshidi for 616. The 616 issue often has the obverse date looking like 610, and it is conceivable that all jamshidi dirhams of 610 were actually struck in 616.453

The distinction between the epigraphical subtypes and their chronology remains unknown.

A1723 AE broad “dirham”, Chaghaniyan type (35-45mm) R

Several subtypes, dated 613-616, but mint & date are commonly off fian. Cf. SNAT 14c-1227-1230 & Zeno-6418. Some issues dated 616 bear the denomination epithet sanjari.

The names Chaghaniyan and Saghaniyan are identical, the former the Persian, the latter the Arabic spelling. The Arabic spelling was used on coins struck prior to the Khwarizmshahs.

1723 AE broad “dirham”, Balkh type (30-35mm) R

Many subtypes, dated 609-616 or undated, sometimes with no denomination epithet, either qadiri or mansuri.

1723A AE broad mansuri “dirham”, unknown mint, reduced size (25mm), known dated 608

Obverse in double square, reverse in circle within square with knotted corners; mansuri written in margin above the obverse. Ruler’s title includes the word shahanshah, rarely encountered on Khwarizmshah coins. Apparently without mint name.

1723B AE broad sanjari “dirham”, Bukhara mint, known dated 611-612 (Zeno-47521 and 69431) RRR

Obverse in circle, reverse in circle within square, knotted inside the corners (Zeno-45788).

A variety without epigraphic and dated 609, obverse & reverse fields in circle, is known only without clear mint name but might have been issued at Kasan, published in ONS Newsletter 201.

1723D AE broad saltani “dirham”, Parah mint, dated 607 or 609 (Zeno-75361) RRR

Obverse field in circle, reverse in plain quatrefoil. Parah or Otrar (aka Utrar) are regional and urban names for the same location.

1723E AE broad saltani “dirham”, Otrar mint (written with waw after the initial alif) (Zeno-2609) RRR

Obverse field in plain circle, reverse in intertwined double circle.

1723F AE broad “dirham”, al-Uzjaand mint, dated 610

A1724 AE broad “dirham”, Tirmidh type (30-35mm), struck 614-617

No less than seven principal variants, distinguished by the cartouche surrounding the central area – a square, a circle, a dodekalobe, or a lobated square. Most types bear a subordinate denomination epithet, including zahiri (614), fathi or zafari (615), saltani (615-616), mansuri (616) and qarari (617). The saltani variant often shows abridged dates, just 5 for 615 and 606 for 616. One variety dated 617 bears the bow & arrow in the obverse center.

B1724 AE medium “dirham”, al-Ma’dan mint, known dated 611 (ah, dart 26mm) (Zeno-69022) RRR

Both obverse & reverse fields in plain circle.

K1724 AE ½ saltani “dirham” (about 27mm), Otrar mint, dated 613, type as the broad type #1723E

L1724 AE ½ fathi “dirham”, Tirmidh mint, dated 615 (22-23mm) RRR

Lobated square on obverse, circular border on reverse.

T1724 AE medium fals (thin flans), Bukhara mint, unknown with legible date RRR

1724 AE medium fals (thin flans), Khwarizm mint, several years 602-610 (average 25mm or smaller) R

1725 AE medium fals (very thin, 25-28mm), Marw mint S

Normally dated 603 or 613, though 603 is probably just a “typo” for 613, with others dated 614. Some examples show a trace of light silver wash.

Another version is of Bukhara, date lost (Zeno-40262) (RRR).

1725N AE small fals (15-18mm), undated (Zeno-52680, mint tentatively read as Nisa) RRR

The following types (#1726-1741M) represent the immense variety of jitals struck during Muhammad's reign, cross-referenced to Tye's excellent study of the medieval jitals. Khwarizmian jitals of 'Ala al-Din Muhammad continue to reach the market in large hoards, sometimes several thousand pieces of one or a limited group of types. Issues of Mangubarni have never been found in such large hoards.455

JITALS: Inscriptions only:

1726 AE jital, inscriptional type, simple 3-line inscriptions on both sides (Tye 283) A

Without mint name, but believed minted at Ghazna only.

1727 AE jital, similar, different fabric and 3-line or 4-line inscriptions on both sides (mostly Dawar region) C

(Tye 279-282, 284, 286-288)

Jitals of the Dawar region normally have a large component of lead in the alloy and are grayish in color. Struck at Dawar, Khwast, Shafurqan, Herat and without mint.

1727A AE jital, similar, with title zil Allah fi al-ard, “shadow of God on the earth” (Tye 285) R

1728 AE jital (lead alloy), similar, circular inscription around a central rosette or circle containing the mint name, both sides (mostly Dawar region) (Tye 258-269) C

Mints of Dawar (Zamin-Dawar), Takinabad and Sangah, also without mint.

1729 AE jital, similar, circular inscription on one side, 3-line horizontal inscription on the other (Dawar region) (Tye 249-256) C

Mints of Sibi, Dawar, Takinabad and Khwast, also without mint.

1729A AE jital, similar, with title zil Allah fi al-ard, “shadow of God on the earth” (Tye 257) R

1730 AE jital, similar, hexagon type, similar to the silver dirham #1716 (Farwan, Tye 278) S

1731.1 AE jital, similar, circular obverse legend (Taliqan, Tye 245, and without mint, Tye 274) C

Muhammad in obverse center.

1731.2 AE jital, similar, but with mint name instead of muhammad in obverse center (Kurzuwan, Tye 246 & Shafurqan, Tye 247) C

1731.3 AE jital, similar, but bin sultan in obverse center (without mint, Tye 248) S

1732 AE jital, similar, legends in square both sides, sometimes dated 616 (Bust, Tye 275) S

1732A AE jital, similar, also legends in square both sides, undated, mint unconfirmed (Tye 276-277) S

Horse types:

1733 AE jital, riderless horse type (“Baluqan”, Tye 226) C

The mint name traditionally read as Baluqan is now believed to be a corrupted form of Shafurqan.

455 Confusion between 10 (sana) and 16 (sitt or sitta) occurred occasionally, when the engraver cut sana and then misread it as sittu and proceeded with ‘asfar and the rest of the date. The same problem is known for several Ayyubid coins, confusing 600 with 606 or 610 with 616, and elsewhere.

For other Khwarizmian dating errors, see types #A1725 and #1725.

456 Published by Davidovich in 1957, not yet on Zeno.

457 Tye’s catalog has now been out-of-stock for several years. Since its publication, at least several dozen new jital types have been discovered, and for many listed issues, new hoards have provided additional information. Let’s all encourage Tye to complete and publish a second edition! 

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 189
### 1738B AE jital, obverse with inner circle, reverse with inner circle
- Minted at Taliqan, Shafurqan and Dawar. Some versions of all three mints lack the spear, and on one type of Dawar he holds the lance upright (Tye-215).

### 1734 AE jital, Ghor horseman type, holding long spear or lance horizontally
- Minted at Kurzuwan, Qanduz & Bamiyan, Tye 234-236

### 1735 AE jital, elephant type, without rider, facing left or right (Tye 228-231)
- Minted mainly at Kurzuwan (left or right) and Shafurqan (left), also without mint name (left).

### Elephant types:
- **1735.1 AE jital, elephant type, without rider, facing left or right (Tye 228-231)**
- **1735.2 AE jital, elephant-rider type, left (Shafurqan, Tye 232, and Kurzuwan, Tye 227)

*Items #1736-1738B are now listed after #1741.*

### Rajput horses and/or bulls:
- **1739 AE jital, Rajput horseman type, with title sikandar al-dhanni (Qanduz only, Tye 223)**
  - The title means "the second Alexander".

### 1739.1 AE jital, Rajput horseman facing right (Balkh, Qanduz & Bamiyan, Tye 234-236)
- Small size, 16-18mm.

### 1739.2 AE jital, Rajput horseman facing left (without mint, Tye 237, assigned to Bamiyan)
- Medium size, typically 19-20mm. No marginal legend on obverse, takish below the horse.

### 1739.3 AE jital, Rajput horseman left (Qanduz, Tye-238)
- Horseman in circle, with part of royal legend in margin around the obverse, no text below the horse.

### 1739.4 AE jital, Rajput horseman facing left (Tye 239-240)
- Large size, about 22-23mm. Both sides either in square or circle. Without mint, but probably struck at Qanduz.

### 1740 AE large jital, Rajput bull on obverse, horseman on reverse, relatively broad flans (Qanduz, Tye 243)

### 1740A AE jital, Rajput bull & horseman, Sanskrit legends only (Tye 291-297)
- Many variations, some additional mints (tentatively identified), some with symbols or ornaments instead of mint name.

### Miscellaneous types:
- **1736 AE jital, obverse lion in square, reverse has legend only in circle (Juzjan region?, Tye 244)**

### 1737 AE jital, similar, but obverse square diagonally quartered, filled with floral design instead of lion, without inscription (Kurzuwan, Tye 272)
- Type-273 is a coarse variation of this type.

### 1738 AE jital, mint in central circle (kurzu // wan), split between the two sides (Tye 270)

### 1738B AE jital, obverse with inner circle, reverse with inner square (Kurzuwan, Tye 271)
- Minted on obverse, dated, either Rabi’ I 609 or Jumada II 610, on reverse.

### 1741M AE jital, miscellaneous types from undetermined mints (Tye 242, 289-290, 298-305)
- Some variants are quite rare.

### Rugubarni, 617-628 / 1220-1231 (Jalal al-Din, b. Muhammad)

### 1742 AV dinar, normally struck in fine gold
- Ghazna is the only mint occasionally available.

### 1743 AR double dirham (Qal’a Nay) (about 6.28g)

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*Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 190*
AMIR OF BALKH

Balkh briefly enjoyed a moment of independence after the collapse of Khwarizmian rule in 617/1220, apparently between the first and second Mongol invasions. This amir is known only from his coins, as he does not seem to be mentioned directly in any of the contemporary chronicles, unless he is the ‘Arabshah (or his son) mentioned by ‘Ata Malik Juvayni as governor of Balkh.

All coins are minted at Balkh.

Abu’l-Mujahid Muhammad (al-Husayni), fl. 617-618 / 1220-1221

1753.1 AE broad dirham (32-36mm), struck at Balkh only in 617

1753.2 AE broad dirham, similar, but with the word shawar in the obverse center

The meaning of the word or name tentatively interpreted as shawar remains unknown.

AMIR OF WAKHSH

A local “dynasty” in Wakhsh (now located in Tajikistan), apparently known only from their coins. Their titulature suggests a Qarakhanid connection.

Only gold dinars are known for this dynasty, all struck at Wakhsh. They are usually somewhat weakly struck but seldom found worn.

Kochnev considered the amirs Abu Bakr and his son ‘Arabshah to be somehow related to the Qarakhansids, and Zeno has followed suit.

Abu Bakr Qaratuz (‘Imad al-Din)
fl. 590s-609 / 1200s-1212

A1754.1 AV dinar, as independent ruler with title khaqan (Kochnev 1154-1155)

RRR

The patronymic on this type and #B1754 and is normally written in stylized and unreadable fashion, as though it was considered shameful to admit one’s father’s name.

A1754.2 AV dinar, similar, but citing unidentified vassal named Muhammad b. Dawlatshah, with Abu Bakr’s patronymic clearly written

RRR

Kochnev has read the surname, normally indistinct on the coins, as bin Yaqhurst, which is very clear on some examples of #B1754. On some other examples, it resembles Qaratuz, without bin, as though Qaratuz was Abu Bakr’s Turkish name. If indeed Qaratuz is correct, it is usually very poorly engraved, sometimes looking like nasr.

B1754 AV dinar, citing the Bamiyan Ghorid Sam b. Muhammad

RRR

One variety, with mint name above the obverse, gives Abu Bakr’s full name as al-khaqan al-a‘zam ‘imad al-din ulugh (fatih?) tamghaj khan abu bakr bin yaqhurst (Zeno-87458). Mint name atop obverse field. This piece proves that Abu Bakr and Tamghaj Khan are the same person.

C1754 AV dinar, citing the Khwarizmshah ‘Ala al-Din Muhammad b. Takish (Zeno-65268)

RRR

Abu Bakr is cited merely as ‘imad al-dunya wa’l-din tamghaj khan beneath the full kalima. This type was incorrectly described in the 2nd edition.

‘Arabshah b. Abu Bakr, fl. 610s / 1210s
(Jalal al-Dunya wa’l-Din)

D1754 AV dinar, citing the Khwarizmshah ‘Ala al-Din Muhammad b. Takish

RRR

‘Arabshah takes the title al-khaqan al-mu’azzam at least on some of his coins.

From some time in the mid-610s until 617, Wakhsh fell under sole control of the Khwarizmshah Muhammad b. Takish. Dinars struck at Wakhsh in the sole name of Muhammad are reckoned as ordinary Khwarizmshah dinars (type #1712).

Amir of Balkh briefly enjoyed independence after the collapse of Khwarizmian rule in 617/1220, apparently between the first and second Mongol invasions. This amir is known only from his coins, as he does not seem to be mentioned directly in any of the contemporary chronicles, unless he is the ‘Arabshah (or his son) mentioned by ‘Ata Malik Juvayni as governor of Balkh.

All coins are minted at Balkh.

Abu’l-Mujahid Muhammad (al-Husayni), fl. 617-618 / 1220-1221

1753.1 AE broad dirham (32-36mm), struck at Balkh only in 617

1753.2 AE broad dirham, similar, but with the word shawar in the obverse center

The meaning of the word or name tentatively interpreted as shawar remains unknown.

Ghorid (Main Line) (Shansaband)


Tye, Robert & Monica, Jitals, Isle of South Uist, 1995.


Goron & Goenka (cited after #1799R) for Ghorid coins of eastern mints, especially in Bengal.

A major study of the Ghorid coinage (main line) had been undertaken by Wm. F. Spengler as a proposed doctoral dissertation at the University of Wisconsin. It is regrettable that Spengler never completed this work prior to his death in 2005, though his contributions to numismatic research have been so vast that one cannot honestly criticize him for having never found time to complete his Ghorid work. Spengler contributed substantially to the sections on the Khwarizmshahs and Ghorids in this Checklist. Fortunately, his collection of Ghorid coins has now been acquired by Richard Accola, who has submitted excellent commentary for the updating of my Ghorid section, and will hopefully soon publish his studies of Ghorid coinage. As expected, Accola has realized the immense complexity of Ghorid coinage, but his meticulous analysis has convinced me that his final publication will be magnificent.

The Ghorids emerged from the mountainous regions east of Herat to found a large but short-lived kingdom centered at the city of Ghaami in modern Afghanistan. They adopted Seljuq, Ghaznavid, and Indian prototypes for their coinage, which was local in nature, with each mint or group of contiguous mints producing their own characteristic types for regional usage. Beginning in 596 they also adopted additional prototypes, such as the bull’s-eye type of Fatimid origin and the square-in-circle type from the Muwahhidun gold coinage.

The production of gold and silver coinage increased markedly after Mu‘izz al-Din Muhammad’s conquest of northern India in 702/1192.

Principal mints for the Ghorids are noted after each type. Average quality of strike and preservation is similar to comparable and later coins of the Khwarizmshahs. Gold and silver coins are rarely fully struck, typically 10-25% flat, whereas the jitals and other copper coins are normally more carefully struck, though not always well centered.

Early Ghorid coinage consists of drastically debased gold dinars, probably about 10-20% gold, the rest mostly silver (M1754, T1754, W1754), thus sustaining the trend of the Seljuqs and Qarakhanids.

Despite their abundance, many Ghorid, Khwarizmshah and other jitals are difficult to find for sale. This is largely due to their cheap prices, which discourage dealers (including myself) from offering them on price lists, websites, or auctions. Fortunately, there remain a few dealers willing to handle them despite the labor intensity. Amongst these are Robert Tye, Bob

457 Schwarz has read the date as 619 (SNAT #857-860), but 617 seems more likely, as Mongol issues are known dated 618.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 191
`Ala` al-Din al-Husayn, 1st reign, 544-546 / 1149-1151
(Abu `Ali, b. al-Husayn)

With title al-malik, no overlord. Al-Husayn is known in most of the chronicles as Jahanuz, “world-burner”.

M1754 AV base dinar (estimated about 10% gold), Firuzkuh & Herat mints known

Some dinars bear the name Sayf al-Din al-Husayn, perhaps the same person as `Ala` al-Din al-Husayn, more likely a misinterpreted version of the name of his son Muhammad (cf. #1754).

`Ala` al-Din al-Husayn, 2nd reign, 548-555 / 1153-1160

With title al-sultan, sometimes with the overlord Sanjar.

N1754 AR dirham, size & fabric of late Ghaznavid dirhams, known dated 549 & 550

O1754 BI jital, at least 2 varieties (unknown to Tye)

Bull left on obverse, sometimes with muhammad rasul Allah above, royal inscription on reverse. Without overlord.

Sayf al-Din Muhammad b. al-Husayn, 556-558 / 1161-1163

T1754.1 AV very base dinar, without title Abu`l-Fath, mints of Firuzkuh

T1754.2 AV base dinar, similar, but with title Abu`l-Fath, believed struck at Herat, always very poorly made

U1754 AR “dinar?”, as #1754.2, mint unknown

Ghiyath al-Din Muhammad b. Sam, 558-599 / 1163-1203

Sayf al-Din Muhammad was at first succeeded by the elder of the two sons of Sam, both of whom were named Muhammad. The elder initially adopted the laqab Shams al-Dunya wa-l-Din (north of Qandahar). The younger Muhammad chose or was assigned the laqab Shihab al-Dunya wa-l-Din, but he changed that to Mu`izz al-Dunya wa-l-Din, probably upon or shortly prior to his appointment as sultan in Ghazna in 567 or 568, together with the superior protocol al-sultan al-mu`azzam. This lopsided pair of protocols could be regarded as a protocol reversal. From 568 until the death of Ghiyath al-Din in 599, most Ghoriid gold and silver coins cite both Muhammad’s, with the earliest issues retaining the reversed protocol. No later than 576 (confirmed by a coin in a private collection), these protocols were changed to the normal arrangement, with Ghiyath as al-sultan al-mu`azzam (“supreme sultan”) and Mu`izz as al-sultan al-mu`azzam (“splendid sultan”), a form that would appear on the vast majority of their coins thereafter. Items #1754-1759 cite this Muhammad b. Sam, with his own titles, but without his brother, the other Muhammad. Coins citing both of the Muhammad brothers commence with #1759 below.

W1754 AV heavily debased dinar (believed to be about 10-20% gold), legends only

Struck at Firuzkuh, Taliquan (with distinctive honeycomb pattern), and Herat, at least until the early 570s (examples at Tubingen and in private collections).

1754 AV fine gold dinar (probably 80%+ gold), central circle on both sides, struck at Firuzkuh, Herat, Dawar and Nishapur from 573 onwards

A1755 AR to electrum dirham (aka dinar), title Ghiyath al-Din, easily confused with #W1754

Struck principally at Firuzkuh (lobated square within circle / inner circle) and Herat (inner circle both sides) in the early 590s, usually so crudely that the mint name is illegible. Accurate organization of fine gold, debased gold and silver coins of this reign requires further research.

1755 AR dirham, with title Shams al-Din

With very fine stylized characteristic calligraphy.

1755A AR dirham, calligraphy as #1755 but with title Ghiyath al-Din, struck at Firuzkuh & Taliquan

R1756 AE fals (or broad jital), elephant-rider type, Shafurqan, possibly dated (Tye 139)

S1756 AE fals (or broad jital), elephant without rider, Kurzuwan, known dated 59x (Tye 140)

1756 AE jital, elephant-rider type, without mint name but perhaps struck at Kurzuwan (Tye 134)

1757 AE jital, elephant right, without rider (Tye 132-133, 145)

Minted at Marw (Tye 145) (tentative reading459). Shafurqan (written as Ashfurqan with initial alif), and Kurzuwan.

1758 AE jital, horseman type, Taliquan mint or without mint name (Tye 130-131, 135)

Some examples without mint name may have been struck elsewhere.

A1759 AE jital, bull type, with ruler titled Shams al-Din, Kurraman mint (rarely clear) (Tye 138 & 174)

B1759 AE jital, short text in hexagram both sides (Tye 189)

Mu`izz al-Din Muhammad b. Sam, 567-602 / 1171-1206

The original title of this Muhammad b. Sam was Shihab al-Din, changed to Mu`izz al-Din in his conquest of Ghazna about 568.

T1759 AV dinar, fine gold, with his title Shihab al-Din, mint & date undetermined460

This is Muhammad b. Sam’s only confirmed issue with the laqab Shihab al-Din. It also cites his elder brother, Ghiyath al-Din Muhammad b. Sam.

1759 AV dinar, fine gold, central circle with single margins, somewhat coarse Kufic writing, principally Ghazna mint (before 596)

R Virtually all gold and silver coins of Mu`izz al-Din struck 599 and earlier cite his brother Ghiyath al-Din, who was technically the supreme chief of the Ghoriids. Mints other than Ghazna are significantly rarer.

1760 AV dinar, fine gold, “bull’s-eye” type (three concentric circles of legend) (Ghazna, 596-597)

RR Issues of 596 and some of 597 bear the month as well as year, as do the corresponding silver dirhams, #1770.

1761 AV dinar, fine gold, square-in-circle type, citing his brother Ghiyath al-Din (Ghazna, 598 & 599)

R Coins of this type and #1762 vary in weight from less than four to more than 20 grams, with some of the heaviest examples magnificently struck, presumably for presentation purposes. In 1996, three gorgeous examples weighing about 45 grams each appeared in the market.

1762 AV dinar, fine gold, square-in-circle type, Mu`izz al-Din alone (Ghazna)

R This and the silver coin of the same type (#1768) were struck during the short solo reign of Mu`izz al-Din (599-602) after the death of Ghiyath al-Din in 599, thereafter posthumously until 605, possibly also in 606. During the year 606 the name of Taj al-Din Yildiz was added to the obverse or reverse margin and are listed under Yildiz (#1790).

Weight variation similar to #1761.

1763 AV dinar, fine gold, central circle type, naskhi script, Mu`izz al-Din alone (western mints)

R Most commonly struck at Herat, known dated 599 & 601. Also known from Firuzkuh and Dawar, both dated 599 (RR), but nearly all known specimens lack a legible date.

1764.1 AV stater, Lakshmi obverse, naming Mu`izz al-Din in Nagari legends on reverse, Kunauj type

C Broad flan, about 20mm, struck on somewhat debased gold (Deyell 252).

1764.2 AV stater, as #1764.1 but Bayana type

C Narrow flan, about 16-18mm, different calligraphic style but also struck on somewhat debased gold (Deyell 253).

Both variants of #1764 were derived from the standard Hindu prototypes, such as common staters of Gangaya Deva and Govinda Chandra (Deyell #119b & 145-147, respectively).

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459 Tyé conjectured the mint of Farwan, but only the first three letters are engraved, which would be the full inscription of marw.

460 D. Sourdel, Inventaire…, #1264.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 192
The actual denominational name is unknown, and I have used the ancient Greek term "stater" following Mitchiner. Both types have an average weight of 4.1-4.2g.

1765 AV tanka (11.1g), horseman type, struck at Gauḍa in Bengal (Goron B1), Mu‘izz al-Dīn alone, Arabic inscriptions
Known dated Ramadan 601. The fractional denominations are undated. None bear a mint name.

A1766 AV ¼ tanka (5.55g), horseman type, similar to #1765 (Raigot 105)

1766 AV ¼ tanka (2.3g), horseman type, Nagari legends (Goron B3)
This and the following type, though ostensibly minted in Bengal, are normally found in northern Pakistan, more than 1000 miles west. Perhaps they were struck in Bengal & carried back towards Ghazna as booty. 
Goron cites this denomination as "fractional tanka of 20 raţi", allegedly too light for a proper quarter tanka. It is slightly heavy to be regarded as 1/5 tanka.

1767 AV ¼ tanka (2.7g), horseman type, Arabic inscriptions (Goron B2)

S1768 BI dirham or fractional dirham, without mint or date, very narrow flan, with caliph al-Mustadi, who ruled 566-575
The obverse cites the caliph and Abu’l-Fath (i.e., Ghiyath al-Dīn), the reverse Mu‘izz al-Dīn as shahanshāh-i ghōst abu’l-muṣaffār muḥammad bin sam. Stylistically of the Ghazna mint.

U1768 BI dirham, Ghazna style, central circle types, caliph al-Mustadi, therefore no later than 575, also citing Ghiyath al-Dīn, with reversed protocol

1768.1 BI dirham, Ghazna types, central circle type, circa 576-581, sometimes dated (580 & 581), citing Ghiyath al-Dīn as well, without title
Debased silver, average estimate undetermined, perhaps around 30-40% pure. Rare with legible date. Accola has pointed out that whereas gold coins switch to the standard protocol no later than 576, the billion & silver coins retained the reversed protocol until the mid-580s!

1768.2 AR dirham, Ghazna, central circle type, dated from the late 580s until 596, fine silver, broad flans, citing Ghiyath al-Dīn, with standard protocol
Broad flan, believed to be relatively fine silver, size adopted by type #1770 and later issues. Individual specimens vary greatly in actual weight. Known dated 588-596. (#1769, AR dirham of Herat, is now recognized as just a trifling variant of #1773.)

1770 AR dirham, “bull’s-eye” type as #1760 (Ghazna, 596-597, often with month)

1771 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, citing Ghiyath al-Dīn, as #1761 (Ghazna, 597-599 only)
Struck from 97-98% silver, as are #1762-1173.

1772 AR dirham, square-in-circle type, Mu‘izz al-Dīn alone, as #1762 (Ghazna, 599-606)
Coins dated after 602 are posthumous issues struck by order of Taj al-Dīn Yıldız but in the sole name of Mu‘izz al-Dīn.

1773 AR dirham, central circle type, Mu‘izz al-Dīn alone, as #1763 (Herat, 599 only)
Mint name at top of reverse field, date in margin. The marginal legend gives the denomination as dīnakīr, perhaps because the silver and gold coins were struck from the same pair of dies.

1773M AR tanka (12.6g), horseman type as #1765-67, known dated Ramadan 601 (Goron B4)

This type and #1773N were struck in Bengal.

1773N AR 1/12 tanka (0.9g), abu’l-muṣaffār on obverse, muḥammad shah on reverse, undated (Goron B5)

1774 AE jital, Taliqan horseman type, western style
(Tye 173)
This type, as well as #1777 and 1777A, and some varieties of #1779 and 1782 cite the title Mu‘izz al-Dīn or Abu’l-Muṣaffār, thus securely assigned to Mu‘izz al-Dīn Muḥammad. The remaining jitals listed here under Mu‘izz al-Dīn cite only muḥammad bin sam in either Sanskrit or Arabic, thus theoretically attributable to either of the brothers. Because they are all of eastern style (except #1775 & 1775L), I have technically assigned them all to Mu‘izz al-Dīn Muḥammad.

RRR 1775 AE jital, Ghur horseman type (Dawar) (Tye—)
RRR 1775L AE jital, inscriptions only, dated 596 and 598 in reverse margin (Tye 136)
RRR Assigned by Tye to his brother Ghiyath al-Dīn, even though the name is clearly Mu‘izz al-Dīn. Without mint name.

RRR 1775M AE jital, inscriptions only, undated, citing both brothers Muḥammad, Farwan mint (Tye 137)

RR 1776 AE jital, Lahore style horseman type, horseman faces left, several variants (Tye 181-182)

S 1777 AE jital, Lahore style inscriptive type, muḥammad bin sam only on reverse (Tye 179)

C 1777A AE jital, Lahore style inscriptive type, abu’l-muṣaffār muḥammad bin sam on reverse (Tye 180)

C 1778 AE jital, Rajput horseman type, horseman faces right (Lahore) (Tye 183)

S The Rajput horseman is much more stylized than the Lahore horseman of #1776.

R 1779 AE jital, Rajput bull type with extra marginal inscriptions on one or both sides, struck at Kurraman (Tye 175)

C 1779L AE jital, Kurraman style bull /4 or 5 line Arabic inscriptions (Tye 177-178)

C (Former #1780, horseman type jital of Herat, is #1734.1 or 1734.2 of the Khwarizmshahs.)

RR 1781 AE jital, Rajput bull & horseman type with Nagari inscriptions only (Lahore, Delhi & Budaon) (Tye 184-187)

A 1782 AE falus, various types struck in India, always with very short inscriptions (Tye 188, 190-192)
Always without mint name, but likely struck at Delhi as they are similar to Delhi Sultanate coppers over the next several decades.

Mahmūd b. Muḥammad, 602-609 / 1206-1212
(Ghiyath al-Dīn, more rarely Shihāb al-Dīn)

S 1783.1 AV broad dinar, fine gold, square-in-circle type, title Ghiyath al-Dīn (Firuzkūh, known dated 605)

RR 1783.2 AV broad dinar, fine gold, central circle type, with title Shihāb al-Dīn (Dawar 602)

RR 1783.3 AV broad dinar, fine gold, central circle type, with title Ghiyath al-Dīn (Firuzkūh, date off flan, Dawar 608 & Herat, date uncertain) (Former Firuzkūh, perhaps other mints as well. Each mint has at least one distinctive calligraphic style and cartouche. Some examples may contain a tiny percentage of gold.

S 1784 AR broad dirham, reverse within lobated square, obverse either in lobated square or in plain inner circle

RR Known from Firuzkūh, perhaps other mints as well. Each mint has at least one distinctive calligraphic style and cartouche. Some examples may contain a tiny percentage of gold.

R 1785 AE jital, horseman type (Tye 141-143)

RRR 1785A AE jital, horseman type, falcon on rider’s right hand, without mint name (Tye 144)

RR 1786 AE jital, elephant-rider type (Juzjan area) (Tye 147-148, 151)
Without mint name, perhaps struck at Kurzuwan & Shafurjan, as suggested by Tye.

RR 1787 AE jital, elephant without rider, Marw (or Farwan with just the first three letters), also mintless from the Juzjan region (Tye 145-146)

RRR 1787A AE jital, elephant without rider, reverse with floral pattern within central square and ruler’s name in margin (Tye 150)

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 193

46) The first letter of the date is alif; thus the date is either 602 or 604, with 602 more likely due to local history.
1788  AE jital, hexagram type, Taluqan mint (Tye 188)  S  1798 AR dinar, with mint name Ghazna, and date in margin, often illegible.

1789  AE jital, Lahore horseman type (Tye 149)  S  1799A AE jital, square-in-circle type, short inscriptions only (Tye 202-203)  S

Taj al-Din Yildiz (Ghorid successor), 602-612 / 1206-1215

Yildiz was not a Ghorid, but had been a high-ranking mamlik under Mu’izz al-Din who claimed the Ghazna region after his master’s death in 602.

1790  AV dinar, fine gold, square-in-circle type in name of deceased Mu’izz al-Din with Taj al-Din’s name added in the obverse or reverse margin (606-610)  R  1799B AE jital, plain circle type, short inscriptions only (Tye 204)  RR

With mint name Ghazna and date in margin, often illegible.

1791.1  AV dinar, fine gold, central circle, Kufic script, mint of Ghazna, in name of deceased Mu’izz al-Din, with Taj al-Din cited in margin  R  1799C AE jital, square-in-circle type, Kurzuwan mint (Tye—)  R

A somewhat similar type has recently been reported for Firuzkuh dated 609.

1791.2  AV dinar, fine gold, central circle, naskhi inscription (struck at al-Dawar 608)  RR  1799G AV dinar, without mint name, dated 606  RRR

The mint name Dawar always appears without the article (dawar) on the jitals, normally with the article (al-dawar) on the gold and silver (for all Khwarizmian and Ghorid coins).

A somewhat similar type has recently been reported for Firuzkuh dated 609.

1792  AV dinar, fine gold, inner circle obverse as #1791, reverse just al-sultan al-mu’izz in central double square (similar to Rajgor #766), dated 610-611  R  1799P AV ¼ tanka, or “dirham” (typically 40-70% silver, the rest copper or other base metal)  R

Muhammad, but very different arrangement of inscriptions.

1793  AV dinar (heavily debased gold), inner circle obverse with Muhammad b. Sam entitled al-sultan al-shahid (“the martyred sultan”), plain circle reverse citing Yildiz (Ghazna 612 only)  RR  1799Q AR tanka, horseman type, Arabic legends (Goron B8 & B9), with month of Ramadan but undeciphered year  R

Yildiz’s titles on this type are al-malik al-mu’azzam al-sultan al-sharq raj al-dunya wa’l-din (Zeno-73687).

Kanauj style & fabric, as #1713 of the Khwarizmshah al-malik al-mu’azzam taj al-dunya wa’l-din yildiz.  

No other coins are cited Yildiz by name or title.

1794  AR dirham, square-in-circle type, text arrangement as #1790 above (Ghazna 606-610)  S  1799R AR 1/16 tanka, abu’l-muzaffar on obverse, ‘ali mardan on reverse (Goron B10) (0.6g)  RRR

No other coins are known citing Aybak by name or title.

1795  AR dirham, square-in-circle obverse, double square-in-circle reverse as #1792 above (Ghazna 610-611)  R  1799S AR 1/8 tanka, ‘abduhu al-malik al-sultan al-a’zam, undated (2.3g±)  RRR

Tiny dots & circles fill the open spaces in the fields, both sides.

1796  AE jital, Herat horseman type but without mint name (Tye 198)  S  1800 AR dinar (typically 90% silver, the rest copper or some other base metal)  R

Types #1796, A1797 and B1797 are all from the Zamín-Dawar region in south-central Afghanistan. All bear the horseman obverse, sometimes with a mint name above or below. The reverse cites ‘abduhu (“his slave”) at the top, then in 3 lines, al-malik al-mu’azzam raj al-dunya wa’l-din yildiz. All are made from a mixture of copper and lead.

A1797  AE jital horseman type, with horseman usually holding spear (Tye 195-197)  RR  1801 BI “dinar” or “dirham” (typically 40-70% silver, often with considerable lead)  R

Mints of Dawar and Bist or without mint. One mintless variant of Tye 196 portrays a falcon below the horse.

B1797  AE jital, horseman type, with horseman holding falcon (Tye 193-194)  RR  R

Mint of Takinabad (near Qandahar) or without mint.

1797  AE jital, Rajput horseman type, without mint name but almost certainly struck at Lahore (201)  S  1802 AR dinar (typically 90% silver, the rest copper or some other base metal)  R

AE jital, Ghazna style (inscriptions only) (Tye 199)  C  1803 AR dinar (typically 90% silver, the rest copper or some other base metal)  R

Cites the deceased Mu’izz al-Din as al-sultan al-a’zam on obverse, Taj al-Din Yildiz as al-malik al-mu’azzam and ‘abduhu on reverse.

1799  AE jital, Kurraman bull type (probably struck at Kurraman, also with significant lead content) (Tye 200)  C  1804 AR dinar (typically 90% silver, the rest copper or some other base metal)  R

A unique specimen bears al-sultan al-mu’izz in double circle instead of double square, dated 611, probably also struck at Ghazna.

462 A unique specimen bears al-sultan al-mu’izz in double circle instead of double square, dated 611, probably also struck at Ghazna.

463 Sourdel 1450-1458. These pieces were recently (2010) recovered for the Kabul museum, apparently all nine of them!

464 These are the dates provided by Bosworth. Accola has submitted evidence that Mas’ud’s actual reign was more like 545-563 / 1150-1168, with Shams al-Din Muhammad succeeding in 563/1168. Unfortunately, dated coins of Fakhr al-Din Mas’ud are nonexistent.
Shams al-Din Muhammad (b. Mas'ud), 558-588 / 1163-1192

R1802.1 AV dinar, reasonably fine gold, similar with title malik al-a'zam, mint of Bamiyan
Known dated 581, mint name above obverse field (Zeno-1883).
RRR

R1802.2 AV dinar, similar, but with title al-sultan al-a'zam, mint of Balkh
The central Ghorid sultan Ghiyath al-Din Badr al-Din Muhammad Bestowed the title of sultan on Shams al-Din in 586, so presumably struck late in his reign, circa 586-588.
RRR

1802.1 AR dirham (or base dinar), title al-malik al-a'zam, known from Bamiyan mint (Zeno-38276)
RR?

1802.2 AR dirham (or base dinar), title al-sultan, many variants
Sometimes struck in debased silver. Inscribed either al-sultan al-mu'azzam or al-sultan al-a'zam sometimes followed by abu l-muzaffar.
Reported from the mints of Bamiyan, Farwan, and Balkh.

A1803 BI dirham or jital, with title malik al-sharq, “king of the east” (Tye 152), mint unknown
RRR

E1803 AE broad gahiri dirham (35-36mm), Qarakhanid, struck at Balkh in 587

Baha’ al-Din Sam (b. Muhammad), 588-602 / 1192-1206
(al-Sultan al-A'zam Abu'l-Mu'ayyid)

1803 AV dinar, fine gold
Known from Bamiyan and Balkh, dated between 595 & 602. Recently discovered from Warwarliz, undated.
RRR

1804.1 AR/BI dirham, central circle type
Probably mint of Bamiyan, known die-linked to a coin dated 597.
S

1804.2 AR/BI dirham, central lobated square within circle, marginal legend around
Probably struck at Sam bin Baha’ al-Din, known dated 599.
S

1804.3 AR/BI dirham, plain double square within circle, marginal legend around
Mint of Farwan, known dated 597 (Tye 135, but not a jital).
R

1804.4 AR/BI dirham, plain circle, without marginal inscription, without mint or date
The various subtypes of #1804 were struck in varying degrees of debasement of the silver, usually with plenty of copper and perhaps as much as 10-20% lead. The regal titulature is al-sultan al-a'zam Abu l-mu'ayyad, except for some examples of #1804.5, where Sam is also entitled sultan al-sharq, perhaps an earlier type. The listing of #1804 subtypes here is incomplete. (Tye 154, but not a jital).
R

1805.1 BI jital, inscriptional types, titles on obverse, sam bin muhammad on reverse (Tye 155-159)
Normally without mint name (Tye 155-156), but also with Balkh atob obverse (Tye 157), Warwalij (sic) above reverse (Tye 158) and Tirmidh above reverse (Tye 159).
R

1805.2 BI jital, horsemanship, right, without mint (Tye 160)

1805.3 BI jital, elephant-rider right, without mint (Tye 161)


V1806 AV dinar, as independent ruler
Known dated 602 (mint name undetermined) and 603 (Walwalij, sic), then later dated 608, also with undetermined mint.
RRR

1806 AV dinar, citing the Khwarizmshah Muhammad as suzerain
Most, if not all specimens, struck at Walwalij, dated 605.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 195

Not to be confused with coins of the main-line Muhammad b. Sam, whose earliest coins bear the title Shams al-Din.

Tye tentatively assigned type 159 to Farwan, but with the discovery of many more examples, the mint is clearly Tirmidh, quite close to Balkh.

Tye has assigned some Sanskrit types of Muhammad b. Sam and Prithvi Raja Deva to Baha al-Din, but this has not been confirmed (Tye 162-164).

As independent ruler ‘Ali is entitled al-sultan al-a'zam, but as vassal under the Khwarizmshah Muhammad, he is given the lesser title al-sultan al-mu'azzam, with the higher title reserved for the Khwarizmshah.

In theory, coins of this type, without the additional title al-malik, should be dated no later than 633. So why 636? Engraver’s error for 626?
The term atabeg denotes the tutor assigned to a Seljuq royal prince while he was still a child. Many of these atabegs assumed effective power over their protégé, who might then remain little more than a figurehead after coming of age. Several of these atabegs eventually went on to found their own dynasties, sometimes retaining a Seljuq figurehead as nominal overlord but most eventually dispensing with that formality. In addition, a few local Seljuq founders governed independent kingdoms as well, even though they were not atabegs and never had a prince of the blood under their tutelage.

**ARTUQID** (often written Artukid or Urtukid)

In addition to the usual museum catalogs (especially useful are Paris and London), see the following:


The principal branch of the Artuqids ruled from Mardin for nearly three centuries. Their first series of coinage, from 1122-1260, consists principally of large bronze coinage known as dirhams, usually pictorial, supplemented from 1218 to 1260 with silver dirhams, most of which are stylistically identical to the Ayyubid dirhams of Halab. There is no gold coinage.

The pictorial and other early bronzes were usually carefully struck, though surviving specimens are frequently corroded, damaged or worn. The early silver, through the 630s, was also struck with care; that of the 640s & 650s is also tolerably attractive. The later silver, from the late 740s onwards, is usually weakly struck and rarely found with full inscriptions and margins.

The pictorial bronze is more avidly collected than any other Islamic series. As a result, well-struck and well-preserved specimens are strongly sought after and command substantial premiums over average pieces of the same rarity.

Silver or silver-alloy cast forgeries of many pictorial Artuqid coins were manufactured from the 18th to the early 20th centuries. They were probably intended for sale to tourists or collectors. Nowadays, they have little numismatic value other than as curiosities.

**NOTE:** SS numbers refer to Spengler & Sayles, cited above.

**ARTUQID (HALAB)**

Il-Ghazi I (Najm al-Din, b. Artuq), 511-516 / 1118-1122

A1820 AR fractional dirham RRR

Balak-Ghazi (Nur al-Dawla), 516-518 / 1122-1124

B1820 AR fractional dirham RRR

**ARTUQID (AMID & HISN KAYFA)**

Qara Arslan, 539-570 / 1144-1174

(Fakhr al-Din, b. Da’ud b. Sukman b. Artuq)

1820.1 AE dirham, facing bust of Christ (Christ Pantocrator), showing the book of Gospels in his left hand, undated (SS1) RR

This is the earliest large copper coin of the Artuqids to bear the denomination dirham, which also appears on type #1826.2, thus confirming that the denomination of the large copper was dirham, not fals.

1820.2 AE dirham, enthroned bust of Christ facing, undated, with nine Arabic letters scattered to left & right of the head of Christ (SS2.1) RR

These nine letters represent the abjad numerals 1 through 9. The purpose of these numbers is unknown.

1820.2A AE dirham, same design but with the actual numerals 1 through 9 scattered to left and right of the head of Christ (SS2.2) RR

The nine numbers are variously arranged on different dies, both for this type and for the dragon types #1820.2B and 1820.2C. This is the earliest use of Arabic ciphers on a regular circulating Islamic coin.

1820.2B AE dirham, same type, also with numerals 1-9, but countermarked two entwined dragons within a circle (SS2.3) RR

1820.2C AE dirham, same type, same numerals, but with the countermark design of 2 dragons incorporated into the reverse die, to the lower left (SS2.4) RRR

1820.3 AE dirham, winged Victory walking r., holding round or square votive tablet inscribed VOT XXX, surrounded by a crudely engraved inscription in Latin, undated (SS3) RR

The round tablet variant is much rarer. The obverse design was borrowed from coinage of Constantine the Great (AD 306-337). Cf. RIC-244.

1820.4 AE dirham, slightly left-facing figure holding globe and scepter, dated 536 (SS4) R

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 196
1820.5 AE dirham, crowned and bearded facing bust on obverse, bare-headed and clean-shaven facing bust on reverse, dated 559 (SS5) 

1820.6 AE dirham, long-haired male head facing, dated 560 (SS6)
Kalima and name of caliph al-Mustanjid around the male head on obverse, date on reverse, together with the ruler’s ancestry, qara arslan bin da’ud bin sukman bin artag, who are also cited on the next two types (SS7 and SS8).

1820.7 AE dirham, long-haired male bust facing, dated 562 (SS7)
Date on obverse, divided to the left and right of the male bust.

1820.8 AE dirham, similar to #1820.7 but with small winged figures added to right of bust and entire date to left of bust, dated 570 (SS8)

Mukhammad, 570-581 / 1174-1185
(Nur al-Din, b. Qara Arslan)

1821.1 AE dirham, winged angel facing, dated 571 (SS9)
Normally found very carelessly struck.

1821.2 AE dirham, enthroned figure under canopy, with two winged angels above, dated 576 (SS10)

1821.3 AE dirham, Seleukid style diademmed head left, dated 578 (SS11)

Sukman II, 581-597 / 1185-1201
(Qutb al-Din, al-Malik al-Mas‘ud b. Muhammad)

1822.1 AE dirham, Sasanian-style bust left, with crown of Shahpur I, dated 581 (SS12)
Well-struck examples are extremely rare.

1822.2 AE dirham, two male busts addossed, dated 584 (SS13)
Normally found with considerable weakness of strike. This is the first issue of AAmid & Hisn Kayfa to cite an overlord.

1822.3 AE dirham, slightly right-facing bust, holding globe and scepter, dated 594, no overlord (SS14)

Mahmud (Nasir al-Din), 597-619 / 1201-1222

1823.1 AE dirham, double-headed eagle with wings spread, plain circle reverse
Two varieties, one struck at al-Hisn in 610 (SS15, citing the Ayyubid Abu Bakr as overlord), the other at Amid in 614 (SS16, citing the Rum Seljuq Kayka‘us I as overlord). Both have dates in numerals, the earliest occurrences of a numeral date on properly Islamic coins. However, a Norman Sicilian copper follario of William I is known dated 533 in Arabic numerals.471

1823.2 AE dirham, lion-rider facing right, dated 615 either in numerals or in words (SS17)
Citing the Ayyubid al-Kamil Muhammad as overlord.

1823.3 AE dirham, double-headed eagle in fancy quatrefoil, hexagram reverse, dated 617 (SS18)
Citing the Ayyubid al-Kamil Muhammad as overlord.

Mawdud, 619-629 / 1222-1232
(Rukn al-Din, b. Mahmud)

1824.1 AE dirham, similar to #1823.3 but obverse and reverse enclosures are a circle within a square within a circle, legends of Mawdud (SS19)
Struck at Amid in 621, date in numerals, al-Kamil Muhammad as overlord.

1824.2 AE fals (2.5-4.0g), inscriptive types, known dated 624 in words and 625 in numerals (SS20)
Citing the Rum Seljuq Kayqubad as overlord.

ARTUQID (KHARTABT)

Abu Bakr I (b. Qara Arslan), 581-600 / 1185-1203,
Khartabt is the modern town Harput, whose name was officially changed in 1937 to Eläzğ, which was derived from the name of the 19th century Ottoman sultan Abdul Aziz.

None of his coins cite an overlord.

1825.1 AE dirham, dragon-rider left, dragon with knotted tail, dated 582 & 585 (SS21)

1825.2 AE dirham, bare head left / inscription in circle of dots, dated 583-590 (SS22)
Not all intermediate dates are known.

1825.3 AE dirham, Roman style bust facing left / inscription in square, dated 592 only (SS23)

ARTUQID (MARDIN)

Many of the large copper dirhams of this dynasty, as well as similar dirhams of the Zangids and Ayyubids, are found overstruck on earlier types. Silver coins of type #1831 & 1832 were struck at Dunaysir, #1834 & 1835 at Mardin, then at both Mardin & Amid during the 8714-9715 century and early 9715. All copper coins were presumably struck at Mardin, though the mint name is frequently omitted, especially on the earlier issues.

All copper dirhams of the rulers Timurtash up to and including Yuluq Arslan were presumably struck at Mardin, but always without mint name, which first appears on type #1830.2.

Early Period (516-658 / 1122-1152)

Timurtash, 516-547 / 1122-1152
(Husam al-Din, al-Malik al-‘Adil, b. Il-Ghazi I b. Artuq)

1826.1 AE dirham, facing bust of Christ as on #1820.1, in the name of the local governor Sher Barik, without mint name & undated (SS24)
The attribution to Timurtash is conjectural, as this type is technically an issue of Sher Barik, who was perhaps governor under Timurtash at or near Mayyafarqin.

1826.2 AE dirham, late Roman style bust right with pseudo-Latin inscription around, dated 542-543 (SS25)
The date and the mint name Mardin are both usually too stylized to be legible.

1826.3 AE dirham, Seleukid style diademmed bust right, undated (SS26)
Some examples successfully achieve the superb portrait style of the Seleukid prototype.

Alpi, 547-572 / 1152-1176
(Najm al-Din al-Malik al-Mas‘ud, Abu‘l-Muzaffar, b. Timurtash)

1827.1 AE dirham, countermarked najm al-din (S) or najm al-din malik diyar bakr (RR) on the Seleucid style bust type #1826.3, usually on the neck, more rarely on the cheek
Listed by Spengler & Sayles as a variant of type SS26. The term diyar bakr refers to the section of al-Jazira originally occupied by the Bakr tribe from Arabia in the Umayyad period, now the modern name of the city of Amid, spelled Diyarbakır.

1827.2 AE dirham, similar, but the countermark najm al-din incorporated into the obverse die (SS27)

1827.3 AE dirham, two long-haired busts facing on obverse, Virgin Mary crowning the Byzantine emperor on reverse, undated (SS28)
The obverse busts are believed to represent the Gemini, Castor & Pollux, not a Seleukid ruler and prince, as I had previously stated.

1827.4 AE dirham, draped bust facing slightly left on obverse, facing bust wearing Sasanian crown on reverse, dated 558-559 (SS29)

1827.5 AE dirham, two facing male busts obverse, facing curly-haired female bust reverse, undated (SS30)
Two varieties, one citing caliph al-Mustanjid, the other citing al-Mustadi, of which the al-Mustadi is slightly scarcer.

471 There exists a Buwayhid presentation medallion of AH359 with the date in numerals. Also, an Artuqid copper dirham struck in the 540s or early 550s bear all nine numerals, but not as a date (#1820.2A).
Il-Ghazi II, 572-580 / 1176-1184
(Qubt al-Din, b. Alpi)

1828.1 AE dirham, diademmed head in square, normally gazung upwards, undated (SS31)

1828.2 AE dirham, large & small draped busts facing, known from all dates 577-580 (SS32)

1829.1 AE dirham, seated figure holding sword behind head, undated (SS33)

1829.2 AE dirham, large bust facing left on right hand side, small bust facing forward on left side, undated (SS34)

1829.3 AE dirham, four figures in a “lamentation” scene, dated 589-590, several variants of reverse legend (SS35)

1829.4 AE dirham, seated figure holding sword behind head in right hand, severed head in left hand, several variants, all dated 596 (SS36)

Artuq Arslan, 597-637 / 1201-1239
(Nasir al-Din al-Mansur)

1830.1 AE dirham, facing draped bust, dated 598-599 (SS37)

1830.2 AE dirham, Centaur (facing left or right) shooting arrow at dragon emerging from its tail, dated 599 only (SS38.1 left, SS38.2 right)

1830.3 AE dirham, leopard-rider left, two variants with distinctive reverse inscriptions, dated 606 (C) and 626 (R), respectively (SS39 & 45)

1830.4 AE dirham, bust facing slightly left, dated 611 on reverse (SS40)

Yuluq Arslan (Husam al-Din), 580-597 / 1184-1201

1831.1 AR dirham, hexagram type, Ayyubid style with the Ayyubid al-Kamil Muhammad as overlord, dated 615-624 & reportedly also 632-634

1831.2 AR dirham, plain circle type, 624-626 & reportedly also 632-634

Ghazi I, 637-658 / 1239-1260 (Najm al-Din al-Sa'id)

1834.1 AR dirham, plain inner circle type, citing the Ayyubid al-Salih Ayyub, dated 642 only

1834.2 AR dirham, hexagram type, first series, as vassal of the Ayyubid al-Salih Ayyub, 642-644

1834.3 AR dirham, hexagram type, 2nd series, without any overlord, dated 645 only

1834.4 AR dirham, hexagram type, 3rd series, citing the Ayyubid ruler al-Nasir Yusuf & the caliph al-Musta'sim, 646-656

1834.5 AR dirham, hexagram type, 4th series, citing al-Nasir Yusuf but without the caliph, 656-658

1835 AR ½ dirham, hexagram type only (as #1831.1) R

1836.1 AR dirham, new style, #1834.2, citing the Il-Khan Il-Ghazi II, 572-580 / 1176-1184
(a short distance south of Mardin).

1837.1 AR dirham, plain circle type, style as #1831.2 but citing the Il-Khan Il-Ghazi II, dated 634, 635 & 637

1838.1 AR dirham, plain circle type, 627-632 & reportedly also 632-634

1839.1 AR dirham, plain circle type, style as #1831.2 but citing the Il-Khan Il-Ghazi II, dated 634, 635 & 637

1840 AR ½ dirham, hexagram type only (as #1831.1) R

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 198
Qara Arslan, 658-693 / 1260-1294
(Fakhr al-Din al-Muzaffar)

1836.1 AE fals, inscriptions S
Several types, some citing an Ilkhan overlord. An independent type of 688-690 (both sides in hexafoil) was misattributed by Bâk to the Mamlick ruler Hajji I (his #316, Mamlikus).

1836.2 AE fals, square face, usually dated 693, without overlord (SS50)
The year 673 is probably a typo for 693, despite its clarity.

1837 AR dirham, struck 658 at Mardin, citing Hulagu (Ilkhan) and the Qa’an, hexagram type RR

1837A AR dirham, struck 664 at Mardin, citing Hulagu and the Qa’an, fields within circle RRR
Identical to Hulagu’s dirham type #2122.2 in style & layout, except for the addition of al-malik al-muzaffar, the laqab of Qara Arslan, below the obverse field.

Ghazi II, 693-712 / 1294-1312
(Najm al-Din, Abu’l-Fath al-Malik al-Mansur)

1838.1 AE fals, round sun face in double circle, dated 698, but the date is rarely visible (SS51) S
Presumably without overlord, unless the title al-sultan al-’azam refers to the Ilkhan Ghazan Mahmud, rather than himself.

1838.2 AE fals, reform type citing Ghazan Mahmud as overlord, sometimes dated 703 (SS—) R

LATE PERIOD (748-811 / 1347-1408)

al-Salih Salih I, 712-765 / 1312-1364

The akçes of al-Salih Salih I & his successors typically weigh between 1.15g and 1.40g. The akçes of all 5 rulers only bear their laqab and never their personal name, always preceded by the word al-malik, e.g., al-malik al-salih, al-malik al-mansur, etc.

The silver coins of this period were poorly struck and are usually found harshly worn, usually without legible mint, date or both.

1839 AR akçe
Struck from 748/1347 onwards. Earlier silver coinage of Mardin, from 661 until 741, bears only the name of the reigning Ilkhan, and is therefore classified as Ilkhan (for exceptions in silver, see #1837 and 1837A).

Dates on this and later Artuqid silver can be very misleading. Ilisch has shown that this type was first struck at Mardin with genuine dates 748-751 and at Amid in 757. Later issues of al-Salih Salih were invariably backdated, either 748, 749 or 754, but were struck in about 758 and again 761-764. For coins of 759-760, see the Mamluk type #948. For another fals tentative assigned to Zangi, see Zeno-1755.

For coins of 759-760, see the Mamluk type #948. For another fals tentative assigned to Zangi, see Zeno-1755.

1840 AE double fals, two lions addosed (26-29mm) (SS53)

1841.1 AE fals, lion & sun left (SS52)

1841.2 AE fals, two lions as #1840 but large sun between (18-20mm) (SS54)

1841.3 AE fals, double-headed eagle (SS55)

al-Mansur Ahmad, 765-769 / 1364-1368

1842.1 AR akçe, octagon obverse R

1842.2 AR akçe, hexafoil obverse S
Nearly all known akçes of al-Mansur Ahmad bear the frozen year 748, usually illegible. Type #1842.1 is also known dated 764 (sic) and the mint name Mardin (RR).

No copper coins are known for al-Mansur Ahmad.

al-Muzaffar Da’ud, 769-778 / 1368-1376

1843.1 AR akçe, octagon obverse S

1843.2 AR akçe, hexafoil obverse S
Both types are found with the frozen date 748 or the current year.

1844 AE fals, range of types undetermined, some pictorial R

al-Zahir ‘Isa, 778-809 / 1376-1406

When legible, the date is always an actual year, for all four subtypes. There are numerous minor variations in arrangement of the legends.

1845.1 AR akçe, plain hexafoil obverse, inner circle reverse S

1845.2 AR akçe, plain hexafoil obverse, octagon reverse S

1845.3 AR akçe, pointed hexafoil obverse, hexagon reverse S

1845.4 AR akçe, octagram obverse, usually with plain circle reverse S

1845A AR ½ akçe, hexafoil obverse (0.5-0.6g) RR

1846 AE fals, several types, some pictorial R

al-Salih Salih II, 809-811 / 1406-1408

1847 AR akçe, hexafoil type only, coarsely engraved RRR

ZANGID OF SYRIA

Spengler & Sayles, Turkoman Figural Bronze Coins and their Iconography. Volume Two: The Zangids, Lodi, Wisconsin, 1996 (for all branches of the Zangids, copper coins only). There is still no proper study of the silver and gold Zangid coinage.

‘Imad-al-Din Zangi was a military commander in the service of the Seljuqs, from whom he acquired the title of atabeg. His descendants ruled in various regions, of which al-Mawil was the core territory. Zangi and his son Nur al-Din are best known for their defense against the Crusaders.

Like the contemporary Artuqid coinage, most of the Zangid copper coins are pictorial and intended as a dirham, except in Syria, where the usual coin was apparently a fals, as stated on the coins themselves. Silver and billon coinage is rare, as are most of the gold dinars.

All copper coins of the Syrian branch were struck at Aleppo (Halab) and Damascus (except #A1848 & 1848). The silver was struck exclusively at Halab, the gold at al-Qahira & al-Iskandariya.

NOTE: SS numbers refer to Spengler & Sayles, cited above.

Qasim al-Dawla Aqsunqur, 479-489 / 1086-1096

E1848 BI dirham, possibly struck at Halab, undated RRR
Citing the Seljuq ruler Barkiyaruq, thus struck no earlier than 486. All known specimens lack the mint name.

Aqsunqur’s relationship to the Zangids is uncertain.

‘Imad-al-Din Zangi, 521-541 / 1127-1146

A1848 AV dinar, mint of al-Mawsil RRR
As vassal of the Seljuqs Mas’ud and Sanjar and atabeg to the Seljuq sultan al-A’zam.

B1848 AR or billon fractional dirham RRR
Mint undetermined, but presumably somewhere in northwest central or northeastern Syria, perhaps Halab.

1848 AE fals, Ba’albakk mint only, usually undated but known with date tentatively read as 534 RRR
For another fals tentative assigned to Zangi, see Zeno-1755.

Nur al-Din Mahmud, 541-569 / 1146-1174

1849 AV dinar, mints of al-Qahira & al-Iskandariya RRR
Struck by order of Saladin as Nur al-Din’s vassal at Cairo & Alexandria, but without the name of Saladin (al-Nasir Yusuf I), dated 567-569. Design similar to the previous Fatimid dinars of al-’Adid.

1849A BI dirham aswad, thin flan, Syrian style RRR
Probably struck at Halab and always undated and carelessly manufactured. Struck only during Mahmud’s early years, circa 541-548.

1849D BI dirham aswad, globular style, struck at al-Qahira RRR

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 199
1850  AE fals, Byzantine type but with Arabic legends  
(standing figures, Halab mint, SS73)  
The mint name never appears on the coin, but has been added 
by provenance. There are many minor variations of this type, 
as well as some blundered imitations, perhaps struck by the 
Crusaders. Carefully struck examples in attractive condition 
are rare.  

1851  AE fals, Arabic type (Dimashq mint, SS74)  
Known dated 558, 561 and 564, but date is rarely legible. Clearly 
dated specimens are rare.  

al-Salih Isma'il, 569-577 / 1174-1181  

1852  AR dirham, normally dated (commencing in 571)  
This and the ½ dirham were carefully struck from fine silver on 
round flans. Both this denomination and the ½ dirham were 
struck only at Halab.  

1853  AR ½ dirham, always undated  

1854.1  AE fals, fourth century Roman style bust right, 
struck only at Halab in 571 (SS76)  

1854.2  AE fals, inscriptions only, several types  
Struck 569-571 at Dimashq (SS75) and 571-576 at Halab (SS77). 
Scarce with a clearly legible date.  

al-'Adil Zangi (of Sinjar), in Aleppo only,  
577-579 / 1181-1183  

1855  AE fals  
When the date is visible, it is always 578. This type has often 
been misattributed to the Ayyubid ruler, al-'Adil Abu Bakr I. 
Spengler & Sayles omit the type, but refer to its existence in 
a footnote on page 79.  

ZANGID (AL-MAWSIL)  

Except for some issues of the first two rulers, Mawdud and Ghazi II, 
all gold coins were struck at al-Mawsil (Mousul). Aside from their 
normal issues of al-Mawsil, these two rulers also struck dinars at 
al-Bawazij, Daquqa, Irbil, Shahrazur and Tikrit, all extremely rare. 
Likewise, copper was normally produced at al-Mawsil as well, but 
a few relatively common types were struck at Nasibin and al-Jazira, 
as noted in the descriptions below. 
The billon dirhams were presumably struck solely at al-Mawsil, but 
some resign the mint name, and are apparently always undated; 
they were struck from dies far larger than the average flan. They 
vary widely in size and weight, and do not correspond to any fixed 
denominations. None are reported after Ghazi II (d.572), though 
remaining forms occasionally appear, notably in the descriptions of 
the Caliphate. 

Many Zangid gold and copper coins were carefully struck, whereas the 
billon was indifferently manufactured. Well-preserved and attractive 
copper coins of all Zangid branches are especially desirable. 

Many, if not most Zangid coins of all branches except Syria (and the 
early coppers of al-Mawsil) bear an overlord, usually Ayyubid, 
occasionally Seljuk (Great Seljuk on some early issues, Seljuk of 
Rum on a few later pieces). Due to lack of research, these varieties are not 
always noted in the descriptions of the gold and billon coins. 
Zangid coppers, pictorial and otherwise, are usually dated and usually 
cite the mint name. Many examples, especially after about year 585, 
are overstruck on earlier Zangid types. 

For coins of the earlier Zangid governor of al-Mawsil, 'Imad al-Din 
Zangi (521-541), see #A1848. 

Sayf al-Din Ghazi I (b. Zangi), 541-544 / 1146-1149  

A1856  AV dinar, citing the Great Seljuk rulers Sanjar, 
Mas'ud and Alp Arslan  
RRR 
Ghazi I was technically vassal under the local Great Seljuk amir, 
Alp Arslan b. Mahmud b. Muhammad, who was a local governor 
under the western Seljuk Mas'ud, who in turn formally 
recognized the Great Seljuk king Sanjar as his suzerain.  

B1856  BI dirham (inscriptions only), same overlords 
(possibly without Alp Arslan), no mint or date  
RRR 
Presumably struck at al-Mawsil (in a private collection in 
Belgium). This type is possibly an issue of his father Zangi, as 
only the title atabeg is inscribed, without personal name or title. 
Citing the caliph al-Muqtadi (530-555 / 1136-1160).  

Quth al-Din Mawdud (b. Zangi), 544-564 / 1149-1169  

1856  AV dinar, without overlord  
RR  

1857  BI dirham (inscriptions only), without overlord  
C  
1858  AE dirham, facing bust with two angels above, 
without overlord (SS59, dated 555-565 with all 
years known)  
C  
Sayf al-Din Ghazi II, 564-576 / 1169-1180  
(b. Mawdud b. Zangi)  

1859  AV dinar, without overlord  
RRR  
1860  BI dirham (inscriptions only), without overlord  
RRR  
1861.1 AE dirham, pictorial type as #1858, also without 
overlord (SS60, dated 565-576, probably all years 
known)  
C 
When the date is unclear, types #1858 and 1861.1 can be 
distinguished by the reverse margin, mawdud to right, bin zangi 
above, bin aqsaqar to left for #1858 of Mawdud, bin zangi to 
right, ghazi bin above, mawdud to left for #1861.1.  
1861.2 AE dirham, helmeted head left, without overlord  
(SS61)  
Dated 575 only, mints of al-Jazira (S) and Nasibin (R). Two 
variations, with or without the caliph al-Mustadi.  

' izz al-Din Mas'ud I, 576-589 / 1180-1193  
(b. Mawdud b. Zangi)  

1862  AV dinar, without overlord  
R  
From this reign onwards (including all Lu'lu’id issues), all gold 
coins were struck solely at al-Mawsil.  
1863.1 AE dirham, helmeted head as on #1861.2, without 
overlord, struck at al-Jazira 577 only (SS62)  
S  
1863.2 AE dirham, seated figure holding large crescent 
("watermelon-eater"), struck at al-Mawsil, all three 
years 585-587 (SS63)  
S  
Citing the Ayyubid ruler al-Nasir Yusuf (Saladin) as overlord.  

Nur al-Din Arslanshah I, 589-607 / 1193-1211  

1864.1 AV dinar, without overlord  
S  
1864.2 AV dinar, as last but with overlord Abu Bakr b. 
Ayyub (dated 603 & later)  
S  
1865  AE dirham, facing bust in beaded square frame, 
without overlord, Nasibin 594 only (SS64)  
R  

'izz al-Din Mas'ud II, 607-615 / 1211-1218  
All gold and copper coppers of this ruler cite the Ayyubid overlord, 
al-Adil Abu Bakr.  

1866  AV dinar  
S  
1867  AE dirham, diademed bust left, al-Mawsil 607-608 
(SS65)  
S 
Typically poorly struck from poorly engraved dies, unlike most 
other pictorial bronzes of the Turkoman dynasties. The design 
was likely derived from type #1880.2 of Sinjar 596-600.  

Arslanshah II, 615-616 / 1218-1219  

1868  AV dinar, dated 615 only  
RRR  
There is no known copper coinage for this reign. His dinars cite 
the Ayyubid overlords, al-Ashraf Musa & al-Kamil Muhammad.  

Nasir al-Din Mahmud, 616-631 / 1219-1233  
All gold and copper coppers of this ruler cite the Ayyubid overlords, 
al-Ashraf Musa & al-Kamil Muhammad.  

1869  AV dinar, dated 617-631  
C  
1870.1 AE dirham, pictorial type of #1858 revived, struck at 
al-Mawsil 620 (SS66)  
S  
1870.2 AE dirham, seated figure holding crescent, struck at 
al-Mawsil 627 (SS67)  
S  
This is the only Zangid or Artuqid copper dirham that is normally 
found in excellent condition, due to a large hoard found during or 
before the 1950s, allegedly somewhere in northern Iraq, perhaps at al-Mawsil itself.  

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 200
**LU’LU’ID**

Jafar, Yahya, “Dinars and history of Badr al-Din Lu’lu’ of Mosul”, ONS Newsletter #201, pp. 30-41 (for gold only)

**NOTE:** SS numbers refer to Spengler & Sayles, cited for the Zangids.

Successors to the Zangids at Mosul (al-Mawsil). Badr al-Din Lu’lu’ was originally an Armenian slave acquired by the Zangid ruler Arslanshah I of Mosul, then regent after the latter’s death in 607/1211, finally independent ruler after Mahmud’s death in 631/1233. His name never appeared on the Zangid coinage before his independence.

The Lu’lu’ids have generally been conflated with the Zangids of Mosul in most published references.

Nearly all coinage was struck at al-Mawsil, except when otherwise noted. Lu’lu’id coppers, especially type #1874.1, were usually struck overearlier types. The gold dinars were struck somewhat carelessly on broad flans, typically 28-30mm, weighing between less than 4g and to 8g on more.

**Rukn al-Din Isma’il, 657-660 / 1258-1261 (al-Malik al-Salih)**

1871.1 AV dinar, with the Mongol Möngke as overlord, dated 657-659
   
   Citing the Ayyubid overlord al-Nasir Yusuf II. This type and 
   #1876 are inscribed fals for the denomination.

1871.2 AV dinar, as independent ruler citing only Isma’i’l and the Aleppan caliph al-Mustansir, dated 659-660

1871.3 AV dinar, without overlord, al-Mawsil 654-655 (SS71)
   
   Denomination not cited.

1871.4 AV dinar, as independent ruler citing only Isma’i’l and the Aleppan caliph al-Mustansir, dated 659-660

1871.5 AV dinar, without overlord, as independent ruler for second period. For the year 648, see #1871.8.

1871.6 AV dinar, inscriptions only, square / square, Sinjar 650-651 (SS73)

1871.7 AV dinar, with the Mongol Möngke as overlord, Sinjar 656-657 (SS74)

1871.8 AV dinar, with the year 659 pointed towards the bottom of the reverse, Sinjar 657-658 (SS75)

1871.9 AV dinar, without overlord, al-Jazira 650-654 (SS76)

1871M AV dinar, with additional title al-malik al-rahim, citing the Great Mongol overlord, Möngke, dated 656-657.

1872 AR dirham, hexagram type without overlord (al-Jazira 649-650)

1872A AR dirham, hexagram type, with Möngke cited as overlord, Sinjar 657

1873.1 BI dirham, al-Mawsil mint only, citing the Rum Seljuq Kaykhusraw II and the caliph al-Mustansir (SS69.1)
   
   Both #1873.1 and 1873.2 were struck with widely variable weights, though some were perhaps intended as half dirhams.

1873.2 BI dirham, as #1873.1 but caliph al-Musta’sim (SS69.2)

1874.1 AE dirham, head left in square, al-Mawsil 631 only (SS68)
   
   Citing the Ayyubid overlords al-Kamil and al-Asraf. This common type was probably struck for a decade or longer, but with frozen year 631 only. It is the most common of all the Zangid or Artuqid pictorial copper dirhams.

1874.2 AE dirham?, seated figure holding crescent, without overlord, al-Mawsil 654-655 (SS71)
   
   Denomination not cited.

1875 AE fals, inscriptive type, before the Mongol invasion, al-Jazira 649 only (SS70)

Citing the Ayyubid overlord al-Nasir Yusuf II. This type and 
#1876 are inscribed fals for the denomination.

1876 AE fals, struck as vassal of the Mongols, al-Mawsil 656-657/? (SS72)

This is one of the earliest types to have inscriptions in Persian as well as Arabic, the formet padshah-e ruy-i zamin, “emperor over the face of the earth”, likely a title of Chinese origin. The type is often found overstruck, especially on #1874.1.

1877 AE fals, with the year 659 pointed towards the bottom of the reverse, Sinjar 656-657 (SS73)

1878 AR dirham, several types

**ZANGID (SINJAR)**

All coins struck at Sinjar, except some dated 577-582, which were struck at Nasbin. Copper coinage only. See also #1855.

‘Imad al-Din Zangi (b. Mawdud), 565-594 / 1169-1197

1879.1 AE dirham, inscriptions only, Nasibin mint, known dated 577 & 579-582, circle / square (SS78)

Denomination stated as dirham.

1879.2 AE dirham, double-headed eagle, Sinjar mint, known dated most years 581-592 (SS79)

C Rare with clearly legible date, also called dirham.

Qutb al-Din Muhammad (b. Zangi), 594-616 / 1197-1219

1880.1 AE dirham, inscriptions only, square / square, Sinjar 594-595 (SS80)

Citing the Ayyubid overlords al-‘Aziz ‘Uthman & al-‘Adl Abu Bakr.

1880.2 AE dirham, bust left, holding scepter behind, Sinjar 596, 598-600, without overlord (SS81)

Year 596 by far the most common.

1880.3 AE dirham, helmeted feminine bust right, Sinjar 600-602, citing the Ayyubid Abu Bakr I as overlord (SS82)

R

1880.4 AE dirham, double-headed eagle, Sinjar 606-607, citing the Ayyubid Abu Bakr I (SS83)

R

Fath al-Din ‘Umar (b. Muhammad), 616-617 / 1219-1220

1881 AE dirham, bare head right, Sinjar 616-617 (SS84)

Citing the Ayyubid overlord al-Asraf Musa b. Abi Bakr.

1882 AE dirham (approximately 8-15g), facing bust, without mint name, dated 584-586 (SS85)

Citing the Ayyubid al-Nasir Yusuf I (Saladin) as overlord.

1883 AE wuqiya (approximately 35g), tamgha in obverse center, without overlord, al-Jazira 600-602 (SS86)

Dinars struck at al-Mawsil in 661 and later are regular issues of the Ilkhan ruler Hulagu.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 201

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472 Spengler & Sayles also cite the year 658, but this remains unconfirmed.
al-Mu’azzam Mahmud b. Sanjarshah, 605-648 / 1208-1251

1883.1 AE dirham, crowned facing bust behind huge crescent, al-Jazira 606-611 (SS87) S
Citing the Ayyubid overlord al-‘Adil Abu Bakr. Both subtypes of #1883 cite the overlord within the central inscription.

1883.2 AE dirham, as #1883.1 but with Ayyubid overlords al-Kamil Muhammad & al-Asfra Musa (SS88) R

1884 AE dirham, citing al-Zahir as heir, style as #A1883 (SS89)
Struck only at al-Jazira dated 639, citing the Rum Seljuq ruler Kaykhusraw II as overlord. Average weight about 9-10g.

ZANGID (SHAHRAZUR)

Coins struck at Shahrazur and Salduz, the latter mint extremely rare.472 Gold coinage only, usually poorly struck and rarely well preserved, but readily identified by both the inscriptions, even when only partially legible, and the double rope-like circles between the reverse field and margin. Both rulers use the laqab atabeg on their coinage.

Both types are rarer with clearly legible date and mint.

‘Imad al-Din Zangi b. Arslanshah, fl. circa 616-632 / 1219-1234

1885 AV dinar RR
Nur al-Din Il-Arslan Shah b. Zangi, fl. circa 632-649 / 1234-1251 RR

BEGTEGINID (AT IRBIL)

See the entries for the Artuqids above. Unfortunately, the gold coinage has never been adequately studied.

Almost all coins were struck at Irbil. Some extremely rare gold was struck at Shahrazur & Tikrit, and one rare type of copper was struck at Harran. Begteginid dinars are usually very poorly struck on broad but not always well preserved.

Muzaffar al-Din Kökbüri b. ‘Ali, 563-630 / 1168-1233

1887.1 AV dinar, without overlord, struck 599-606 R
1887.2 AV dinar, with the Ayyubid overlord Abu Bakr I, dated 608-615 R
Shahrazur 615 in New York Auction XXIII, lot 426. R

1887.3 AV dinar, citing two Ayyubid rulers, al-Kamil Muhammad and al-Asfra Musa, dated 615 only RRR
1887.4 AV dinar, with the Rum Seljuq overlord Kayqubad I, dated 616 only RRR
1887.5 AV dinar, with the Ayyubid overlord al-Kamil Muhammad, dated 616-621 R
A dinar of Tikrit 621 has been reported.

1887.6 AV dinar, second series without overlord, currently known dated 625-629 RR?
The precise dating of these five subtypes is tentative. Additional subtypes may exist.

1888.1 AE dirham, enthroned facing figure / square-in-circle (Irbil) R
Undated, citing the Ayyubid overlord al-Nasir Yusuf I (Saladin), probably struck circa 583-586. Average weight about 10g.

1888.2 AE dirham, curly-haired bust right, struck at Irbil in 587 only (BMC#564) RR

1888.3 AE dirham, lion-rider left (rarely right), no overlord, many dates between 590 and 614 known (Irbil) S
Some examples also cite the caliphal heir ‘Uddat al-Dunya wa’l-Din Abu Nasr (probably about equal rarity). Rare with clear date.

1888.4 AE dirham or fals, seated figure in mihrab niche / hexagram reverse, Harran 583 only RR
Citing Muzaffar al-Din Kökbüri on the obverse (often illegible), the Ayyubid overlord al-Nasir Yusuf I (Saladin) within the hexagram on the reverse, mint & date in the segments outside the hexagram. Unusually small for this series, with average weight about 3.5g.

INALID (AT AMID)

Until recently, it was assumed that the Inalids struck no coins of their own. For countermarked Byzantine coins assigned to Jamal al-Din Mahmud of this dynasty, see #1948 & 1952.

No coins are known with legible mint name, but in all likelihood Amid (modern Diyarbakir) was the only Inalid mint. All are very crudely manufactured.

Sa’d al-Dawla Ildali, 503-536 / 1109-1142

A1889 BI dirham aswad RRR
Jamal al-Din Mahmud, 536-579 / 1141-1183

B1889 AE fals, citing him only as jamal RRR
Bust of Christ with jamal to right / jeweled cross inscribed IC XC / NI KA (blundered).474

BEGTIMURID (AT AHLAT)

Also known as the Shah-Arman, or “kings of the Armenians,” Sökmenid or the Shahs of Ahlat, the Begtimurids were a minor Turkoman dynasty centered upon Ahlat, a city on the north shore of Lake Van that was formerly an Armenian center. See also “Byzantine countermarks” for additional types (#1963A).

Although the mint name is never cited on the coin (except on the countermarked Byzantine folles, stamped ahlati), all are presumed to have been struck at Ahlat.

Sayf al-Din Begtimur, 579-589 / 1183-1193

1889 AE fals or dirham, cow over suckling calf R
Despite considerable variation in size and weight (about 4-9g), there is only one denomination, whose name is not known. The type is sometimes described as a horse with head lowered towards wolf attacking it from beneath. The date appears in the upper right section of the obverse margin, usually off flan or illegible; the year 582 is the least rare.

SALDUQID (AT ERZURUM)

A minor Turkoman dynasty centered at Erzurum, originally vassals of the Western Iranian branch of the Great Seljuqs, but independent after about 540/1145. Copper coinage only.

All Salduqids lack the mint name but were likely struck at their capital Erzurum. Coins of the first three rulers are generally found poorly struck, whereas coins of the last two were usually well made, but not always well preserved.

The names and dates of the first three rulers remain questionable.475 Hennenquin 1938-1964 may also include some Salduqid issues.

Diya’ al-Din Ghazi, fl. 510-526 / 1116-1132

A1890 AE fals (or dirham), citing the western Seljuq overlord Mahmud II RRR
Derived from a Byzantine prototype, the Virgin and Christ-child.

Nasir al-Dawla Ghazi, circa 526-540 / 1132-1145

B1890 AE fals (or dirham), standing figure RRR

Diya’ al-Din Ayyub, rival claimant, circa 540-543 / 1145-1148

C1890 AE fals (or dirham), St. George slaying the dragon, crudely engraved RRR

The attribution of this type is tentative.

472 For Salduz 61x, Peus auction 378, lot 1393. On some coins Zangi is cited as vassal under the Begteginid Kökbüri. Cited overlords and existing dates have not been researched.

474 Sotheby’s, Oct 1989, lot 466.

475 Examples of the first 3 reigns are in the Tübingen collection.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 202

1890 AE fals (or dirham?), standing figures, right figure (St. Demetrius?) passing the patriarchal cross to the royal figure.

Citing the western Seljuq overlord, Mas’ud.

Muhammad b. Salduq, 563-587 / 1168-1191

(Nasir al-Din, Qizil Arslan)

1891 AE fals, mounted archer shooting arrow at small animal (gazelle?)

Citing the western Seljuq overlord Tughrill III. Dated coins of this reign use the abjad system, as explained by Richard Plant, Arabic Coins and How to Read Them, pp. 102-103. The date is on the obverse (pictorial side), above the bow and arrow, following the word sana, is normally the equivalent of 575.

MENKUJAKID (AT ERZINCAN & DIVRIGI)
A minor Turkoman dynasty, with branches at Erzincan and Divriği. Copper coinage only.

Only the Erzincan branch placed the mint name on the coin, invariably Erzincan (when included in the legends, i.e., types #1892.2-1892.4). The coins are usually rather well struck, but rarely well preserved.

Types 1892.2 and 1893 have the denomination dirham included in the coin inscriptions.

Fakhr al-Din Bahramshah (b. Da’ud), at Erzincan, circa 563-622 / 1167-1225

1892.1 AE dirham, facing crowned bust, holding mace & undetermined object (in place of globus cruciger) / plain text in circle, without mint, dated 563

1892.2 AE dirham, inscriptions in circle on both sides, Erzincan 570

1892.3 AE dirham?, head left in hexagon / plain text in square, Erzincan 579

1892.4 AE dirham?, Arabic ta’ala in fancy circle, Erzincan 600

Artuk #1189, date previously misread as 616, but corrected in the Yapi Kredi exhibition catalog (cited under beyliks).

Sayf al-Din Shahinshah (b. Sualyman b. Isqaq), at Divriği, fl. 573 / 1177-1178

1893 AE dirham, inscriptions only (Zeno-54030)

Citing the Rum Seljuq Qilij Arslan II as overlord. Primitive calligraphy.

Sualyman b. Isqaq, d. 576 / 1181

1894 AE fals, ornamental cross on obverse, with 4 Latin letters around the cross / text only

Citing the Khaqanid ruler of Adharbayjan, Akhsatan I (circa 555-593), with title Jamal al-Dunya wa’l-Din, presumably as overlord. See Zeno-23199 for further discussion.

al-Husayn b. Sulayman

Dates unknown, late 6th/12th century.

1894A AE fals, Armenian cross

BURSUQID
Founded by Aqsunqur, who had been a mamluk of the Seljuk officer Bursuq, the Bursuqids were centered at first at Mosul in northern Iraq, later at Raḥba in eastern Syria. See also #E1707 for dinars of a probable member of this family.

The mints of these coins have not been determined. Aqsunqur’s coins were probably struck at Raḥba (though no known specimen shows the mint name), whereas those of ‘Izz al-Din Mas’ud probably somewhere in Adharbayjan.

Coins are carelessly struck and never fully legible.

Aqsunqur, at Raḥba, circa 509-511 / 1115-1117

It is unlikely that this Aqsunqur was the same person as Qasim al-Dawla Aqsunqur, who ruled at Halab 479-489 (type #1848).

A1895 BI dirham, citing Seljuq overlord

1895 BI dirham, 510s-520s / 1110s-1120s

Mas’ud also held territories in Adharbayjan, where these coins were presumably struck, to judge by their style.

AMIRS OF ADHARBAYJAN

After the death of the Seljuq ruler Malikshah I in 485/1092 the region of Adharbayjan (modern Azerbaijan) became effectively independent. Before the emergence of the Ildegizids circa 545/1150, a number of unrelated individuals effectively controlled portions of Adharbayjan, albeit nominally as theoretical governors who recognized the Seljuqs.

al-Ispahbūd Sharaf al-Muluk, fl. 496 / 1103

1895K BI dirham, mint of Ushna

As vassal of the Seljuq Barkiyaruq, Sharaf al-Muluk is known in the sources as Sabawa b. Khumartegin.

Mu’ayyad al-Din Kuntughdi, fl. 513+ / 1119+

1895L BI dirham, citing the western Seljuq Mahmud

Bik-arslan b. Palang-Eri, fl. 542-551 / 1149-1156

1895M AE dirham, citing the western Seljuq Mas’ud

Khasbseg, fl. 541-548 / 1148-1155

1895N BI dirham, citing the western Seljuq Mas’ud

A few specimens of this and the following type reveal the mint name Urmia, dated in the 540s.

1895O BI dirham, as last but citing the western Seljuq Malikshah II

AHMADILI (AT MARAGHA)

An indigenous dynasty, probably of mixed Arab and Turkish origin, independent after about 510/1116. Their coins have not previously been published.

Except for #T1896, all examples were presumably minted at Maragha in southwestern Adharbayjan, the section now part of Iran, although no known specimen shows the mint name. All are weakly struck, really ugly, to be honest, with perhaps 20-30% of the type discernible on a “good” specimen, the most weakly manufactured Islamic coins I have ever seen.

Virtually all known coins of Arslan Aba & Kurpa Arslan derive from a hoard of several kilos that appeared in the Tehran market in the early 1970s. Perhaps two thirds of the coins in the hoard were totally illegible, while many others were very ghastly struck and therefore unidentifiable. Only the type of Qara Sunqar was reasonably well struck, and is not from the Tehran hoard.

Qara Sunqar, fl. circa 530 / 1136

T1896 AE dirham, Ardabil mint, probably dated

Citing the Seljuq rulers Mas’ud & Sanjar, plus the caliph al-Muqtafi.

Arslan Aba, circa 530-before 584 / 1136-before 1188

1896 AE fals

Citing the Seljuq suzerain Arslan (556-571).

Kurpa Arslan, 584-604 / 1188-1207

1897 AE fals

ILDEGIZID (IN ADHARBAYJAN) (ELDIGÜZ)

For references, see Kouymjian under Khaqanids. Due to finds since the late 1960s, Kouymjian’s well-organized listings are now outdated, but no further research has yet been published.

Ildegiz was originally an atabeg in Seljuq service, but gained autonomy in Adharbayjan circa 545/1150. Ildegizid coinage consists mainly of large copper coins, carelessly manufactured and only partially legible. The copper presumably came from mines in the Ahur region.

The only recorded mints for copper coins are Ardabil and Janza (= Ganja), and Salmas for the early billon coins, but few specimens
show the mint name. Dates are rarely encountered, especially after the reign of Shams al-Din Ildegiz. All reigns have a large variety of different designs for the copper coinage. Both the billon and copper coins are usually very carelessly struck, with 25% or more flatness. Few of the coins are attractive. Serious collectors may require two or more specimens in order to read most of the inscriptions. Well-struck and aesthetically pleasing specimens hardly exist for any metal.

**Shams al-Din Ildegiz**, 531-571 / 1137-1175

1899.1 **BI dirham**, citing the Seljuq overlord Mas’ud b. Muhammad

Obverse & reverse each in 4-line horizontal arrangement, citing the caliph al-Muqtafi on obverse, Ildegiz & his Seljuq overlord on the reverse. Mints are Salmas & Urmia, known dated 546. All four variants of type #1898 and #1898A vary from about 3 to 10 grams, on carelessly processed globular flans. Types #1898.1-1898.3 rarely show mint or date.

1899.2 **AE fals (or dirham)**, Seljuq overlord Arslan

1899.3 **AE fals (or dirham)**, Seljuq overlord Muhammad

1899.4 **BI dirham, without mint of Urmiya**

Inscribed *duriba / bi-urmiya* on the obverse, *shams-al-din / ildegiz* on the reverse, with the 2nd line inverted on both sides. Without marginal inscriptions or additions within the field, thus always undated. 476

1898A **BI dirham, Fatimid style with circular margins**

Two or three circular margins on either side, with *qajar* in obverse center, *fath* in reverse center. Citing the Seljuq ruler Arslan, but not recorded with legible mint or date.

1899.1 **AE fals (or dirham), Seljuq overlord Mas’ud**

All subtypes of #1899 vary in weight between about 6 and 16 grams, with considerable variation within each subtype.

1899.2 **AE fals (or dirham), Seljuq overlord Muhammad**

1899.3 **AE fals (or dirham), Seljuq overlord Arslan**

1899.4 **AE fals (or dirham), Seljuq overlord Tughril III**

**Qalawun** Muhammad (b. Ildegiz), 571-582 / 1175-1186

1900.1 **AE fals (or dirham), with Seljuq overlord Tughril III & caliph al-Mustadi**

The ruler cited as *al-malik al-a’zam atabeg muhammad*. When visible, the mint name on all copiers of this ruler is Arslabil. Neither the mint places of these coins nor the dates of their issuers have been established.

1900.2 **AE fals, citing Tughril III and caliph al-Nasir**

Name and titles as #1900.1.

1900A **AE fals, with title jahan pahlavan muhammad, citing Tughril III and the caliph al-Nasir**

Qalawun ‘Uthman, 582-587 / 1186-1191, (Nasir al-Din, b. Ildegiz)

1901 **AE fals**

Coins struck before circa Rajab 584 bear the name of the Seljuq overlord Tughril III. Thereafter, they bear the name of Sanjar b. Sulaymanshah, a Seljuq prince set upon the throne by Qizil Arslan as nominal overlord in order to legitimize his own position as atabeg. Relative rarity of the two types remains undetermined.

1901A **AE fals, countermarked qazil arslan on worn or barely identified earlier fals** (Zeno-60175)

(A pale gold dinar assigned to the Ildegizid rebel Amir al-Amiran ‘Umar, 582-583, with overlord Tughril III, has been reassigned to Amir Amiran b. Aydughdi, now type #191L. 477)

Abu Bakr b. Muhammad, 587-607 / 1191-1211

1902 **AV dinar, (pale gold), usually poorly struck**

1902.1 **AE fals (no overlord), with title jahan pahlavan and usually with caliph al-Nasir**

1902.2 **AE fals (no overlord), with caliph al-Nasir, usually with title sultan or atabeg or both**

Since the title jahan pahlavan is known from his predecessor Qizil Arslan but not from his successor Uzbek, it has been suggested that type #1902.1 is earlier than #1902.2. A few coins of these two subtypes bear the mint name Arslabil; and even fewer bear legible dates. All coins of Abu Bakr and Uzbek lack a Seljuq or other overlord.

1902A **AE fals, countermarked atabeg abu bakr or just abu bakr on coins of earlier rulers**

Uzbek b. Muhammad, 607-622 / 1211-1225

1903 **AE fals, with caliph al-Nasir**

Normally with title *atabeg a’zam*, various varieties.

Qizil Arslan II, 622-626 / 1225-1229

1903Q **AE fals, with title al-sultan al-mu’azzam, citing the caliph al-Mustansir** (Zeno-25345)

**Ildegizid Vassals**

Neither the mint places of these coins nor the dates of their issuers have been established.

Additional minor vassals are undoubtedly known, and I should presume that more will eventually be discovered.

Malik Mangli, as vassal of Pahlawan Muhammad, ca. 570s / 1175s-1180s

M1904 **AE fals**

Iqlqshfit b. Satmaz, as vassal of Uzbek, early 7th/13th century

1904 **AE fals**

“Badkin” b. Muhammad, ca. 600 / 1200

“Badkin” (proposed reading of the name) was an unknown vassal of Abu Bakr b. Muhammad, who is cited on reverse. 478

1905 **AE fals**

**Sulamid (Maliks of Darband)**

For references, see Kouymjian under Khaqanids, as well as a number of illustrations on www.zeno.ru. Rather crudely struck coins, invariably without mint or date, from dies far larger than the planchets.

Muzaffar b. Muhammad, circa 530-555+ / 1136-1160+

1906 **AE fals**

Several types, all without overlord, but citing the caliph, either al-Mustanjid or al-Mustadi.

Bikbars, 566-585 / 1171-1189

1907 **AE fals**

‘Abd al-Malik b. Bikbars, ca. 585-600 / 1189-1203

1907E **AE fals (or dirham), with title al-malik al-a’adil**

Coarsely struck, on squarish planchets, citing the caliph al-Nasir li-din Allah (misspelled). Cl. Zeno-63296.

**Maliks of Jibal**

Precise location unknown.

Aytughmish, 600-608 / 1204-1212

1907J **AV dinar (1.5-2.5g), without mint or date**

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476 A few examples do have marginal legends, but none is known that reveals either mint or date. Cl. Zeno-45140.

477 Published by A.V. Akopyan & F. Mosanef, **ONS Newsletter** #198.

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 204
Some specimens cite the Ildefizid ruler Abu Bakr as overlord. All are rather poorly struck on slightly pale gold, at some undetermined mint in west central Iran.

**KHAQANID (SHIRVANSHAHS, 2nd dynasty)**


Rajabli, Ali, *Numizmatika Azerbajdzhana*, Baku, 1997. In this important study, the dynastic sequence and chronology has been revised from Kouymjian’s earlier results.


Zeno is gradually building a useful site for Mazayidids and Khaqanids, filed under the Shirvanshah, Rajabli’s recent research suggests there was just one dynastic line, and the subsequent Khaqanids or Shirvanshahs. 

*The so-called Khaqanids are sometimes divided into two dynasties, the Mazayidids (until either 455/1063 or 514/1120) and the subsequent Khaqanids or Shirvanshahs.*

Both the billon and copper coins of this dynasty were mostly struck on irregularly shaped flans of widely varying size, weight, and thickness. They cannot be categorized into separate denominations.

The dates of reign are approximate, as the surviving chronicles are inconsistent. I have included Rajabli’s newest suggestions together with Kouymjian’s dating when appropriate. After circa 582, the Shirvan region seems generally to have been divided between several rival rulers.

Except for a few of the earliest issues, Khaqanid coins do not bear the name of a mint, save for a single type of Minuchihr III dated 555, and are usually undated. Few coins were carefully struck, and most exhibit considerable weakness. Dies were invariably much larger than the average planchet, so that large portions of the design are typically off flan. Many of the 5th/11th and early 6th/12th century coins bear intricate ornamental designs. Because of the poor quality of production, many specimens cannot be assigned to a specific ruler, except by design or die-link.

Actual denominational names are unknown. For convenience I have therefore termed billon issues “dirham” and copper coins “fals”. Except for the first two rulers, there are no proper silver coins. There is no Khaqanid gold coinage.

The rarity of these coins is tentative, due to the abundance of some types in museum and private collections in parts of the former Soviet Union, especially in Azerbaijan. It cannot be predicted just how much of this coinage may eventually become available to collectors.

**Muhammad b. Ahmad (Abu'l-Hasan), 371-381 / 981-991**

1907 AR dirham Known from Shirvan (date missing) and Shamiran dated (37)2. Both cite an unidentified ‘Abd al-Hasan. 

Yazid II b. Ahmad (Abu Nasr), 381-418 / 991-1027,

1908 AR dirham Some examples are known from the mint of Yazidiya, perhaps the same Yazidiya found as a mint name on ‘Abbasid fals (#313K). Others are from the mint of Qabala, but usually off flan. 

(There is now incorporates former #E1491, listed as Mazayid in the 2nd edition.)

Minuchihr I b. Yazid, 418-425 / 1027-1034


1909 BI dirham Salar b. Yazid (Abu Harith), 441-455 / 1049-1063

1910 BI dirham Salar’s *kunya* can also be interpreted as Abu Harb.

**Fariburz b. Salar, 455-487 or 489 / 1063-1094 or 1096**

1908 AR or BI dirham, various sizes RRR

Coins of these first six rulers were generally struck in somewhat silvery billon, occasionally relatively good silver. There seems to be considerable variation in the fineness and weight of each type.

Minuchihr II b. Fariburz, 487 or 489-511 / 1094 or 1096-1117

1909 BI dirham, various sizes RRR

No coins are known of the next ruler, Afridun b. Fariburz (circa 511-514). Minuchihr’s date of death is uncertain.

Minuchihr III b. Afridun, circa 514-555 / 1120-1160

1910 AE fals, various sizes RRR

Some examples cite the great Seljuk ruler Sanjar as overlord.

Akhhsatan I b. Minuchihr III, circa 555-593 / 1160-1197 or slightly later

1911 AE fals RRR

Afridun II b. Minuchihr III, attested at some time between 583 / 1187 and 600 / 1203

1912 AE fals RRR

Fariburz II b. Afridun II, fl. at some time between 583 / 1187 and 600 / 1203

1914 AE fals, various sizes, often odd-shaped S

Rajabli dates this ruler to 1204-1225.

Shahanshah b. Minuchihr III, circa 575-600 / 1180-1203

A1912 AE fals RRR

Rajabli dates this ruler to 1197-1204.

During the last three reigns, copper fulus were struck on irregular planchets, similar to contemporary issues of Georgia, commonly formed by spilling molten copper on a flat surface, often with hilarious results (cf. Zeno-37386, “cow’s head” and 98432, “fish”).

Gershash b. Farrukhzad, circa 600-630 / 1203-1233

1912 AE fals, various sizes, often odd-shaped S

Rajabli dates this ruler to 1204-1225.

Fariburz III b. Gershash, circa 622-641 / 1225-1243

Possibly as late as 653/1255.

1913 AE fals, various sizes R

Akhhsatan III b. Fariburz, circa 653-665 / 1255-1266

1914 AE fals, citing Mongke by name as overlord, various shapes and sizes RRR

Possibly struck at some time during the second quarter of the 7th/13th century.

A1915 AE fals, mint of Shirwan, citing the Mongol Great Qa’an by his title qa’an only RRR

Several other rulers are attested for this dynasty, for whom no coins are known.

**PISHKINID (AT AHAR)**

For references, see Kouymjian under Khaqanids, where they are termed Bishkinids (*sic*).

A minor dynasty at Ahar in Adharbayjan, at first vassals of the Ildefizids, later of the Khwarizmshahs. Some early scholars called them either the “Nushtekinids” or the “Maliks of Ahar”.

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 205
Ahar, about 50 miles northeast of Tabriz, was known for its copper mines, still in operation as the Sourgoun Ahar mint. Only broad thick copper coins are known, typically about 32mm in diameter and weighing 13-17 grams. The royal side is regarded as the obverse, with the mint, date and caliph on the reverse, along with the kalima. There is a large tamgha to the right on the reverse. All coins have the top two lines of the obverse citing the overlord, the remaining lines citing the Pishkinid name and titles.

Pishkin II, fl. circa 591-601+ / 1195-1205+

1915 AE dirham

Earlier publications usually transcribed this name incorrectly as Nushhtekin or something similar. His title is malik al-unara, and his overlord is the Ildegizid king Abu Bakr b. Muhammad, entitled al-sultan al-‘azam. Known dated 597.

Muhammad b. Pishkin (Nusrat al-Din), circa 608-623 / 1212-1226

1916 AE dirham, as malik al-unara and vassal of the Ildegizid Uzbek called atabek al-‘azam

Known dated 612 & 613, though most specimens lack a clear date. His title nusrat al-din always appears on these coins.

1917 AE dirham, as vassal of the Khwarizmshah Mangubarni

Known dated 622 & 623, though most specimens lack clear date. Mahmud’s overlord is called Mangubarni, written as al-sultan al-‘azam mangubarni al-sultan marwan, often with the second al-sultan omitted. Mahmud is called al-malik al-‘adil mahmud b. pishkin on this type, without nusrat al-din.

Some very rare coppers have been very tentatively assigned to Pishkin I (examples at Tübingen, description unavailable).

ASSASSINS (AT ALAMUT) (BATINID)


Listed on Zeno as Rulers of Alamut, under Fatimids and related dynasties. Many examples, including a few additional subtypes not described here, have been published in auction and sale catalogs since the early 1980s. An Isma‘ili sect with castles in various parts of Syria and Iran. Their center was in the Alborz mountains north of Qazvin, at a place called Alamut, called Kursi al-Daylam on the coins (“throne of Daylam”). Their chief at Alamut was known as “the old man of the mountain”. Their fame arose from their practice of terrorizing their neighbors by sending out hit squads allegedly high on hashish. They were known as the hashish-eaters, hashashshiyun, from which the English word assassin is derived. However, it is hard to conceive of anyone high on hashish having the energy to commit any act of violence, other than, as in modern times, raiding the refrigerator. Gold coins were minted at “Kursi al-Daylam” (unless otherwise noted), silver coins at Maymana. All are generally rather well struck, though frequently on flans smaller than the dies, so that parts of the marginal legends are not always visible.

Muhammad I b. Buzurgumid, 532-557 / 1138-1162

1918 AV ¼ dinar, always dated, with his person name mamluk bin buzurgumid, dated circa 538-555

Also citing the title al-mustafa li-din Allah nizar. RR

1918A AV ¼ dinar, known dated 557

Cited only as al-mustafa li-din Allah nizar, without his personal name (Zeno-85953). This type can also be assigned to the following ruler, al-Hasan II.

temp. al-Hasan II, 557-561 / 1162-1166

1919 AV ¼ dinar, anonymous, always dated

Cited only as al-mustafa li-din Allah nizar. RR

temp. Nur al-Din Muhammad II (b. al-Hasan), 561-607 / 1166-1210

Always anonymous, usually entitled either al-mustafa or al-mustafa li-din Allah.

A minor dynasty in Khuzestan, vassals of the Great Seljuqs, from roughly 550-591/1155-1194, surviving largely because of the complex rivalry between the Ildegizids, the Salghurids and the Abbasid caliphate.

Hism al-Din Aydughdi, circa 550-570 / 1155-1175

Also known as Shamla b. Tashruqan.

1920 K AV dirham, struck at Jabal Karim in 591

The ruler is indicated by the name al-mustafa only, above the Shi’ite kalima ending in ‘ali wall Allah. Qur’anic inscriptions only on reverse. Surat 112 in center, Verse 9:33 in margin.

1921 AR dirham (approximately 0.9g), with title al-sultan al-mu’azzam

Jalal al-Din al-Hasan III, 607-618 / 1210-1221

C1920 AV dinar (sometimes debased)

Usually with his kunya Abu’l-Fath.

‘Ala al-Din Muhammad III, 618-653 / 1221-1254

D1920 AV dinar (variable weight, 3.5g)

1920 AV ¼ dirham (variable weight, about 0.8-1.3g)

When dated, the year on this type is always 651. Always without mint name.

1921 AR dirham, central circle with margin inscriptions (Maymana mint), known dated 618-619

The issue of 618 bears the mint name Baldat al-Iqbal (“city of prosperity”), 619 has Maymana. This type bears purely Sunni inscriptions, and the royal inscriptions resemble those of the Khwarizmshah ruler Muhammad.

1921G AR dirham, style as #1921, mint of Daylaman, 651

Obverse has muhammad bin al-hasan in center, date written out in margin. Reverse has al-mawla al-a’zam in center, the mint formula in margin (Zeno-20236).

1921A AR fractional dirham, with title mawlana and short inscriptions, no margins

1921B AR fractional dirham, two lions on obverse (tails intertwined), muhammad bin al-hasan on reverse

1921C AR fractional dirham, bird right formed out of the words al-sultan al-mu’azzam obverse, ruler’s name muhammad bin al-hasan on reverse, without the kalima

1921D AR fractional dirham, bird right with words muhammad bin hassan above, kalima reverse

Types 1921A-1921D always lack mint & date. They were probably struck late in the reign and intended as donatives. Their weight varies between about 0.7g and 2.0g. A copper coin of about 4.0g is reported, allegedly in the name of Muhammad III, mint perhaps Qil’at al-Mawla, dated AH615. A better specimen needed before being listed here.

WARNING: High quality pressure-cast forgeries of #1921A have appeared on the market since about 2000. Clever distributors have been “doctoring” both genuine and fake examples so that they can barely be distinguished, unless placed under a microscope.

ATABEGS OF KHUZESTAN


A minor dynasty in Khuzestan, vassals of the Great Seljuqs, from roughly 550-591/1155-1194, surviving largely because of the complex rivalry between the Ildegizids, the Salghurids and the ‘Abbasid caliphate.

Hisam al-Din Aydughdi, circa 550-570 / 1155-1175

Also known as Shamla b. Tashruqan.

1921K AV pale dinar, mint & date unknown

Citing the rival Seljuq brothers, Arslan b. Tughril II & Muhammad b. Tughril II.

Amiran b. Shamla, 570-591 / 1175-1195

1921L AV pale dinar, mint & date unknown

Citing the Seljuq Tughril III. He is also called Amiran b. Aydughdi, and it is conceivable that Shamla and Aydughdi refer to the same person.
ATABEGS OF BURUJIRD

Akopyan, A., and F. Mosanef, “Coins of Aq Qush, Atabek of Burujerd,” ONS Newsletter, #201 (2009), pp. 46-47. This article includes only types #Q1922 and R1922.

A minor clan of rulers at Burujird and occasionally also at Hamadan, during the 6th/12th century. Only dinars of one member are known to exist, of Aq Qush, “white bird”.

Only type #Q1922 reveals the mint name Burujird.

Nasir al-Din Aq Qush, circa 550-560 / 1155-1165

Q1922 AV dinar, somewhat debased gold, citing caliph al-Mustanjid and the Seljuqs Sanjar (d. 552) and Muhammad (548-555) RRR

R1922 AV dinar, similar, citing caliph al-Mustanjid and the Seljuq Sulayman (555-556) RRR

S1922 AV dinar, similar, citing caliph al-Mustanjid and the Seljuq Arslan (556-571) (Zeino-80192) RRR

ATABEGS OF FARS

The first three atabegs were not dynastically related. The later atabegs of Fars constitute the Salghurid dynasty (q.v.).

Coarsely struck dinars, struck mainly at Shiraz, occasionally at Fasa, though mint and/or date are usually off flan, especially for Mankubars and Boz-Aba. All have the name of at least one Seljuq overlord.

Saljuqsahl, fl. 517-524 / 1123-1130

1922 AV dinar RRR

Unlike the following two atabegs, Saljuqsahl was probably a scion of the Seljuq royal family.

Mankubars, circa 524-533 / 1130-1139

1923 AV dinar RR

Boz-Aba, circa 533-543 / 1139-1148

1924 AV dinar R

SALGHURID

No useful catalog of Salghurid coinage has yet been prepared.

A Turkoman dynasty derived from the Salghur (or Salur) clan, originally in the service of the Great Seljuqs. In 543/1148, after the death of the atabeg Boz-Aba, Sunqur established himself as effectively independent ruler at Shiraz, which remained the capital city of the Salghurid dynasty until the death of Abish bint Sa’d in 684/1285.

Most gold coins of this dynasty (except Queen Abish) bear the dynastic tamgha, a three-pronged trident-like object. The mint name, when visible, is always Shiraz, except for a few rare silver coins of Queen Abish minted at Kazirun and Ta’us (= Abaqaq). The first three rulers were technically vassals under the western Seljuqs, or under subordinate western Seljuqs nominally assigned to Fars. The Seljuq names appear in the field on coins of Sunqur, but in the outer margins on those of his successors, thus very rarely legible on the later issues.481 All of the rulers except Abish bint Sa’d bore the same iqab Muzaffar al-Din.

Coins of the first four rulers issued before the Mongol invasion are always poorly struck, rarely with legible mints and dates, on flans of increasing debased gold, and from dies substantially broader than the planchets. Gold dinars of Queen Abish were sharply struck on fine gold. The silver coins of Abu Bakr and Muhammad, as well as all metals of Queen Abish, are generally neatly struck, comparable to contemporary Ilkhan coins.

Dinars of the first four rulers bear the dynastic tamgha, at the top, left, right or center of either the obverse or reverse central field.

Sunqur, 543-556 / 1148-1161

1925 AV dinar R

Many variations of overlord, layout and titulature. His earliest issues cite both the western Seljuq and their nominal suzerain Sanjar, who died in 552.

Zangī, 556-570 / 1161-1175

1926 AV dinar S

Takla, 570-590 / 1175-1194

1927 AV dinar R

Tughril b. Sunqur, ca. 570-599 / 1175-1203

1927G AV dinar, pale gold, mint & date unknown RRR

With the dynastic tamgha. On the obverse, the name Tughril appears at the top, what is probably bīn sunqur at the bottom, the Seljuq Tughril482 b. Aslan in the center. The reverse names Atabeg Pahlawan Muhammad an al caliph al-Mustadi. It was probably struck in 575, the year of both Muhammad’s conquest of Shiraz and the death of al-Mustadi.

1927H AV dinar, pale gold, mint & date unknown RRR

Same design as the previous two rulers, tughril / atabeg / (tamgha) on obverse, citing the caliph al-Nasir on the reverse.

Abu Bakr, 628-658 / 1231-1260

A1928 AV dinar, heavily debased gold, as independent ruler (undated, probably before the 650s) RRR

B1928 AR dirham, as vassal of the Great Khan Möngke RR

C1928 PB fals, struck at al-Bahrayn (8-14g) RRR

Salghurid tamgha / atabeg abu bakr.

Muhammad b. Sa’d, 658-661 / 1260-1263

E1928 AR dirham, citing Möngke & Hulagu RRR

Abish bint Sa’d, Queen, 663-684 / 1265-1285

All of Abish’s coins cite an Ilkhan overlord, successively Hulagu, Abaqa, Ahmad, and Arghun for the silver, but only Abaqa, Ahmad, and Arghun on her gold, and only Abaqa on her copper coinage (others may well exist).

1928.1 AV dinar (large module, about 3g to 9g), citing Abaqa as overlord R

1928.2 AV dinar, similar, but citing Ahmad RRR

1928.3 AV dinar, similar, but citing Arghun (in Uighur only), known dated 683 RRR

1929.1 AR dirham, Arabic inscriptions only, citing Hulagu as overlord RRR

1929.1A AR dirham, Arabic inscriptions only, citing Abaqa as overlord, pre-reform style RR

The obverse has the inscription qa’an al-a’zam / abaqa / al-malik al-ma’azzam, the reverse has the kalima with abish bint sa’d below. Known dated 673, but date normally off flan. Types 1929.1 and 1929.1A normally weigh 2.8-2.9g.

1929.2 AR dirham, Uighur inscriptions on obverse (as on Abaqa’s post-reform dirhams), Arabic on reverse, citing Abaqa RR

1929.3 AR dirham, as #1929.2 but citing Ahmad in Uighur only, known dated 683 or undated RR

1929.3A AR dirham, Arabic inscriptions only citing Ahmad, 2 variants, mint of Shiraz, unknown with legible date RRR

1929.4 AR dirham, as #1929.2 but citing Arghun, with reverse field in quatrefoil, known dated 684 R

1929.5 AR dirham, as #1929.2, citing Arghun, with reverse field in square, known dated 686 (sic) RR

481 Some coins of Sunqur cite an unidentified Muhammad b. Tughril, perhaps the son of the western Seljuq Tughril II, who ruled 1132-1134 at Isfahan.

482 The final lam of tughril is omitted, perhaps an engravers’ error, confusing part of the Salghurid tamgha with the letter lam. It has also been read as zafar, but that seems unlikely. Tughril’s coins were published by Akopyan and Mosanef in ONS Newsletter No. 204 (2010).
except for a rare variant of #1929.4 which has Qur'an 61:13 in lieu of mint & date. These four later types follow the contemporary Ilkhan 2.4-2.5g weight.

1929A AR ½ dirham (1.25-1.5g), post-reform style of Abaqa, similar to #1929.2

1940 AR dirham, Arabic inscriptions only, with Chinese character bao sideways in the obverse field, citing Abaqa as overlord. Probably struck at Shiraz, but always without mint and date. According to the Ilkhan historian Vassaf, the Mongol governor Inkiyanu, assigned as co-ruler alongside Abish, was recalled and sent back to the court of Qubilai Qa’an, perhaps as far as China, for the indiscretion of having placed “a secret symbol” in the Chinese script on the coinage of Shiraz.1

1931 AE fals, Arabic inscriptions only, as vassal of Abaqa. The queen was the surviving widow of Qutlq-din Muhammad.

1932 AE fals, with Chinese bao as on #1930, as vassal of Abaqa (normally dated 665)

ATABEGS OF YAZD

‘Ala al-Dawla, 670-684 / 1272-1285

1933 AE fals

Known only dated Muharram 684, as vassal of Arghun.

Yusufshah (b. ‘Ala al-Dawla), 684-696 / 1285-1297

All cite the Ilkhan overlord, Arghun unless otherwise noted.

T1934 AV dinar, struck only at Yazd

Known dated Rajab 683 (sic)483 and year 686 without month.

V1934 AV dinar, as vassal of Baydu

Known only without legible mint and date, though undoubtedly struck at Yazd in 694.

Y1934 AR dirham, standing 5-line Uighur legend on the obverse, reverse similar to #1934 but in plain square, dated AH683

1934 AR dirham, mint of Yazd, Arabic legends both sides, known dated 684 & 685

It is likely that all known specimens cite the Ilkhan Arghun as overlord; specimens allegedly lacking Arghun’s name almost certainly have his name off flan. Calligraphically similar to contemporary Mamluk dirhams.

1934A AR fractional dirham, same as #1934 but struck on small, often irregular flans (Zeno-66976, 1.34g)

QUTLUHKHANID (ATABEGS OF KIRMAN)

A dynasty of Qara-Khitay origin, first in administrative service for the Khwarizmshah Muhammad, thereafter as local rulers serving the Mongols. It was under the Mongols that Buraq Hajib, founder of the dynasty (no coins), was brought to power in Kirman.

When visible, the mint name is invariably Kirman (except #A1935). All coins except those of Qutb al-Din Muhammad and some rare dirhams and dirhams of Muzaffar al-Din (#A1936 & 1939) mention an Ilkhan overlord. Coins of Qutlq-din Muhammad and his widow Qutlugh Turkan (#A1935, 1935 and 1935A) have all inscriptions in Arabic. Types of Sayurghatmish (#A1936 through 1936) follow contemporary Ilkhan coins, with a purely Arabic obverse citing the ruler of this dynasty, and a mixed Uighur and Arabic reverse citing the Ilkhan and his formule, as do some issues of Padishah Khatun and Shah Jahan (details currently not available). Finally, all coins of the last ruler, Shah Sultan, are purely in Arabic, both as independent ruler and as vassal under Ghazan Mahmud (#A1939-1940).

Gold coins do not adhere to a fixed weight but average about 7g, with individual pieces varying from about 4.5 to 9g. Silver coins conform to contemporary Ilkhan standards. No copper coins have been attested.

Qutb al-Din Muhammad (b. Tainku),

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Mint</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Legend</th>
<th>Notation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1935</td>
<td>AV dinar</td>
<td>Kirman</td>
<td>650-655 / 1252-1257</td>
<td>Ruler cited as ‘Abd Allah bin Muhammad, without overlord. Struck at Bardasir in 650.</td>
<td>RRR</td>
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<td>The queen was the surviving widow of Qutlq-din Muhammad.</td>
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<td>1935</td>
<td>AV dinar, always dated 677, vassal of Abaqa</td>
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<td>1935A</td>
<td>AR dirham, vassal of Abaqa</td>
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<td>Suyurghatmish, 681-693 / 1282-1294, (Jalal al-Dunya wa’l-Din)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A1936</td>
<td>AV dinar, vassal of Ahmad</td>
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<td>RRR</td>
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<tr>
<td>B1936</td>
<td>AV dinar, vassal of Arghun, known dated 684</td>
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<tr>
<td>C1936</td>
<td>AV dinar, vassal of Gaykhatu</td>
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<td>1936</td>
<td>AR dirham, vassal of Arghun</td>
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<td>Padishah Khatun, Queen, 693-694 / 1294-1295</td>
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<td>A1937</td>
<td>AV dinar, vassal of Gaykhatu</td>
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<td>1937</td>
<td>AR dirham, vassal of Gaykhatu</td>
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<td>Shah Jahan, 1st reign, 694 / 1295</td>
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Both gold & silver struck as vassal of the ephemeral Ilkhan, Baydu, Kirman mint, AH694. Coins from his second reign (702-706) are ordinary Ilkhan issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Mint</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Legend</th>
<th>Notation</th>
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<td>AV dinar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muzaffar al-Din Shah Sultan, 694-702 / 1295-1303</td>
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The ruler’s titles on this type are muzaffar al-dunya wa’l-din abu l-harith shah sultan.

A1939 | AV dinar, as independent ruler (696-697) | | | | RRR |

This type has occasionally been incorrectly assigned to Hajjaj Sultan, son of Qutb-al-Din Muhammad, who was never the ruler in Kirman.

1939 | AR dirham, as independent ruler, undated | | | | RRR |
| 1940 | AR dirham, as vassal of Ghazan Mahmud, the Ilkhan, always undated (presumed struck 694-696) | | | | R |

The coins of this type have a lion, seemingly derived from the dirhams of the Mamluk ruler, Baybars I, below the obverse field either above or below the bottom line of text.

After the rebellion of 696-697, distinctively Qutluq Khanid coinage was replaced by ordinary Ilkhan types at Kirman, beginning in 698, although Shah Sultan retained his throne until his death in 702. The last ruler of the dynasty, Shah Jahan during his second reign, when only purely Ilkhan coins were struck, was compelled by Uljaytu to abdicate in 706.

ATABEGS OF SHABANKARA (FADLUYID)

An obscure atabeg dynasty centered at Shabankara in eastern Fars, vassals of the Ilkhans, also known as the Fadluyids.

Jalal al-Din Tayyibshah, ruled about 13 years, circa 660s-670s / 1260s-1270s

G1941 AV dinar, citing Abaqa as overlord485

483 Peus sale 378, lot 1398.
485 Private collection, Dubai. Struck at Ej, dated 677. The history of this dynasty is preserved in the first chapter of Mu’in al-Din’s Muntakhab al-Tavarikh-i Mu’ini.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 208
Baha’ al-Din Isma’il b. Muhammad, fl. circa 680 / 1282

H1941 AV dinar, always without mint or date, citing Abaqa RRR

QALHATI AMIRS (KINGS OF HORMUZ)

See also Rabino, as noted under the Safavids, also very outdated.

A dynasty of Oman Arab origin that ruled for several centuries at Hormuz and Jarun. Coins of Nusrat Shah cite overlords (#1941), all later coins are independent issues.

Except for #1941, coins of this dynasty are normally struck from dies considerably larger than the flan. The 9th/15th century anonymous issues usually show the date and the mint name Jarun, but later named issues are so carelessly struck that the date is frequently off flan. The larins are deplorably struck and rarely attributable to a specific ruler (thus assigned to #1946X).

Sayf al-Din Nusrat Shah, circa 677-689 / 1278-1290

1941.1 AV heavy dinar, dated 678 RRR

Citing the Ilkhan Abaqa and the Qutlughkhanid Qutlugh Turkan. Without lion. With the mint name Hormuz.

1941.2 AV heavy dinar, dated 681 RRR

Citing the Ilkhan Ahmad and the Qutlughkhanid Suyurghatmish, with lion beneath the reverse field, and with the mint name. 486

1941.3 AV heavy dinar, dated 683 RRR

Without an Ilkhan overlord, but citing the Qutlughkhanid ruler Suyurghatmish. Without lion and without mint name. All three subtypes bear the term Qur'an, a reference to the Great Mongol Khan (Qubilai). Varying weight, normally 5g-8g.

temp. Turanshah II, circa 840-860 / 1437-1456

1942 AV ½ dinar (approximately 1.28g), mint of Jarun, date in the early 840s R

Obverse inscription diriba jaruni, reverse fi sana + date in numerals.

A hoard of approximately 126 pieces surfaced in New York in the 1960s, only to reappear in 1996 in the Turath collection sale (Auction Leu 64, Zürich, 27 March 1996, p. 90). The weight standard is about 1.28g, but individual specimens may vary considerably in weight.

temp. Mas‘ud, 860-871 / 1456-1466

A1943 AV fractional dinar, approximately 1.40g, Jarun mint RRR

Obverse adliyat sultan, reverse mint & date.

C1943 AV fractional dinar, approximately 1.70g, Jarun mint RRR

Obverse al-sultan al-a’zam, reverse mint & date.

B1943 AV ½ fractional dinar, approximately 0.85g, Jarun mint RRR

Obverse al-sultan al-a’zam, as #C1943, reverse mint & date. The weights of types #A1943 through C1943 vary considerably, but not enough specimens have been examined to determine the actual standard.

temp. Salghurshah I, 882-913 / 1477-1507

K1943 AV fractional dinar, circa 1g, mint uncertain RRR

Known dated 890, written backwards (Tübingen 60-9-1. 0.93g) and 895 (Zeno-53639). Mint of Jarun clear on the 895 issue.

Turanshah III, 919-928 / 1512-1521

From this reign onwards, all Qalhati coins cite the ruler.

1943 AV dinar (square / circle) RR

Known dated 922, possibly with mint name Jarun. Dinars of this and subsequent reigns follow a standard of about 2.55 grams, unless otherwise indicated. Gold coins of this and later reigns cite the name of the ruler and the date, occasionally the mint name, though it may be presumed that the mint was always located at the town of Jarun, on the mainland coast facing the island of Hormuz.

1943A AV “dinar”, Jarun mint, debased gold, about 1.50g RRR

Known dated 926 & 930. Obverse as #1943, but the reverse has mint & date around a central flower. The denominational relationship between #1943 and 1943A is unknown.

1943D AR “dirham”, Jarun mint, anonymous, circa 1.15g RRR

Known dated 923, thus probably equivalent to the contemporary Safavid ¼ pul (#2579). Obverse bears mint & date within circle, reverse has khalima within square.

Muhammad, 928-941 / 1521-1534

1944.1 AV dinar RRR

1944.2 AV dinar, coarsely countermarked with his name on full dinars of Turanshah III (#1943) RRR

Countermarked ‘adl-i sultan muhammad shah.

Salghurshah II, 941-948 / 1534-1541

A1945 AV dinar, known dated 943 RRR

B1945 AR “dirham”, circa 1.85-1.90g RRR

Turanshah IV, 948-971 / 1541-1564

1945 AV dinar, known dated 948 RRR

1945A AR larin RRR

The larin is a hairpin-shaped silver coin, consisting of a length of silver wire bent in half, then stamped either with regular coin dies or special dies made for the larin. The Qalhati larins were generally exported to India, where they were often folded once again and occasionally restamped.

1945B AR “dirham” (approximately 1.85-1.90g) RRR

The correct name of this denomination is unknown.

Farrukhshah, 972-1010 / 1565-1601

1946 AR larin RRR

Unassigned, 10th/16th C.,

1946X AR larin (circa 5.1g), with partial inscriptions, ruler’s name undetermined R

Distinguished from Safavid and other larins by their pseudo-Kufic calligraphy, as opposed to the elaborate naskhi calligraphy on the contemporary Safavid issues.

AMIR OF KISH

A minor ruler of undetermined dynastic origin at Kish (aka Qus), an island in the Persian Gulf, now the duty free shopping center of modern Iran!

Ghiyath-al-Din, circa 600 / 1200+

1946F AV dinar, without mint or date RRR

COUNTERMARKED BYZANTINE COINS


From approximately 1145 until 1200, large numbers of Byzantine folles were countermarked by Islamic rulers in the Jazira. Undertypes are primarily Byzantine folles struck between the reigns of Basil II (969-1025) and Alexius I (1081-1118) though a smattering of earlier hosts are known, as early as Justin I (518-527). The listing here follows Lowick’s classification, giving the countermark first, then the probable attribution, finally his catalog number.

Several of the following countermarks are also known on Islamic coin types, principally copper dirhams of the Artuqids and Zangids. These are much rarer than pieces countermarked on Byzantine undertypes.

See also #1901A for countermark qizil arslan.

NOTE: MH numbers refer to the Mardin Hoard publication, cited above.

1946F AV dinar, without mint or date RRR

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 209

486 A variant dated 681 is said to cite the Ilkhan Abaqa, but this remains unconfirmed.

487 The year 930 is very clear and the more common of the two known dates, suggesting that Turanshah III may have ruled after 928, at least until 930.
1956 AE follis, atabeg, Zangid of Mosul, either Mawdud (544-565 / 1149-1170) or Ghazi II (556-57 / 1169-1180) (MH-1)

1947 AE dirham, same countermark on an Islamic copper dirham of the Artuqids or Zangids (MH-1)

1948 AE follis, jamal, Inalid of Amid, Jamal al-Din Mahmud (536-579 / 1141-1183) (MH-3)

See #B1889 for a struck copper fals inscribed with his name.

1949 AE follis, jamal al-din mahmud, same ruler as last (MH-4)

1950 AE follis, sa’d, unassigned (MH-6)

1951 AE follis, sayf, Begtimurid, Sayf al-Din Begtimur (579-589 / 1139-1149) (MH-7 & 8)

MH-7 has the word sayf in Kufic, MH-8 in Naskhi script.

1952 AE follis, shams, probably Jamal al-Din Mahmud of the Inalids (see #1948-49), one of whose titles was Shams al-Mulk (MH-9)

1953 AE follis, ‘adl, unassigned, possibly Artuqid (MH-10 & 11)

MH-11 differs, as there is a triplet of pellets below the word ‘adl.


1955 AE follis, ‘izz, same issuer as last (MH-13)


1957 AE follis, fakhr, Artuqid of Amid and Hisn Kayfa, Fakhr al-Din Qara Arslan (539-562 / 1144-1167) (MH-15)

1958 AE follis, lillah, uncertain, perhaps Artuqid (MH-16, 17 & 18)

This is the most plentiful of all the countermarks and occurs in several variants, often quite stylized.

Type MH-16 has lillah in an oval, MH-17 in a rectangle, MH-18 has a shortened and uncertain lillah, either normal (MH-18a) or retrograde (MH-18b).


1960 AE follis, malik al-amara, uncertain (MH-20)

1961 AE follis, najm, Artuqid of Mardin, Najm al-Din Alpi (547-572 / 1152-1176) (MH-21 & 22)

1962 AE follis, badr, Begtimurid, Badr al-Din Aqsunqur (589-594 / 1193-1197) (MH-23)

1962D AE follis, independent letters d l a, assigned to the Begtimurids of Aihil (late 12th century) (MH-24)

1962S AE follis, independent letters s l a, tentatively assigned to the Begtimurid Sökmen II (522-581 / 1128-1185) (MH-25)


1963A AE follis, akhlat, the main city of the Begtimurids, anonymous, dates of use undetermined, probably 590s-600s

1963G AE follis, gim in the Armenian alphabet, tentatively assigned by Lowick to the Artuqids of Hisn Kayfa, but very uncertain (MH-27)

The Armenian letter is very clearly engraved.

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Great Mongols (Chingizid)

Davidovich, E.A., Denezhnoe khozajstvo srednei Azii v XIII veke, Moscow 1992, 206, then about 40 years old.

Nyamaa Badarch, The Coins of Mongol Empire and Clan Tamgha of Khans (XIII-XIV), Ulaanbaatar 2005 (in both Mongolian and English). Badarch Nyamaa has published here an important analysis to assign the various tamghas on Great Mongol, Chaghataiyid and Golden Horde coins to specific individuals.

Harrell, David, Cast Chinese Coins, Victoria BC, 2005, for Chinese style cast coins issued by the Mongols, mainly in China, where they ruled as the Yuan Dynasty. These are not catalogued here.

For the Mongol coins of Georgia (and all other Georgian coins from ancient to modern times), Kirk Bennett is currently assembling an important general catalog, expected about 2013 or 2014.

The Great Mongols, Chingiz Khan (Genghis Khan) and his descendants, were not Muslims, but struck Islamic style coinage in the Muslim lands they conquered. They had no indigenous coinage, though some earlier Mongol rulers had produced Chinese-style cash in parts of northern China they had occupied (Liao dynasty). As a general rule, they adopted the local currencies in each conquered area, changing only the inscriptions to suit the new political order, but striking coins that sufficiently resembled previous coinage both in design and metal content, in anticipation that they would be acceptable for local circulation.

Most early Mongol Islamic coinage is anonymous, except for the mention of the caliph al-Nasir, whose name was retained on many Mongol coins for many decades after his death, just as the name of al-Musta’sim was retained for nearly 200 years after his death on Rasulid coinage in the Yemen. Each mint or group of adjacent mints maintained its own types and standards. Only the gold coinage is frequently dated, often mentioning the mint name as well. The silver and copper coinage is usually undated, and some types are only conjecturally assigned to the Mongols. The listings here are not complete, and new discoveries occur astonishingly often.

Mints are noted under individual types, when appropriate. Most types were not carefully struck and are typically found with considerable weakness or wear. In general, fully struck examples are extremely uncommon and command a substantial premium (exceptions noted under individual listings).

Gold dinars were struck throughout Central Asia, together with a few locations in Khorasan, Jurjan and Ghazna, with at least 25 mints attested within those regions. Silver full dirhams were struck in both eastern Khorasan (especially Ghazna, Balkh & Herat), and in the Transcaucasian regions of the northwest (especially Tiflis and Tabriz), along with half dirhams from the Transcaucasian region. Silver-washed broad copper dirhams were struck throughout Transoxiana & northeastern Khorasan, resembling late Qarakhanid copper dirhams in fabric, calligraphy, size and weight. Base metal jitals were struck only in eastern Khorasan, Sijistan and Sind, and often contain considerable amounts of lead or zinc in addition to copper.

The broad AE dirhams of Transoxiana and Khorasanian mints, typically 32-40+mm in diameter, were originally lightly silvered, but are seldom found with more than a small trace of the original silvering. They usually bear mint and date, often repeated in both obverse and reverse margins.

NOTE: Tyen numbers refer to Robert Tyen’s reference, Italics.

Chingiz Khan, 603-624 / 1206-1227

His personal name was Temüjin, which never appears on his coinage. He received the title Chingiz Khan (anglicized as Genghis Khan) in 1206, then about 40 years old.

Most coins of this reign are anonymous, typically with the title khagan (inherited from the Qarakhanids) or qa’an. Types inscribed with the name of Chingiz Khan are #1964 (gold), #1967 (silver), and #1A968 (billon).

Many of the anonymous types listed under this reign continued to be minted after the death of Chingiz Khan.

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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 210

488 Private collection, Tallahassee, Florida. Type unknown to Lowick.
1964 AV dinar, with the titular name Chingiz Khan (Genghis Khan)
Reported mints include Bukhara, Balkh and Ghazna, the latter
totally independently of a hoard of circa 150-200 dinars that entered the
market about 1996. The Ghazna dinars are dated 618, all from
the same dies, so that the date can be confirmed even when illegible. 490
Issues from other mints are undated. 491
For an important group of types #1964-D1967, see SARC
auction 10, lots 755-805.

1965 AV dinar, anonymous, with title khaqan
Dinars with the title khaqan are believed to have been struck
during the lifetime of Chingiz Khan, though in all likelihood some
were struck after his death, given the paucity of research to date.
Normally without mint and date, but a few have the mint name in
the obverse or reverse field. If dated, the date appears in the
marginal legends, almost always off flan or badly blundered.

1966 AV dinar, anonymous, with title qu‘an, struck by
Chingiz Khan and his successors until the 650s/1250s
Many mints are known, none especially common, which Dihistan
and Bukhara are perhaps the least rare. Many coins cite the
‘Abbasid caliph, either al-Nasir posthumously, or infrequently, the
then current caliph.
The mint name is usually atop the obverse or reverse field. Even
when engraved in the margin, the date is almost never visible.

1967 AV dinar, anonymous, without any Mongol title,
ranking only the caliph al-Nasir, many varieties, some probably struck after the death of Chingiz
Normally with the kalima on one side, the name of the caliph on the opposite side. Rarely dated and usually without mint name.
Many variants are extremely barbarous and barely legible.
On some varieties, the caliph is entitled al-imam al-a‘zam, “the supreme Imam”. Some issues of Samarkand have the field legends on one side enclosed within an ornamental square.
Examples of type #A1967 were struck after the death of al-Nasir, perhaps as late as the 650s. Unfortunately, examples with legible dates are extremely rare.

1968 AV dinar, totally anonymous without even the
Caliph, with mint name (normally Bukhara or
Samarqand), probably always undated

1969 AV dinar, type as B1967 but without any mint name,
almost always undated

Types #1965-C1967 are usually poorly struck, only partially legible, the marginal inscriptions often completely illegible. The mint name may be in the field (often legible) or in the obverse or reverse margin. If dated, the date appears in the margin and thus rarely legible. A Bukhara example of type #B1967 has the mint name repeated in four separate locations, perhaps to counteract the shoddily manufacturing (SARC auction 10, lot 786). 492

1970 AV dinar, similar to C1967 but severely blundered
inscriptions, even the kalama rarely legible
Sometimes completely illegible. Most examples are found in Xinjiang province of China. One variety bears the mint name al-Urdh al-A‘zam clearly engraved on the obverse, but severely blundered text in the obverse margin and the entire reverse.

1971 AR dirham (fine silver), Ghazna type with name
Chingiz Khan but without mint name
Derived from type #1721 of the Khwarizmshah Muhammad,
which is also assigned to Ghazna.
This and the Ghazna 618 version of type #1964 are the most
available coins that cite Chingiz Khan by name. But both types are extremely popular and fetch astounding prices these days.

1972 AR dirham (fine silver), similar fabric, mint name
Kurraman, without name of ruler (Tye 328)
Text ‘adl / khaqan / mu‘azzam on obverse, name of Caliph with mint name below on reverse, cross-like symbol above first two

1967B AR dirham (fine silver), mint of Namruz, also
without name of ruler

1967Q AR dirham (fine silver), with title qa‘an al-a‘zam,
mint of Dihistan (Zeno-90888), undated

1967S AR dirham (fine silver), without mint or date
Kalima / name of caliph al-Nasir, with Shireetei tamgha (sun on
stand) beneath reverse (Zeno-78025).

1968B BI broad “dirham”, obverse & reverse in square,
with the name of Chingiz Khan, lightly silver-
flushed (Marw, dated 618 when visible)
The obverse is inscribed bi-farman / al-khaqan al-a‘zam /
chingiz khan / al-‘adil, with the mint & date around, kalima & the
the four Rashidun on the reverse. Always very weakly struck.

1968 AE broad khani dirham, anonymous, mainly from
the mint of Balkh, dated 618 or 619 (when visible, which is uncommon)
At least two distinct types. Similar coins of Samarkand have been
subsumed under type #B1979. Khani dirhams of this type struck at
Otrar have recently been discovered (RR?). The denominational name khani appears atop the obverse or reverse margin. Similar for types #1968A & 1968C.

1968A AE broad khagani dirham, mint of Balkh, probably
dated 619, style identical to #1968

1968C AE broad mangukhani dirham, struck at Bukhara
and Khujand, probably elsewhere as well
Known dated from the 620s to the 650s.

1968T AE broad dirham, apparently without any
denominational name, Tirmidh 618 (Zeno-3057)

1969 AE jital, Ghazna type, without mint or date
(Tye 329)
Anonymous, with title al-khaqani / al-‘adil / al-a‘zam on obverse, the ‘Abbasid caliph al-Nasir on reverse. This and other jitals of the period probably contain a small amount of silver and may also have had a very light silver wash. This type is the only coin that is reasonably common and can be securely assigned to the lifetime of Genghis Khan. 493
This type is believed to have been struck 618-619 / 1221, during the Mongol chase of Mangubarni to the Indus River, when a Mongol military base was established at or near Ghazna.

1970 AE jital, as #1969A but with mint name Kurraman
below titles on obverse (Tye 330.1)

1970A AE jital, without mint and date, style of Kurraman
(Tye 330.2)
Anonymous, obverse ‘adl / al-khaqani / al-mu‘azzam, without
mint name. Reverse cites the caliph al-Nasir.

1970B AE jital, bull left / name & title of caliph al-Nasir,
mint of Kurraman (Tye 326)
Arrangement and calligraphy as #1741 of the Khwarizmshah Muhammad, with mint name on the bull’s body.

1972 AE jital, name of caliph in square with excursive sides on obverse, mints of Shahfurqan and Qunduz

Mint name in marginal inscription around the obverse, which bears only the name of the caliph al-Nasir. The reverse bears only the kalima. Some examples of Qunduz bear the date as “eight”, almost certainly equivalent to 618. Other versions of #A1972 and all of B1972 are undated, probably struck circa 618 until the early 620s, thus during Chingiz Khan’s lifetime.

490 See Zeno-1488 for another example of Ghazna in his name, but struck from a different pair of dies. The mint name is clear, but the date off flan.
491 See Zeno-69223 for a lovely example with mint off flan, with the obverse field legend chingiz khan al-adil / al-a‘zam kalima in the reverse field, possibly minted at Samarkand, to judge by style.
492 At least two mixed hoards, totaling several hundred gold coins and primarily of types #C1967 and D1967, were reported in Xinjiang in the early 2000s, including many coins that had been cut down or clipped. Some of these were shown to me in Urumqi in 2005.
493 This type was extremely rare until a large hoard, estimated to contain about 2600 pieces, surfaced in the Kabul market about 1968 and was widely dispersed by the end of the 1970s. Several additional small hoards, or larger hoards containing a small percentage of this type, have subsequently been found and marketed.

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*Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 211*
B1972 AE jital, same arrangement as A1972, mint of Badakhshan
Without obverse marginal inscription, mint name above kalima in
the reverse field, the caliph al-Nasir on the reverse (Tye—).

1972 AE jital, bow-and-arrow motif within hexafoil
(Qunduz mint, usually dated “8” for 618) (Tye 334)
In Middle Eastern and Armenian chronicles of the time,
the Mongols were generally known as “the nation of archers”.

A1973 AE jital, Sijistan type (Nimruz mint)
Zarb-i / nimruz on reverse, always undated. Three different
obverse inscriptions, all of similar rarity: (1) qa‘an / al-adil (2)
qa‘an / al-adil / padshah (3) qa‘an / al-adil / al-‘a’zam. Unlisted
by Tye, as they have only recently been discovered.

B1973 AE jital, ‘adl on obverse, qa‘dan on reverse
(Tye 332-333)
Assigned by Tye to the Ghazna mint. Possibly struck after
Chingiz’s death. Two varieties, one with text in square on both
sides (Tye 332) and one with text in octogram both sides
(Tye 333).

C1973 AE jital, qa‘dan padshah-i jahan (“the Khaghan, king
of the world”) on obverse, muhammad rasul Allah
on reverse (Tye—)
Without mint, but assigned by style and metal to Nimruz in
Sijistan. Probably posthumous. See also #1978O for a related
type inscribed qa‘an.

temp. Malik of Kurzuwan,
Rabi‘ II-Jumada I 618 / June-July 1221

1971 AE jital, mint of Kurzuwan (Tye 324)
Anonymous, with al-mulk (or al-mulk) in center, dated Rabi‘ II
or Jumada I 618. Formerly considered an issue of Chingiz Khan,
the type is now regarded as having been struck by the local ruler
(malk) of Kurzuwan while under siege by the Mongols. It is thus
one of very few identifiable “siege coins” of the Islamic world.

temp. Ögedei, 624-639 / 1227-1241
All coins assigned to this ruler are anonymous, always without
the name Ögedei.

1973.1 AR dirham, bow type of northwestern Iran, with
mint name
Kalima obverse, mint above bow on reverse, mint name normally
followed by amaraha Allah, “may God protect it”, a remarkably
ironic statement just after the Mongol invasions. Occasionally
found overstruck on Rum Seljuq dirhams, especially the lion &
sun type (#1218). Tabriz is the most common mint, though at least a dozen mints are known. Sometimes dated in the
obverse or reverse margin (usually 636-639), rarely visible on the
flan. Many minor variations, some posthumously dated as late as
641 or 642, when this type was superseded by the archer type
(#1976).

1973.2 AR dirham, bow type but without mint name,
usually undated, various varieties
Mint locations unknown, perhaps northwestern Iran & Khurasan.

1973G AR dirham, inscriptions only, struck only at
Samarkand in 634
Persian inscription in center, first part obverse, 2nd part reverse,
which translates as “he who steals in Samarkand or its environs
is a criminal”.

1973L AR dirham, bow type struck at Marw, with Ögedei’s
tamgha on the obverse, between sikk and the mint
name, bow at the top, probably 630s

1973M AR dirham, bow type struck at Marw, without
tamgha
Now believed to have been struck posthumously in the 640s-650s,
possibly during the late 630s as well; apparently always undated.

A1974 AR ½ dirham, similar (about 1.4g)
(The type formerly listed as 1974 has now been subsumed under types A1979-D1979.)

E1974 AR dirham, inner circle around field both sides, mint
of Qara Qorum (Kararorum), dated 635
Allah in field, mint name in Uighur below / al-imam al-islam in
field, mint name in Arabic above, tentatively assigned to Ögedei
(Zeno-22777).

K1974 AR dirham, inner circle / plain circle, mint of Imil,
several years (Zeno-47175)
On obverse, tengeri kuchundur (Mongolian for “by the power of
the eternal God”, in the Arabic script) and the tamgha of Ögedei
in obverse center, date in the margin. The reverse has just
al-imam al-‘a’zam with the mint. Always with barely
legible date, interpreted as 630, 635 & 643.

Mas’ud al-Khwarizmi, governor in Karakorum,
fl. 638-667 / 1240-1269

1975 AE broad fals
Struck at Kashghar and dated 650 (also read as 660 or 675, but
these alternatives are questionable), though mint and date seldom
show on the coin, but were likely struck for many years after 650
with frozen date. A large hoard reached the numismatic market
during the 1990s, containing at least 2000 examples, now widely
dispersed. Because they were usually very crudely struck, coins
with clearly legible mint and date are very rare.

temp. Töregene (aka Turakina),
queen and regent, 639-644 / 1241-1246
No coins of this ruler bear Töregene’s name. They are assigned
to her reign by date, even when they continued to be struck
posthumously.

1976 AR dirham (about 2.8g), mounted archer type
(normally facing left, infrequently right)
More than a dozen different mints, of which Tiflis is by far
the most frequently seen, though Nakhjawan, Ganja and Tabriz are
two especially rare. The archer is usually portrayed hunting a hare
or some other small game animal. Anonymous, with title “chief
of the great Mongol nation” (ulugh mujhad alus bikt in Arabic
script) on the obverse above the archer. Sometimes overstruck on
Ayyubid or Rum Seljuq coins. Known dated 642-643, plus
one version of Tabriz dated 645.

Many examples of this type lack a mint name, usually undated
and often without the obverse inscription, many variants (R).495

1976A AR ½ dirham (about 1.4g), obverse design as #1976
but the reverse usually has the shahada in circle,
without mint or date

1976B AR ½ dirham (about 1.4g), similar to the dirham but
the archer is standing (not riding), shooting a bird
Known only from Tabriz dated 642.

For later anonymous types from northwestern Iran, first introduced at
Tabriz in 643, see #2132 ff.

Güyük, 644-647 / 1246-1249
Güyük is also cited as overlord on some rare silver coins of the
Christian kingdom of Georgia (not listed here).

1976F AR dirham, anonymous but with his tamgha
With his Khoolboo Ongi tamgha (two circles connected by a
line), sometimes mint of Qara Qorum (in Uighur). Several
varieties illustrated on Zeno.

1976G AE broad dirham, with his name in central area,
believed to have been struck at Samarqand496

Möngke, 649-657 / 1251-1259
For additional coins in various metals citing Möngke, see Lu’lu’id
types #1871M & 1877.1, Golden Horde #2018-2019 and some
Ilkhan coinage of Hulagu, beginning with #2121.

S1977 AV dinar, eastern style (no mint name), citing only
Möngke
Inscriptions möngke qa‘an al-‘a’zam / al-mulk lallah al-wahid
al-qahhar with no marginal text. Zeno-38504.
For a similar coin in silver, without mint name but dated 662 or
664, see Zeno-73771.

494 A Khilat mint example at Tübingen is overstruck on type #2173 of the
Qa‘an al-‘Adil type, style of Tabriz 643.
495 For a general study, see the article by Aram Vardanyan, “Some additions
... ‘Ulugh Mangyl...”, ONS Newsletter 190, pp. 7-20 (2007).
496 Formerly listed as #B1977.
T1977 AV dinar, eastern style (usually no mint name), citing only Mongke, kalima on reverse
Obverse inscription al-khājān / al-a‘zam / mōngke or something similar, sometimes citing mōngke at the top. Many subtypes now illustrated at Zeno, including the mints of Marw & Shafurghan.

V1977 AV dinar, western mints, citing only Mongke
Name & titles in obverse field, kalima on reverse, mint name above or below either field. Astarabad, Dhiisistan & Dunganah only, typically 32-34mm in diameter.

1977 AR dirham, western style (broad, thin flans), text in Arabic only
The only frequently encountered mint is Tiflis (square-in-circle type, obverse & reverse). Other mints are at least RR.

1977A AR dirham, western style, obverse text in Uighur, kalima reverse, Ganja 655 only (Zeno-55251) RRR

1977D AR dirham, citing the local ruler of Georgia, Da’ud b. Kiyurki (David, son of George)
Obverse cites Da’ud, reverse cites Mongke, both sides with appropriate titulature. Known dated 650-652, after which it was replaced by the purely Mongol type #1977. Many earlier Georgian types with Arabic inscriptions exist from 1150s to about 1250. These lack any Islamic ruler (except types #1751 & 1752) and are therefore omitted from this catalog.

A1978 AR dirham (jital style), Herat mint type (fancy Kufic calligraphy) (about 3.10g)
Mōngke qa’an al-‘alid on obverse, mint on reverse.

B1978 AR dirham (jital style), Nimruz mint
1978 AE fals, broad flan, Tiflis mint, generally similar to Tiflis silver dirhams of type #1977

1978A AE jital, three subtypes, no mint name (Tye 338-339)
Tye has assigned these two subtypes to Shafurqan (uncertain) and Nimruz (likely), respectively. The Nimruz version lacks the mint name but is very similar to fine silver Nimruz type #B1978.

1978B AE jital, with mint name Shafurqan (Tye—)
Known undated and dated 657, always with month (but date and month are usually unclear). From a 1996 find of about 100+ pieces, apparently previously unknown.

1978D B1 jital, with name Shafurqan (sic) in central obverse square, dated 655 in numerals around, lima reverse (Tye—)

1978E.1 AE jou, mint of Ghazna, citing qa’an / mōngke / al-‘alid on obverse, jou in reverse center, mint around (Tye—)
Mint name possibly followed by date (Zeno-97679).

1978E.2 AE jital, mint of Ghazna, mōngke qa’an al-‘alid on obverse, bi-balad ghaznā (?), surrounded by the date (unread) on reverse (Tye-337)

1978C.1 AE broad dirham (38-42mm), with mint name Otrar, dated 649-658 (date often illegible)
With epithet above obverse or reverse as manku-khanī, “Mōngke Khan’s, mōngō-khanī, “Khan’s silver”, or just khanī, the last is Kufic script (cf. SNAT 15b, #8).

1978C.2 AE fractional dirham (±30mm), Otrar 656-658, type #1978C.1 with khanī epithet
Examples dated 659-663 should be assigned to Arigh Buqa, variant of C1979 with khanī epithet, discernible only when the date is legible.

Arigh Buqa (Ariqboka), 658-662 / 1206-1264, rival successor to Mongke

C1979 AR broad dirham, Otrar mint, dated 659-663 (rarely legible)
Similar to type #1978C.1, with epithet yari khanī (“Khan’s command”) or khanī. Types #1978C.2 and C1979 with the short epithet khanī can only be distinguished when the date is legible or by die-link. See also #1978C.2.
The only other coins bearing Arigh Buqa’s name are assigned to the Golden Horde, type #2019D.

Nawruz, circa 670s / 1270s
Mongol governor in Kirman and/or Sijsistan.

1978F AE/PB jital (Tye 129e1)
Obverse text Allah / a’la ‘abduhu / nawruz, “God is the greatest, Nawruz is His slave”, reverse text the standard kalima in 3 lines.

1978K AR dirham (jital style), average weight about 3.25g, undetermined eastern mint, probably struck 630s and/or 640s
Inscribed on the obverse in Persian, be-qovrat-e aferidegar-e ‘alam, “by the power of the Creator of the world”, and citing the caliph al-Mustansir (623-640) on the reverse. One of the earliest Islamic precious metal coins with legends inscribed in the Persian language (see #B1979 below). 939

1978L AE jital, obverse as #1978K but without ‘alam, mint of Kurraman
Fi balad kurrman replaces caliph & titles on reverse. The following types #A1977 through X1977 are tentatively described. Further research needed.

A1977 AR dirham, eastern style on narrow thick flans (Balkh mint), several variants (about 2.80g average weight, 12-13mm)
Normally undated, but a few rare specimens of Balkh show the year 640. Formerly assigned to Töregene, but anonymous with the formula qa’an al-‘alim. “king of the two worlds” on obverse (Balkh mint, 2.80g).

B1977 AR dirham, similar, but with formula qa’an al-‘alim, “king of the two worlds” on reverse

C1977 AR dirham, Herat mint, sometimes with title Qa’an, sometimes fully anonymous (about 3.05g)
Numerous variations. Virtually always struck on flans much smaller than the dies.

D1977 AR dirham, similar, but struck on broader and thinner flans (about 4.13g, 18-19mm)
Citing the Qa’an, usually with zuyyida ‘alidhā (“may his justice increase”) below the obverse. Mint of Herat. One variant is completely anonymous.

E1977 AR dirham, as #D1977 but with title padshah jahan added on the obverse, mint of Herat (average about 4.13g)

F1977 AR dirham, as D1977, but qa’an al-‘alid al-a’zam on both obverse & reverse, no kalima, Nimruz mint
Types A1977-F1977 are struck from dies far broader than the flans, thus revealing only a portion of the inscriptions on each coin. All of these types and their variants are believed to have been struck from the 630s to the 650s. 940

X1977 AR dirham, generally as A1977-F1977, but not attributable to a specific type
For later anonymous silver coins, see #2132-2137.

1978N AE jital, similar to silver A1977

1978O AE jital, qa’an al-‘alid padshah on obverse, muhammad rasul Allah on reverse, with Allah repeated at the top (Tye—)
Style of Nimruz in Sijistan.

1978P AE jital, inscriptions only, uncertain word said to be panji (“fifth”) on obverse, fi balad kurrman on reverse, mint of Kurraman (Tye 359)
Tye lists four additional anonymous Kurraman mint jitals (#356, 357, 358 and 360). These are probably Mongol period, circa 620-650. All are rare.

939 Nyamaa has assigned this type to Ögedei (his coin #9) and Zeno has also filed them under Ögedei. However, the name of the caliph al-Mustansir does not necessarily imply all mintage prior to his death in 640. Cf. the Crusader imitations of the Ayyubid dirhams of Damascus (type #849.1) or the earliest Samaanid coins of ‘Abd al-Malik I (#1460 & 1462).

940 Types #A1977-F1977 and X1977 were barely recognized until the 1990s, though unidentified specimens already existed in many collections.
**Anonymous, Central Asian mints,**
circa 617-667 / 1219-1269

A1979.1 AE broad dirham, Bukhara mint, dated 627-667, 
various types, Arabic legends only 
R

A1979.2 AE broad dirham, similar, also Bukhara mint, 
with the mint name in Chinese in center of reverse (Davidovich-5), dated 660
Another variety has Chinese ke in center, which means “tax” (same rarity). Both #A1979.1 & 1979.2 were silver-washed.
RR

B1979 AE broad dirham, Samarqand mint, numerous 
subtypes, dated 617-663 or undated 
Davidovich enumerates 10 types. Her first four types are dated 617-624 and thus fall within the lifetime of Chinzig Khan. Many have the Persian inscription be-Samarqand o nana-yi ye in shahr ravan, “current in Samarqand and the environs of this city” (RR), one of the earliest inscriptions in Persian. See also #1973G.
(C1979 is now listed between #1978C and 1978F)

D1979 AE broad dirham, Khujanda mint, one type only, 
known dated 663 and possibly 665 
RRR

The above five types of anonymous broad dirhams are typically about 40-45mm in diameter and were probably originally lightly-silver-washed. Variants with the denominational inscription mongakhani are now listed as #1968C.

Later coins of the Great Mongol khans were produced only in the Chinese territories and are universally regarded as part of the Chinese series. They are cast bronze cash of various sizes and denominations, with obverse in Chinese or Phags-Pa, reverse in either the Chinese or Phags-Pa script (or blank), assigned to the Yuan dynasty, the Chinese name for the Great Mongols (Hartill 19.1 through 19.147). Some extremely rare Yuan dynasty silver suces and paper notes are also known. They are in no way Islamic, and are thus excluded from the Checklist. 899

**CHAGHATAYID KHANS**

Oliver, E.E., “The coins of the Chaghatai Mughals,” *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, vol. 60 (1891), pp. 8-16 (mostly issues of Buyan Quli Khan, some misattributed).

See also Davidovich (1972) as cited under the Great Mongols, where most known types are listed and described for Chaghatayid coinage before the reform during the reign of Kibk Khan.

See also Nyamaa Badarch, listed under Great Mongols.

Zhu Yuanjie et al., eds., *Xinjiang Numismatics*, Hong Kong 1991.

The first and second periods were rather comprehensively studied by Davidovich, though many more types have been discovered since her work in 1972, of which only a few are included in Badarch’s 2005 publication. No useful study for the third period has yet been published, but see below:

Pavel Petrov completed his dissertation in 2007, entitled *Monetary Circulation in the Chaghatayid State* (in Russian), expected to be published as a corpus of all Chaghatayid coinage in 2011. Over 70,000 Chaghatayid coins in public and private collections were examined for his research!

Zeno now lists nearly 1000 Chaghatayid coin, all illustrated.

The Chaghatayid kingdom was formed out of the aphanumeric assigned to Chaghatay, son of Genghis Khan and eponymous founder of this kingdom. The Chaghatayids ruled the Central Asian portion of the Mongol Empire. After 749/1348, the western Chaghatayids, centered in Samarqand, were rulers in name only, set upon the throne to bolster one or another amir’s claim to power. The eastern branch, centered in Xinjiang, retained a measure of independence, but produced virtually no coinage.

Until 772, all Chaghatayid coins are anonymous (except #A1987 of Khutlugh Khwaja), citing only the mint and sometimes the date. Most types cannot be assigned to specific reigns, though by convention coins are assigned by date to reign, when the date is visible. 500 From 772 onwards, most silver types bear the name of the ruler, but copper coinage remains anonymous throughout the dynasty (with a few exceptions noted under individual rulers).

Until the early 1980s, Chaghatayid coins were seldom seen in the west. Subsequently, several large hoards of both pre-772 and post-772 coins have reached the market from sources in Afghanistan, Xinjiang, and the former Soviet republics in Central Asia. Copper coins have only began appearing since about 1995.

During the first several reigns, the principal mint was Almaligh, whose site is located in what is now the northwestern corner of Xinjiang province of China (in Huocheng County, about 50 miles west of the major city Yining), with supplementary coinage from nearby Imil and Pulad. From circa 670 until the reform of 722, more than twenty additional mints came into production for the anonymous coinage, of which Kanchik (sometimes transcribed as Kanjiid, as Kendje on Zeno), Khujanda, Otrar, Samarqand, Bukhara, Shash and Taraz are the least rare.

After the reform of 722 until the death of Danishmandji in 749, Chaghatayid coins were struck mainly at the four mints of Bukhara, Otrar, Samarqand and Tirmidh. Coins of this period from other mints, notably Badakhshan and Almaligh, are substantially rarer.

During the reign of Buyan Quli Khan (749-760), who was a mere figurehead set up by the effective power-that-be, the amir Qataghan, a number of Iranian rulers struck coins in the name of Buyan Quli, even though direct Chaghatayid influence in the region was inconsequential (#A2089 ff.). Some additional mints opened in Central Asia as well, including Ishkash, Kish and Shahri Sabz, all of which are rare.

Most Chaghatayid coins are poorly struck and/or poorly preserved. Well-struck coins are rare, except for some early Almaligh dirhams and some 1/6 dinars after the reform of 722. Full dinars are virtually never found fully struck, typically 30% or more flat, though better during the “reign” of Buyan Quli Khan and his immediate successors. Curiously, a large proportion of Chaghatayid dinars from recent hoards are crinkled and warped, though what caused this is unknown.

In 1995 and 1996, some allegedly “Chaghatay” gold dinars were published in Hong Kong and Singapore sale catalogs. All of these are either anonymous Mongol issues (#1965, 1966 & A1967) or coins of earlier dynasties such as the Khwarizmshahs or the Ghorids. No gold coins have yet been conclusively attributed to the Chaghatayids (see note to #1979), except for type V1979 dated 635-637.

**WARNING:** Well-struck forgeries of first period and third period silver coins have recently appeared in China. Most of these were easily recognized, though in recent years (towards 2010) a few more convincing forgeries have entered the market, some on eBay. More than twenty fakes are now illustrated on Zeno.

**FIRST PERIOD**

All pre-722 dirhams of the Chaghatayids conform to a weight standard of about 2.0 grams, though occasional specimens can be significantly lighter, either as struck or later clipping.

**temp. Chaghatay, 624-639 / 1227-1241**

V1979 AV dinar, mint of Almaligh dated 635 & 637, with qa’an above one side

Both sides bear the kalima and the name of the caliph al-Nasir li-din Allah, stylistically similar to late Khwarizmshah dinars of Khwarizm. This type can also be considered a posthumous example of type #1966, struck under the authority of an independent amir in independent al-Marwah in the oases of central Asia. The uncertainty whether the Chaghatayid kingdom had actually separated from the larger Mongol empire before Ögedei’s death in 639. Badarch assigns this type to #1979 to Chaghatay.

1979 AR dirham (about 2.0g) 

The earliest reported date is 638. Coins assigned to this reign have al ghuyyanm, “very noble (alloy)”, in the reverse center, copied from late Fatimid and Ayyubid dinars of the previous century. Struck only at Almaligh in 638 & 639. This type is the “first anonymous coinage”. 500

500 At the present, I have rather naively attempted to assign anonymous coins struck prior to 722 to individual rulers, in part due to the fragmentary publication of the series to date. I have chosen to retain this somewhat artificial regnal typology, rather than reorganize them according to visual designs recently interpreted by Nyamaa. I have added type #1984X for all examples that cannot, for whatever reason, be assigned to a specific reign. My intention is to incorporate for the 4th edition the information published by Davidovich and Badarch, as well as Petrov’s coming publication.

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899 For the Yuan dynasty, see David Hartill, *Cast Chinese Coins*, published 2005, listing all Chinese cast coins from circa BC650 to 1912.

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Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 214
temp. Qara Hulagu, 639-645 / 1241-1247
1980 AR dirham, Almaligh mint only

temp. Yesu Mongke, 645-650 / 1247-1252
1981 AR dirham, Almaligh mint only

temp. Orquina Khatun, Queen, 650-659 / 1252-1261
1982 AR dirham
Dirhams of this reign were struck at Almaligh, Imil, and Pulad, all located in what is now the northwestern corner of the Xinjiang province in western China.

temp. Alaghun, 659-664 / 1261-1266
1983 AR dirham
In addition to the three mints of 1982, a fourth mint opened at Kuja (modern Kuche in Xinjiang).

temp. Baraq, 664-670 / 1266-1271
1984 AR dirham
Anonymous, circa 640s-690s / 1240s-1290s
1984X AR dirham, as the last five reigns (#1980-1984) and the next three reigns (#1985-1986, also #1987 of Ilan Buqa), but without date (either undated or date off flan)

COINS OF THIS REIGN CAN BE ASSIGNED TO A SPECIFIC MINT, BUT NOT TO A SPECIFIC RULER. MINTS MAY HAVE PRODUCED NON-ANONYMOUS COINS AS WELL AS ANONYMOUS COINS. THIS IS TRUE FOR ALL ANONYMOUS COINAGES, AS THE RULERS OR MINTS AT THE TIME OF STRiking THE COINS WERE NOT IDENTIFIED.

coins of these eight reigns can be assigned to a specific ruler only when the date is legible, unless confirmed by die linkage or a type known to be dated only within a single reign. Undated, illegible dated and miscellaneous types that cannot be assigned to a specific reign are thus collectively assigned to type #1984X. However, recent work by Badarch and others will eventually require a totally different organization of the anonymous Chaghatayid coins, which I plan to introduce in the 4th edition of the Checklist.

coins of these seven reigns, and of Ilan Buqa (#1987) constitute the “second anonymous coinage”, comprising both the first & second period assigned here to the Chaghatayids, as organized by Davidovich. The “first anonymous coinage” comprises types traditionally, though not necessarily correctly, assigned to the Great Mongols.

SECOND PERIOD

temp. Tuqa Timur, circa 670-690 / 1272-1291
1985 AR dirham, many subtypes, more than a dozen mints
In general, each mint employed one or more distinctive designs.
A1986 AR dirham, Khwarizm mint, anonymous, Golden Horde style with Chaghatayid tamgha, always well struck and dated, 686-688 only

temp. Duwa Khan, circa 690-706 / 1291-1306
1986 AR dirham
Not all coins of the time of Tuqa Timur and Duwa Khan can be assigned to a specific reign, especially when undated. The coinage of these two reigns was described by Davidovich as the “third anonymous” coinage, dated circa 670-709, but I prefer to recognize them as the later years of the “second anonymous”.

Undated dirhams that cannot be classified as #1985, 1986 or 1987 are temporarily assigned to the generic anonymous type #1984X.

Khublai Khan, fl. 697-698 / 1298-1299
A1987.1 AE jital, ruler’s name on obverse, kalima on reverse (Tye 340)
Below the ruler’s name appears the word sikka followed by what is presumably a mint name, but not beginning with gh for Gazna (clear in Tye’s drawing).
A1987.2 AE jital, ruler’s name and Chaghatayid tamgha on obverse, mint on reverse (Ghazna) (Tye 341.1)
A1987.3 AE jital, ruler’s name in Arabic on obverse, mint name (Ghazna) in center on reverse, surrounded by religious inscription (Tye 342)
A1987.4 AE jital, trilingual type, ‘alid in center, surrounded by Nagari inscription on obverse, Uighur inscription on reverse (Tye 343)
It is likely that the crudely engraved Arabic word interpreted as ‘alid is really a debased form of the mint name ghazna.

A1987.5 AE jital, obverse as A1987.2, reverse as A1987.3, without mint name (Tye 341.2)
Anonymous, Ghazna region, circa 690s / 1290s
G1987 AE jital, without mint or date
Inscribed ‘alid khan padshah around the dynastic tamgha on obverse, be-qoray-e afargazvar-e 3alam (as on #1978K) on the reverse. Probably struck prior to the jitals citing Khutlugh Khwaja, either by Khutlugh Khwaja himself or his predecessor Duwa Khan.

temp. Isan Buqa, 709-718 / 1309-1318
1987 AR dirham
Struck principally at Badakhshan & Tirmidh, usually dated. When the date is not legible, most coins of this reign can be readily distinguished from types #1985-1986 by the layout of the legends, but there is no comprehensive publication for this reign.

THIRD PERIOD

With his coinage reform in 722/1322, Qibak Khan became the first Chaghatayid to place his name on the coinage. He introduced a new denomination, the dinar kebeki of about 8.0 grams, together with its sixth (about 1.32g), also known as a dirham, as for the Ilkhan coinage. The origin of the weight standard is unknown. The dinar kebeki became a unit of account in Central Asia and Iran for more than 300 years. The dinar kebeki is called just dinar in the listings here. The term kebeki never appears on the coins.

Silver dinars and 1/6 dinars were struck primarily at Bukhara, Otrar, Samarqand and Tirmidh. About 15 additional mints are known, operating mainly during the reign of Buyan Quli and for the later 1/6 dinars.

Kibak Khan, 718-726 / 1318-1326
1988 AR dirham (average weight about 8.0-8.1g, struck 722-725(52), in his name
T1989 AR dirham (about 1.8-2.0g), known from Urdu Bazar dated 721 and Tirmidh (date unrecorded), in his name
This type retains the pre-reform denomination and weight, just at these two mints. Tirmidh switched over to the post-reform weights after the reign of Kibak Khan.

X1989 AR 1/6 dinar (about 1.32g), in his name
Struck mainly at Bukhara 722-726; the issue of Samarqand, dated 725 only, has very different inscriptions.

temp. Ilchigiday, 726-727 / 1326-1327
Ilchigiday was opposed by Duwa Timur in 726, and it is quite possible that one of the subtypes of #1990 belongs to Ilchigiday, the other to Duwa Timur, and neither to Tarmashirin. This cannot presently be determined.

X1990.1 AR dinar, Samarqand only
All coins of this ruler are anonymous and only conjecturally assigned to Ilchigiday. They could also be early issues of Tarmashirin. This type bears the phrase, ‘imarat al-din maninat al-‘adl, “prosperity of the faith is the beneficence of justice”, 502
X1990.2 AR dinar, Samarqand only
Anonymous type, this type bears the phrase la ‘imara illa bi-l-‘adl, “there is no prosperity without justice”

X1991 AR 1/6 dinar, with legends as type #1990.2
Struck at Samarqand and Tirmidh.

Tarmashirin, 726-734 / 1326-1333
1992 AR dinar, anonymous (“twins” type), struck 726-732
The identifying phrase on this type is al-‘adl wa-l-mulk tu‘aman, “justice and kingship are twins”. Anonymous coinage was struck 726-732, coinage with the ruler’s name 731-734. 503 Coins of

501 A dirnar of Bukhara in the Tübingen collection seems to be dated 718. If that is the correct interpretation, then the Kibaki reform might be dated to 718 rather than the commonly accepted date of 722, or perhaps more likely, 718 could be his accession year on a coin struck 722 or later.
502 The word read as manina is somewhat uncertain but probable, as it makes sense in the context. No other reading has been proposed.
503 Coins of 727 are sometimes found with retrograde ‘e’, whence the date has been misread as 767 and the coins misattributed to various later rulers.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 215
Tarsamishirin were struck at Bukhara, Otrar and Tirmidh, but not at Samarqand. See #1990, 1991, 1996, and 1996A for contemporary issues of Samarqand.

1993 AR dinar, with his name
Struck only at Bukhara & Tirmidh, dated 733 or 734.

1994.1 AR 1/6 dinar, anonymous “twins” type, as #1992

1994.2 AR 1/6 dinar, anonymous, with title sultan but without name of ruler (Otrar only, 729-732)

1995 AR 1/6 dinar, with his name (Otrar 732-734 & Tirmidh 733-734)

Sanjar, presumed subordinate ruler at Samarqand, 731-734 / 1330-1333

There is some question whether Sanjar was indeed a separate ruler or governor at Samarqand or just a title of Tarsamishirin, whose name also appears on all coinage assigned to Sanjar.  

A remarkable and elaborately engraved dinar from the Taraz mint has recently been found (Zeno-55777).

1996 AR dinar, also citing Tarsamishirin
1996A AR 1/6 dinar, similar

Changshi (Jenki), 734-737 / 1333-1336

1997 AR dinar, struck only at Badakshan & Tirmidh

1998 AR 1/6 dinar, Otrar only
Inexplicably, it appears that the two principal cities Bukhara and Samarqand ceased minting coins 734-739, but were reopened in 740 for Yesun Timur. Dates on 734-742 coins of Otrar and Tirmidh are often blundered or irregularly engraved.

Yesun Timur, 737-741 / 1336-1340

1999 AR dinar
Usual mints Samarqand, Bukhara and especially Tirmidh, plus some earlier issues of Almaligh dated 740.

2000 AR 1/6 dinar, Otrar mint only
‘Ala al-Din ‘Ali Sultan, fl. 741 / 1340

2000L AR 1/6 dinar, known only from Otrar 741
Name & titles on obverse, ‘ala al-din ‘ali sultan, mint, date and a tamgha resembling retrograde “SS” on reverse. The date is usually barbarously engraved.

Muhammad, 741-742 / 1340-1341

2001 AR dinar
The identity of Muhammad is undetermined. He is possibly the same as Khalil al-Bashir, though I find that improbable. Coins in his name were struck at Almaligh and Tirmidh. Modern forgeries of the Almaligh dinar exist (Zeno-24988).

Anonymous, 742 / 1341

D2002 AR 1/6 dinar, kalima obverse, mint & date on reverse, Bukhara 742 only
Presumably an issue of either Muhammad or Khalil. It bears the distinctive tamgha that is normally found only on the regular issues of Khalil.

Khalil (or Khalil Allah), 742-744 / 1341-1343

2002 AR dinar, struck mainly at Bukhara & Tirmidh
On some coins of Bukhara, Khalil adopted the title of malik raqab al-imam, “possessor of the necks of the people”. How delightful!

2002Q AR dinar, also citing Qazan (i.e., Qazan Timur) as coordinate ruler, Almaligh 743 & Badakshan, date missing.

2003 AR 1/6 dinar, only from Otrar

Anonymous, 744 / 1343
In the name of al-din maluk al-chaqiq khan, “most noble of the family of Chingiz khaniany”, “most noble of the family of Chingiz Khan” on the reverse, with an undeciphered and apparently blundered Uighur inscription filling the obverse.

A2002 AR dinar, Almaligh 744 only
Qazan Timur, independent, 744-747 / 1343-1346

The name of this ruler is given variously on the coins, typically Qazan Timur, but often just Qazan in several different spellings.

Qazan Timur was joint ruler with Khalil 742-744 / 1341-1343, probably only in the eastern regions.

2004 AR dinar
2005 AR 1/6 dinar
A2006 AE fals, broad flan, with ruler’s name

Dashmand (Shah or Khan), 747-749 / 1346-1348

Although Arabic and Persian histories cite his name as danishmandji, his coins clearly show Dashmand, followed by shah or khan or both.

2006 AR dinar, mints of Bukhara, Samarqand & Tirmidh
Also known from Khujand, from elegant dies (Zeno-45351).

2007 AR 1/6 dinar

Buyan Quli Khan, 749-760 / 1348-1359

2008 AR 1/6 dinar, similar types, Central Asian mints

B2009 AR 6 dirhams (dinar), approximately 4.25g, similar
Types A2009 and B2009 were struck by the Kart ruler, Muizz al-Din Husayn, as Chaghatayid vassal and are dated 758 only. Most specimens lack the mint name, though all known “mintless” specimens are die-linked to issues bearing the mint name Herat. Their denominations derive from the late Khorasanian issues of the Ilkhans.

2009 AR ¼ tanka to the Delhi standard (about 2.75g), minted at or very close to Astarabad. For the denomination, see the note to #2342.

2009A AR 1/12 tanka (masha) (0.9g), similar

A2010 AE dirham (square / pointed pentafoto), lightly silver-washed

Struck by the Sarbadarid Yahya Karavi at Simnan and Damghan, but in the sole name of Buyan Quli Khan.

2010 AR diran to the Qhustani standard (about 5.2g) (square, sometimes lobated / pointed pentafoto)

Struck at Janubadh, Kurat and Tabas, and at least one additional undeciphered mint, by the local ruler, Mulayad, but citing only his Chaghatayid overlord. The source of this standard remains uncertain, though it is perhaps a lightweight equivalent to the half tanka denomination of the Delhi Sultanate.

2010A AE fals, broad flan, Central Asian types
With the ruler’s name, struck principally at Bukhara.
Shah Timur, circa 760 / 1359
A2011 AR dinar, mainly mint of Samarqand, dated 760
Also reported for Otrar, probably also dated 760 (Zeno-37588).

B2011 AR 1/6 dinar, mint of Khayr (pre-Timurid name of
Mazar-i Sharif in Afghanistan).

C2011 AE fals, broad flan, Central Asian types, citing the
ruler’s name
Tughluq Timur, circa 760-765 / 1359-1364

2011 AR dinar
In addition to Samarqand, two remarkably intricate dinars of
Badakhshan are known, dated 763 & 765.508

2011A AR 1/6 dinar, mainly mint of Badakhshan, also
Khwast (Zeno-94070, RRR)
Qubl Khan, fl. 767-769 / 1366-1368

C2012 AR 1/6 dinar, mints of Badakhshan and Khwast
Coins of Badakhshan are known dated 767-769; Khwast,
normally undated.
Qubl Khan probably ruled only in the Badakhshan region. In
the histories his name is often given as Kabulshah, as though he were
associated with the city of Kabul, for which there is no evidence.
Peculiarly, he is entitled khwajat Badakhshan (virtually always
dated, 767-769) and sultan at Khwast (almost never dated,
occaisionally dated 769). About 125 examples of his coins
suraced around 2003, apparently from two distinct hoards,
one terminating in 769, the other approximately 772. Formerly
extremely rare.

‘Adil Sultan, circa 769-771 / 1368-1370
A2012 AR 1/6 dinar, probable attribution (several subtypes
known)
All lack the mint name but were likely struck in Badakhshan,
to judge by style and calligraphy. All are undated, but likely
struck only after 769, as none were present in the first Qubl
Khan hoard.509

Suyurghatmish, 771-790 / 1370-1388
E2012 AR 1/6 dinar, known dated 781 or undated, several
varieties
Suyurghatmish was set on the throne by Timur and was permitted
to strike his own coins at first. Timur added his own name as
nominal subordinate ruler briefly in 774, resumed in 782.
Suyurghatmish is cited as overlord on all precious metal coins of
Timur struck during the years 774 and 782-790.310

Coins of Suyurghatmish citing Timur are classified as Timurid
(#2366-75), as are those bearing the name of Mahmoud, successor
at Suyurghatmish, all of which also cite Timur.
This type is classified on Zenos “Timur’s early issues without
his own name,” under the Timurid dynasty.

(Type #D2012 of Khwarizm has been changed to #V2366 under the
Timurids, as it cites Suyurghatmish on obverse, Timur on reverse.)

Anonymous, circa 660s-760s / 1260s-1360s

2012 AE broad fals, many variants
Typically 30-35mm broad, struck principally at Bukhara
and normally undated. Struck at various times from the 660s until
perhaps the middle of the following century.
For additional types dated 667 and earlier, see #A1979-D1979.

A2013 AE medium fals, with F-shaped tamgha in center,
struck at Kashghar and dated 675 when visible
Sometimes found struck over type #1975. Very rare with clearly
legible mint and date. The type was unknown before 1996, when
a massive hoard of at least 2,000 pieces, mostly in horrid
condition, entered the market.

B2013 AR dinar, barharous imitations of various third
period dinars, especially of Tarmashirin and later rulers
Numerous types and variations, all probably emanating from the
same region, together with type #C2013 (qv.).

C2013 AR dinar, imitating silver and gold tanka types of the
Delhi Sultanate
The provenance of types #B2013 and C2013 is not known, but
likely locations would seem to either southern Xinjiang, or
more likely, Kashmir or the mountainous regions towards
Ladakh, but unlikely as far east as Tibet. I am inclined to favor
Kashmir, as some examples mule the “obverse” of #C2013 is with
obverses or reverses of #B2013.

CHAGHATAYID, EASTERN BRANCH

Isan Buqa II b. Ways Khan, 832-866 / 1429-1462
F2013 AR tanka
Type closely modeled after a post-reform tanka of the Timurid
Shahrukh (#2405), normally without mint & date (specimens in
the Bejing Museum) or Kashghar 854 (Zeno-30132).

SHAHS OF BADAKHSHAN

Coins of this principality remain effectively unpublished, except from time to
time in sale and auction catalogs, and the growing selection on Zeno.
This obscure group of rulers, probably dynastically related, are
known only from their coins and a couple of rather enigmatic
citations in contemporary written records. They seem generally
to have been dependents of the Chaghatayid Mongols, and from
time to time, Badakhshan was either directly ruled by the
Chaghatayids (late 710s, circa 730-745, at times during the
760s, perhaps other short intervals as well) or recognized the
Chaghatayid ruler for political reasons.
Only silver was struck. The early types consist of dirhams of about
2.45g and half dirhams of about 1.22g, apparently derived from
contemporary Ilkhkan dirhams of Arghun and maintained at that level
until the reform in 722, ignoring contemporary Ilkhkan weight
reductions between 696 and 722. The reform coinage, introduced in
the Chaghatayid kingdom in 722, consists of the dinar kebeki (about
8.0g), 1/6 dinar (1.32g) and dangi (0.32g). The dangi was ¼ of the 1/6
dinar, thus 1/24 of the dinar kebeki, and usually bears the name of the
denomination, normally as a prefix to the mint name.
All coins of this state bear the mint names Badakhshan or Khwast,
or lack the mint name entirely. Nearly all coins of this kingdom are
crudely struck, often with considerable weakness and mushiness.
Most are dated.

‘Alishah I, before 690 / 1291
N2013 AR dirham (weight not recorded), undated312
I am increasingly convinced that there are no coins of ‘Alishah I,
that all are of ‘Alishah II. If it really is a specific subtype of
‘Alishah II it is still extremely rare. Cf. Zeno-30357 for an
example somewhat like the specimen I originally assigned to
‘Alishah I.

Dawlatshah (b. ‘Alishah), fl. 690-693 / 1291-1294

2013 AR dirham (about 2.45g), normally dated
2013A AR ½ dirham, undated

Arghunshah, fl. 706-711 / 1306-1311

2014 AR dirham (about 2.45g)
Mint name given as wilayat-e khwast, “district of Khwast”, i.e.,
Khwast as a subordinate region within Badakhshan province,
known dated “in the month of Dhu’l-Hijja 706” (Zeno-43852,
obverse in pointed pentavoil). One variety has the margin bearing
the names of Abu Bakr, Umar, ‘Uthman, ‘Ali, al-Husayn and
al-Husayn, thus a combined Sunni & Shi’ite declaration.
Another type has the mint name Badakhshan, date unclear
(obverse in square).

508 Zeno-54165 & 59761.
509 On Zeno, ‘Adil Sultan is said to have ruled 765-767 / 1364-1366, between
Tughluq Timur and Qubl Khan. This alternative dating seems reasonable,
despite the differences in the two hoard groups, especially because
coins of Badakhshan dated 770-772 are known in the name of Bahramshah
(#2017). At present, all known coins of ‘Adil Sultan are either undated
or date-off-flan.
510 An example clearly dated 774 is in the Tübingen collection (#HH5 E5),
but it is conceivable that the date is an engraver’s error for 778.
511 Copper dangis of Kashghar 850 are strictly anonymous and therefore
listed as Central Asian civic copper (#C3277).
512 Only known example in private collection, England. See note after
#A2015 regarding the difference between this type and coins of ‘Alishah II.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 217
Sultan Bakht, fl. circa 711-715 / 1310-1315

B2015 AR dirham (about 2.45g) RR
With title sikandar al-thani sultan bakht. I had previously read the same as yafyus, but now that many specimens are known, the name can securely be read as Bakht. Both this and the half dirham were minted only at Badakhshan.

C2015 AR ½ dirham (1.22g), type as last RRR

‘Alishah II, fl. 717-718 / 1316-1317

A2015 AR dirham (circa 2.45g), usually dated 717 or 718 RR
Dinars assigned to ‘Alishah I have square-in-circle obverse & reverse without the Chaghatayid tamgha. A somewhat similar type of ‘Alishah II has inner circle reverse, usually with the tamgha, somewhat similar to dirhams of the contemporary Chaghatayid king Isan Buqa. Another version has one side in square, the other in a pointed pentafoil, without the Chaghatayid tamgha.
An interesting example of Khwast 718 has the date in numerals (Zeno-30355).

Sultanshah?, dates unknown

D2015 AR dangi (0.32g) RRR
The royal inscription of this type has not been fully read. The reading of the name as Sultanshah is very tentative.

Anonymous, probably circa 720s-730s / 1320s-1330s

K2015 AR dangi (0.32g), mint of Badakhshan and Khwast, with the Chaghatayid tamgha on the reverse RR
Inscribed dangi on obverse, sikka plus mint name on reverse. Several designs, always undated.

L2015 AR dangi (0.32g), mint of Badakhshan & Khwast, without the tamgha RR
Several designs, also always undated.

For anonymous dirhams of Badakhshan, weight about 2.35g, sometimes dated in the 710s, see #1987 of Isan Buqa.

Shah Baha’ al-Din, fl. 745-761 / 1344-1360

2015 AR dinar kebeki (about 8.0g), struck at Badakhshan and Khwast14
One variant of this ruler was misattributed by Lane-Poole to a putative Timurid ruler named Mu’aizzam Shah (BMC-133).

2016 AR 1/6 dinar kebeki RR

2016C AR dangi (0.32g), in his name RRR
(Former type A2017, assigned to an alleged Muhammad Shah, is just a normal 1/6 dinar of Shah Baha’ al-Din dated 759, type #2016.)

Bahramshah, fl. 769-776 / 1360s-1374

2017 AR 1/6 dinar, sometimes dated 770-772 and 77615 (most are undated) R
On some undated issues, Bahramshah is named Sultan with either al-masir li-din Allah (RRR) or al-wathiq bi-ta’yid al-Alah (sic) (RR). On his more available coins he is either Sultan A’zam or Sultan Mu’a’zam, without the additional titles. It seems that the Chaghatayid rulers nominally regained Khwast and Badakhshan in 761 and held it until the reign of ‘Adil Sultan (circa 769-771). In about 776, it was once again technically retrieved by the Chaghatayid Suyurghatamish, though in fact under the actual rule of Timur.

GOLDEN HORD (JUCHID)

C.M. Fraehn, Die Münzen der Chane vom Ulus Dschutschi’s oder von der Goldenen Horde, St. Petersburg & Leipzig, 1832.

in English translation by the Russian Numismatic Association, Akron OH, 1984
Khromov, Konstantin, a large and easy-to-use listing of more than 1,000 Juchid coins, at http://www.hordecoins.folgate.net/index.html. Khromov has created a new arrangement of the Juchid coinage, based on regional rather than strictly chronological organization by ruler. Zeno.ru has also adopted this method. For this third edition I am staying with the chronological basis.

See also Badarch, listed under Great Mongols.
Zeno.ru has listed over 3600 illustrated specimens, and is currently the most important reference for the Golden Horde. Coins are organized first by region, then mint, then ruler. Please note that the coins are arranged by region > mint, not by ruler.

(There is an extensive literature in Russian on this subject, but no comprehensive catalogs or overall examinations have yet been compiled.)

The Golden Horde were derived from Juchi, the eldest son of Chingiz Khan, assigned to the northeastern territories by his father. His son Batu founded the dynasty, conquering large swathes of what is now Russia and Ukraine, preparing to invade Germany & Italy when the death of the Great Mongol Ögedei called him back to Karakorum to elect Ögedei’s successor. The first local coins were struck late in his reign in the region of Bulghar on the Volga River.

Golden Horde coinage consists only of silver and copper, except for a few extremely rare gold coins struck in the names of Jangi Beg and Birdi Beg during their first invasion of the collapsing Ilkhkan region (AH757-759) and anonymously during the reign of Toqtamish in 784-786 at Khwarizm. Silver coins are of fine metal, though some of the very latest issues might have been slightly debased. The copper coins are usually anonymous, often anepigraphic, and normally either crudely struck or horribly preserved. Coppers without date or ruler’s name cannot normally be assigned to a specific period; most also lack a mint name, though circulation regions can frequently be determined thanks to extensive archaeological evidence preserved both under the Soviet regime and thereafter.

With the opening of Eastern Europe in 1990, coins of the Golden Horde began to appear in western markets in rather large quantities, at first at outlandishly inexpensive prices. However, since the mid-2000s, numismatic interest in Russia and Eastern Europe has grown to the extent that export to the West has trickled down to virtually zero, and the price differences between the common and the rare have mushroomed. Nonetheless, the rarity indications given here must be regarded as rather tentative, as it is not known just how many coins are likely to be marketed in Eastern Europe. Moreover, new hoards continue to reach the market.

The Golden Horde dynasty can be divided into four periods, distinguished primarily by the weights and standards of the silver dirhams.

Most Golden Horde silver coinage is based on a mithqal weight of about 4.68g. The standard denomination for most of the first three periods, starting under Mangu Timur, was ⅗ mithqal (1.56g = 8/24 mithqal or 8 nokhod) for issues of the central area, with various other weights, higher or lower, in outlying regions, such as the Crimea, Azaq or Khwarizm. After about 766, the ⅞ mithqal standard was abandoned everywhere, with a periodic weight reduction of the basic dirham thereafter.

The weight standards are to some extent theoretical, in that actual specimens typically weigh from 3% to more than 10% below the standard. For example, I recently examined about 20 examples of type #2022.2 of Qrim 686, all undamaged and in extremely fine condition. One weighed 1.75g, the rest between 1.54 and 1.69g, except for two pieces still lighter, 1.48 and 1.49g. This is similar to the ‘Alawi weight standards in Morocco in the 19th century.

515 Sadly, most of Khromov’s collection was stolen in 2006, but most of the stolen coins carefully illustrated on this website. Should you encounter any, kindly let Khromov know the source. His email and snailmail addresses are on his website.

517 The coins are arranged by region, then divided by mint, then divided chronologically by ruler for each mint. To find the issues of an individual ruler, one must search through each of the 40+ mints, as on Zeno. A cross-reference by ruler would be wonderfully appreciated.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 218

513 It has been suggested that Sultan Bakht was not a separate person but possibly an epithetical name for ‘Alishah II or some other undetermined king of Badakhshan. However, the dates said to be 692 and 721 on dirhams posted on Zeno are very doubtful. Only 711 and 715 are clear.

514 A dinar exists that is clearly dated 761 twice within the obverse field, once normal, once in mirrored image as “127” (Zeno-38041).

515 The year 776 is perhaps 772 with a retrograde “2”.
The most commonly found mints are Qrim (Crimea), Khwarzimz, Urdu (after circa 770), and above all, Saray (renamed Saray-al-Jadida, “New Saray” from 741 onwards) and Gulistan.\(^1\) Coins of Azaq, Hajji Tarkhan and Bulghar are, for some rulers, not especially scarce. More than 40 mints in all are reported within the proper lands of the Golden Horde in Russia, Ukraine and Central Asia. In addition, coins were struck in the names of the Juchid rulers during three invasions into northwestern Iran, first 758-759, again 788-792, and finally 873-878. Each of these series conforms not to the main Juchid standard but to contemporary Jalayrid or Timurid standards.

During the first three periods, most coins of the dynasty are reasonably well-made, except at Bulghar, but beginning about 780, the average quality declines rapidly, with attractively struck coins of the fourth period almost never encountered. The copper fulus have recently become available in large quantities. For the most part, copper fulus of the principal mints, such as Saray-al-Jadida, Gulistan and Khwarzimz were reasonably well manufactured, but most fulus of many other mints, such as Qrim, or without mint name were haphazardly struck. Unfortunately, surviving examples are mostly worn, corroded, ex-jewelry or otherwise damaged. Furthermore, recent accumulations coming out of the former Soviet Union seem to consist predominantly of below average specimens, perhaps rejects from private and museum collections.

Most Golden Horde silver and many copper coins bear a royal tamgha. Each ruler is believed to have adopted a distinctive tamgha, but in fact the same tamgha may appear on coins of multiple rulers. Conversely, some rulers used more than one tamgha. Consequently, attempts to assign anonymous coins to a specific ruler based on the tamgha have proven ineffective.

Although I have retained the name dirham for all the silver coins of the dynasty, recent study has discovered alternative names. For example, the dirham of Qrim before about 741 was known as the yarmaq, later pieces as the dang.

**FIRST PERIOD (624-690)**

The first period, which extends from 624 until 690, consists of purely anonymous and semi-anonymous coins, with actual rulers only occasionally cited. Each region maintained separate designs, standards and inscriptions, their coins circulating largely within the issuing region. The principal mints are Bulghar on the middle Volga, Qrim (Crimea), later Saray (lower Volga) and Khwarzimz, each representing a distinctive region with its own currency. The earliest coinage was produced at Bulghar, probably in the late 640s or early 650s, followed by Qrim circa 655, Saray in 671 and Khwarzimz in 678.

During this period, weight standards were very loosely followed.

**temp. Batu, 624-654 / 1227-1256**

- **N2018** AR “dinar”, obverse citing the deceased caliph al-Nasir, reverse citing denomination and mint (Bulghar)
- **O2018** AR dirham, reverse al-dunya sa’a faja’alaha ta’a (“life is short, so pursue it obediently”) instead of mint & denomination
  - Without mint name but undoubtedly struck at Bulghar. Coins of types N2018 and O2018 vary greatly in weight, from about 0.7 to at least 1.75g.
- **P2018** AE pul, inscriptions as on #O2018

**temp. Batu and/or Berke, 650s / 1250s**

Citing only the Great Mongol, Mongke, 649-657 / 1251-1259.

- **2018** AR dirham (variable weight, about 0.9-1.5g), mint of Bulghar
- **2019** AE pul, same designs & legends as the dirham, mint of Bulghar
  - Mongke’s tamgha horizontal on both obverse & reverse, text above & below, mangu qa (sic) / al-a’zam and darb / buwalghar (sic), usually overstruck, never once (cf. Zeno-18653).

**Berke (Nusrat al-Din), 655-665 / 1257-1267**

- **2019D** AR dirham, in the name of the Great Mongol Ariqboka (658-662 / 1260-1264), without any reference to Berke
  - Weight seems to be in the range of 0.8-1.1g. Bulghar mint.

- **2019G** AR large dirham (about 2.15g), in his name as Nusrat al-Dunya wal-Din, Qrim mint, undated (struck circa 662-665)
  - The reverse margin bears a rather crudely written and uncertain Persian inscription that has been roughly translated as “may it be fortunate, this year of the female black cattle”, but this is highly unlikely.

**Temir Toqa, ca. 655-674 / 1257-1275**

- **2019T** AR yarmaq (dirham), Qrim mint, undated
  - The obverse legend has temir toqa yarmaq qrim, the reverse legend unclear. Cf. Zeno-4811 & 9678 for further information.

**Anonymous, circa 670s-710s / 1270s-1310s**\(^2\)

Except for D2020 and a few extremely rare varieties of F2020, these anonymous items bear no mint mark and are rarely dated. The great majority of these were struck at Bulghar, though it is not inconceivable that some were produced at other mints in the same general region, known as the Middle Volga.

**Singatullina, A.Z., *Dzhuchidskie monety povolzhskikh gorodov XIII veka*, Kazan 2003 (updating her former article in *Tatarskaya Arkheologiya*, No.1, 1998, pp. 52-87).**

- **A2020** AR dirham (most examples weigh about 1.25-1.35g), anepigraphic
  - More than 50 types known. All have the tamgha on the obverse, enclosed in variously shaped borders. The reverse commonly bears a floral or geometric design, but is also known with a flower, bird, fish, lion, horse, hare, facing man, woman with child, etc.
  - The weights of actual specimens can vary from about 0.95g to more than 1.65g, with some specific designs associated with higher or lower standards.

**E2020** AR ½ dirham (about 0.63g), similar, also anepigraphic

**B2020** AR 1/5 dirham (about 0.25-0.30g), similar, also anepigraphic

**C2020** AR dirham, as #A2020 but with short Arabic inscription on reverse, weight averages 1.35g, but various types considerably lighter or heavier, as type #A2020

- For example, al-sultan al-‘adil (about 1.1g).

**F2020** AR 1/5 dirham (about 0.25-0.30g), similar, short Arabic inscriptions, usually abbreviated

**D2020** AR dirham, similar, but with mint name on reverse, same weight range as #A2020

- Most common mint Bulghar, also known from Kerman (modern Akkerman in Ukraine) and Bilar (in Russia) (both RRR).

**G2020** AR ½ dirham (about 0.63g), mint of Bulghar

- Additional anonymous silver types exist, listed by Singatullina.

**P2020** AR dirham, Uckk mint, dated “7” (unknown meaning), with al-‘izz al-da‘im wa al-sharaf al-qa‘im on reverse

- Examples conform to either the 1.56g or the 1.80g standard, suggesting this type was produced circa 670s-690s.

**Mangu Timur, 665-679 / 1267-1280**

- **2020** AR dirham (2.15g), with ruler’s name
  - Struck only at Qrim with frozen year 665.

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\(^1\) Gulistan operated only from 752 to 768, but is at least as common as Saray-al-Jadida during most of those years.

\(^2\) The great majority of these are believed to have been struck from the 670s to the early 690s, but some are undoubtedly later, up to the resumption in 713 of coinage at Bulghar bearing the ruler’s name.
2020A AR dirham (1.56g), with ruler’s name
Struck only at Bulghar, undated or dated, 671-681 (sic). Royal
inscription munga timur al-‘adil (or al-‘a’-ran) on reverse, various
types of the reverse, but always with the tamgha. Reverse legend
al-hamdi lillah, taswakkadu ala Allah, or part of all of the kalima,
sometimes virtually illegible due to careless engraving. Some
varieties seem to adhere to a lesser weight, perhaps circa 1.35g).

2020B AR dirham (1.56g), anonymous, with obverse
inscription al-’izz al-da’im wa al-sharaf al-qa’im
Struck at Saray, dated 671-673, and Bulghar, dated 673.

2020C AR dirham (1.56g), anonymous, with obverse
inscription al-mult lillah al-wahid al-qahhar
Struck at Saray in 677.

2020N AR ½ dirham (0.78g), same as #2020A but struck on
narrower flans with narrower dies

Toda Mangu, 679-686 / 1280-1287

2021.1 AR dirham (1.80g), in his name
Struck at Qrim. Two variants, one dated 683 (tamgha in circle),
one undated (tamgha in triangle), the latter extremely rare.

2021.2 AR dirham (1.56g), in his name
Mint of Bulghar, reverse has mint within Solomon’s seal. Other
subtypes exist.

2021A AR dirham (1.56g), anonymous, al-’izza lillah wa li-rasulih on obverse, tamgha, date & mint on reverse
Struck at Saray, dated 681 and 682.

Toqtu (Ghiyath al-Din), 690-712 / 1291-1312

2023.1 AR dirham (heavy weight of 2.34g, = 12 nokhod), mint of Saray, known dated 690-694
Ruler’s name in either Arabic or Uighur. Many variants, all with
the phrase al-’izza lillah wa li-rasulih (“the glory is God’s and the
messageer”’s, i.e., Muhammad’s), often badly engraved.

2023.2 AR dirham (1.95g, = 10 nokhod), Saray, known
dated 696-699, possibly also later

RR 2023.3 AR dirham (1.56g, = 8 nokhod or ½ mithqal),
Saray al-Mahrusa 710 (frozen date), mint & date
within a square on reverse
Ruler’s name in Uighur instead of Arabic on obverse. Beginning
with this type, the standard denomination at Saray, later Saray
al-Jadida, and some other mints was fixed at 1.56g for the 21st
and most of the 3rd period silver coinage (with what appears to be
a slight reduction to about 1.47-1.50g after 766). Some other
mints maintained different standards, either heavier, as at
Khwarizm, or lighter, as at Qrim and Azaq.521 Some 710 pieces
are also dated 708 on the obverse!

2023.4 AR dirham (about 1.40g, = 7 nokhod), Qrim 690 or
698 (both dates frozen for several years, frequently
misspelled or completely omitted)
A few additional dates known 692-704, usually of different
designs, all very rare. These can be regarded as several
distinctive subtypes, illustrated in Zeno.

2023.5 AR dirham (1.17g, = 6 nokhod), Qrim 707 (frozen
date)

R 2023A AR dirham (2.34g, = 12 nokhod), Khwarizm, struck
690-702 with actual date (square / square)

2023B AR dirham (1.95g, = 10 nokhod), Khwarizm,
reduced weight, dated 706 & 707 (square / pointed
quadfoil)

2023C AR dirham (1.56g), Ukek mint, dated 706 (frozen?)
or undated, name in Uighur or Arabic
RR

Usually with long elaborate inscriptions, with the kalima & mint
on reverse, but types without the kalima also exist. Ukek was
located near modern Saratov in Russia.

2023D AR dirham (probably 1.56g), anonymous, Bulghar
mint, known dated 690 & 692

R Also known from the even rarer mint of Bilar, dated “292” (error
for 692 or 696).

2023H AR dirham (1.56g), Majar 710, ruler’s name in
Phags-Pa script, padshah above, al-adil below
The Phags-Pa script can easily be misread as the Arabic phrase
al-malik al-jalal

F2024 AR ½ dirham (1.18g), Saray, sometimes dated,
early 690s, as #2023.1

H2024 AR ½ dirham (0.78g), Saray al-Jadida 710, mint &
date within circle of pellets (Zeno-10977)

J2024 AR ½ dirham (probably 0.98g), Saray, probably
undated, lion & sun obverse (Zeno-27740)

Obverse closely resembles late Rum Seljuk lion & sun dirhams
struck just before and just after 700.

P2024 AR ¼ dirham (0.48g), Saray al-Jadida, similar to the
full dirham #2023.2

2024 AE pul R

Muhammad Uzbek, 712-742 / 1312-1341
(Ghiyath al-Din)

2025 AR dirham (1.56g), mint of Saray, five design
variants (see Zeno.ru)
Similar coins were also struck at Muhkhis (717-718, 726, R,
1.56g) and Azaq (mainly 733, RRR, weight uncertain).

2025A AR dirham, Bulghar (or Bulghar al-Mahrusa),
various dates 713-732, possibly later
RR

Struck to a slightly lighter standard, in the range of 1.45-1.50g.
Some mintless types bear only the tamgha on the obverse, the
short text uzbek khun on the reverse, but are assigned to Bulghar
by style and provenance.

2025C AR dirham (1.95g), Khwarizm, dated regularly from
714 to 739

S

521 According to recent works of Russian “juchilologists”, the main silver
denomination after Toqtu’s reform in 710/1310 was named dung rather than
dirham, but I have retained the term dirham for convenience. Zeno regards
the pre-710 issues of Saray of 2.34g and the subsequent 1.95g as a double
dirham, and their fractions proportionally.
2025D AR dirham (1.36g), Bulghar 728
Anonymous coin assigned to ruler by date (Singatullina-59). Although clearly 728, it may be a blundered date for 678 or 687. For an anonymous dirham dated 727 (error for 767), see #2045W.

2025E AR dirham (1.17g), Qirim 713 (square / plain circle)

2025F AR dirham (1.17g), Qirim 720 (triangular shield / inner circle)
Frozen date, believed to have been struck for as long as 30-40 years without change of date, design, or ruler’s name. The weight standard seems to be more like 1.20-1.23g, perhaps because a mithqal slightly heavier than 4.68g was then utilized in Crimea, perhaps circa 4.80-4.90g.

2025G AR dirham, as 2025F with countermark khan, normally in circular area
This countermark has tentatively been assigned to 'Abd Allah Khan, who ruled 762-771, but this remains theoretical and unproven (see #2041 for 'Abd Allah’s normal coins).

2025H AR dirham, as 2025F but countermarked with a tamgha

2025I AR dirham, as 2025F but countermarked on either side with the Kaffa gate, as on the Genoese coins of Kaffa
Date unknown. Given that the countermark is not known on the next regular series of coins struck at Qirim (dated 782 & later), it was probably applied during the 760s or 770s, for reasons that remain undetermined.

2026 AE pul
Jani Beg (Jalal al-Din Mahmud), 742-758 / 1341-1357
A2027 AV dinar, Irbil mint only, dated 757, with the Shi‘ite kalima on the reverse (Tübingen 91-16-120)

B2027 AV dinar, Amul mint, dated 758
Same style as the silver #2028A, also struck by the Afrasiyabids.

2027 AR dirham (1.56g), struck only at Saray al-Jadida ("New Saray") and nearby Gulistan
Some Saray al-Jadida dirhams of the early dates of his reign, circa 743-745, bear his name in the Uighur script, usually together with his titles jalal al-din mahmud in Arabic. These titles appear from time to time throughout his reign at Saray al-Jadida. Dirhams dated 749 bear the mint name as Saray al-Mahrusa. For posthumous issues dated 767 & 768, see #2045R & 2045S.

2027A AR dirham (1.95g), Khwarizm mint, always dated 758

2028 AR dirham (about 2.7g), Iraqi mints (principally Baghdad)
Struck by the Jalayrid ruler Shaykh Uways I in 758, just before his own name was placed on the coinage (759).

2028A AR dirham (about 3.96g), (plain circle / quatrefoil), mint of Amul, dated 758 (Zeno-96969)
Struck by the Afrasiyabid ruler in the name of Jani Beg.

2029 AR 4 dirhams, or ¼ tanka to the Delhi standard (approximately 2.75g), Bazar mint, undated
Struck by the local ruler, Amir Wali, in the name of Jani Beg, presumably at or near Astarabad (circa 757-758). This type was followed by #2009 in the name of the Chaghataiyid ruler Buyan Quli Khan (undated, circa 758-759), then #2344 (anonymous, dated, beginning 759).

2029A AR 2 dirhams (plain circle / hexafoil), several Caucasian mints, also Tabriz
Struck during the Juchid invasion of the northwestern Ilkhan lands in 758. Most mints seem to retain Jani Beg’s standard weight of 1.56g, but about 1.0g at Tiflis.

2030.1 AE pul, Russian & Central Asian mints, anonymous
Normally anonymous, assigned to Jani Beg only when dated.

2030.2 AE pul, with name of ruler, mint of Khwarizm

2030.3 AE tasuj, lion & sun on obverse, date in numerals (Zeno-65645)

Third Period (758-797)


RR After the death of Jani Beg in 758, Birdi Beg theoretically assumed the throne, but by 760 was challenged by other claimants, with the result that by 762 the kingdom had collapsed into contending regions for the next two decades. After 766 the standard dirham weight seems to have been slightly reduced from 1.56g to about 1.47g, i.e., from 8 nokhod to 7½ nokhod. However, the mints of Azaq and Khwarizm continued to maintain their own separate weight standards, as noted in the listings. By 782, Toqtamish was able to reunite most of the empire, but after his death in 797, the empire gradually succumbed to extinction.

Silver dirhams of the third period are often found clipped down considerably, probably to match the reduced weight of various fourth period dirhams. These clipped dirhams are generally worth ½ to ¾ the price of undamaged coins, less if really ugly.

For countermarks of the Crimean region applied during this period, see #2025G-2025I.

Most issues of Saray (but not Gulistan) have his Muslim name Muhammad before Birdi Beg.

Numerous dated copper puls were struck, mainly at Saray al-Jadida and Gulistan, during the period of rival khans, 760-782. Some Saray al-Jadida bear the ruler’s name as al-sultan al-adil (or something similar) above and khulida mulkuhu below, with the mint and date on the reverse.

Birdi Beg, 758-761 / 1357-1360
A2031 AV dinar, probably struck only at Tabriz
With title padshah-i jahan, not found on his other coinage.

2031.1 AR dirham (1.95g), mint of Khwarizm

2031.2 AR dirham (1.56g), mints of Saray al-Jadida & Gulistan
Most issues of Saray (but not Gulistan) have his Muslim name Muhammad before Birdi Beg.

2031.3 AR dirham (1.37g), mint of Azaq

2031A AR 2 dirhams (approximately 0.9g), Caucasian and Iranian mints, struck 758-759 at the end of the first Juchid invasion of the Ilkhanate

2031D AE pul, with name of ruler, mint of Khwarizm

Qulna Khan (or Quipa Khan), 760-761 / 1359-1360

2032.1 AR dirham (1.95g), mint of Khwarizm

2032.2 AR dirham (1.56g), mints of Saray al-Jadida & Gulistan

2032.3 AR dirham (1.37g), mint of Azaq

2032A AE pul, with name of ruler, mint of Khwarizm

Nawruz Beg (or Nawruz Khan), 760-761 / 1359-1360

2033.1 AR dirham (1.95g), mint of Khwarizm

2033.2 AR dirham (1.56g), mints of Saray al-Jadida & Gulistan
A few examples of Saray al-Jadida bear the ruler’s name as Muhammad Nawruz Beg.

2033.3 AR dirham (1.37g), mint of Azaq

2033A AE pul, with name of ruler, mint of Khwarizm

Khizr Khan, 761-762 / 1360-1361

2034.1 AR dirham (1.95g), mint of Khwarizm

2034.2 AR dirham (1.56g), mints of Saray al-Jadida & Gulistan

2034.3 AR dirham (1.37g), mint of Azaq
Timur Khwaja Khan, 762 / 1361

2036 AR dirham (1.56g), mint of Saray al-Jadida RR
2036A AE pul (reported by J. Farr) RRR

Urdu Malik Khan, 762 / 1361

2037.1 AR dirham (1.56g), mint of Saray al-Jadida RR
2037.2 AR dirham (1.37g), mint of Azaq RR

Kildi Beg, 762-763 / 1361-1362

2038.1 AR dirham (1.56g), mint of Saray al-Jadida & Gulistan RR
2038.2 AR dirham (1.37g), mint of Azaq RR
2039 AE pul, with name of ruler R

Murid Khan, 762-764 / 1361-1363

2040 AR dirham (1.56g), mint of Gulistan only R
Since all silver coins of Gulistan dated 764 are in the name of Murid Khan, it has been suggested that the anonymous copper puls of this mint & date (lion left) should also be assigned to him. If this is accepted, then this issue should be type #2040A rather than just another version of G2063.

‘Abd Allah Khan, 762-771 / 1361-1370

2041 AR dirham (1.56g), mint of Saray al-Jadida R
2041A AR dirham (1.37g), mint of Azaq RRR
2041B AR dirham (about 1.3g), mint of Yangishahr Dated 765, 766 & 770; the mint is sometimes written as Yangishahr al-Mahrusa. RRR
2041C AR dirham (about 0.9g), mint of Qrim RR
2041D AR dirham (about 1.46g), mint or Urdu Usually dated 770, other dates somewhat rarer. S
2042 AE pul, with name of ruler R

Khayr Pulad Khan, 764 / 1362-1363

2043 AR dirham (1.56g), mint of Saray al-Jadida RR
Also known as Mir Pulad Khan. Although Arabic mir and khayr are quite different when carefully written, they can look similar when crudely engraved. RRR

2043A AE pul, with name of ruler RRR

Pulad Khwaja Khan, 766 / 1364

2044 AR dirham (1.56g), mint of Gulistan only ‘Aziz Shaykh, 766-768 / 1364-1366 RRR
2045 AR dirham (1.56g), mints of Saray al-Jadida & Gulistan R
2045 AE pul, with name of ruler R "Jani Beg, deceased", 767-768 / 1365-1366 RRR

There is no textual evidence of a second Jani Beg, and it is conceivable that the name does indeed refers to the Jani Beg who died in 768/1357. Alternatively, it could refer to an unidentified rebel against ‘Abd Allah Khan who preferred to remain anonymous, or to political uncertainty after the demise of ‘Aziz Shaykh, perhaps authorized by Pulad Timur himself.

2045R AR dirham, Gulistan al-Jadid (sic), undated (BMC 493) R

This issue is sometimes attributed to a putative "Jani Beg II". The obverse inscription is al-sultan ‘aziz al-marhum / jani beg khan / khatulda mulkuhu, which refers either to ‘Aziz Shaykh or Jani Beg as “deceased” (marhum).
During the fourth period, the quality of production disintegrated, with fully struck specimens virtually nonexistent. For most rulers after Pulad Khan, typically only ¼ to ½ of the inscriptions are visible, with calligraphy often so carelessly engraved that the legends are undecipherable. The principal 4th period mints are Qrim, Bulghar and Hajji Tarkhan, usually each with its own local weight standard.

Notable mints include:

- **Beg Qibal**
  - Known from Saray al-Jadida, Hajji Tarkhan and without mint name, none with decipherable date.
  - **O2048 AR dirham (perhaps 1.17g)**
  - Known from Saray al-Jadida, Hajji Tarkhan and without mint name, none with decipherable date.
  - **2049 AR dirham (1.46g, ≈ ¾ nokhod)**

- **Toqtamish (Nasir al-Din)**
  - **778-797 / 1376-1395**

- **R2048 AV fractional dinar, struck only at Khwarizm**
  - **784-786**

- **2051 AR dirham**
  - **Known from Saray al-Jadida, Hajji Tarkhan and without mint name, none with decipherable date.**
  - **2052 AR dirham (1.17g, = 6 nokhod)**
  - **2053 AR dirham (0.78g, = 4 nokhod)**
  - **2054 AR tanka, Khwarizm mint (4.5-5.0g)**

- **Tash Timur Khan**
  - Fl. 796 / 1394 or later
  - **2055 AR dirham (1.17g, = 6 nokhod)**
  - **2056 AR dirham (~1.07g)**

- **Pulad Khan**
  - **809-814 / 1407-1411**

- **Timur Qutlugh**
  - **797-803 / 1395-1401**

- **Timur Beg**
  - **803-810 / 1410-1407**

- **Shadi Beg**
  - **802-805 / 1411-1408**

- **Beg Jibal**
  - Probably 770s / 1370s or 780s / 1380s

- **Toqtamish (Nasir al-Din)**
  - **778-790 R**

- **R2049 AR dirham**, **Khwarizm mint**, **Anonymous but struck by**
  - **781-780 RR**

- **R2050A AE pul, Khwarizm mint**, **Anonymous but struck by**
  - **781-780 RR**

- **2050.2 AE pul, in his name, no mint or date**

- **2050A AE pul, Khwarizm mint, anonymous but struck by**
  - **the Sufid vassal**
  - **Saray RRR**

- **2051 AR dirham**
  - **Known from Saray al-Jadida, Hajji Tarkhan and without mint name, none with decipherable date.**

**FOURTH PERIOD (797-869)**

During the fourth period, the quality of production disintegrated, with fully struck specimens virtually nonexistent. For most rulers after Pulad Khan, typically only ¼ to ½ of the inscriptions are visible, with calligraphy often so carelessly engraved that the legends are undecipherable. The principal 4th period mints are Qrim, Bulghar and Hajji Tarkhan, usually each with its own local weight standard.

Until about the year 814, most mints other than Bulghar maintained a standard of 1.17g (6 nokhod), thereafter reduced first to about 1.07g (5½ nokhod), then to 0.98g (5 nokhod). Between the 820s the standard becomes less clear, with a wider variation amongst individual specimens of the same ruler and mint. Bulghar used a standard of 0.78g (4 nokhod) until about 820, thereafter 0.58g (3 nokhod).

Clipped-down specimens of all types are commonplace.

Although nearly all coins bear the name of a mint, from about 815 and onwards, and especially after 825, most coins are undated.

**Timur Qutlugh, 797-803 / 1395-1401**

**C 2052 AR dirham (1.17g, = 6 nokhod)**
  - Mints of Qrim and Urdu (or Urdu al-Jadid, sometimes written as Ululq al-Jadida) R

**Shadi Beg, 803-810 / 1410-1407**

Some coins of Urdu and Azaq mints are dated 802, perhaps engraver’s errors for 806.

**C 2053 AR dirham (1.17g), Russian mints**
  - **Principal mints are Saray al-Jadida, Kaffa, Urdu, Azaq and Hajji Tarkhan, each with different styles. Urdu is the only mint that is truly common. All mint names sometimes followed by al-jadida.**

**2052A AR dirham (1.17g, = 6 nokhod)**

- **Khwarizm mint, dated 808-810 RR**
  - **Khwarizm was seized from the Timurids by Shadi late in 808, and held by the Golden Horde for about 7 years, then reconquered by the Timurids.**

**2053B AR dirham (0.78g, = 4 nokhod)**
  - **With formula khalada Allah malkahu, which appears on most coins of Bulghar during the fourth period.**

**2054 AR tanka, Caucasian mints (4.5-5.0g)**
  - **Actually issued by the Shirvanshah Ibrahim I, but in the name of Shadi Beg, struck circa 809-812.**

**Pulad Khan, 810-813 / 1407-1411**

**C 2055 AR dirham (1.17g), mints of Hajji Tarkhan & Urdu**
  - **Also the rarer mints Saray al-Jadida, Kaffa & Azaq S**

**2055A AR dirham, Khwarizm mint (1.17g), known dated all years 810-813 RR**

**2055B AR dirham (0.78g), Bulghar mint S**

**2055C AR dirham (1.17g), no mint or date, kalima on the reverse (Zeno-87968)**

**2055P AE pul, Khwarizm mint, anonymous but date 811 (bird on reverse) or 812 (quadruped on reverse) RRR**

**Timur Khan, 813-814 / 1411-1412**

**A2056 AR dirham (0.78g), Bulghar mint RR**

**B2056 AR dirham (1.17g), Khwarizm mint, dated 813 RR**

**C2056 AR dirham (~1.07g), Kaffa, Urdu & Azaq mints RR**

**527 The mint of Bulghar was not in operation after AH734 under Muhammad Uzbek until 807 under Shadi Beg, except for a few copper puls under Jani Beg and Muhammad Bulagh.**

**528 Recent studies by Roman Reva and others in Russia have shown that some weight standards were somewhat lighter than the weights indicated here. For example, the Khwarizm dirhams of Shadi Beg and his three successors followed a weight closer to 1.12g than 1.17g. It might surmise that the difference was because the weight of the mithqal varied somewhat from region to region. This difference might represent a mithqal of about 4.68g in Saray al-Jadida, but only 4.48g at Khwarizm. Similar difference occurred at Astarabad during the late Ilkhan and Amir of Astarabad period. The Ilkhan mithqal of about 4.32g was replaced in most of Iran by a much heavier mithqal of approximately 4.78g towards the end of the 8th/14th century, then gradually reduced to about 4.61g by the end of the 9th/15th century, still in use in Iran today.**

**529 The Qrim coins are dated 796 but undoubtedly struck later. It appears that the mint of Qrim maintained the frozen date 796 for several years, first on the dirhams naming Toqtamish, then Tash Timur, finally Timur Qutlugh. However, I have retained the 0.78g amount for convenience, until further analysis has been undertaken.**

**530 A recent study has indicated a weight of about 0.76g in 805-806, then 0.72g from later in 806 until about 822 (end of reign of Darwish Khan). However, I have retained the 0.78g amount for convenience, until further analysis has been undertaken.**

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Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 223
2056 AR dirham (~1.07g), without mint, kalima reverse

Jalal al-Din, 813-815 / 1411-1412

2056 AR dirham (1.07g), mints of Saray, Haji Tarkhan, Urdu al-Mu’azzam
Some adhere to a lighter standard, either 1.02g or 0.98g.
Urdu al-Mu’azzam usually dated 815.

2056A AR dirham (1.17g), Khwarizm mint, known dated 815 & 815
This is the last Juchid coinage at Khwarizm. There also exists an anonymous copper of Khwarizm 814 that can be assigned to Jalal al-Din (Zeno-40723).

2056B AR dirham (0.68g), Bulghar mint

2056G AR dirham (~1.07g, i.e., about 5½ nokhod), without mint or date
Both obverse & reverse have short inscriptions within a square, al-sultan / al-adil on obverse, ruler’s name on reverse. The weight standard is conjectural at the present. Mint unknown.

Karim Birdi Khan, 814-815 / 1412-1413

F2057 AR dirham (0.98g??), Saray mint

G2057 AR dirham (~1.07g, = 5½ nokhod), without mint or date (style as 2056G)

Chakra Khan, fl. 816-818 / 1414-1416

A2057 AR dirham (0.98g, = 5 nokhod) Struck at Saray (dated 818), Haji Tarkhan (dated 817 & 818) and Urdu-yi Mu’azzam (undated), presumably all to the same standard.

B2057 AR dirham (0.67g, = 3½ nokhod). Bulghar mint, undated

Jabbar Birdi Khan, fl. 817-819 / 1415-1417

J2057 AR dirham (weight unknown)\(^3\) Known from Haji Tarkhan (dated 818), Saray (undated) and Ordu-yi Mu’azzam (dated 819).

Sayyid Ahmad I Khan, fl. 819 / 1417

S2057 AR dirham (weight unknown) Known from Saray (undated) and Urdu-yi Mu’azzam (dated 819).

Kebek Khan, 817-820 / 1414-1417

2057 AR dirham (probably 0.98g), mint of Haji Tarkhan

2057A AR dirham (0.67g), mint of Bulghar

2057G AR dirham (~1.07g, i.e., 5½ nokhod), without mint or date (style as 2056G)

Darwish Khan, 817-822+/ 1414-1419+

A2058 AR dirham (0.98g), mints of Urdu-yi Mu’azzam & Haji Tarkhan

B2058 AR dirham (0.67g), mint of Bulghar

Virtually unknown in the commercial market, but at least one large hoard has been published in Russian literature.

C2058 AR dirham (0.98g), mint of Qrim, dated 822, 823 and 824 (sic)
Normally citing Edik (Edigi) on the reverse along with the mint name. Ediku was the military general & effective leader of the Golden Horde at that time, though never formally ruling on his own. There is no explanation why Darwish’s name was retained after 822.

Qadir-Birdi Khan, circa 822-823 / 1419-1420

H2058 AR dirham (possibly 0.67g), mint of Bulghar

Beg Sufi, fl. 822-824 / 1419-1421

N2058 AR dirham (usually less than 0.98g), mint of Qrim, in his sole name, dated 822-824 or undated

\(^3\) Thanks to Vladimir Belyaev for providing information confirming Jabbar Birdi Khan and Sayyid Ahmad Khan. Was this ruler a “jabbering bird”?

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 224
Anonymous, circa 640 / 1240 until the end of the dynasty

F2063 AR dirham, various examples derived from various inscribed dirhams, mostly struck during the second half of the 14th century

G2063 AE pul, struck from about 640/1240 until the end of the dynasty, normally undated

C

These pulses exist in bewildering variety. Most lack mint name, and virtually all are undated after about 790. Many bear pictorial devices, such as animals, horsemen, floral elements, etc. Others typically bear geometric patterns, often quite attractive. Some lack inscriptions altogether (anepigraphic).

It appears that most of these anonymous coins were struck in the Crimea, with the latest issues likely overlapping the beginning of the Giray Khan period. They weigh from about 0.3g to more than 4g. They were often poorly struck and are commonly found worn, damaged or corroded.

KHANATE OF SAQCHI (NOGHAYID)

A small khanate that split off from the Golden Horde, centered at the city of Saqchi, now Isaccea in Romania. The dynasty is also known as the Noghayids after the first coin-issuing ruler.

Noghay, d. 699 / 1300

H2063 AR dirham (1.35-1.5g), mint of Saqchi, undated

RR

Arabic inscriptions only, with Khan al-adil nughayan, the end of the 3rd word somewhat uncertain. The reverse has the mint name divided into two parts by a fleur-de-lys, with al-mannatu lillah above, divided by the tamgha. The style and epigraphy of both this type, #I2063 and J2063 are derived from contemporary Rum Seljuk dirhams.

I2063 AR dirham, bird (hawk?) left, mint of Saqchi, undated (Zeno-90639)

RRR

With mint name, tamgah and al-mannatu lillah above the bird.

J2063 AR dirham, heraldic lion left, mint of Saqchi, undated (Zeno-793059), arrangement as #I2063

RR

K2063.1 AE fals, with name of ruler, mint of Saqchi and undated

RR?

K2063.2 AE fals, similar, but anonymous

RR?

Chaka (b. Noghay), 699-700 / 1300-1302

L2063 AR dirham, without mint or date

RRR

Obverse has a horseman right, with the Greek name ΤΗΧΕΡΟΝΟΓΑΕΣ above & to the right, the reverse a tamgha in central circle, with Greek ΤΗΧΕΡΟΝΟΓΑΕΣ in the margin (Zeno-91669).

SUFID (IN KHWARIZM) (QONGIRAT SUFIS)


A local dynasty of Turkish origin that briefly assumed power from the Golden Horde at Khwarizm until driven out by Timur. All their coinage is anomalous.

The only mint of the Sufids is Khwarizm. Most coins are carefully struck, though the copper pulses are commonly found worn or corroded, as they appear to have circulated extensively. The silver and gold are usually found in excellent condition.

Designs were changed frequently, roughly every year or two in each metal, creating numerous subtypes for each major type.

temp. Husayn, 762-774 / 1361-1372

2063 AR fractional dinar (1.15g, = ¼ mithqal)

R

2064 AR dirham

R

T2065 AE tasuj (about 8-12g)

RR

With the denominator in the legend, to be interpreted either as tasuj or tasug, with hard “t”.

2065 AE pul (about 1.8-3.5g)

S

2068 AR akçe (about 0.75g)

C

Mints: Ordubazar, Qrim, Qirig-Yer. Retowski has divided this series into 6 groups: (1) Qrim 845, (2) Ordubazar, undated, (3) Qirig-Yer 885, (4) Qirig-Yer seemingly dated 867, (5) Qirim, blundered date versions of Group 5. The three years are frozen dates comparable to contemporary Ottoman and Isfendiyarid akçes, frequently

GIRAY KHANS (QRM)

Retowski, O., Die Münzen der Girei, Moscow 1901-1905 (reprint: n.p., 1982), the standard work, and still up-to-date for much of the series.

Khromov, Konstantin, www.hordecoins.folget.net, all illustrated. There are also more than 500 specimens illustrated on Zeno.ru.

The early coinage of the Giray Khans of the Crimea consisted of small silver akçes, probably following the Ottoman weight standard. The akçe was replaced circa 1660 by a heavier coin known as a beşlik, “five”, equal to five akçes and commonly called “para”, at first 1.3 grams, then gradually reduced to less than one gram by the end of the dynasty, with increasing debasement of the alloy from about 1750 onwards. A few later rulers also struck akçes, always rarer than the paras (beşlik).

Under the last ruler, Shahin Giray, who accepted Russian suzerainty, a large number of denominations were introduced, modeled on contemporary Russian coinage.

The rarity of Giray Khan coins stated here can be very tentative and likely to change now that Russia and Ukraine have become connected to the world numismatic market. Some formally very rare akçes have recently become surprisingly common, e.g., type #2071 of Muhammad Giray I, thanks to large hoards recently marketed.

Coins of the Giray Khans were struck at six mints, five of which, namely Qrim, Qirig-Yer, Kaffa, Guzu, and Ordubazar, were in operation up to and including Jani Beg Giray (d. 1032), though except possibly for the reign of Hajji Giray I, only one of these mints operated at any given time. Thereafter, beginning with the reign of Islam Giray III (#2081), all coins were struck at Baghcha-Saray (except for #2117 of the last ruler, Shahin Giray, struck only at Kaffa).

Coins of the first three reigns (#2068-2070) as well as most types of Shahin Giray, the last ruler of the dynasty, are well struck. Coins of most other reigns are haphazardly struck, with issues of the 17th and the 18th century representing the nadir of quality, especially the debased silver beşliks of the last several rulers before Shahin Giray. In general, two or more specimens are needed to piece together most of the inscription. This is not a series for those craving for lovely examples of Islamic numismatic art!

Nearly all coins bear the royal protocol on the obverse in the form khan X giray bin Y giray khan, but usually only a fragment of the inscription is legible after the first three reigns. For this reason, the father of each khan is noted, to assist with identification.

Of the several rulers who served multiple reigns it is normally difficult or impossible to determine which reign unless the date is clear or the coin is die-linked to a legible date. The illustrations of Retowski usually enable the numismatist to determine the exact reign. For this reason, I have changed the catalog numbers so that a general number can be used for a specific ruler and subordinate numbers for his individual reigns. For example, I have used 2085.1, 2085.2, 2085.3 and 2085.4 for the four reigns of Selim Giray I formerly 2085, 2087 and 2089 (for the first three the 4th reign was omitted in the 2nd edition). Coins of Selim Giray I without readable dates and not assigned to a specific reign may now be grouped under the comprehensive number 2085.

The reigns are listed in chronological order, with the result that some of the type numbers are now out of order, hopefully not too confusing.

Hajji Giray I, 824-871 / 1420-1466

temp. Yusuf, 774-781 / 1372-1379

A2066 AV fractional dinar (1.15g) RR

2066 AR dirham R

2067 AE pul S

A number of undated silver and copper types have not been assigned to a specific ruler. Some coppers bear a pictorial device.

The third Sufid ruler, Sulayman, 781-790, struck silver dirhams in the name of the Golden Horde ruler Toqtamish, together with anonymous gold and copper coins. These are all listed under Toqtamish (#2048, R2048, 2050A).

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 225
misspelled or blundered. The year 858 issue is by far the most common.  

2068A AE mangır, mint of Qirim-Yer  

2068K AR akçe, about 0.90-1.20g, Latin legend and arms of Genoa on obverse, Arabic inscription & the Giray tamgha on reverse  
The type was struck for several decades, with numerous subtypes (see the work of Retowski in the Golden Horde bibliography). The latest issues were reduced to 0.7g or even less and bear a totally blundered Arabic inscription.

Nur Dawlat Giray (b. Hajji Giray I), several short reigns between 871 / 1466 and 884 / 1478  

2069 AR akçe (0.75g), mint of Qrim only, sometimes dated 871, possible later dates reported  

2069A AE mangır, without mint or date  
The reverse has three stars around the tamgha, but no inscription.

Mengli Giray I (b. Hajji Giray I), 871-920 / 1466-1514  

2070 AR akçe (about 0.65g)  
Mints of Kaffa & Qrim. Normally dated 881 or 921, but with the possible exception of the year 900, only one mint at any given time.  
The earliest types have the title sultan al-a'zam mengli with the patronymic and without giray (RR). Later issues lack sultan al-a'zam but mention the patronymic (bin hajji giray).

Muhammad Giray I (b. Mengli Giray I), 920-929 / 1514-1523  

2071 AR akçe (apparent weight standard of about 0.65g)  
Mints of Kaffa & Qirim. Normally dated 891 or 921, or of which 921 is rare. Akçes of Kaffa have the word sana above the date, those of Qrim lack the word sana altogether.

Sa'adat Giray I (b. Mengli Giray I), 929-939 / 1523-1532  

2072 AR akçe, known dated 929, mint of Kaffa (0.60-0.61g)  
Mint name is rarely legible. Some examples seem to have been struck without a mint name.

Sahib Giray I (b. Mengli Giray I), 939-957 / 1523-1550  

2073 AR akçe, Qirim-Yer mint (0.58g)  
Known dated 941, 945 (alternatively read as 940), and 947.

Dawlat Giray I (b. Mubarak Giray, who was never named khan), 957-985 / 1500-1577  
From this reign until the end of the dynasty all coins are dated with accession year, though most specimens are so poorly struck that the date is illegible, until the final ruler, Shahin Giray.

2074 AR akçe, Qirim-Yer mint (0.58g)  
Most coins of this and the next two reigns are often struck in highly debased silver, occasionally described as copper in the literature. The simultaneous usage of good silver and various levels of debasement is peculiar.

Muhammad Giray II (b. Dawlat Giray I), 985-992 / 1577-1584  

2075 AR or billon akçe (0.58g)  
The mint name for this reign is undetermined. All examples are ghastly struck.

Islam Giray II (b. Dawlat Giray I), 992-996 / 1584-1588  

2076 AR or billon akçe, Guzlu mint (0.58g)  
Guzlu was a fortress near the city of Baghcha-Saray, the sole mint from 992 until 1032.

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533 In 2009 a massive hoard of at least 2000 akçes of Hajji Giray entered the market.  
534 See Dmitry Markov auction #9, 14-15 December 2000, #222j.  
535 Retowski has confirmed years 881-898, 900 and 911-914 for Qirim-Yer mint, 899-904 for Kaffa and both 905-909 and 915-920 for Qrim. All are common, especially those of Kaffa, despite its short operation. Blundered dates are common.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 226
Recently discovered, not listed by Retowski, several at Zeno.

Selim Giray I, 2nd reign, 1095-1102 / 1684-1690
2085.2 AR bek (formerly #2087) (1.28g) R

2085A AR akçe (about 0.25g), known dated 1095, but possibly produced throughout his reigns with only his accessional year.

A third denomination of about 0.6g is known (KM-21), though it might be merely a cut-down version of the akçe.

Sa’adat Giray II (b. Qrim Giray, who was never khan), 1102-1103 / 1690-1691
2087 AR bek (1.28g) RRR

This ruler’s reign was given as just 1103 in the 2nd edition, but his actual accession occurred in 1102, as confirmed by the coins. Note that #2087 was formerly used for Selim Giray I.

2087A AE akçe (0.26g)

Safa Giray (b. Safa Giray, who was never khan), 1103-1104 / 1691-1692
2088 AR bek (1.28g) RR

2088A AR akçe (about 0.25g) RRR

Selim Giray I, 3rd reign, 1104-1110 / 1692-1699
2085.3 AR bek (formerly #2089) (1.05g) R

Known coins with date are always AH1108.

Dawlat Giray II (b. Selim Giray I), 1st reign, 1110-1114 / 1699-1702
2090.1 AR bek (1.05g) R

Although according to historical literature, Dawlat Giray II ascended the throne in Ramadan 1110, his coins are invariably dated 1111, for undetermined reasons.

2090A AR akçe (roughly 0.20g) RRR

Akçes of this type are known dated 1111, thus within the first reign of this ruler. Later issues may exist.

Selim Giray I, 4th reign, 1114-1116 / 1702-1704
2085.4 AR bek (not listed in previous Checklist) (1.05g) R

Ghazi Giray III (b. Selim Giray I), 1116-1119 / 1704-1707
2091 AR bek (1.05g)

Qaplan Giray I (b. Selim Giray I), 1st reign, 1119-1120 / 1707-1708
2092.1 AR bek (1.05g) R

Coins without legible date cannot be assigned to the first, second or third reign and should be classified as #2092, unless they can be confirmed by illustrations provided by Retowski or Zeno, etc.

Dawlat Giray II, 2nd reign, 1121-1125 / 1708-1713
2092.2 AR bek (1.05g) R

Coins without legible date cannot be assigned to the first or second reign and should be classified as #2092. However, according to the coins, these seem to have been produced throughout his reign.

Qaplan Giray I, 2nd reign, 1125-1128 / 1713-1716
2092.2 AR bek (formerly #2094) (1.05g) R

Sa’adat Giray III (b. Selim Giray I), 1129-1137 / 1717-1724
2095 AR bek (1.05g) R

Mengli Giray II (b. Selim Giray I), 1st reign, 1137-1143 / 1724-1730
2095A AR akçe (0.20g) RRR

Coins without legible date cannot be assigned to the first or second reign and should be classified as #2096.

2096.1 AR bek (about 0.80g)
Dawlat Giray III (b. Arslan Giray), 1st reign, 1182-1183 / 1769-1770

Coins without legible date cannot be assigned to the first or second reign and should be classified as #2107.

2107.1 BI beşlik (0.60g) R

Selim Giray III, 2nd reign, 1184-1185 / 1771-1772

2104.2 BI beşlik (formerly #21209) (0.60g) RR

Qaplan Giray II (b. Selim Giray II), 1183-1184 / 1770-1771

2108 BI beşlik (0.60g) RR

A heavier coin weighing about 1.6g, also of billon, has been confirmed but further research is needed to determine its actual denomination (beşlik?).

Sahib Giray II (b. Ahmad Giray, who was never khan), 1185-1189 / 1772-1775

2109 BI beşlik (0.60g) R

Dawlat Giray III, 2nd reign, 1189-1191 / 1775-1777

2107.2 BI beşlik (formerly #2110) (0.60g) RR

Shahin Giray (b. Ahmad Giray), as Russian vassal, 1191-1197 / 1777-1783

Please note the rearrangement of types of this reign.

First series (regnal years 1-4): Types #R2114-2116 appear to follow some sort of monetary reform at the commencement of his reign, with the former beşlik replaced by a para struck in heavily debased billon, often appearing to be pure copper. 366

The obverse of the silver coins of the first series all have 3-line or 4-line horizontal inscriptions, together with traditional reverses bearing the mint & date. The 5, 10 and 20 para coins may have been struck in somewhat debased silver. There appears to have been no relationship between the Crimean silver coins and their contemporary Ottoman or Russian denominations. Only the copper coins of the second series were related to their Russian equivalents.

R2114 AR 20 para (yirmilik) (about 6.3g) RRR

2114 AR 10 para (onlik) (about 3.15g) RRR

R2116 AR 5 para (beşlik) (about 1.62g) RRR

2116A AR ağaçe (about 0.18-0.20g) RRR

2116 BI para (about 1.40-1.50g) S RR

2116B BI 2 ağaçe (iliük) (about 0.6g) (Zeno-81489) RR

Second series (regnal years 4-7):

The introduction of the second series coincides with a monetary reform adopted during the 4th year of his reign (~1780), and are known with regnal years 4 through 7, though not all types are known for every year. Silver coins and the monstrous copper ischal all bear a toughra on the obverse, together with mint & date on the reverse in the traditional format.

2111 AR 60 para (almushlik) (about 20g) RR

2112 AR 40 para (piaster) (about 14g) RRR

2113 AR 20 para (about 7g) RRR

2115 AR 5 para (about 1.6g) RRR

2117 AE ischal (10 kopeck, about 75-85 grams), Kaffa mint only RR

All others coins of this ruler were struck at Baghcha-Saray.

2118 AE kýrmy (5 kopeck, about 45-55 grams) S

2119 AE kopec (10-13 grams) S

2120 AE denga (½ kopeck, 4.5-6 grams) R

2120A AE polushka (½ denga, circa 2.5-2.8g) RR

WARNING: Gold coins purported to be an off-metal strike of the billon para (#2116) appeared in the market in the mid 1990s. Their epigraphy is totally wrong, so there can be little doubt that they are modern forgeries. However, several types of genuine and much heavier gold metallic coins have long been confirmed (Rotowski #242-243), struck at both Kaffa & Baghcha-Saray, weighing 15-22 grams as opposed to the approximately 3 gram forgeries.

ILKHANS (MONGOLS OF PERSIA) (HULAGUID)

Mubarak Ghâlib, Muhammad, Catalogue des monnaies djenguisides, ilkhanides, aijdouides et des Khans de Crimée, Constantinople, 1318/1901 (text in Ottoman Turkish).

Seyfeddini, M.A., Money Ilkhanov XIV Veku, Baku 1968.


Diler, Ömer, Ilkhan: Coinage of the Persian Mongols, Istanbul 2006. This is now the standard general catalog for the Ilkhan coinage, providing extensive lists of types, mints and known dates.

This is now the standard general catalog for the Ilkhan coinage, providing extensive lists of types, mints and known dates. The arrangement and organization was never quite finished, due to Diler’s early death, but his widow Emine Ömer, Gino Kurkman, and J.C. Hinrichs did an excellent job completing the publication.358

Zeno.ru currently has more than 2200 Ilkhan coins illustrated.

The coinage of the Ilkhans (Hulaguids) can be divided into three periods, the period of local coinages (roughly 654/696 / 1256-1297), the period of uniform coinage (696-736 / 1297-1335), and the period of divided rule and coinage (736-758 / 1335-1357). All periods saw coinage in all three metals, but silver remained the basic element of the currency system throughout their sovereignty.

The second phase of Ghazan Mahmud’s coinage reform in 697/1298 introduced a silver dinar of three mithqal s (about 12.96g), together with a dirham (= ½ dinar) of 2.16 grams. 359

During the following reigns, the dirham was periodically reduced in weight, a process that was repeated many times throughout the 14th century and which can be regarded as a devaluation of the currency in terms of its value in silver. Each devaluation was accompanied by a change of design, so that coins of different weight standards can be easily distinguished by sight, even by an illiterate peasant. In addition, the fineness of the silver coinage was never manipulated, so that the public could remain confident of its purity. Several denominations were usually produced

358 Since Diler’s work was incomplete at the time of his death, the published version is somewhat sophomoric, but nonetheless quite valuable. Some of the mint names are only tentatively read and identified, and many of the recorded dates are uncertain, largely because they are taken from previous works and were never verified. But all and all, it is an excellent and extremely useful work. The only serious problem is that silver coins are not separated by denomination, e.g., his type Ab-488, where for each listed mint/date combination, it does not indicate whether it is a half dirham, dirham, double dirham, or six dirhams. Nonetheless, my most sincere congratulations to Emine and her assistants for completing this immense study for publication.

359 By the 640s/1240s, the Mongols had already introduced the silver dinar as a unit of account equivalent to six dirhams. The silver dirnar was not represented by an actual coin until after the reform of Ghazan Mahmud.
simultaneously, with the double dirham the preferred denomination in most parts of the Ilkhanate. 540

During the late period (1335-1357), rival khans were set up by various amirs, each with his agenda and his own coinage. Many local types were produced in addition to the main types. All the principal types and a large selection of the local types are included here; most unlisted types are very rare. Weights for each standard and denomination are indicated; most specimens weigh close to the standard, unless worn, corroded or damaged.

No Islamic coinage was produced at a greater number of mints than the Ilkhan coinage, with more than 250 mints thus far confirmed, and additional mints still being discovered. While a few mints such as Tabriz & Baghdad 541 remained prolific producers throughout the dynastic existence, most others were short-lived or sporadic issuers (though not necessarily rare!). Some indication of mints is provided under individual types & issuers when deemed appropriate. A full listing of the mints, their locations, and known dates for each ruler and type is in Diler’s work.

The mint of Bazar requires a special note. Bazar, which means “market”, bazar in English, was a peripatetic mint, attached to the imperial court or a military division. The mint, including presumably much of their equipment, dies, etc., stayed with the court and traveled with the Ilkhan as part of his entourage. Subordinate governors or army generals occasionally had their own “bazar” during military actions, but struck their coins as standard types in the name of the Ilkhan suzerain. In a few cases, the term bazar was combined with an additional modifier, such as bazar-i lashtik (“army bazar”) or bazar-i khorasan (“bazar of Khorasan”), etc. 542

In general, Ilkhan coins were carefully struck, even more so after Ghazan Mahmud’s reform in 696/1297. Poorly struck coins missing date or mint became more common again from the mid-700s to 758. Quality control varied from mint to mint, and sometimes from year to year as well. Collectors can generally expect to acquire a clear example of most common and scarce types at reasonable cost, though prices have risen substantially since the mid 2000s. The die-work is almost always of high quality, especially after Ghazan’s reform, though all too often individual specimens fail to convey that excellence, due to inferior strike or preservation.

The earlier Ilkhans were frequently cited as overlords on the vassal coinages of the Qutlughkhanids, Salghurids, Atabegs of Yazd, kings of Hormuz (Qalhati Amirs), and a few others. Ghazan Mahmud suppressed all the vassal coinage as part of his great reform, probably in response to the rebellion of the Qutlughkhanid ruler of Kirman, Shah Sultan, in 696. Vassal coinages are listed under the appropriate vassal dynasty.

The curious exception is Anatolia ruled by the Rum Seljuqs, defeated by the Mongols prior to Hulagu’s accession. Unlike other conquered dynasties, the Rum Seljuqs were not required to cite their Great Mongol or Ilkhan suzerain until a brief joint issue under Kayqubad III, where mints in central and eastern Anatolia added the name of Ghazan Mahmud to Kayqubad III in 697-698, purely Ilkhan legends without the Seljuq thereafter. Only in western Anatolia, where Ilkhan power had vanished, were coins struck in the name of the Rum Seljuq alone. The immensity of the Ilkhan coinage is mindboggling. Given the many denominations, mints, dates, varieties and significant subvariants, at least 20,000 versions are currently known, with dozens upon dozens still discovered annually. Perhaps an internet catalog might prove feasible, as publishing a multivolume traditional printed corpus would surely be financially challenging.

1st Period: Local Coinage

During this period (656-696) the administration of Ilkhan coinage had not yet been centralized. Individual or regional groups of mints each maintained a distinctive coinage, principally in silver, occasionally adhering to local standards of weight & fineness, almost always derived from previous coinage in the area.

There are three basic types of gold coinage. The initial type, struck from 656 until about 696 or 697, followed the ingot coinage with widely varying weights for individual specimens, adopted from the previous ‘Abbassid dinars. During the reigns of Hulagu and Abaqa, miserable broad thin dinars were struck at northeastern mints, principally Astara and Damghan. Finally, in 675 a standard dinar of one mithqal (about 4.32g) was introduced, at first only at Tabriz, later as several other mints, including Hamadan and Baghdad, always with the Uighur obverse (and the ruler’s name in Arabic after 682).

The mithqal dinars bear the Mongol word arigu at the end of the Uighur inscriptions, interpreted as “pure” by Badarch, found at all issues of Tabriz and occasionally at other mints.

Most dirhams were struck to a standard of 2.88g before 678, and 2.52g thereafter (until 697), though several regions maintained their own local standards, especially in the northeast. Copper was a local affair, with a great variety of different types and standards.

Types #2121-2131 and 2138-2274 all bear the name of the ruler, save for a few subvarieties of 2152-2154. Types 2132-2137 are anonymous.

Hulagu, 654-663 / 1256-1265

The first coinage bearing the name of Hulagu is dated 656, following the Ilkhan conquest of Baghdad, also citing the Great Mongol ruler Möngke until about 659. Earlier coinage citing only Möngke is listed under the Great Mongols, anonymous coinage either under the Great Mongols or the Qa’an al-Adil series (types #2132 ff.).

2121.1 AV dinar, citing Möngke as overlord RR

Struck at Baghdad and al-Mawsil, possibly also at al-Basra. An ingot-style coinage, with random weights, typically between 4 and 8 grams.

The political text is usually qa’an al-‘azam möngke khan hulagu khan, sometimes with the name Hulagu preceded by ilkhan al-ma’azzam, same on silver.

2121.2 AV dinar, in the sole name of Hulagu RR

Ingot style, struck at Baghdad and possibly also at al-Mawsil. The standard inscription is qa’an al-‘azam hulagu ilkhan al-ma’azzam, same on silver.

2121.3 AR dirham, citing Möngke, struck at mints in Iraq and the Jazira (approximately 2.9g) C

Struck principally at Baghdad, al-Mawsil & Irbil. Many examples of types #2121-2123 cite part or all of the Qur’an Verse 3:26 in the obverse or reverse margin, occasionally in both margins, in which case the mint & date are omitted. See the note to #2277.1.

2122. AR dirham, without Möngke (circa 2.9g) C

All varieties of types #2121 and 2122 have the obverse & reverse fields within an inner circle, surrounded by a marginal legend. The arrangement of the field legend varies. Dirhams of Hulagu were struck posthumously at most mints, as late as 679 at Mardin. Other mints began naming Abaqa between 664 and 678, of which Baghdad was the first. It is not known why the change did not take place simultaneously at all mints, either for that matter, why Hulagu’s name was retained posthumously on so much of the western regional coinage. The common mints are Baghdad, al-Jazira, al-Mawsil, Irbil, Urmia (sometimes misread as al-Hilla) and especially Mardin, by far the most plentiful. All bear Qur’an Verse 3:26 in either the obverse or reverse margin, with the mint/date text in the opposite margin. Occasionally, both margins bear Qur’an 3:26, leaving no place available for the mint or date.

Many coins of this type (and the similar half dirham) bear the word khariz, “protected”, beneath the obverse field. 544

The weight standard is somewhat variable, and seems to differ from mint to mint, e.g., about 2.9g for Baghdad and al-Mawsil, 3.05 for Irbil, but only 2.8g for Mardin (reduced to roughly 2.5g after about 673). Further research essential!

Types #2121.1 & 2122.1 cite the Great Mongol Möngke as overlord by his name, whereas #2121.2, 2122.2 and most of the fractional coins cite the Great Mongol overlord anonymously merely as Qu’an. Möngke is occasionally cited after his death in 657/1259.

540 In general, central Iran, Iraq, the Caucasus and eastern Anatolia preferred the double dirham, central and western Anatolia the single dirham, Khorasan the sextuple dirham, which was also known as the dinar.

541 Since its opening in AH146, the mint of Baghdad was known as Madinan al-Salām (“city of peace”) on the coinage until the Mongol conquest in 656.

542 Commencing late that same year, the mint was always inscribed on the Ilkhan coins as Baghdad, occasionally together with the epithet Madinan al-Salām, or more rarely, Dar al-Salām.

543 The practice was not an Ilkhan innovation. The Sasaniats maintained a military court mint, signed BBA on the coins, but the practice died out after the Umayyad coinage reform until revived by the Ilkhans nearly 600 years later. Thereafter, the tradition survived intermittently in Iran until the Ujar ruler Fath ‘Ali Shah (1797-1834), except that the name of the court mint was periodically changed, e.g., urdu or urdu-yi humayun under the Timurids, khariz under the Safavids, and rehāb under the Zands and Qajars.

544 According to Diler & the collection in Tübingen, the last posthumous issues in the name of Hulagu are dated 664 at Baghdad, 674 at al-Jazira, 675 at al-Mawsil, 677 at Urmia, 678 at Irbil, and 679 at Mardin.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 229
AR dirham, obverse & reverse fields in hexagram. Sinjar mint (approximately 2.4g)

AR ½ dirham, similar to #2122.2, frequently without mint name (approximately 1.45g). Varieties assigned to Baghdad normally lack the mint name, whereas coins of other locations usually bear the mint name.

AR ½ dirham, no mint name (approximately 0.95g). Probably struck only at Baghdad with a triangular central design on both sides, apparently indicating the denomination.

AR ¼ dirham, no mint name (approximately 0.7g). Probably struck only at Baghdad; the central design is a square, both sides, appropriate for the quarter.

AR dirham, struck during the occupation of Syria at Damascus and Hamah in 658

On this remarkable type, Hulagu is described as “the conqueror of the coast (al-basita) by the grace of his brother Möngke, the Great Qa’an”. The coast refers to the Mediterranean, which of course he never quite reached! The weight standard is the canonical dirham of 2.97g, but weights of individual specimens vary considerably, as was typical of contemporary Ayyubid and Mamluk dirhams.

AR fractional dirham, similar

Weights range from 0.8 to about 1.5 grams. Struck either from full-dirham dies or from special dies for the fraction with shorter inscriptions.

AR dirham, Rum Seljuk style, struck only at Harran in 659 (about 2.85g)

AE fals, seated man with crescent (al-Mawsil)

AE fals, hare jumping over moon (Irbil)

AE fals, head in square, facing left (Sinjar & al-Mawsil, both dated 662)

Derived from type #1874.1 of Badr al-Din Lu’lu’.

AE fals, other pictorial types

AE fals, non-pictorial, various mints

AE fals, sunface, struck at Halab (undated)

Two principal subtypes, one with reverse in plain circle (RRR), the other with reverse in square (RRR), both with a short inscription, mu'ālik al-ard Hulagu, “king of the earth, Hulagu”. How modest!

For anonymous issues struck during this reign, see #2132 ff.

Abaqa, 663-680 / 1265-1282

AV dinar, all inscriptions in Arabic, without the name of Möngke

Central circle type, citing Qa’an with titles such as padshah al-a'zam, an anonymous reference to the Great Mongol in China (Qubilai Khan). Struck mainly at Baghdad & Yazd, more rarely at Hamadan & Isfahan. See also #2126.3 for coins struck on very thin broad planchets.

Ingot-style coins struck to random weights, varying from less than three to more than 10 grams.

AV dinar, Uighur obverse, Arabic reverse

Struck only at Tabriz, somewhat closely to a fixed weight standard of about 4.31 grams (one mithqal). One piece is known with a mint name tentatively read as Madinat Yazd.

AV dinar, very broad thin flans, Arabic legends only, struck mainly at Damghan and Astrabad

Weights average 2.0-2.5g. Very crude style, really ugly, with considerable ghosting of inscriptions from one face to the other. The classic “squashed milk-bottle cap”.

AV dinar, style of #2126.1 but also citing Möngke

Struck at al-Mawsil 673-676, nearly two decades after Möngke’s death!

AR dirham, various types from mints in the Jazira and Iraq, Arabic legends only (about 2.65g with considerable variation)

Same group of mints as #2122 of Hulagu, of which al-Mawsil is most common. Mardin is very rare.

AR ½ dirham, similar (about 1.3g)

AR dirham, obverse in Uighur script, reverse in Arabic, to standard of about 2.88g, dated 674-677

Reverse has kalima in square. Known only for Tabriz.

AR dirham, similar, but weight reduced to 2.52g, dated 678-681

Struck mainly at Tabriz (the only common mint) and Hamadan, but also at other mints in central Iran. This was the first attempt at a uniform silver coinage for all of Iran, though not extended to Iraq until after the death of Ahmad, and never to Khorasan.

Although Abaqa died in 680, his name was maintained on the coinage at Tabriz & elsewhere until his successor was formally enthroned after the turn of the year 681. His dirham of Tabriz dated 681 is almost as common as the years 678-680.

AR dirham, Arabic obverse qa’an al-’adil (or something similar) with name Abaqa below in the Uighur script, mint unknown

Kalima reverse. Struck somewhere in Khorasan province.

AR dirham, similar to #2128 but with Christian inscriptions on reverse, struck at Tiflis in Georgia (2.5-2.8g with considerable variation)

Reverse inscribed in Arabic, bism al-ab wa’il ibn wa rub al-quds, alah wahid, “in the name of the father, the son, and the holy spirit, one God.” Cross follows the word wahid. Similar types were used during the next several reigns.

AE fals, head in square (al-Mawsil)

AE fals, seated figure holding crescent (al-Mawsil)

AE fals, three hares chasing each other in a circle (Irbil)

AE fals, double-headed spread eagle within central circle, 2 marginal legends around (Irbil 678)

AE fals, other pictorial types, probably several different mints

AE fals, non-pictorial types, several mints

AE jital, abqa padshah-i jahan obverse, muhammad rasul Allah on reverse (Tye——)

Types #2131J and #2131K are without date or mint name, but by style are clearly from Sijsistan.

AE jital, abqa padshah al-a’zam on obverse, muhammad rasul Allah on reverse(Tye——)

For anonymous silver and copper issues struck during this reign, see #2132 ff.

Anonymous Qa’an al-’Adil types struck from before the time of Hulagu through Abaqa

Distinguishing the various Qa’an al-’Adil types will remain difficult until an appropriate catalog or website is completed.

AV dinar, at least two subtypes, random weight

Currently known for Marw, date off flan, and Nishapur 675. The Marw dinars resemble silver type #2136, style of the 670s, whereas the Nishapur dinars resemble #2126.3 of Abaqa, but much more carefully struck.

AR dirham (2.88g), hexagram / square, 21-23mm, known dated 643, then almost every year 650-670

Qa’an al-’adil or qa’an al-’adil al-a’zam within the obverse hexagon, kalimu within the reverse square, date & mint in the reverse margin. Dirhams of 643 are usually very well struck, later dates increasingly crude. This type was struck mainly at Tabriz. Other mints are very rare. Some dates between 644 and 649 have been reported, but never confirmed; 643 was probably a frozen year until 649.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 230
2133 AR dirham, hexafoil type of Tabriz, Rum Seljuq style, struck 671-675
Obverse center in hexafoil and naskhi calligraphy very similar to coins of Kaykhushraw III (#1232). Also struck in a few other mints of the Jibal and Adharbayjan, notably Kashan and Hamadan, only Tabriz is relatively common, but rare with legible date & mint.

2134 AR kaaniki dirham, hexagram / pointed quatrefoil, first phase, dated 660-662
Struck in Georgia at Tiflis, mint & date in reverse margin. The obverse of this type and #2135 have just qa’an al-‘adil within the obverse hexagram, as on #2132 but more ornately engraved.

2135 AR kaaniki dirham, same design, second phase, always without mint name, date normally with month and year inscribed below la ilah illa in reverse field, dated 663-678
Always without mint name, but ostensibly struck only at Tiflis. Reverse margin without inscription. Date in words, but because of the narrow space, one or more digits may be in diwanī script. The dates are usually decipherable, but not always.

2136 AR dirham (approximately 2.75g), with name Qa’an al-‘adil, hexagram type as #2132 but with eastern fabric, normally undated
Struck on thick narrow flans, typically 18-19mm, with various arrangements of the reverse text. Struck at Marw, Damghan, Isfaryain and Jurjan in northeastern Iran. Some Damghan types have qa’an al-‘adil al-azzam within the hexagram, onl. Individual weight varies considerably, from approximately 2.4g to 3.1g. See #2152B for similar types citing Arghun by name on obverse.

2136A AR dirham, as last, but with Shi‘ite reverse, struck only at Astarabad
Usually undated, but known dated 682 & 683. The weight is approximately 2.75g with considerable variation as #2136.

2136M AR dirham, plain circle / square, bow below qa’an al-‘adil on obverse
Marw mint, infrequently dated. The weight varies from 1.2g to more than 2.8g. It is possible that they were intended as full & half dirhams (more research needed). A variant lacks the bow, which is replaced by the mint name.

2137 AR ½ dirham (1.3-1.5g), Marw, similar to #2136
Mint name / kalima, struck only at Tus.

2137A AR ½ dirham (1.3-1.5g), square / plain circle
Qa’an al-‘adil on obverse, darb-i tabriz on reverse.

2137R AE fals, sometimes with mint, usually undated, struck circa 650s-670s / 1250s-1270s, many different types
The most common type is stylistically similar to #2133 of Tabriz.

Ahmad Tekudar, 681-683 / 1282-1284

2138 AV dinar
Probably struck only at Tabriz.

2139 AR dirham, Uighur obverse, northwestern and central Iranian mints, ruler’s name in Uighur only, dated 681-682
Only the mint of Tabriz is relatively common.

2140 AR dirham, similar, but ahmad added in Arabic beneath the obverse, dated 682-683, mainly Tabriz

2139M AR dirham, similar, but al-sultan ahmad in the middle line on obverse, Mardin 682 and Urumi, date off flan

2141.1 AR dirham, similar, but Christian inscriptions on reverse (as #2130), with cross on reverse, struck at Tiflis in Georgia

2141.2 AR dirham, as last but with star instead of cross on the reverse

2142 AR dirham, purely Arabic inscriptions, including the ruler’s name, mints in the Jazira and Iraq

A few examples of this type have the name of the ruler only in Uighur or in both Uighur and Arabic on the obverse.

2142A AR ½ dirham, similar to #2142

2143 AE fals, several types, many pictorial, Uighur or Arabic inscription (or mixed)

2143A AE fals, seated figure holding crescent (al-Mawsil)

2143B AE fals, Byzantine bust, probably Sinjar mint

2143C AE fals, mounted hunter with falcon, running dog below, possibly mint of Sinjar

2144 AV dinar, Uighur obverse as #2146, mithqal weight
Struck at Tabriz & Baghdad are the only reasonably common mints. Individual specimens vary from about 3.8g to more than 4.5g.

2144A AR dinar, as #2144 but with hawk & sun added below obverse (as silver #2148), Hamadan, Yazd & Kashan mints, dated 688

2144B AV heavy dinar (typically 5-10g), various mints, mainly Shiraz

2145 AR dirham, Arabic text only, struck at mints in Iraq, struck at al-Jazira & al-Mawsil
With Arabic inscriptions on obverse, qa’an al-‘a’zam arghun ilkhan al-mu’azzam (arghun in Arabic at al-Jazira, in Uighur at al-Mawsil). Probably dated only 683, possibly also 684.

2145B AR dirham, obverse generally as #2146 but with mint & date around the Uighur center, Baghdad only, dated 683

2146 AR dirham (2.52g), standard Uighur inscription, with name Arghun repeated below obverse in Arabic, kalima in 3 lines on reverse (plain circle /square)
Struck at most mints in Iraq, the Jazira, western & central Iran 683-687, then at a few mints in 688, in Baghdad & Isfahan until 690, and at Mardin until 694 (sic). Mint & date are always in the reverse margin.

Some issues of 687, especially of Tabriz & Isfahan, have the reverse square divided into three horizontal sections, with the mint name repeated in the lower section (S). Also struck from 684-687 at several mints in northeastern Iran, normally with mint repeated within the obverse field. This was the only attempt to introduce the western style to the east before the second reform in 697 by Ghazan Mahmud. Of some 30+ mints, most common are Tabriz, Baghdad, Mardin and Hamadan, but Kashan, Khabushan and al-Mawsil are not especially rare.

2146A AR dirham, as #2146 but reverse has 5-line lengthy kalima ending in sala Allah ‘alayhi / wa ‘ali alihi wa salam, Mardin 689 only

2146B AR dirham, as #2146 but the Arabic name arghun qan appears on reverse with al-manna lillah, all within central hexafoil

The obverse is standard Uighur legend, the reverse resembles Rum Seljuq coins of Qilij Arslan IV. Known only from Ganja 685 (Zeno-30848).

2147 AR ½ dirham, similar to #2146
Struck at Tabriz, Kashan, and same 3 eastern mints as #2147A

2147A AR ¼ dirham, similar, eastern mints only
Struck at Nishapur, Khabushan, and Jurjan.

2148 AR dirham, as #2146 but with hawk & sun below obverse field, Sunni reverse, struck 687-691

At least ten mints recorded, of which Tabriz & Kashan are least rare. The reverse invariably lacks the square separating the kalima from the surrounding mint & date inscription.

2148A AR ½ dirham, type as last, Tabriz only

2148G AR dirham, similar to #2148 but two hawks below obverse field, Hamadan 688 only

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 231
2148H AR dirham, similar to #2148G but two surfaces instead of two hawks, also Hamadan 688 only

2149.1 AR dirham, Arabic inscriptions, Shi'ite reverse (Astarabad mint only), dated 684-686 or undated

The obverse employs various designs (hexagram, inner circle, whirling circle, etc.) with Arabic inscription qu'an arghun or something similar. Struck on thick narrow flans, typically 17-18mm in diameter. The weight varies from about 2.2g to more than 3.2g, with its theoretical average approximately 2.75g.

2149.2 AR dirham, Uighur inscription with hawk & sun below, Shi'ite reverse (Astarabad mint only), dated 691-693 or undated

Citing both Arghun & Ghazan in Arabic on obverse. Size and weight as #2149.1. One variety has the hawk without the sun (SARC auction 11, lot 628). During the pre-reform coinage, the use of Sunni, Shi'ite and Christian legends does not imply conversions by the ruler, but rather reflects the preferences of the local population in the city where the coins were minted. This practice changed under Ghazan Mahmud, Uljaytu and Abi Sa'id, but resurfaced afterwards, especially under the Timurids who minted. This practice changed under Ghazan Mahmud, Uljaytu and later, especially under the Timurids.

The following issues #2152-2156 are local issues from numerous mints except in the northeast, name of ruler given in the obverse, facing away from each other (Tus 689-690)

2150 AR 1/6 dirham, usually mint of Tabriz, often with pictorial device

The pictorial types include eagle-and-sun and hare motifs, and because the type was presumably struck for presentation purposes, the weight follows the standard imprecisely.

2151.1 AR dirham, Georgian issues (mint of Tiflis) with Christian legends on reverse (as #2130), cross in circle in center of reverse

Christian legend written circularly around the cross. Struck at Tiflis in Rabi' I 683 only (Qatar #2130).

2151.2 AR dirham, Georgian issue, cross at bottom of reverse field legend, after wahid

The following issues #2152-2156 are local issues from numerous mints in northeastern Iran. The weight standards of these issues remain conjectural.

2152 AR dirham, non-pictorial local types of mints in northeastern Iran (struck 684-693), Uighur inscriptions on obverse (with Arghun above or below, in Arabic), Sunni reverses

At some mints, such as Jurjan, this type continued to be struck as late as 693, three years after Arghun was deposed. Principal mints are Damghan, Jurjan, Nishapur, Khabushan, and Jajerm. There are many different styles (over 12 separate subtypes just at Jurjan). Although there is considerable variation in weight, the basic standard of the dirham seems to be about 2.75g. It appears that most eastern mints that had issued type #2146 at the 2.52g standard of the dirham seems to be about 2.75g. It appears that most eastern mints that had issued type #2146 at the 2.52g standard subsequently reinstated the 2.75g standard for types #2152 or #2155. Further research needed for adequate resolution of these weights.

2152A AR dirham, similar to #2152 but without the name of Arghun in Arabic

Undetermined Khorasanian mint(s).

2152B AR dirham, short Arabic obverse, usually with hexagram, Khorasanian mints, style as the anonymous type #2136, but citing Arghun

Several versions of the obverse inscription, arghun a'zam, padshah arghun, etc. From Damghan and other mints.

2153 AR ½ dirham, similar to #2152, 2152A or 2152B, non-pictorial

Most half and quarter dirhams of this series were struck from smaller dies prepared for the fractions.

2154 AR ¼ dirham, similar, non-pictorial

2155 AR dirham, similar, but naming Ghazan as viceroy, Sunni reverse (northeastern Iran, 687-693)

Mainly minted at Nishapur and Isfarayin.

2155A AR dirham, style as #2146 with Arghun named in Uighur (3rd line) and Qazan (for Ghazan) in Arabic, both on obverse

Mardin 695 only (Zeno-3459).

RR

2156.1 AR dirham, pictorial type of northeastern Iran, with lion right on reverse (Tus mint, undated)

RR

2156.2 AR dirham, similar, but with hare on obverse (Tus 688)

RR

2156.3 AR dirham, similar, sunface obverse (Nishapur mint)

RR

2156.4 AR dirham, similar, eagle obverse (Nishapur)

RR

2156.5 AR dirham, similar, bow on obverse (Marw)

R?

2156.6 AR dirham, similar, dog wearing chain leath on obverse, walking right (Khabushan 691)

RR

2156.7 AR dirham, similar, bird on reverse (Abivard or Babur, known dated 688)

RR

The Abivard type has peacock left with head turned back, Babur version has pigeon (or similar bird) left, head forward. The two mint names are alternative spellings for the same city.

2156.8 AR dirham, similar, two lions on obverse, facing away from each other (Tus 689-690)

RR

2156.9 AR dirham, similar, Chinese style lion within circle, Uighur text around, arghun above lion (Bazar-i Urdu, undated)

RRR

2156.10 AR dirham, similar, humped bull left, with date in words below bull, finest calligraphy and very well struck, known from Tus 685

RRR

These pictorial types (#2156.1-2156.10 and 2156A) were struck circa 685-691 at mints in eastern Khorasan only. Most adhere to a standard of about 2.30 to 2.35g. All are carelessly struck. Additional subtypes of #2156 shall undoubtedly be discovered.

2156A AR ½ dirham, pictorial types

Most are similar to the full dirham #2156.1 (lion).

2157 AE fals, many types, some pictorial

Also known for the dog type (as #2156.6), mint of Khabushan (Zeno-19194).

2157A AE 'adliya, with denomination cited on coin, struck at Shiraz & Abu Ishaq

Also from a mint tentatively read as Babak in Kirman province. The 'adliya of this and the following three rulers was struck on thin squarish flans, weighing between about 1.3 and 1.8g. Later issues are heavier, typically 3g to 5g.

C

2157B AE fals, seated figure holding crescent (al-Mawsil)

Gaykhatu, 690-694 / 1291-1295

Gaykhatu is cited only by his imperial name Irenjin Turji, unless otherwise indicated.

2158.1 AV dinar

The only common mint is Tabriz, formerly extremely rare, but available in large numbers since a large hoard was discovered in the mid-1980s (at least 1500 examples, including at least 500 of Gaykhatu and 250 of Baydu).

2158.2 AV dinar, with name Gaykhatu in Arabic below the Uighur obverse field

Principal mints are Ta’us (= Abarquh) and Yazd, though most specimens lack the mint name.

S

2158F AV fractional dinar, mint of Shiraz, name as Irenjin Turji, about 1.1g (Zeno-19194)

RRR

The mint name is in tiny letters between the 3rd and 4th Uighur lines on the obverse. Date unknown, possibly undated.

C

2159.1 AR dirham, Uighur obverse, at Tabriz and most mints except in the northeast, name of ruler given in Arabic as Irenjin Turji.

RR

Normally, if not always, with a small hawk, sun behind, at lower right of obverse, just right of the ruler’s name.

RRR

Also known for the dog type (as #2156.6), mint of Khabushan (Zeno-20239), bow type of Marw (Rassmusen), eagle type of Nishapur (Rassmusen). Others undoubtedly exist.

545 The only occasionally available gold coin of Gaykhatu on which he is called by his person name Gaykhatu rather than Irenjin Turji (or Durji) is a vassal coin of the Qutlugkhaniid ruler Padishah Khatun (#1937). See also #2159.2 for silver.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 232
2159.3 AR dirham, name **Irenjin Turji**, with **lion** below obverse (Shiraz 692 & 693 only) RRR

2160 AR dirham, similar, but **Christian inscriptions** on reverse, struck at Tiflis in Georgia (as #2130) R

2161 AR dirham, local types of northeastern Iran, obverse & reverse entirely in Arabic R

Only a few mints in the northeast recognized Gaykhatu. Other mints retained the name of the deposed Arghun, often together with the name of Ghazan, sometimes as *padshahcslah ghazan, “Ghazan, son of the king”* (also found on some examples of this type).

The most common type has the name *Irenjin Turji* in a fancy hexagon on the obverse, kalima on reverse with the mint in margin, known from Jurjan, Urudbaraz & Dihistan.

2162 AR ½ dirham, similar, mainly mint of Jurjan RR

2163 AE fals, many varieties, mostly insessional R

2163A AE ‘adliya, with denomination cited on coin, struck at Shiraz & Abu Ishaq RR

2163B AE fals, seated figure holding crescent (al-Mawsil) RRR

2168N AR ½ dirham, similar (1.26g) RRR

2168L AR dirham, **lion** left, with ghazan and the mint name inscribed above, kalima on reverse RRR

2168AR dinar, normally Tabriz mint S

Also known is Shiraz, as *dur al-mulk shiraz* (RRR).

2165 AR dirham, usual Uighur type, dated 694 SR

All mints other than Tabriz (R with clear mint & date) are extremely rare (Hamadan and probably a few additional mints).

2165C AR dirham, Christian type of Georgia, as #2130 but in the name of Baydu

RRR

2166 AE fals RR

2166A AE ‘adliya, with denomination cited on coin, struck at Shiraz & Abu Ishaq RRR

Ghazan Mahmud, 694-703 / 1295-1304, Pre-reform coinage (694-696)

2167 AV dinar R

Reported for the mints of Isfahan and Tabriz, of which Tabriz was found in modest quantity in 2003. Additional mints likely exist.

2168 AR dirham (694-697), obverse in Arabic, numerous subtypes, all purely insessional (2.52g)

Obverse legend begins with title, either *padshah-i jahan, padshah-i islam or sultan-i islam*. Western mints are Tabriz, Khashan, Baghward, Mawsil & Mardin.

Eastern mints include Jajerm, Kabushan, Kabudjameh and Nishapur, all of them very rare.

2168A AR ½ dirham, similar (1.26g) RRR

2168C AR dirham, obverse in Uighur & Arabic with **hawk** & **sun**, reverse in square, Astaraqzad mint only (known dated 697)

2168L AR dirham, **lion** left, with ghazan and the mint name *ius* inscribed above, kalima on reverse RRR

2168N AR dirham, Christian type of Georgia, as #2130 but in the name of Baydu, struck 694-698 R

Several subtypes. Some examples have the initials of the Bagratid ruler of Georgia, Walchting III, in the Georgian script.

For convenience, all copper coins of Ghazan Mahmud are listed at the end of the post-reform series, despite the fact that the reform never applied to copper coins.

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2ND PERIOD: POST-REFORM COINAGE

(After the two-phase reform of 696-697 / 1297-1298)

During this period, a novel innovation was promulgated within the Ilkhanaate. Geometric or other readily discernible designs were introduced to create distinctive coin types that carried monetary information. In other words, coin designs were created in order to allow even a totally illiterate person to recognize the value of the coin. Similar but more restricted attempts had been undertaken by the Ayyubids and their Turkoman contemporaries, the earlier Ilkhanids, and the Khwarizmshahs, but without the systematization begun under the later Ilkhanids. In later times, after the death of Abu Sa'id in 736/1335, visually distinctive coin types were also used to indicate political as well as monetary information. Both traditions were maintained to a greater or lesser extent throughout all later Iranian and related coinage, until the reign of Fath 'Ali Shah in the early 19th century.

From this reign until about the middle of the 19th century, all Ilkhan silver coins were of essentially pure silver, with a few minor exceptions from time to time. Russian researchers have determined that the silver content generally ranged from 96 to more than 99% pure, reckoned as “pure silver” due to the primitive refining technology then available. This high degree of purity appears to have been retained for all Iranian coins until the early Qajar period, i.e., for more than 500 years, until the 1830s or 1840s, when a silver alloy of approximately 90% fineness was adopted, allegedly in order to produce coins that would better resist circulated wear and tear, and would match the fineness of contemporary American and European silver coins. Pre-reform Ilkhan silver coins were typically 75-80% pure, possibly an approximate imitation of contemporary Mamluk practice.

For the post-reform coinage of Ghazan Mahmud, the common mints include Ahlat, Amul, Astarabad, Baghward, Bazar, Damghan, Erzincan, Erzurum, Gümüşbazar, Hilla, Irbil, Isfahan, Jajerm, Kashan, Lu’lu’a’, Mardin, Mawsil, Sabzawar, Samsun, Saveh, Shiraz, Sinop, Sivas, Tabriz, Tiflis, Wasit & Yazd.


Not all mints omitted from this list are rare. In his work on Ilkhan coinage (cited above), Diler has provided a list of all known mints for the Ilkhan coinage. For each mint he indicates a list of known dates and metals for each ruler, but the citations for silver coins do not indicated the denomination.

Regional or local types: There are many local types during the principal reigns of the post-reform period. Most of these are local Anatolian types (#2175, #2191 & #2221), of which at least fifty are described and illustrated by Diler. There are also some Iranian and Caucasian local types, not listed here, at all rare. Many local types of all regions are relatively minor variants of the regular types and are therefore not listed here as separate types, for example, minor variants of Sulyaman’s types B and C.

**Weight standards:** All regular coinage of the second period adheres to royal standards that are quite carefully followed.

**Weight standards for the 2nd period:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Ghazan Mahmud</th>
<th>696</th>
<th>697-704 (sic)</th>
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<td>12.96 g</td>
<td>6 dirhams#2169</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.16 g</td>
<td>1.08 g</td>
<td>½ dirham#2174</td>
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547 When this hoard surfaced, the sellers at first consigned a single specimen to a Swiss numismatic auction, where it fetched about $8,000, a price they idiotically tried to maintain as a legitimate value! It is estimated that the hoard contained at least 200-300 examples of the Baydu dirham. Within months, the price tumbled below $300, but has risen to the $450-500 range for decent specimens, largely due to the recent surge in the price of gold bullion.

548 Ghazan’s name is sometimes written as Qazan, with *ghayn* instead of *ghayn* on some pre-reform issues and some copper coins of all periods.

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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 233
### Time of Uljaytu

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<thead>
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<th>Dirhams</th>
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<td>12.96g</td>
<td>6 dirhams</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>4.32g</td>
<td>2 dirhams</td>
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### Time of Abu Sa'id

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.92g</td>
<td>½ dirham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>734-737 (khan 33-36)</td>
<td>8.64g</td>
<td>6 dirhams</td>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.88g</td>
<td>2 dirhams</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.44g</td>
<td>dirham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.72g</td>
<td>½ dirham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not all types are known for all denominations within a specific currency period. Some types are known from at least one year following the death of the named ruler. There are also several incorrect dates, as well as local types or variants for which the above denominations may not apply.

For Abu Sa'id, half dirhams are confirmed for types D, E, G and H, but may exist for others as well. Some quarter dirhams have been reported for Abu Sa'id, but not confirmed.

In general, separate dies were cut for the half, one, two and six dirham silver coins, to help facilitate their distinction.

### Ghazan Mahmud, 694-703 / 1295-1304, Post-reform coinage (696-703)

#### First phase (696):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dinar</th>
<th>Dirhams</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2169</td>
<td>AV dinar (inner circle / plain circle)</td>
<td></td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Obverse has field in Uighur (no Chinese), with the ruler’s name Ghazan in Arabic below (without mawjud) and outer margin in Arabic. Reverse has field in circle.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mint possibly Tabriz, none known with legible date.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2169</td>
<td>AR dirham, struck to standard of about 2.52g</td>
<td></td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The first phase is known only in silver from the mints of Baghdad and Tabriz. The design type of the first phase silver coinage is identical to the 2nd phase, comprising a trilingual obverse in Mongolian (in the Uighur script), Chinese (in Phags-Pa script), and Arabic. The two phases differ only in weight, the first phase retaining the standard introduced by Aqbaqa in 678 (2.52g for the dirham), the second phase lighter (2.16g).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All coins #2169-2174 bear the trilingual obverse.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Second phase (697-704 [sic]):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dinar</th>
<th>Dirhams</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2170</td>
<td>AV presentation dinar (about 12.96g), type #2170</td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>but weight of three mithqals, Baghdad 701</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2170</td>
<td>AV dinar (plain circle / pointed pentafoil)</td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Most gold coins of this and all subsequent Ilkhan reigns were struck at rather random weights from less than 3 to nearly 10 grams, with weights of surviving specimens clustering around 4.3 and 8.6 grams, i.e., one and two mithqals. These are sometimes, but inaccurately, described as single and double dinars.549</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gold dinars and silver double dirhams of the second phase were often dated on both sides. Mismatched obverse and reverse dates are not uncommon, confirming that acceptable dies were kept in use even if the date was obsolete.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The dinars of the Shiraz mint are especially attractive, with elegant calligraphy and ornamentation. It is also the most common mint for Ghazan Mahmud’s gold coinage.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2170A AV ½ dinar (2.16g), inscribed nisf below obverse

RRR

Known only from Baghdad, date missing.

#### 2171 AR dinar (= 6 dirhams) (12.96g)

RRR

This type is the earliest silver dinar struck by Ilkhangans, presumably for presentation or ceremonial purposes during this reign (struck only at mints in Iraq). The silver dinar of 6 dirhams became a circulating denomination from 710/1310 onwards.

Known from Baghdad & Wasit, usually found ex-mont. There also exists a variant struck at a mint tentatively read as Jalalabad, possibly located in what is now the Eastern Azerbaijani region in Iran, dated 8 Ramadān 700.550

#### 2172 AR 2 dirhams (4.32g)

C

For this and later Ilkhan rulers, many Anatolian mints have the date entirely or partially in diwanī numerals, as on earlier Rum Seljuq coins (see the introduction). With rare exceptions, the date was written out in words at Iranian and Iraqi mints.

#### 2173 AR dirham (2.16g)

A

Not all types are known for all denominations within a specific currency period. Some types are known from at least one year following the death of the named ruler. There are also several incorrect dates, as well as local types or variants for which the above denominations may not apply.

For Abu Sa'id, half dirhams are confirmed for types D, E, G and H, but may exist for others as well. Some quarter dirhams have been reported for Abu Sa'id, but not confirmed.

In general, separate dies were cut for the half, one, two and six dirham silver coins, to help facilitate their distinction.

### Ghazan Mahmud, 694-703 / 1295-1304, Post-reform coinage (696-703)

#### First phase (696):

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2169</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Obverse has field in Uighur (no Chinese), with the ruler’s name Ghazan in Arabic below (without mawjud) and outer margin in Arabic. Reverse has field in circle.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mint possibly Tabriz, none known with legible date.</td>
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#### Second phase (697-704 [sic]):

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Dinar</th>
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<tr>
<td>2170</td>
<td>AV presentation dinar (about 12.96g), type #2170</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>but weight of three mithqals, Baghdad 701</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

549 The gold and silver dinars are unrelated. For the former, the dinar was a generic term referring to any gold coin. For the latter, the dinar was a fixed unit equivalent to six dirhams. There was also a third unit known as a currency dinar, a notional unit of account, which was probably a fixed unit equivalent to the reform silver dinar of Ghazan Mahmud (12.96g), remaining constant even as the weight of coined silver fell.

550 In the Tarom district north of Zanjan there was a palace or administration center known as Jalalabad established by the Kangarids circa 343/954, about 100 miles east of Tabriz. Could this be the same Jalalabad?

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 234
2180 AR 1 dirham (2.16g), type A
Type A coins of this denomination were struck primarily at Anatolian mints, of which Samsun is most common. See also #2180A for variant types.

2180A AR 1 dirham (2.16g), variations of type A, southern Anatolian mints only, many variations
Struck principally at Antalya, Burghla and Falakabad. Coins of this type differ from #2180 by the use of a distinctive cartouche on either obverse or reverse. Strictly speaking, these are early Beylik issues, on which the Beylik nominally proclaimed Uljaytu as their suzerain, perhaps for political reasons, more likely to maintain popular styles and legends.

2181 AR ½ dirham (1.08g), type A

2181F AR ¼ dirham (0.54g), type A, Amul mint

2182 AV dinar, type B (quatrefoil / inner circle), dated 709-713
Types B and C have Shi‘ite inscriptions on the reverse, reflecting Uljaytu’s conversion to Shi‘ism in 709.
For nearly all examples of types B and C, Uljaytu adopted the additional title of malik raqib al-umam, “possessor of the necks of the people”, seemingly inappropriate for a surprisingly enlightened king.

2183 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 12.96g), type B
Beginning with this type, the silver dinar became a circulating coin until beyond the end of the Ilkhanate, but largely restricted to mints in Khorasan, and to a lesser extent in the regions of Fars, Kirman and Mazandaran. With a few sporadic and normally very rare exceptions, the 6-dirham denomination was no longer struck at mints within western and central Iran, the Caucasus, Iraq, the, the Jazira or Anatolia.

2183A AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 12.96g), variant of type B with extra outer marginal legends on obverse or reverse or both sides
With Qur’an 9:33-34 in outer obverse margin, the names and epithets of the 12 Shi‘ite Imams in the outer reverse margin. Known struck at Baghdad and Tabriz.

2184 AR 2 dirhams (4.32g), type B

2185 AR 1 dirham (2.16g), type B

2185C AR ½ dirham (1.08g), type B

A2186 AR 2 dirhams (3.96g), type C* (ornamented hexafoil obverse, hexafoil reverse as on type C), Sultaniya mint only, always dated 713
A commemoratory type issued in conjunction with the dedication of the new capital of Sultaniya. See note to #2190A & 2190B.

2186 AV dinar, type C (heptafoil obverse / hexafoil reverse), used 713-717, Shi‘ite reverse
Coins dated 717 were struck posthumously, as Uljaytu’s death was concealed until Abu Sa‘id could return to the capital for his public enthronement.

2187 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 11.88g), type C
Type C of Uljaytu was the first silver coinage reduced in weight, for all denominations.

2187A AR 6 dirhams (dinar), type C but with extra marginal legend added on obverse & central reverse inscription expanded.
The obverse outer margin is Qur’an 48:29, in which the actions of a good Muslim are described. The reverse margin bears the names of the Shi‘ite Imams together with their epithets. Carefully struck examples on full broad planchets are much rarer. Struck at several mints between the Mazandaran and Khorasan regions. Mulings of types #2187 and 2187A also exist (R).

2187B AR 6 dirhams (dinar), type C, similar to #2187A, but very carefully struck and with Qur’an 9:112 in the obverse margin, Baghdad 716 only

2188 AR 2 dirhams (3.96g), type C

2189 AR 1 dirham (1.98g), type C

2189A AR ½ dirham (0.99g), type C

2190 AE fals, die-struck, many varieties, some pictorial

2190A AE fals, cast fabric with center hole, struck only at Sultaniya in 713, portraying a scorpion

C 2190B AE fals, as last but no center hole, Sultaniya mint only, several varieties
Types #2190A and 2190B resemble contemporary Yuan dynasty Chinese cash, except that instead of a square hole, they are either unholed or have a hole shaped like an eight-pointed star. These coins, along with #2186E, commemorate the dedication of Sultaniya (near Zanjan) as the new Ilkhan capital in 713.

2190N AE ‘adliya, struck at mints in Fars province
Typical weight in the 3g-5g range. The denomination is always cited on the coin.

2190T AE broad fals, non-pictorial, struck primarily at Tabriz & Sultaniya (13-18g)
Most examples have the design & arrangement of silver type B, often struck on irregular flans, typically 35-40mm diameter.

A2191 AR dirham, blurred versions of types A, B and C, Anatolian imitations, various types, sometimes with different borders of the fields
Some examples have now been assigned to specific Beylik states. Type #A2191 refers generically to all unassigned types, of which the great majority are Anatolian.

B2191 AR dirham, local Anatolian types, significantly distinctive from type A, B and C
Diler lists over 30 local Anatolian types, though sometimes minor varieties are listed as separate types. Most of these local types should eventually be assigned to the beyliks.

T2191 AV mithqal, special type (plain circle both sides), with name & mint on obverse, kalima and the denominational name mithqali (sic) on reverse, Shiraz mint, undated
Weight theoretically about 4.32g, but this is still unconfirmed.

U2191 AV ½ mithqal (2.16g) (plain circle both sides), ruler, name & num mithqal on obverse, kalima only on reverse, Kashan mint

2191 AR dinar, type A (hexafoil / square), struck 716-717
Type A was used only at about a dozen Anatolian mints (silver only, usually very crudely struck), and at Shiraz and Abu Ishaq in southern Iran (silver & gold, normally well struck).

2192 AR 2 dirhams (3.96g), type A, mints of Shiraz and Abu Ishaq only

2193 AR 1 dirham (1.98g), type A, Anatolian mints only

2194 AR dinar, type B (pointed octagon / pointed hexagon), struck 717-719

2195 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 11.88g), type B

2196 AR 2 dirhams (3.96g), type B

R On coins of Isfahan, Kashan, Saveh and a few other central Iranian mints, the ruler is given his additional title ilkhan al-mu‘azzam (R).

2197 AR 1 dirham (1.98g), type B
Struck mainly at Anatolian mints, sometimes with the mint name on the reverse.

2198 AR dinar, type C, known as the “mihrab” type (lobated square / mihrab-shaped design), struck 719-721, at some mints until 723

RRR The mihrab-style design on type C reverse is formed from the Arabic word fassaylikfikahum (“he will suffer ye against them”), arranged to resemble a mihrab, from the Qur’an 2:137:

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551 There is also a similar coin of Yazd, undated and without denomination, but as the weight is unknown, it cannot yet to assigned a denominational name (Diler-547).
2198A AV dinar, type C as last, but with surkh-i tabriz beneath reverse, “red gold of Tabriz”, known struck at Tabriz in 719 only

2199 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 10.80g), type C

2199A AR 6 dirhams (dinar), as type C but with Qur’anic legends 48:29 in obverse & 48:4 in reverse outer margins

2200 1 AR 2 dirhams (3.60g), type C mint in obverse margin, sometimes repeated at top or bottom of the obverse field

2200.1 AR 1 dirham (1.80g), type C, as #2200.1

2200.2 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 10.80g), type C

2201 AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), type H, Khani date on reverse S

2201.2 AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), type H or Hijri date S

2202 AV dinar, type D (lightly pointed pentagon / plain circle), struck 722-724

2203 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 10.80g), type D

2204 AR 2 dirhams (3.60g), type D

2205 AR 1 dirham (1.80g), type D

2205A AR ½ dirham (0.90g), type D

2206 AR 2 dirhams (3.60g), type E (lobated triangle / plain square), struck 723-728

2207 AR 1 dirham (1.80g), type E, Kayseri 728

2208 AV dinar, type F (inner circle / plain square), struck 723-728

2208A AV ½ mithqal (2.16g), type F-var

2209 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 10.80g), type F

2210 AR 2 dirhams (3.60g), type F

2210A AR 2 dirhams, similar, but with qul Allahu num malik al-mulk “say, our God, possessor of kingship”, on reverse margin

2211 AR 1 dirham (1.80g), type F

2211A AR ½ dirham (0.92g), type F

2212 AR 2 dirhams (3.60g), type F-var (inner circle / plain circle with the mint inscribed interlinearly within the kalima), Baghdad 729 only

2212A AV dinar, type G (looped octagon / plain octfoil type), struck 729-734

2212M AV mithqal (4.32g), type G, Shiraz 732 only

2213 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 9.72g), type G

2213A AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 9.72g), as type G but with obverse in hexagon, Damghan 730 only

2214 AR 2 dirhams (3.24g), type G

2215 AR 1 dirham (1.62g), type G

2216A AR ½ dirham (0.81g), type G

2216 AV dinar, type H (bilingual type, consisting of plain circle obverse & reverse), struck 734-736 but normally dated in the Khani calendar.

2217 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 8.64g), type H

2218.1 AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), type H, Khani or Hijri date only

2218.2 AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), type H, Hijri date on reverse S

2219 AR 1 dirham (1.44g), type H

2219A AR ½ dirham (0.72g), type H

2219X AR various denominations, local Iranian, Iraqi, and Caucasian types different from types A through H and not listed here as specific types

2220 AE fals, various weights and types, many pictorial

2220A AE ‘adliya, mints in Fars province

555 J.-C. Hinrichs has reported a fifth mint, Isfahan.

555 Pol-i Aras, “Araxes Bridge”, was an epithetical name for Nahkhawan. Some coins of Abu Sa’ id bear both names.

J.-C. Hinrichs has reported a fifth mint, Isfahan. Gold and silver coins of this type dated 722, mostly silver, have often been erroneously published in the literature as 726. The mint name is almost always placed interlinearly on the reverse.

These examples are “no date, no mint”, probably central Anatolian contemporary imitations, very rare in gold (New York sale XXIII, lot 452).

Sotheby’s, 2 Oct 1986, lot 932, misattributed & assigned to the Injuids.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 236
During the third period, several amirs and tribal alliances squabbled over power, each recognizing one or another Hulaguid scion as nominal khan. Changes in type and weight standard became increasingly frequent. The silver coinage consisted largely of double dirhams, except in Khorasan, Fars and the Jurjan region, where the dinar (= 6 dirhams) was favored. There were many local types, often omitted here, as the types are but poorly researched to date. Copper issues became less plentiful, though a few local types are common, especially of the Tabriz mint. Gold coinage largely disappears, presumably produced mainly for specialized payments rather than everyday circulation.

Weight standards for the 3rd period silver coinage:
The first chart applies to the years 736-741, during which time a single currency circulated within the entire Ilkhan empire (with some local standards at peripheral mints, as usual). The second chart shows the various regions until just after 758, including the coins of subsequent dynasties, noted in this table. Later currency rates are charted here under the Muzaffarid and Jalayrid dynasties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Jihan Timur</th>
<th>1.80g dirham</th>
<th>2 dirhams</th>
<th>all types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>740-741</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.90g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Sulayman</th>
<th>2 dirhams</th>
<th>A, FA, SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>739-740</td>
<td>2.16g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>740-741</td>
<td>5.40g</td>
<td>6 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.80g</td>
<td>2 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.90g</td>
<td>dirham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>741 &amp; later</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
<td>6 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.44g</td>
<td>2 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.72g</td>
<td>dirham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By the end of the year 741, the Ilkhan region had divided into five currency zones, known as Tabrizi, Baghdadi, Nishapuri, Shirazi, and central Anatolia, each with its own currency. This division remained intact until the 2nd conquest by Timur in 795/796. The borders remained largely fixed, though some regions, such as the section between Qarzaw, Rayy and Isfahan, occasionally changed their association after 758.

There were also a number of minor local currency zones, principally in portions of the Jazira and the Jibal, not mentioned here. The following table shows the various regions until just after 758, including the coins of subsequent dynasties, noted in this table. Later currency rates are charted here under the Muzaffarid and Jalayrid dynasties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tabriz currency zone</th>
<th>6 dirhams</th>
<th>jalayrid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>741-750</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
<td>6 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.44g</td>
<td>2 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.72g</td>
<td>dirham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750-752</td>
<td>3.78g</td>
<td>6 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>752-758</td>
<td>3.24g</td>
<td>6 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.08g</td>
<td>2 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.54g</td>
<td>dirham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>759-761</td>
<td>2.70g</td>
<td>6 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.90g</td>
<td>2 dirhams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baghdad currency zone</th>
<th>6 dirhams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>741-746</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.44g</td>
<td>2 dirhams</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.72g</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>754</td>
<td>1.08g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>755-762</td>
<td>2.70g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.90g</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nishapur currency zone</th>
<th>6 dirhams (dinar)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>742-785</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.44g</td>
<td>2 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.72g</td>
<td>dirham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mostly Ilkhan until 752, thereafter mostly Sarbadar & Walid. The dinar weight seems to have gradually declined from about 4.25g to around 4.10g after the 750s. Some local Sarbadar coins exist. Walid and other minor dynastic issues corresponded to other currencies, such as the tanka of the Delhi Sultanate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shiraz currency zone</th>
<th>6 dirhams (½ dinar)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>741-745</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.44g</td>
<td>2 dirhams (½ dinar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>747-749</td>
<td>3.78g</td>
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<td></td>
<td>½ dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750-752</td>
<td>3.06g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>753</td>
<td>3.24g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>755-759</td>
<td>2.88g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dinar</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thereafter, Muzaffarid coins</th>
<th>6 dirhams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>742-785</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.44g</td>
<td>2 dirhams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.72g</td>
<td>dirham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central Anatolia currency zone</th>
<th>2 dirhams or akçe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>742 until 767</td>
<td>1.80g</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

556 The existence of three separate currency zones, Tabrizi, Baghداdi and Nishapur was mentioned in a report by the contemporary al-Umari that was written in 740 or 741 and preserved in the 14 volume historic work of al-Qalqashandi, Subh al-A’sha, completed in 814/1412. The actual name of the fourth zone is unknown, but I call it Shiraz, as that was the most productive city in the region. The Anatolia district consists of central and eastern Anatolia, together with the northern parts of the Jazira, which retained a uniform currency until 767, thus after the Ilkhanate extinction. For further information see my article published in 1977, cited here under the Atabegs of Lur Buzurg.
This Anatolian standard was retained principally by the Erebids, with rapid weight reduction after 767. Local states in the western and coastal districts of Anatolia maintained altogether different monetary systems, perhaps derived from southeastern European currencies.

Arpa Ga’un (Mahmud), 736 / 1335-1336

M2221 AV dinar, Bazar 736

AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), type A (plain circle obverse & reverse, ruler’s name in Arabic), always dated 736, Bazar & Tabriz least rare

The reverse is identical to the reverse of Abu Sa’id type H (#2221). This reverse continued to be used by Musa (#2223), Muhammad (#2226) and Taghay Timur (#A2240), to indicate that all five types shared a common weight standard and were universally acceptable within the entire Ilkhani territory where type #2218 of Abu Sa’id was in general circulation. This was the last interchangeable design, as the empire became politically fractured by the start of 737, whereafter local designs and regional currencies predominated, though still adhering to a universal weight standard until 740 or 741.

2221E AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), local type FA of Fars (generally as type A but ruler’s name in Uighur) Struck only at Shiraz and Tabarka.

2221F AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), local type FB of Fars (square-in-circle, name in Arabic / reverse as #2221.1), Shiraz 736

2222 AE fals

Musa Khan, 736-737 / 1336-1337

T2223 AV dinar, type A (plain circle obverse & reverse), Tabriz 736

AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), type A, dated 736 only

The reverse is identical to the reverse of Abu Sa’id type H. The obverse is just like #2221.1 but with the name Musa Khan (= the English Abud ALLAH MUHAMMAD al SA’ID in Arabic).

T2224 AV dinar, type JA (sic), from Baghdad dated 737, style as #2224.3 Includes the name of Adam (Arabic adam) together with the four pre-Islamic prophets noted under type #2224.3.

2224.1 AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), local type FA of Fars (fancy hexafoil / square), dated 736

2224.2 AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), type IA of Baghdad (inner circle obverse & reverse, ruler’s name in Uighur) Pre-Islamic prophets cited, as on #2224.3.

2224.3 AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), type JA of Saveh (inner circle obverse & reverse, ruler’s name in Arabic or Uighur) In addition to Muhammad and the four Rashidun, types #2224.2 & #2224.3 cite the four pre-Islamic prophets, Nuh (= Noah), Ibrahim (= Abraham), Musa (= Moses) and ‘Isa (= Jesus).

2225 AE fals, usually mint of Tabriz

Muhammad Khan, 736-738 / 1336-1338

The ruler’s name is always in Arabic on all types.

U2226 AV ½ dinar, sultan muhammad on obverse, the denomination (nim dinar) on reverse, Yazd mint This type has previously been assigned to the Muzaffarid ruler Muhammad, but that seems highly unlikely. Cf. #U2191 of Abu Sa’id.

V2226 AV dinar, type H (plain circle obverse & reverse, as type H of Abu Sa’id, struck in 737 only)

AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), type A, already dated 737, occasionally 738

2226B AR dirham (1.44g), type A, dated 737

2227 AV dinar, type B (looped hexafoil / 16-foil), dated 738

The reverse frame is normally 16-foil, but the number of arcs may vary (on all denominations of type B).

2228 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 7.56g), type B R

2229 AR 2 dirhams (2.52g), type B C

Occasionally dated 739 (R).

A2230 AR 1 dirham, (1.26g) type B R

V2230 AV dinar, other types, different from types A or B RRR

2230.1 AR 2 dirhams, Fars province local type FA (inner circle / fancy lobated square, 2.88g), dated 737 only RRR

2230.2 AR 2 dirhams (2.52g), type FB (plain circle / plain square), also dated 737 only RR

Both subtypes of #2230 were struck at Shabankara & Abu Ishaq (= Kazarun), FA at Shiraz, FB at Shaykh Kabir (= Shiraz).

2230J AR 2 dirhams, type JzA (inner circle both sides), design and arrangement as #2224.3 of Musa Khan Struck at al-Jazira in 737. Mint & pre-Islamic prophets in obverse margin, date & the Rashidun in reverse margin.

A2231 AE fals, numerous types S

Sati Beg, Queen, 739 / 1338-1339

K2231 AV dinar, several types RRR

2231 AR 2 dirhams (2.16g), type A (plain hexafoil / circle within pointed quatrefoil, used 739) C

Only the first half of the kalima, la lala i lla il Allaha, is within the inner circle, muhammad rasul Allaha within the quatrefoil corners. The names of the four Rashidun lie in the four segments outside the quatrefoil.

Sati Beg was dethrown and forced to marry Sulayman Khan late in 739, but some Jaziran mints continued to strike type A coins in her name as late as 743. Her title is usually the masculine al-sultan al-'adil, more rarely the correct feminine al-sultana al-'adila.

2232.1 AR 2 dirhams (2.16g), type IA (similar, but plain quatrefoil, full kalima within central circle, names of Rashidun in the quatrefoil corners, no inscription outside the quatrefoil), struck at Iraqi & Jaziran mints only, with title al-sultan al-'adil R

For Jaziran and east Anatolian mints (mainly Arzen, Erzurum and Hisn, of which only Hisn is common), issues dated 739 normally follow the weight standard of 2.16g, those of 739-740 weigh 1.80g and those dated 741-743 follow an obscure standard of what appears to be approximately 1.53g. Note that 739 coins of these mints can be either of the first or second standard. All other mints applied only the standard of 2.16g, even for coins dated 740.

2232.2 AR 2 dirhams (2.16g), type IA, as #2232.1 but al-sultan al-'azam R

Types #2232.1 and 2232.2 were struck normally only in 739, but occasionally in 740, presumably at the very beginning of that year. All retain the masculine grammar.

This design was adopted as the standard design at Mardin and Amid by the Artuqids of Mardin, and at some other Jaziran mints for nearly a century, always inscribed with the name of the local ruler of the time.

A2233 AR 1 dirham (1.08g), type A RR

C2233 AR ½ dirham (0.54g), type A, Baghdad mint RRR

B2233 AR 2 dirhams, type HA (pointed hexafoil / looped hexagon), Hamadan 739 only RR

Design as type A of Taghay Timur, except that the obverse is enclosed within a pointed hexafoil instead of a heptagon.

D2233.1 AE fals, surface type of Mardin S

D2233.2 AE fals, other types RR

Taghay Timur, 737-754 / 1336-1353

K2233 AV dinar, various types, Iranian mints RR

Beginning in this reign and continuing until the first Timurid conquest circa 788/1386, gold types were usually distinct from contemporary silver types, first by the late Ilkhkan, thereafter by the Muzaffarids, Jalayirids and others. However, due to their rarity and the paucity of publication, the sequence of gold types remains undetermined.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 238
L2233 AV dinar, design as type IB (#2237 in silver), Baghdad mint
M2233 AV dinar, design as type KB, known for Astarabad 739 and Saveh 739.
N2233 AV dinar, design as type KB, known for Damghan 741 (Tübingen 97-6-46).

2233 AR 6 dirhams (6.48g), type A (plain heptagon / hexagon, looped at the corners), struck 739-740
Type A was struck at many mints throughout Iran, but not in the northeast (Khorasan and adjacent provinces), which employed different designs and monetary weights (#2240 ff). The date in words appears beneath the ruler’s titles within the heptagon. Only the double dirham of type A is common. The 6-dirham type was struck at mints in Fars and Kirman provinces.

2234 AR 2 dirhams (2.16g), type A
Known dated 739-740 but only the year 739 is common.

2234H AR 2 dirhams (2.16g), type HA, as type A but reverse in pointed hexafoil instead of plain hexagon, Hamadan 739

2234I AR 2 dirhams (2.16g), type IB, as type HA but the date is written outside the heptagon rather than in the field, also Hamadan 739

2235 AR 2 dirhams (2.16g), type RA (as type A, but the obverse is in a hexagon)
The crucial distinction between types A and RA (heptagon in Iran versus hexagon in Anatolia) has been overlooked by previous writers. Type RA was produced only at Anatolian mints dated 739, except for a few rare examples dated 740-743.

A2236 AR 1 dirham (1.08g), type RA

2236 AR 2 dirhams (2.16g), first Iraqi type IA (design exactly as Sati Beg type IA but in the name of Taghay Timur), struck in 739 only
All three Iraqi types were struck at in central & southern Iraq, but type RA was also struck at Isfahan, Tustar (= Shushtar in Khuzestan), and “Sultaniya”, an unknown location probably in Iraq.

2237 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), second Iraqi type IB (pointed hexafoil / plain circle), used 741-744

2238 AR 2 dirhams (1.44g), type IB
A hoard rumored to have contained 50,000 coins (more likely between 10,000 and 15,000), nearly all of this type, was found in the mid 1980s, allegedly in Damascus. Well struck examples with clear mint & date are uncommon.

A2239 AR 1 dirham (0.72g), type IB

2239 AR 2 dirhams (1.44g), third Iraqi type IC (circle notched at three equidistant points / plain or concave square), used 744-745
Ruler’s name & titles entirely in Uighur. This type was followed by Sulayman’s type C2260 at some point during the year 745.

A2240 AR 2 dirhams (2.88g), type RyA (circle inscribed within a pointed hexafoil / reverse as type H of Abu Sa‘id), struck at Rayy in 737 only
This is the only coin dated 737 in the name of Taghay Timur.

B2240 AR 2 dirhams (1.80g), type IA (as Sulayman’s type B, inner circle / ornamented square, but in the name of Taghay Timur), Hamadan 741 only

M2240 AR 6 dirhams (3.78g), type UA (pointed quatrefoil / fancy lobated square), region of Lur Buzurg, dated 748 or undated
Types UA & UB are normally without mint, though the mint of Bandez, a town not from Aydhaj, is known for both (RRR). They are assigned to Lur Buzurg due to hoard evidence and similarity to type UA of Anushirvan.

N2240 AR 6 dirhams (3.78g), type UB (plain quatrefoil / plain lobated square), region of Lur Buzurg, dated 750

RRR AR 6 dirhams (7.56g), first Khorasan type KA (looped hexafoil / fancy octofoil, ruler’s name in Arabic, Sunni reverse), used 738-739
Types #2240 and 2240A were struck at mints throughout Khorasan. For similar issues of Amul, see #2240L-2240N, as coins of Amul were struck to a lighter standard.
The reverse octofoil usually has the alternate arcs pointed.

C 2240A AR 2 dirhams (2.52g), type KA

2240B AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), type KA, mithqal standard, Sunni reverse, of Amul 738 only
This type may not have been produced until the introduction of the 4.32g weight standard in 742, but pseudo-dated 738 for some unknown political reason. However, I consider it more likely that Amul adopted the 4.32g standard as early as 739 and struck the coins for several years with a frozen date. Coins of the 6.48g standard were struck at Amul & dated 738 & 739. There are no known coins of Amul struck to the 5.40g standard of 741.

C 2240C AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), type KA, mithqal standard, Shi’ite reverse with the names of the 12 Imams added to the reverse field
Struck at Amul & Jurdan dated 738, and at Amul 743-746. This type was most likely introduced after the local types of Amul (#M2246-P2246), which are all dated 742 only. It is not known why so many examples of this type bore the frozen date 738, much more common than 743-746. The probable order for 6-dirham coin types struck at Amul, #1 in the name of Muhammad Khakan, #2-6 of Taghay Timur:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>ACTUAL</th>
<th>RELIGIOUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>Sunni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>Sunni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>Sunni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>Shi’ite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>Shi’ite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>Shi’ite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Types #M2246-P2246 are the local types struck at Amul, #1 in the name of Muhammad Khan, #2-6 of Taghay Timur. The assumption that #P2246 preceded #M2246 is tentative.

2240D AR 2 dirhams (1.44g), as #2240C, Shi’ite reverse

2240E AR 1 dirham (0.72g), Shi’ite reverse, similar

2240L AR 6 dirhams (6.48g), as #2240 but mint of Amul, Sunni reverse, struck to standard of type KB, dated 738

2240M AR 2 dirhams (2.16g), as #2240A but mint of Amul, Sunni reverse, dated 739 (sic)

2240N AR 1 dirham (1.08g), as last, also Amul mint and Sunni reverse, dated 739 (sic)

2241 AR 6 dirhams (6.48g), second Khorasan type KB (looped hexafoil / octofoil with points in outer segments, ruler’s name in Uighur), used 739-740

R 2242 AR 2 dirhams (2.16g), type KB

A2243 AR 1 dirham (1.08g), type KB

B2243 AR 6 dirhams (6.48g), third Khorasan type KC (obverse as KB, reverse in plain circle)
Known only from Nishapur in 739 and Sabzawar in 740.

555 Tübingen 92-2-105. 4.19g (Astarabad), NY sale 23, lot 464, 7.06g (Saveh, with hard ‘s’ in mint name). Saveh is the mint furthest to the west that employed a Khorasanian type, known only for type KD in both gold and silver.
556 Also missed by Diler.
557 More likely, the hoard contained only 10,000-15,000 coins, unless a large portion of the hoard was melted down, or sold to an “investor”.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 239
2243 AR 6 dirhams, (5.40g) fourth Khorasan type KD (double entwined trefoil / simple octofoil), dated 741 only

2244 AR 2 dirhams (1.80g), type KD

A2245 AR 6 dirhams, fifth Khorasan type KE (plain quatrefoil / inner circle with Qur' an 3:25 in outer margin) Struck only at Sabzawar, 74x (full date not determined), weight unknown.

H2245 AR ¼ tanka (about 2.75g), type KE but with the names of the 12 Shi'ite Imams instead of the Qur'anic inscription in outer margin

2245 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), sixth Khorasan typeKF (looped quatrefoil / plain circle), struck 742-744 Some fifteen mints for 742; Bazar only for 743 & 744. Many of the Khorasanian mints struck coins dated 743-745 in the name of Sulayman (types #A2259-2259S).

2245D AR 6 dirhams (circa 3.85g), type KF but reverse in plain highlighted square, 744 only Struck at Astarabad and Shahristan, also Bazar (Zeno-42825). Reduced weight similar to some issues of Sulayman’s type #2259B, but this reduced weight was quickly abandoned.

A2246 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), seventh Khorasan type KG (hexagon / plain circle, mint on both sides), Damghan 744 only

B2246 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), eighth Khorasan type KH (plain inner circle, with outer margin legend interrupted by four annulets / plain octofoil or dodekafoil), dated 746 Struck at Damghan and Bazar only. From this type (KH) until the last Khorasanian type (KN), the actual weight standard of the 6 dirhams denomination seems to have been lowered to about 4.25g or slightly less.

C2246 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), ninth Khorasan type KI (Uighur inscription in hexofoil with alternate arcs pointed / lobated square), about ten mints, dated 746-747

D2246 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), tenth Khorasan type KJ (plain square / inner circle as obverse of B2246), dated 747-748

E2246.1 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), 11th Khorasan type KK (vertically elongated octofoil / plain circle, no annulets), Bazar and Dihistan 750 only

E2246.2 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), as #2246.1 but reverse in plain circle, also Bazar 750 only

F2246 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), 12th Khorasan type KL (lobated square / spiraled Kufic kalima in plain square), 752 only

The “square” is without a border, but rather the shape of the kalima inscription.

G2246 AR 4 dirhams (or ¼ tanka to Delhi standard) (circa 2.75g), 13th Khorasan type KM (looped octagon / plain octofoil), 752 only For the denomination of #G2246, see note to #2342.1. Struck at about eight mints. This type is similar to type G of Abu Sa’id.

H2246 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), 14th Khorasan type KN (hexofoil / plain square), Bazar mint, dated 753-754, often with blundered date

Some examples dated 754 have the obverse in an octofoil.

M2246 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), type AA (hexofoil / plain inner circle), Amul 742 only Full Shi’ite reverse, with ‘ali wali Allah and the names of the twelve Imams.

N2246 AR 2 dirhams (1.44g), similar

O2246 AR 1 dirham (0.72g), similar

P2246 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), type AB (hexofoil inscribed within a circle / 16-foil), Amul 742 only

C One of the most beautifully engraved Islamic coins of all times. Shi’ite reverse as #M2246, but with the 12th Imam cited as Muhammad al-Hujja.

RRR

R2246 AR 6 dirhams (circa 3.78g), type RN A (highlighted pointed hexofoil / quatrefoil, pointed alternatively inward & outward), Ruyan mint, 745 only

RRR

S2246 AR 6 dirhams (circa 3.60g), type RN B (looped hexofoil / octofoil), Ruyan 750 only

RRR

X2246 AR, various denominations, local types from various Iranian and Anatolian mints, at least a dozen different local types (all at least R)

C AR fals, many types, mostly from Khorasan

RRR

S Khorasanian fulus are normally pictorial, other areas normally purely inscriptive with geometric patterns.

Jihan Timur, 740-741 / 1339-1340

2247 AR 2 dirhams (1.80g), type A (ornate pentafoil / octofoil), mints in Iraq, the Jazira, and eastern Anatolia

S At least 11 different mints known, but only al-Jazira is known dated 741. Jihan Timur was a nominal ruler set upon the throne by Shaykh Hasan Buzurg, founder of the Jalayrid dynasty. The Erzincan mint used a slightly differently arranged design for the same type (RR), Khilat has the mint name at the bottom of the obverse field rather than in the surrounding margin. No gold coins reported for this reign.

A2248 AR 1 dirham (0.90g), type A

RRR

B2248 AR 1 dirham (1.08g), type SA (hexagon / looped hexagon), used only at Samsun

RR

Type is identical to RA of Taghay Timur except for the name. Known dated 740-742.

C2248 AR 2 dirhams (1.80g), type IA (hexofoil / dodekafoil), al-Basra mint (Diler-761)

RRR

Design derived from type B of Muhammad Khan (#2229). All known specimens have date off plane. This type may have also been struck at other Iraqi mints.

Sulayman, 739-746 / 1339-1346

F2248 AV dinar, various types, usually distinct from contemporary silver types

W2248 AR 6 dirhams (theoretically 6.48g), type A (looped ornamented hexagon / inner circle)

RRR

Known only from Firuzan and dated 740 (Zeno-1491), weighing 5.2g, thus corresponding to the weight of #2243 (type KD of Taghay Timur, always dated 741). It could also be a 5 dirham coin (5 x 1.08g = 5.40g) based on the Khorasan coinage of 740. The 6-dirhams has on the reverse a double inner circle, but the 2-dirhams normally has a single inner circle.

2248 AR 2 dirhams (2.16g), type A, dated 739-740 Types A through G were restricted to the central regions that recognized Sulayman, comprising central and northwestern Iran and the Caucasus, with its capital at Tabriz. Types A through D and type G were struck at numerous mints, especially B, C and D.

R2249 AR 6 dirhams (5.40g), type B (inner circle / ornamented square), used 740-741

RR

Ruler’s name in Arabic on all denominations of type B. Some mints ignored the ornamentation within the square on the reverse. The obverse margin is frequently divided by 4 annulets, sometimes by stars.

S2250 AR 2 dirhams (1.80g), type B

RRR

R251 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), type C (inner octofoil / octofoil), used 741-743

RR

Only the obverse has a marginal legend outside the octofoil, which contains the mint & date in words, usually separated into four sections by stars (all denominations). The name Sulayman is normally in Uighur, occasionally in Arabic.

561 Also citing Abu Bakr, first of the Rashidun, within the inner circle.

562 (Zeno-88696) Local type, weight standard apparently identical to type #2245D dated 744 and the Lur Buzurg types struck 748-750. Type #S2246 has a reduced weight standard, probably 3.60g.
AR 2 dirhams (1.44g), type C
AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), type D (eye-shape / plain circle), used 743-744
AR 2 dirhams (1.44g), type D
AR 1 dirham (0.72g), type D RR
AR 2 dirhams (1.44g), type F (quatrefoil / square), used 744-745
AR 2 dirhams (1.44g), type MA, dated 741 only, designs as Sati Beg’s type IA
AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), first Khorasan type KA (hexafoil / octofoil), dated 743
AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), type KB (quatrefoil / square), dated 743
AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), type KC (octofoil / octofoil, similar to general type C), dated 743-745
AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), type KD (square / plain circle), Damghan 743 only
AR 4 dirhams (about 2.85g), type KC, as #2259B but longer protocol, struck only at the rare mint of Shiasm in 744
A2260 AR 6 dirhams (4.32g), Fars type FA (octofoil / square), dated 741-742

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 241

561 A large hoard of type G, nearly all of Hisn mint and in choice condition, reached the market about 1980. About 5% of the hoard were other types, mostly Iraqi and Jaziran mints, with terminal date 746. The source of the hoard is unknown. I purchased over 2,000 pieces (and still have over 400, in stock in 2010), but now believe the total quantity in the hoard was at least 3,000-4,000, possibly more.

562 Type KC issues of Simnan and Damghan were struck to a lighter standard of about 3.85g.
2272 AR 2 dirhams (1.08g), type A (“triangle” / pointed hexafoil), bilingual, northwestern Iranian and Caucasian mints, dated 757-758

The “triangle” is actually the ruler’s name in Uighur, sultan / gasan / han, with suvari malkahu in Arabic in the center, the mint & date around.567

2273 AR 6 dirhams (about 2.1g), first Jibal type JA (pointed pentafolium / plain hexafoil), 758 only

Minted only at Qumm, dated either in words or numerals. The Jibal (“mountains”) was the region of central Iran, with principal centers at Rayy, Sultaniya, Isfahan, and Hamadan. Ruler’s name in Arabic.

2274 AR 6 dirhams (about 2.1g), second Jibal type JB (trefoil / plain circle), 758 only

Only reported mint is Saveh.

CHUPANID

The Chupanids were the actual rulers operating in the names of the later Ilkhans at Tabriz, with only one numismatic issue in their own name.

Malik Ashraf (Ghiyath al-Din), 745-757 or 758 / 1344-1356 or 1357

2274M AR dinar (2.16g), Kashan mint only, undated RRR

Denomination uncertain. Tübingen 98-7-3.

POST-MONGOL IRAN

From the collapse of the Ilkhanate to the rise of the Safavids, roughly 1335-1500, Iran was divided amongst various dynasties of Mongol, Turkish and Persian origins. Those of the 14th century struck a plethora of types to a great variety of weight standards. Most rulers of this period struck a central coinage in their principal cities, together with local types for numerous outlying locales. The central coinage is listed here as completely as possible—new discoveries are now relatively infrequent—whereas the local coinage is not fully listed for all rulers. One exception is the Muzaffarid king Shah Shuja’, whose local issues are listed here following my latest research (but assuredly incomplete), over 30 types in a dozen different regions. The weight standards are tabulated for each ruler, for assistance in dating both undated coins and dated coins where the year is not preserved. The tables include the period of use for each standard, the weight in grams, the denomination using that weight, and the principal types using that weight.

In 796/1394, Timur (Tamerlane) abolished most of the local standards and introduced the tanka, at first about 6.2 grams, reduced in three stages to about 4.78g over the succeeding century, with occasional regional variations. The tanka (also called tengar or den ga in later times) formed the basic unit of the currency in most parts of Iran and Central Asia throughout the 15th century, and until 1920 in Central Asia, and has recently been revived as a denomination in post-Soviet Uzbekistan. The term is of Sanskrit origin.

From the 740s/1340s until 907/1501, silver coinage was predominant, supplemented in some regions with modest copper coinage, and occasionally with minimal amounts of gold coinage. Prior to 796/1394, the principal silver denomination was derived from the Ilkhan silver dinar, at first valued at six dirhams, but after about 780/1380 itself the smallest denomination and the basis of the monetary system.

The silver tanka, derived from the Chaghatai dinar kebeki, emerged as the principal silver denomination after 782, at first at Herat, then throughout Khurasan commencing in the late 780s, finally everywhere in Iran and Central Asia after 796. Under the Timurids, the tanka was normally valued according to a notional quantity of the accounting dinar, as were all Iranian gold, silver and copper coins following the Safavid expansion beginning in 1501.

567 Diler An-832, who knew of this type only the mint of Bazar. This type now appears on Zeno from seven mints, Bazar, Gushtasbi, Khuy, Maragha, Serah, Shurur, and Tabriz. The roughly 60-70 pieces cost me 15 rial each (about US $20c, $1.20 in 2011 money), but one recently sold at auction for US $1700 (SARC auction 10, lot 948, $1955 including the buyer’s fee).

568 Ghazan II is omitted from almost all contemporary & later chronicles. His existence was unearthed in the 1970s by Lutz Ilisch.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 242
907/1501, when the term tanka was replaced by the shahi, then valued at 50 dinars. This monetary policy survived until 1930.

The kingdoms in central and eastern Anatolia (Ertenids & their successors) did not follow these weight standards for their silver coinage. Their standards are described individually alongside the listings. They produced no gold coinage.

Although the gold “dinar” was a bullion issue struck at random weight until the 790s/1390s (except for the northeastern issues of the Sufids in Khwarizm and the Sarbadarids in Khorasan mints), the limited production of gold “dinars” thereafter usually followed a fixed weight standard. These include the Mehrabaind gold “tanka”, derived from contemporary issues of the Delhi Sultanate, the Qara Qoyunlu and Aq Qoyunlu “ashrafi”, derived from the Mamluk ashrafi, and the very few Timurid gold coins. As for the relationship between the silver and gold dinars, it was probably a fixed weight standard. These include the Mehrabaind gold “tanka”, derived from contemporary issues of the Delhi Sultanate, the Qara Qoyunlu and Aq Qoyunlu “ashrafi”, derived from the Mamluk ashrafi, and the very few Timurid gold coins. As for the relationship between the silver and gold dinars, it was probably a fixed weight standard.

In the post-Ilkhan coinage, the kalima is arranged primarily in nine different formats, cited here by the K-number when appropriate.

K1. la ilah illa / Allah muhammad / rashed Allah in three lines.
K2. la ilah illa Allah / muhammad rashed Allah in two lines.
K3. la ilah illa Allah / muhammad rashed Allah, in three lines with the first Allah written above ilah.
K4. As K3, but the first line written right to left in a single line.
K5. la ilah illa Allah muhammad rashed Allah forming a square with central cavity, in which the mint name is normally inscribed, sometimes with duriba, more rarely with the date as well, and sometimes positioned within a cartouche; the kalima is almost always in Kufic script.
K6. Square Kufic kalima spiraled towards the center, usually forming a square without central cavity, occasionally with salta Allah ‘alayhi added as well.
K7. la ilah illa Allah / muhammad rashed Allah / ‘ali wali Allah in three lines (Shi‘i).
K8. la ilah illa Allah / muhammad rashed Allah / salta Allah ‘alayhi in four lines.
K9. la ilah illa Allah / muhammad rashed Allah / salta Allah ‘alayhi in three lines.

There are many additional forms or minor variations, usually ignored in the type descriptions here.

**INJUYID**

Originally governors to the Ilkhans, the Injuyids became independent in the early 740s, establishing their capital at Shiraz. They lost Shiraz in 754 and were finally swept away by Timur at the culmination of the Timurid conquest in 795/1393. They produced no gold coinage.

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At least 17 mints are known, of which Shiraz, Shabankara, Yazd, Kazirun, and Isfahan are the least rare. In addition to the six principal types, there exists at least one rare local type, as noted below. Silver coins are almost always poorly made, with considerable weakness; fully struck examples are rare.

After a brief anonymous issue assigned to Mahmud, coins of the Injuyid mints of the years 741-744 are purely Injuyid coinage, usually in the normal Ilkhan types, occasionally in a local type, such as type FA of Sulyman dated 741-742 (except for the solitary anonymous type #A2275). Beginning in 745, all of the coins of the Injuyid territories cite the dynastic ruler.

**Weight standards for Abu Ishaq, with known dates & types:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>745</td>
<td>4.32g</td>
<td>dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>747-749</td>
<td>3.76g</td>
<td>dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750-752</td>
<td>3.60g</td>
<td>dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>752-753</td>
<td>3.24g</td>
<td>dinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>755-756</td>
<td>2.83g</td>
<td>dinar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Individual specimens are often considerably light, by up to 10% or more, occasionally slightly overweight.

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### Checklist of Islamic Coins

**A2275** AR dinar (2.16g), anonymous, struck only at Shiraz and undated

By weight, this dinar was likely struck in 740 or early 741.

**Abu Ishaq** 743-757 / 1342-1356

**B2275** AV dinar (random weights in the range of 4-10g)

Design types seem always to differ from contemporary silver types; very few specimens are known. Some bear his additional title jalal al-dunya wa l-din.

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**MUZAFFARID**


Originally Ilkhan governors at Yazd, the Muzaffarids emerged as independent during the collapse of Ilkhan rule after the death of Abu Sa‘id, although their coins (at Yazd) continued to be struck in the name of the Ilkhans until about 742, followed by Injuyid issues 744-753, anonymous Muzaffarid issues 754-755, and in the Muzaffarid ruler’s names beginning in 756.

By weight, this dinar was likely struck in 740 or early 741.

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**B2275** AV dinar (random weights in the range of 4-10g)

Design types seem always to differ from contemporary silver types; very few specimens are known. Some bear his additional title jalal al-dunya wa l-din.

**2275.1** AR dinar (4.32g), type A (hexafoil / plain circle), with title al-walith bi ghawth Allah (“confident of assistance from God”), dated 745 only

**2275.2** AR dinar (3.78g), type B (pointed quatrefoil / fancy octofoil), title al-mutawakkil ‘ala Allah (“trusting in God”), struck 747-749

Well-struck examples with clear mint & date are very scarce.

**2275.3** AR dinar (3.60g), type C (diamond / octagon), title as B, 750 only

**2275.4** AR dinar (3.60g), type D (inner circle / plain square), title as B, 750-752

**2275.5** AR dinar (3.24g), type E (pointed octofoil / pointed hexafoil), title as B, 752-753

**2275.6** AR dinar (2.88g), type F (pointed cinquefoil / mibrab), with title al-sultan al-a’zam, 755-756

Kashan is the least rare mint for this type, struck after Abu Ishaq lost Shiraz to the Muzaffarids in 754.

**2275K** AR dinar (3.24g), local type KZA (hexafoil / plain circle), struck only at Kazirun in 753

**2276** AR ½ dinar, various types & weights

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**MUZAFFARID**


Originally Ilkhan governors at Yazd, the Muzaffarids emerged as independent during the collapse of Ilkhan rule after the death of Abu Sa‘id, although their coins (at Yazd) continued to be struck in the name of the Ilkhans until about 742, followed by Injuyid issues 744-753, anonymous Muzaffarid issues 754-755, and in the Muzaffarid ruler’s names beginning in 756. Shah Shuja’, who disgracefully obtained power by parricide in 759, was nonetheless the most illustrious of the dynasty and the patron of Iran’s most renowned poet, Hafez-e Shirazi, whose tomb is still a popular tourist site in Shiraz. After the death of Shah Shuja’ in 786/1384, the kingdom, already threatened by the rise of Timur, broke up into warring factions. At the culmination of the Timurid conquest in 795/1393, Timur invited all the remaining Muzaffarid princes to a dinner party, including Shah Mahmud, and had them all assassinated.

Aside from a few rare gold and some uninspiring coppers, Muzaffarid coinage consists of silver coins in a bewildering variety of types. Aside from the main series of types, struck at the capital cities of the various rulers (Shiraz for the main line, Isfahan, Yazd & Kirman for their rivals), there are dozens of local types which reflect the political autonomy of local governors, predominantly princes of the royal family. I have added the majority of these local issues to the 3rd edition of the Checklist.

Most Muzaffarid coins are theoretically dated, but the date is off from the majority of extant specimens. Since weight standards were carefully maintained, undated or date-missing specimens can often be approximately dated by weight.

Some 35 mints are known for the Muzaffarids, of which Shiraz, Kazirun and Yazd are most common. Also frequent are Kashan, Isfahan, Abarquh, Aydhaj, Lar, Shabankara and Kirman. A few other mints are rather “common” for specific types. As for the rare mint of

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569 The last coin denominated in the dinar was the 50 dinar brass coin dated SH1358 (= 1979) during the first year of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

570 No coins of Yazd dated 743-747 have been confirmed.
Nayriz in Fars province, it is engraved identically to Tabriz, but can readily be distinguished by typology.

Muzaffarid coins are usually rather carelessly struck, typically off center or with considerable weakness, despite the magnificent art of the dies. Well-centered and fully struck specimens are exceptional, unknown for most types. During the chaotic conditions following the death of Shah Shuja’ in 786, the quality of engraving and production declined precipitously.

Weight standard for the Muzaffarid silver coinage, used for all mints except those during their brief invasion into Adhirbayjan (#2284), where the concurrent Tabrizi standard of the Jalayrids was employed:

| Time of Muhammad b. al-Muzaffar                  | 754-756 | 3.24g | dinar | anonymous types |
|                                                | 756-759 | 2.88g | dinar | A, JA, YB, YC   |

| Time of Shah Shuja’ (main types)                | 761-751 | 5.40g | 2 dinars | A |
|                                                | 762-765 | 4.32g | 2 dinars | B |
|                                                | 765      | 1.80g | 1 dinar  | C |
|                                                | 765-766  | 3.60g | 2 dinars | D |
|                                                | 767-768  | 3.24g | 2 dinars | E |
|                                                | 769-773  | 2.88g | 2 dinars | F & G |
|                                                | 771-773  | 1.44g | 1 dinar  | G |
|                                                | 775-777  | 2.52g | 2 dinars | H |
|                                                | 777-780 (783?) | 2.16g | 2 dinars | I |

| Time of Zayn al-'Abidin, also type A of Sultan Ahmad & some issues in the name of Timur | 786-787 | 1.98g | 2 dinars | A |

| Time of Zayn al-'Abidin, including issues naming Timur | 788-789 | 1.71g | 2 dinars | B |

| Time of Timur’s first occupation of the Muzaffarid lands, also used very briefly in 790 by Shah Mansur | 789-790 | 1.44g | 2 dinars | various |

| Time of Shah Mansur, including issues of Timur and of the second reign of his rival, Zayn al-'Abidin | 791-793 | 1.26g | 2 dinars | various |

| Later time of Shah Mansur, standard briefly retained by Timur after his definitive conquest in 795 | 793-796 | 2.16g | 4 dinars | various |
|                                                                                                       |        | 1.08g | 2 dinars | various |

Muhammad b. al-Muzaffar, 736-759 / 1335-1358

Most coinage of the reign of Muhammad is undated, but the weight standards help us determine an approximate date. Kirman and Yazd are the only mints of the anonymous series, which was struck only after the Muzaffarid ousted the Injuyids from Shiraz in 754. For the named series, Aydhaj, Shiraz and Yazd are the most common mints.

All coins bearing the name of Muhammad b. al-Muzaffar also cite the shadow ’Abbasid caliph in Egypt, al-Mu’tadid. A few types also bear his additional title mubārak al-haqq wa'l-dīn. Types #2277.2 and 2277Y.2 seem to adhere to a standard of 3.42g (18 nokhod), and seem to be dated after the dinars of 3.24g (18 nokhod), suggesting the standard was temporarily increased, an infrequent phenomenon.

Anonymous, struck before 756/1355

Anonymous types of Muhammad bear on the obverse the first part of Qur’an Verse 3:26.572

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2277.1 AR dinar (3.24g), type XA</td>
<td>3.24g</td>
<td>plain circle / square, Kirman, known dated 754-755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2277.2 AR dinar (probably 3.42g), type XB</td>
<td>3.42g</td>
<td>lobated square, Kirman, dates not determined</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

572 No coinage of Shah Shuja’ is known dated 759-760.

577 This text also appears on many of the gold and silver coins of the first three Ilkhun rulers struck at mints in Iraq and the Jazira, probably referring to the Mongol conquest at Baghdad and elimination of the ’ Abbassid caliphate in 656/1258, during the reign of the first Ilkhun ruler Hulagu. The same Qur’an Verse also appears on a few later Islamic coins, not noted here.

2277Y.1 AR dinar (3.24g), type YX (quatrefoil / circle within an ornamented square), Yazd and Jarun mints, known dated 754 for Yazd RRR

2277Y.2 AR dinar (probably 3.42g), type YB (quatrefoil / plain square), Yazd only, possibly dated 755 RRR

2278 AR ½ dinar (1.08g), obverse as type XB, but with triangle reverse, Kirman RR

It seems logical that the triangle reverse actually indicates the fractional denomination as “one-third”?

In his name, struck 756-759/1355-1358:

2279 AR dinar (2.88g), type A (two entwined octofoils / inner circle), Shiraz and Kazirun, known dated 756 R

2280 AE fals, in his name RR

Shah Mahmud, in Isfahan, 759-776 / 1358-1374

All coins in the name of Mahmud are dated 761-762. After 762, Mahmud struck his coinage in the name of the contemporary Jalayrid ruler (see note to #2302), in exchange for military assistance. Because Isfahan lay within the Sistan monetary zone, each type follows the contemporary Shirazi standards of his brother Shah Shuja’ rather than the Jalayrid standards, with new types introduced with each devaluation of the Shirazi weight.

Each type employs a design different from all other Jalayrid issues, and normally different from contemporary Muzaffarid issues as well.

2279U AR dinar (2.88g), type UA (two entwined octofoils / plain circle with kalima K5, mint in center), Aydhaj & Ganduman (Lur Buzurg province), only Aydhaj occasionally available, known dated 759 S

2279K.1 AR dinar (2.88g), type JB (concave octagon / plain circle), Kashan, undated RRR

2279K.2 AR dinar (probably 2.16g), type JC (plain circle / square, each line knotted at its center), Kashan, undated RRR

The weight uncertain, derived from only 1 specimen.

2279U AR dinar (2.88g), type UC (hexafoil / plain circle), Yazd, probably always undated RR

2279Z AR dinar (2.88g), type ZA (plain circle / plain circle), Zaydan, known dated 756 RRR

2279X AR dinar, miscellaneous local types RR

At least two partially described types reported.

No 1/3 dinar coins bearing the name of Muhammad b. al-Muzaffar have been confirmed.

2280 AE fals, in his name RR

Shah Shuja’, 759-786 / 1358-1384

Most coins state his name with the rhyming title al-sultan al-muta’ shah shuja’.

Standard types, used at mints under Shah Shuja’s direct control:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A2282 AV dinar, types not recorded</td>
<td></td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2282 AR 5 dinars (type B only, as #2282)</td>
<td>2.16g</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2282.1 AR 2 dinars, type A (fancy lobated square / 18-foil arranged as hexafoil), dated 761 only</td>
<td>2.16g</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2282.2 AR 2 dinars, type B (pointed octofoil / multifoil), struck 762-764</td>
<td>2.30g</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of arcs of reverse multifoil varies, usually 18 arcs, occasionally only 8 arcs (especially at mints in the Luristan
2282.3 AR 2 dinars, type C (quatrefoil / partly pointed octofoil), dated 765 only

2282.4 AR 2 dinars, type D (18-foil arranged as hexafoil / protuberrated quatrefoil), several minor variations), used 765-766

Types A-D cite the nominal ‘Abbasid caliph in Cairo, al-Mu’tadid bilah, whereas types E-I refer to the caliph anonymously, the royal inscription commencing amir al-mu’minin wa al-sultan... This transition occurred between 766 and 767 and applies also to the local types noted below,

Types C and D are ornate designs on broad flans, usually boldly struck, perhaps the loveliest Muzaffarid specimens occasionally available.

2282.5 AR 2 dinars, type E (fancy hexafoil / ornamented quatrefoil), 767 only

2282.6 AR 2 dinars, type F (plain heptaofoil / fancy lobated square), 769 only

2282.7 AR 2 dinars, type G (plain circle with mint engraved interlinearly / highlighted square), 771-777

2282.8 AR 2 dinars, type H (plain octofoil / hexagon with small arcs at the intersections), 775-777

2282.9 AR 2 dinars, type I (plain octofoil / plain quatrefoil), known dated 777-779, possibly also 780

On many examples, the top & bottom arcs of the obverse octofoil are lobated. The date appears in the obverse margin, usually off the flan.

Surprisingly, there are no coins known of Shah Shuja’ dated 781-786, both his standard and local types, save for a few of Kirman dated 783.

2283.1 AR dinar, type A

2283.2 AR dinar, type B, many mints

2283.4 AR dinar, type D, known from Shiraz

2283.7 AR dinar, type G, known from Shiraz & Kazirun

The single dinar was struck in relatively small quantities after 764. Other types may exist, and unlisted varieties can generically be catalogued as type #2283.

Local types:

The following subordinate listings for #2282 and 2283 represent the local types within the Shirazi monetary zone, mints that were controlled by various governor’s, many of them secondary members of the Muzaffarid family, but always in the name of Shah Shuja’. Please note that the types of each mint or mint region are now listed in the order of denominations, not in the order of the lettered type names (AbA, IsA, LA, etc.). These original type names were assigned before the order of denominations, not in the order of the lettered type names

NOTE: Additional local types continue to be discovered, as well as various fractional denominations, including some known types not included here.

2282A.1 AR 2 dinars (2.88g), type AbB (octofoil with 8 annulets in marginal inscriptions / uncertain), Abarqoh only (date?)

2282A.2 AR 2 dinars (2.16g), type AbA (inner circle with 6 annulets in margin / same on reverse), Abarqoh, known dated 777

2282L.2 AR 2 dinars (4.32g), type IsA (inner circle* / highlighted square), Isfahan, known dated 76x

Exactly the same design and text arrangement as type B of Shah Mansur, only the name has changed. Probably dated 762.

2282L.1 AR 2 dinars (4.32g), type IsA (inner circle* / highlighted square), Isfahan, known dated 76x

2282L.2 AR 2 dinars (4.32g), type UB (quatrefoil, upper & lower arcs pointed / plain square with kalima K5), Aydhaj & Bazuft (Lur Buzurg province), known dated 769

2282U.1 AR 2 dinars (2.88g), type UB (quatrefoil, upper & lower arcs pointed / plain square with kalima K5), Aydhaj & Bazuft (Lur Buzurg province), known dated 769

2282U.2 AR 2 dinars (2.16g), type UC (pointed hexafoil / plain square), Bandez, Ganduman & Lurdijan

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 245

573 The region of southern Luristan (Lur Buzurg) remained under the Hazaraspids throughout the 8th/14th century and later, but struck coins in the name of whoever they chose as their theoretical overlord. They usually adopted coin designs clearly different from their overlord’s principal types. When they selected the principal type, they would slightly alter the design, such as 8 arcs instead of 18 on type B of Shah Shuja’.

574 If the caliph is cited by name, this type would be a single dinar of the period 762-764, corresponding to a double dinar of 4.32g.

575 Formerly rare, a couple hundred examples appeared in a massive hoard mainly of type #2283.7 of at least 2000 pieces, marketed circa 2004.
(TypeYA is known only from a single dinar, #2283Y, probably dated 761 by weight, citing the caliph al-Mu'tadid by name.)

2282Y.1 AR 2 dinars (3.24g), type YE (pointed hexafoil / fancy dodekafoil), Yazd, known dated 767
2282Y.2 AR 2 dinars (2.88g), type YB (annulated octafoil / plain square), Yazd, known dated 773
2282Y.3 AR 2 dinars (2.52g), type YC (ornamented pointed quatrefoil / alternately pointed octafoil), Yazd, known dated 777
2282Y.4 AR 2 dinars (2.16g), type YD (plain circle / plain circle), Yazd, known dated 779

Small circle in reverse center, with ornament inside. Date on obverse, mint name interlinearly on reverse.

2282X AR 2 dinars, various types (various standards), either without mint name or known with legible mint name, not yet assigned to a specific region

2282XX AR 2 dinars, various types (various standards), either without mint name or known with legible mint name, not yet assigned to a specific region

2283Y AR dinar (2.70g), type IsA as #2282I.1, Isfahan

Shah Shuja` cited with additional titles jadal al-dunya wa’l-din, sometimes with additional title abu’l-fawaris. The mint name on the variant with both titles can be cautiously read as Kirman.

2283I AR dinar (2.16g), type IsA as #2282I.1, Isfahan (date?)

2283K AR dinar (2.70g), type KA (triangle / octafoil), Kashan, known dated 761

Obverse design has a small triangle in center, legend around arranged triangulally, all within a lobated triangle, with date in outer margin.

2283U AR dinar (2.70g), type UA (pointed quatrefoil* / fancy lobated square), Aydhaj, Ganduman & Ramuz (Lur Buzurg province), known dated 761

2283Y AR dinar (2.70g), type YA (fancy lobated square* / ornamented quatrefoil?), Yazd, date unknown but probably 761

2284 AR dinar (1.80g) , type TA (quatrefoil / plain circle), Adharbayjan mints, struck to the Tabrizi standard Struck during Shah Shuja`’s invasion of Adharbayjan in 777. The least rare mint is Tabriz, also known from Astara, Maragha, Hamadan, Wastan, etc.

2285 AE fals, in his name, struck mainly at Shiraz and Kirman, several varieties, usually undated

2288 Zayn al-‘Abidin, 1st reign, 786-789 / 1384-1387

All coins of this reign bear the rhyming title al-wathiq bi'l-mulk al-samad. rabb al-alamin sultan zayn al-‘abidin ("confident of assistance from the Lord of the two Worlds + his name").

2286.1 AR 2 dinars (1.98g), type A (plain circle with mint interlinear / square) mainly Shiraz & Kazirun, dated 786-787

2286.2 AR 2 dinars (1.71g), type B (plain circle / muhammad written in Kufic text, arranged as a diamond), dated 788

2286S AR 2 dinars, local type SbA, mints of Furg and Shabankara

Obverse as type A (Furg has duriba within eye-shape in center, Zeno-60953) / reverse in highlighted quatrefoil, weight unknown.

2286G AR 2 dinars, local type GA, mint of Kuhgiluya (same as type A / plain circle) (Zeno-91976, 1.6g) RRR

Zeno-91777 shares the same obverse die with Zeno-91776, which is normal type A of Kuhgiluya!

2286K AR 2 dinars (1.71g), local type KA, mint of Kashan, undated

2286L AR 2 dinars, local type LA, mint of Lar

Obverse has central square, mint at bottom, with reverse as #2286.2 (weight undetermined).

Between 789 and 790, the entire Muzaffarid region was occupied by the Timurids. Coins were struck at numerous mints in the name of Timur, also naming his overlord Suyurghatnash (Zeno-2367 & 2371). Thereafter, for five years, the Muzaffarids returned to power, only to be executed by Timur one evening in 795 at the dinner table.

Zayn al-‘Abidin, 2nd reign, 790-793 / 1388-1391

All coins issued at mints controlled by Zayn al-‘Abidin during his second reign are anonymous. Coins bearing his name were struck by local authorities, citing nominal alliance with Zayn al-‘Abidin for theoretical protection against their own enemies.

Anonymous:

2287 AR 2 dinars (1.26g) (inner circle / plain square), mainly Isfahan

The Isfahan type is dated, in words, in the 4 sections of the reverse margin, replacing the names of the Rashidun. Known dated 791 and 792, but most specimens are so poorly struck that the date is illegible. Other mints are very rare, and probably always undated.

In his name:

2287A AR 2 dinars (1.26g) (central triangle, the mint name within the triangle / plain square), mint of Kashan, undated

This remarkable type was struck by the local potentate, Muzaffar Kashi, in order to distinguish his types from those of Zayn al-‘Abidin proper, whose own coins were always anonymous, in deference to Timur (#2287). Zayn al-‘Abidin never ruled in Kashan or Lar during his second reign!

2287L AR 2 dinars (about 1.44g), mint of Lar, undated

Mint in obverse central circle, with full titles of the ruler around. Reverse has K1 in square, the Rashidun around. Probably struck 790-791, to judge by the weight.

Shah Mansur, 790-795 / 1388-1393

The ruler’s name appears as al-wathiq bi-al-haqqar shah mansur (“the trusting, the forgiving, Shah Mansur”), on all his coins.

2288 AR 4 dinars (2.16g), 3rd standard, typologically similar to #2282.2, known dated 794

V2289 AR 2 dinars, first standard (1.44g), (plain circle with mint name interlinear / octafoil), mints of Shiraz & Kazirun Always weakly struck. At least one obverse die seems to have a lobated square around the inscriptions, and the mint of Kazirun used a plain square reverse. Undated but probably struck in late 790, immediately after the departure of the Timurids. After a few weeks or months, the double dinar was reduced to 1.26g, perhaps to finance Shah Mansur’s military excursions.

2289.1 AR 2 dinars, second standard (1.26g), infrequently dated, struck 790-793

The typology of this reign has not yet been established, but undated types can be distinguished by weight. Both 2289.1 and 2289.2 are always crudely struck from coarsely engraved dies, but the weights are remarkably accurate. There are just over 20 mints in all, nearly all still unpublished.

Only confirmed dated coins are Shiraz 792 (S) and Kazirun 793 (RR). These bear the mint name interlinear on the obverse, with what appears to be a pointed quatrefoil reverse. The common type, always undated, has mint within central square on obverse, plain square on reverse.

2289.2 AR 2 dinars, third standard (1.08g), occasionally dated 793 or 794

Several subtypes for different mints, but still not researched. The mint normally appears in a central hexagon (occasionally an octagon) on the obverse. A variant of Kashan mint bears the extended title al-ghaffar bi-haqq wa’l-dunya wa’l-din.

Sultan Ahmad, in Kirman & Sirjan only, 786-795 / 1384-1393

2290 AR 2 dinars, several types

Ahmad’s rhyming title is al-wathiq bi’l-mulk al-samad.

ATABEGS OF LUR BUZURG (HAZARASPID)


Lurdijan (77)9 = Zeno-10297.
Coins of type 2291 were struck exclusively at Lur Buzurg (though some bear the additional mint name Aydhaj, its principal city). Later types were struck at six mints, but only Aydhaj is relatively available. All coins of this kingdom were carefully struck, typically somewhat off center with areas of weakness, despite the finely engraved dies. Lur Buzurg, “Greater Luristan,” corresponds to the two modern Iranian provinces of “Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari” and “Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad”, together with much of the eastern section of Khuzestan. The capital was at Aydhaj, now the town of Izeh, which I visited in 1973. Izeh is in Khuzestan province today.

Lur Kuchik, “Lesser Luristan”, corresponds to the modern province of Lorestan (sic), its capital at Borujerd (Borujirid). Type #2291.1 & 2292.2 use the anonymous title al-sultan al-a’zam khan, whereas no titles of any sort appear on types #2292 & 2293. Only these few types of the 750s can be regarded as purely Hazaraspid issues. All previous issues and later issues, 13th-15th century, were struck in the names of other dynasties (Ilkhan, Muzaffarid, Jalayrid, Timurid, etc.) and are reckoned as ordinary issues of those dynasties.

The Lur Buzurg weight standards more or less follow the standards of the Baghdad region of the Jalayrids. Individual specimens can vary considerably. The Jalayrid weight contemporary to #2291.1 was 3.78g, and to #2293 it was 2.70g (many examples of #2293 weigh in the 2.52-2.60 range, and 2.61g or even the Jalayrid 2.70g might have been the theoretical standard).

**temp. Nur-Award, 751-757 / 1350-1356**

2291.1 AR dinar (3.42g), type A (pointed or ornamented pentaoil / mihrab), mint names Aydhaj or Lur Buzurg (751-753) RR

2291.2 AR dinar (3.42g), type B (plain pentaoil / plain highlighted diamond), Aydhaj (754) RRR

2292 AR dinar (2.70g), type C (kalima in plain circle, as type F of Shaykh Hasan the Jalayrid / mint in center of kalima type K5) (756) RR

Kalima divided, half on obverse, half on reverse. Mints of Aydhaj, Buzuf, Kuhgilya. Aydhaj also struck a few coins of the normal type F of Shaykh Hasan in 750.

2293 AR dinar (2.52g), type D, similar design but special legends, mint interlinear on reverse (757) R

Special legends are malik al-haqq al-mabun on obverse, sadiq al-haqq ‘ind al-amin on reverse, each following the appropriate half of the kalima. Mints of Aydhaj, Buzuf, Kuhgilya. Aydhaj also struck a few coins of the normal type F of Shaykh Hasan in 750.

2294 AR dinar (2.52g), type E, similar design but special legends, mint interlinear on reverse (757) R

Kalima divided, half on obverse, half on reverse. Mints of Aydhaj, Buzuf, Kuhgilya. Aydhaj also struck a few coins of the normal type F of Shaykh Hasan in 750.

2295 AR dinar (2.52g), type F, similar design but special legends, mint interlinear on reverse (757) R

Kalima divided, half on obverse, half on reverse. Mints of Aydhaj, Buzuf, Kuhgilya. Aydhaj also struck a few coins of the normal type F of Shaykh Hasan in 750.

2296 AR dinar (2.52g), type G, similar design but special legends, mint interlinear on reverse (757) R

Kalima divided, half on obverse, half on reverse. Mints of Aydhaj, Buzuf, Kuhgilya. Aydhaj also struck a few coins of the normal type F of Shaykh Hasan in 750.

The Jalayrids were driven out by Timur in 1393, but staged a brief recovery, mainly in southern Iraq and Khuzestan, after his Timur’s death in 1405, until their ultimate demise in 1432. The Jalayrid Hasan Buzurg established his leadership at Baghdad early in 739, shortly after the assassination of Muhammad Khan, the Ilkhan. His first coins were struck in the names of successive Ilkhans, Taghay Timur (#2236), Jhan Timur (#2247), then Taghay Timur again (#2237-A2239), finally Sulayman (#C2260 & D2260), from 739 until 746. These were followed by purely anonymous types from 746 until 758, all regarded as Jalayrid issues, thereafter coins bearing the ruler’s name.

At least 80 mints struck coins of Jalayrid types, but rarely were more than 30 or so active simultaneously. In the Baghdaidi currency zone, corresponding more or less to modern Iraq and Khuzestan, Baghdad is by far the most common mint, though Baṣra, Hilla, and Iṣībī are also relatively commonly struck in many types. In the Tabrizi zone (Adharbayjan & Armenia), the regional capital Tabriz is most common, though coins of Sultanīya, Urumī, Shābārīn, Shāmākhtī, Būrda, and Qazwīn are not especially scarce. Finally, coins of the Shiraz zone, in effect issues of either the Muzaffarīd prince Shah Mahmūd or some other Muzaffarīd contender against Shah Shujā‘, are all quite scarce, though Shīrāz, Khashān, Iṣafān, and Aydhaj are the least scarce of the Shīrāzi types. Most Jalayrid silver and copper coins are weakly struck, often 20-30% flat, even worse for the issues of the 9th/15th century. Well-struck examples are generally rare, with a few exceptions, such as #2295.5, 2300.2, and especially #2302.3. Nonetheless, the die work was of exceptionally fine quality, especially in the Shīrāzi zone, but actual specimens almost never reflect that quality.

The 9th/15th century coinage was struck only in Iraq and Khuzestan, coarsely struck with nonchalantly engraved dies.

### Weight standards for the Baghdaidi currency zone:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Shaykh Hasan (same as type F of Shaykh Hasan)</th>
<th>756-762</th>
<th>2.70g</th>
<th>dinar A, B, C, D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>754</td>
<td>3.24g</td>
<td>½ dinar</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750-754</td>
<td>1.08g</td>
<td>¼ dinar</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>757-758</td>
<td>2.70g</td>
<td>dinar</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>762-700</td>
<td>0.90g</td>
<td>¼ dinar</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Time of Husayn I

| 777-778 | 1.80g | dinar A, B |
| 777-783 | 2.80g | 2 dinars C |
| 1.44g | dinar C |

### Time of Ahmad & successors

| 784-796 | 5.40g | 5 dinars A |
| 784-798 | 2.16g | 2 dinars A |
| 1.08g | dinar A |
| 807-835 | 1.70g | ½ tanka | (all) |

### Weight standards for the Tabrizi currency zone:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of Shaykh Uways I</th>
<th>757-761</th>
<th>2.70g</th>
<th>dinar TA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>762-774</td>
<td>0.90g</td>
<td>½ dinar TA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Time of Husayn I

| 777 | 1.80g | dinar TA |
| 777-779 | 1.62g | dinar TB, TC |
| 780-783 | 2.88g | 2 dinars TC |
| 1.44g | dinar TC |

### Time of Bayazid

| 784-785 | 2.52g | 2 dinars |

### Time of Ahmad

| 785-787 | 2.16g | 2 dinars TA |
| 788-790 | 1.98g | 2 dinars TB |

(Also used for regional issues of Togtamish and Timur.)

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578 The ½ dinar is also termed double dirham.

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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 247
Shaykh Hasan was known as Hasan Buzurg, “Hasan the Great”, to distinguish him from his contemporary rival, the Chupanid ruler “Hasan Kuchik,” "Hasan the Little”, the real power behind the Ilkhan Muhammad Shah, Sat Beg and Sullivan until he was murdered by his wife in 744/1343. Why did he marry her?

Anonymous types (758 only):

T2297 AR ½ dinar (2.70g), exactly as #2295.5 of Shaykh Hasan but dated 758
U2297 AR ⅓ dinar (0.90g), exactly as #2296.6 of Shaykh Hasan but dated 758

Anonymous types (758 only):

T2297 AR ½ dinar (2.70g), exactly as #2295.5 of Shaykh Hasan but dated 758
U2297 AR ⅓ dinar (0.90g), exactly as #2296.6 of Shaykh Hasan but dated 758

In his name (759-776, including anonymous countermarks):

AV dinar, struck exclusively at Iraqi mints, several types, always distinct from contemporary silver types

RR

In his name (759-776, including anonymous countermarks): AV dinar, struck exclusively at Iraqi mints, several types, always distinct from contemporary silver types

RR

Also struck at Sultaniana in the Tabriz zone, dated 759.

R

This type was briefly introduced to the Tabriz zone in 765, apparently as part of a failed attempt to unify the Jalayrid coinage throughout the kingdom.

C

This type was briefly introduced to the Tabriz zone in 765, apparently as part of a failed attempt to unify the Jalayrid coinage throughout the kingdom.

C

All coins of Shaykh Uways and his successors bear the ruler’s name and titles, except for the anonymous types #T2297 & U2297. Types #2295.5 and 2296.6 dated 757 are assigned to Shaykh Hasan, as there was no change in text or design upon the accession of Shaykh Uways.

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AV dinar, struck exclusively at Iraqi mints, several types, always distinct from contemporary silver types

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Also struck at Sultaniana in the Tabriz zone, dated 759.

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All coins of Shaykh Uways and his successors bear the ruler’s name and titles, except for the anonymous types #T2297 & U2297. Types #2295.5 and 2296.6 dated 757 are assigned to Shaykh Hasan, as there was no change in text or design upon the accession of Shaykh Uways.
This seems to explain the lack of coins dated 774-776 in the name of Uways. The countermark is always in a plain-circle frame.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2306.1 AR 2 dinars (3.60g), type JA (quatrefoil with top lobe pointed / lobated square), Jibal district, dated 766 only</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Types #2302.1 &amp; #2302.2 were struck principally at Isfahan, Kashan and Yazd. There are several other local types used in the Jibal zone, struck at Isfahan or Kashan, all rare, grouped together here as type #2302X.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Types #2302 (all subtypes), 2302L, 2302M, and most varieties of X2303 were actually issued under the authority of the Muzaffarid ruler Shah Mahmud. See the note to type #2281 for further information. The Luristan types A2303 &amp; B2303 were likely authorized by the Hazaraspid ruler Pashang II (756-760 / 1355-1357), but in the name of Shaykh Uways.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2306.2 AR dinar (1.80g), type B (quatrefoil / square-in-diamond), dated 777 only</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The date appears in words divided between the five vanes, often so wretchedly as to be utterly illegible. The mint is normally inscribed interlinearly on the reverse, with khudha mulkuhu in the obverse center, but this phrase is sometimes replaced by the mint name (R).</td>
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<tr>
<td>2306.3 AR dinar (1.44g), type C (square / notched square), used 777-783</td>
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<tr>
<td>2306E AR ½ dinar (0.60g), type A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2307 AR 2 dinars (2.88g), Tabriz zone, type TC (cf. #2308.3), struck 780-783</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The radj appears in words divided between the five vanes, often so wretchedly as to be utterly illegible. The mint is normally inscribed interlinearly on the reverse, with khudha mulkuhu in the obverse center, but this phrase is sometimes replaced by the mint name (R).</td>
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<tr>
<td>2308.1 AR dinar (2.16g), Tabriz zone, type TA (five-vaned pattern / inverted pentagon), dated 777 only</td>
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<tr>
<td>2308.2 AR dinar (1.62g), type TB (fancy trefoil with mint in center / plain circle), 777-779</td>
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<tr>
<td>2308.3 AR dinar (1.44g), type TC (five-vaned pattern / quatrefoil), 779-783</td>
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<tr>
<td>2308Q AR 2 dinars, type QA (octogram / plain square), Qum mint, known dated 776</td>
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<tr>
<td>2309 AR dinar, countermarked sultan husayn principally on type TC coins of Shaykh Uways</td>
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<tr>
<td>2310 AR 1 dinar or 2 dinars, various local types not described here</td>
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<tr>
<td>2310A AR dinar, countermarked sultan husayn principally on type TC coins of Shaykh Uways</td>
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<tr>
<td>2311 AR 2 dinars (2.16g), type A, struck 784-796</td>
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<tr>
<td>2312 AR 1 dinar (1.08g), type A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 249
In his name during his exile in Egypt, 795-807 / 1392-1405

A2314 AR dinar (1.08g), type TA, struck 785-788 RR

With identical design of types #2349 of Timur and some variants of #2049 of Toqtamish, thus easily confused. These vary only in the Arabic inscriptions of the obverse, which are occasionally virtually illegible, due to atrocious production.

A2314 AR 2 dirhams or

2314N AR tanka, without mint name (central octofoil with

2317 AR ½ tanka

RR

Sultan Husayn II, 827-835 / 1424-1432

2318 AR ½ tanka

RR

AMIR OF TABRIZ

An anonymous type dated 758 that cannot be assigned to a specific individual.

During 758, Tabriz was ruled first by the Juchid Jani Beg, then his son Birdi Beg, then the local amir Akhi Juq, then the Jalayrid Shaykh Uways, then Akhi Juq for the second time, finally the Muzaffarid Muhammad b. al-Muzaffar, who was expelled the following year. Because the coin is anonymous, I believe this type was most likely ordered by either Akhi Juq or Shaykh Uways, as the Juchid & Muzaffarid rulers had already begun striking coinage bearing their personal names.

RR

Akhi Juq seems most likely, as he formed an alliance with Muhammad b. al-Muzaffar, but fled, for unknown reasons, prior to the arrival of the Muzaffarid troops.

Anonymous, 758-759 / 1357-1358

An anonymous coin, inscribed al-nasr min Allah / wa fath qarib, “success is from God and victory is near”, with darb tabriz interlinearly between the two lines.

2318T AR 2 dirhams (0.90g) (plain circle / plain circle), struck at Tabriz 758-759 (Zeno-32986) RR

Another anonymous coin of Tiflis 75x, very different design, may be a different type of Akhi Juq (Zeno-91668).

SUTAYID

There is no useful publication of Sutayid coins.

A small kingdom in the Jazira (capital at Mosul), ruled by a branch of the Uyrtat Mongols known as the Sutayids. Their silver coins follow the contemporary Ilkhan standard of 1.44g for the double dirham.

Sutayid coins were minted at Mawsil (Mosul), Irbil, Sinjar and ‘Aqar, all located in what is now the northern part of Iraq. They resemble Ilkhan coins in style and execution, but all are anonymous. The die-engraving is excellent, but the coins were poorly struck (except gold), typically 15-35% flat. Boldly struck silver coins are unknown.

temp. Ibrahimshah, 743-748 / 1342-1347

N2319 AV dinar, struck 743-745 RRR

R 2319.1 AR 2 dirhams (or akçe), type A (partially pointed hexofoil / plain circle), struck 743-744 S

2319.2 AR 2 dirhams, type B (small inner circle containing mint within octofoil / plain circle), not known with legible date RR

2319.3 AR 2 dirhams, type C (ornamented quatrefoil / square within pointed quatrefoil), known dated 745 RR

2319.4 AR 2 dirhams, type D (inner circle with mint name ‘Aqar / triangle, with the name ‘Ali in center), undated RRR

2319.5 AR 2 dirhams, type E (concave hexagon, date & mint in marginal segments / Solomon seal with Allah in center, rest of kalima around), known from Irbil, probably dated 748 RRR

Two varieties, illustrated as Zeno-88956 and 88957.

temp. Undetermined ruler, fl. 749-750 / 1349-1350

2319G AV dinar (plain circle / square), known only for Irbil 750, date in reverse margin RRR

Obverse has mint name in center, the kalima around, the reverse square has text al-sultan al-’azam khulada Allah mulkaha.

2319H AR 2 dirhams (inner circle / square), dated 749 RRR

Obverse inner circle has same text as in the reverse square of type #2319G’s, with date around. Reverse has kalima in square, ornaments in the marginal segments. Mint unknown.

EREKTIND

Perk, Haluk, & Hüsnü Öztürk, Eretnid, Burhanid and Amirate of Arzinjan (Mutahharten) Coins, Istanbul 2008 (in Turkish & English). 584

The successor state to the Ilkhanate in central Anatolia. Their independent coinage began in 742, initially at the standard of about 1.80 grams for the akçe (double dirham according to the

584 Perk & Öztürk’s study is a rich mine of useful information, with virtually every coin neatly illustrated. Unfortunately, the layout and arrangement is frustrating, as it is structured on a database rather than a more flexible word-processing software (e.g., Microsoft Word).
Ilkhan tradition, but attested in contemporary sources as an akçe. The Ertënids have been regarded by some scholars as one of the Anatolian beyliks, but they were of Mongol origin and struck coins according to Ilkhan patterns.

Over 35 mints produced coins for the Ertënids, of which the most frequently encountered are Sivas, Kayseri (Qaysariya), Erzincan, Bayburt, Mâ'dan, Tokat, and Kırşehir (Qırıshâl). Silver coins of Ertëna tend to be rather carefully struck, but later issues are usually weakly or incompletely struck, though most coins of all rulers show little circulation wear. For all reigns the most attractive silver coins were minted at Erzincan. The copper issues are mainly from Erzincan and exhibit a great variety of designs. The only reported Ertënid gold coin is questionable (see note to #T2320).

The weight standard for the Ertënid silver akçe was retained at about 1.60g from the first issues in 742 until the death of Muhammad b. Eretina in 767. Early issues of ‘Ali Beg, circa 767-774 follow a standard of about 1.62g, later issues in the 1.45-1.55g range circa 774 (or earlier) until 782. Akçes of Çelebi Muhammad in 782 weigh about 1.15g. Individual specimens are often as much as 20% lighter or heavier than the theoretical standard.

**temp. Ertëna, 736-753 / 1335-1352**

All coins of Ertëna are anonymous.

### T2320

**AV dinar, as silver type B, known from Erzincan 750 only (Ottoman Museum, Mubarek #327)**

- **2320.1** AR akçe, type A (hexafoil / square)
  - Dated 742-746, sometimes with outer marginal inscription on the obverse. More than 12 mints known, Erzincan more frequent.

- **2320.2** AR akçe, type B (hexagram / quatrefoil notched at the nodes), known from all years 746-755 (sic)
  - Coins of 746 (and a few dated 747-748) have the mint at the bottom of the obverse field (type B1, scarce). Most 747 and 748, as well as all later dates, have the mint in one of the six obverse marginal segments (type B2, common). Many published references mistakenly assign coins of types #2320.1 and 2320.2 to the Ilkhan Sulayman. The Uighur legend on these two types reads Sultan Atîl, i.e., al-sultan al-adîl, which was misinterpreted by Lane-Poole, Mubarek and others as the name Sulayman.
  - (Former type #2320.3 has been reassigned to Hodja ‘Ali and renumbered as #H222.)

- **2321** AR ½ akçe, type B (as #2320.2)

- **H2322** AR akçe (eye-shaped cartouche / double hexafoil)
  - With the ruler’s title, al-sultan al-adîl ‘ala al-dunya wa’l-d-în (this technically not anonymous, since it bears his title). Known from several mints, dated 756-757 or without date.
  - (Formerly assigned to Eretina as type #2320.3.)

- **Muzaffar al-Dîn (Sultan al-Islam), unknown ruler, probably circa 757-760 / 1356-1359**

- **2322** AR akçe, (plain circle both sides), always undated
  - Muzaffar al-Dîn was probably a rival to Muhammad b. Eretina during his early years. He is known only from his coins, which are not rare, but was apparently not mentioned by any of the contemporary historians. His full title is sultan al-Islam muzaffar al-dunya wa’l-d-în, but his actual name is unknown.

**Muhammad b. Eretina (Ghiyath al-Dîn), 753-767 / 1352-1366**

### V2323

**AR akçe, type A (ornate octofoil / 18-foil in general shape of hexafoil)**

- Struck only at Sivas in 756.

- **2323** AR akçe, type B (plain circle / trefoil with ‘ali inscribed in center), sometimes dated, 760-762

Many coins of this type appear to be contemporary imitations, with coarse calligraphy & blundered legends. This is the only principal type used during this reign, introduced in 760, with obverse layout exactly as #2322 (title al-sultan al-a’dal). Moderately rare with legible date.

### 2323A

**AR akçe, various local subtypes without mint or date**

### 2323L

**AR akçe, type LA, Larente mint, date in words replacing the kalima (plain circle / square), dated 761-762**

‘Ali Beg (‘Ala al-Dîn, b. Muhammad), 767-782 / 1366-1380

### 2324.1

**AR akçe (1.45-1.55g), type AA (octofoil / trefoil with ‘ali inscribed in center), Amasya mint, undated**

### 2324.2

**AR akçe (about 1.60g), type EA (octofoil / plain square within lobated square)**

### 2324.3

**AR akçe (about 1.45-1.55g), type KA (hexafoil / octofoil extended horizontally), Kayseri mint, undated**

### 2324.4

**AR akçe (1.45-1.55g), type SA (hexafoil both sides), sometimes dated 768**

### 2324.5

**AR akçe (1.60g), type SB (square / lobated diamond), dated 776 in obverse margin**

### 2324.6

**AR akçe (1.60g), type SC (hexagram both sides), Sivas mint only, undated**

### 2324A

**AR akçe, countermarked lillah in eye-shaped frame on earlier types of same ruler**

### 2324B

**AR akçe of type EA with lillah in eye-shaped frame added to the obverse, incorporating the countermark of #2324A**

### 2324K

**AR ½ akçe (about 0.8g), type EA**

### 2324L

**AR ½ akçe (about 0.75g), type SB**

### 2324M

**AR ½ akçe (about 0.75g), type SC**

### Çelebi Muhammad (Ghiyath al-Dîn), 782 / 1380-1381

### M2325

**AR akçe (pelleted rectangle / square within lobated square), undated**

Struck only at Kayseri and Sivas, also without mint name. Some mintless examples bear Allah within a lens incorporated within the rectangle (not as a countermark). The weight standard seems to be about 1.15g.

**Anonymous, 14th/15th century**

### 2325

**AE fals, many variants**

Struck mainly at Sivas, Tokat and especially Erzincan. Coins of Erzincan are normally dated, typically with both the Hijri year and the animal cycle year, a calendar of Chinese origin. Although all coppers are anonymous, some can be assigned to a ruler by date, if you wish.

**QADI OF SIVAS (BURHANID)**

For reference, see Perk & Öztürk for the Ertënids. Successor to the Ertënids, Qadi Burhan al-Dîn was at first vizier to the Eretina, ‘Ali Beg, then independent from 1380 until overthrown by Timur in 1399. A son succeeded briefly.
Burhanid coins were mainly struck at Sivas and Kayseri (Qaysariya), but Perk & Oztürk have confirmed 2 additional mints, Ma’dan & Tokat, both extremely rare. Their coinage restored the early Eretnid standard (akçe of 1.80g). As with the later Eretnid coinage, production quality was haphazard. All coins of Burhan al-Din bear his accession date 782 below the obverse, but on nearly all specimens, the date is either blundered or reduced to meaningless squiggles.

Burhan al-Din Ahmad, 782-800 / 1380-1398

2326 AR akçe
Inscribed saami al-‘alami al-a’dili al-burhani (“resplendence of the world, of justice, of the Burhannis”).

2326A AR akçe, as last but countermarked with a word tentatively interpreted as Arabic baḥa

2326B AR akçe, with baḥa added to the obverse die, either in eye-shape or square border of pellets

Zayn al-Abidin, 800-801 / 1398-1399

A2327 AR akçe
With title mawlana al-malik al-a’zam al-ashraf, but without his personal name.

AMIRS OF AHLAT
A local dynasty of undetermined origin. All their coinage is anonymous and struck at Ahlat (Khilat) or Qal’a (“fortress”).

Anonymous, circa 750s / 1350s

G2327 AR akçe (inner circle / octofoil)

MALIKS OF HAKKARI
A minor Kurdish principality in what is now the extreme southeast corner of Turkey.

Asad al-Din, fl. 750s / 1350s??

K2327 AR akçe, in his name but always without mint, always undated

BUKHTI KURDS

The Bukhtis were a Kurdish tribe centered in the region of Cizre (Jazira) and Siirt (Si’ird), which were their only mints. Always undated.

Abu Bakr, early 800s / 1400s

P2327 AR ½ tanka (circa 1.6g), Jazira mint
Presumably struck after the death of Timur in 807/1405. This Abu Bakr should not be confused with the contemporary Timurid ruler Abu Bakr b. Miranshah (type #2395).

‘Abd Allah b. ‘Abd Allah, fl. 820s / 1420s

2327.1 AR tanka (4.0-4.3g), type A (plain circle both sides), fine style, Jazira mint

2327.2 AR light tanka (approximately 2.5-2.7g), type B (pointed hexafoil / inner square within square), crude style, Siirt mint (when visible)

2327.3 AR light tanka (2.5g), type C (plain circle / inner square within square), Siirt mint
With additional title al-muṣawwar bi-nasr Allah.

Badr al-Din (b. Sharaf al-Din), fl. circa 870s / late 1460s

2328.1 AR tanka (3.6-3.7g) (hexagon / plain circle), Jazira mint

2328.2 AR light tanka (square / circle), probably Siirt mint, several different weights clustered around 2.2g

Anonymous, late 9th/15th century

2329 AR tanka or fraction, countermarked Jazira on various late Ayyubid and Bukhti coins

SHARAF KHANS
See also Artuk, Istanbul Arkeolojisi..., v. 2, pp. 868-869.

A Kurdish principality centered about Bidlis (modern Bitlis). The dates of the rulers are not known with any accuracy. All coins of this dynasty except #B2331 were struck at Bidlis, the dynastic capital, unless otherwise noted, always undated. All use a floriated hexagon obverse originally introduced by the Qara Qoyunlu ruler Qara Yusuf in 814 (#2478), unless otherwise indicated.

Sharaf b. Muhammad (al-Wathiq bi’l-Samad), 1st half of 9th/15th century

2330 AR tanka

Diya’ al-Din (al-Sultan al-Adil), probably 1st half of 9th/15th century

A2331 AR tanka (circa 4.5g)

Malik Muhammad (al-Wathiq bi’l-Samad), probably first half of 9th/15th century

B2331 AR tanka
Struck only at Khayzan (modern Hizan). Malik Muhammad may not have been a member of the Sharaf Khan dynasty.

Shams al-Din b. Diya’ al-Din (no title), mid-9th/15th century

2331 AR tanka (usually less than 4g)

Ibrahim b. Muhammad, fl. 865-871 / 1460-1466 (al-Wathiq bi’l-Malik al-Samad)

2332 AR tanka

Shah Muhammad, fl. 900-903 / 1494-1497 (al-Malik al-‘Adil)

2333 AR tanka

Amir Shams al-Din, probably after 900 / 1494 (al-Malik al-‘Adil)

2334 AR tanka (circa 2.7-3.0g) (lobated square / kalima K5 with mint in the center)

SARBADAR

The Sarbadars (“Gallows-birds”) were a small Shi’ite sect in northeastern Iran, who took control of much of the region after 1340 until swept away by Timur in 1384. Their coinage is entirely anonymous, but can be securely assigned to specific reigns by type. All but the first issue of Shams al-Din ‘Ali were struck to a standard of 4.32g for the dinar of six dirhams (gradually falling to about 4.1g by the end of the dynasty), with several fractional denominations (but see note to type #2342.1). There are six types, labeled here A through F. Though Shi’ite by faith, the first three Sarbadars struck all of their coins with Sunni inscriptions (types A-D).

The most common Sarbadar mints are generally Sabzawar, Nishapur, Jurjan and Jajerm. Also not particularly rare are Rayy, Damghan.

\(^{587}\) Smith based his research on slightly over 100 Sarbadar and Walid coins then known to exist. Subsequently, many thousands of additional specimens have been marketed.
Ișfarayn and especially Astarabad, whose Sarbadar coinage, struck only 767–773, is also very common.

Sarbadar and Walid coins are normally struck with some degree of weakness. Fully struck specimens are rare, but not impossible to find. Sarbadar and Walid coins are easily confused. There are six types of each, and more than one denomination for some of these types. The types are described below. To avoid confusion I have called the Sarbadar types A through F and the Walid types WA through WF. All Sarbadar coinage is anonymous.

Type A: Mint & date in quatrefoil / pointed cinquefoil containing the Sunni kalima, citing the Rashidun in the margin (dated 748 only, sometimes with month of Muharram).

Type B: Naṣr ʿalā wa fath qarib wa bashar al-muʾmin ("help is from God and victory is near, good tidings to the believers") (Qurʾān 61:13) within a looped octagon / octfoil with Sunni kalima & the Rashidun (dated 753 only).

Type C: As type B but plain circle obverse border (only known without date, probably struck circa 753-754).

Type D: Mint in central circle, surrounded by date, all in octfoil / Sunni kalima in spiraling Kufic script, surrounded by the Rashidun, all in plain circle (759 only).

Type E: Obverse as D / Shiʿite kalima (with ʿalī wallā Allāh) in hexafoil, names of the 12 Imams around (763-773, and also dated 759 at Damghan).

Type F: As type E but on obverse, mint in central hexafoil. Also with the Shiʿite reverse as E (struck 767-769).

temp. Shams al-Dīn ʿAli, 748-752 / 1347-1351

2335 AR dinar (7) (about 7.3g), type A RRR

Coins of type A are always dated 748. There are several mints, Nishapur the least weight. The weight standard is unusual for Iran, perhaps based on a dinar equal to 2/3 of a Delhi tanka.

2336 AR 1/2 dinar (about 3.65g), type A RRR

2337 AR 1/6 dinar (about 1.22g), type A RRR

2337.1 AR 4 dirhams? (or 1/4 tanka to Delhi standard, about 2.75g), type B RRR

Struck only at Sabzawar, known dated 753.

2337.2 AR 4 dirhams?, type C, Simnan mint RRR

See also type #A2010 for coins struck by Yahya but in the name of the Chaghatayid ruler, Buyan Quli Khan.

2337E AE fals, struck at Sabzawar, local type, dated 75(2)? RRR

Known dates of types included in listings below (types 2343-2346).

2338 AR 6 dirhams (or dinar) (4.3g), type D S

2339 AR 2 dirhams, type D R

All coins assigned to this ruler are dated 759, which was likely a frozen date used throughout his four year reign.

temp. ʿAli Muʿayyad, 763-786 / 1362-1384

2340 AV tanka (about 11g), without mint or date RRR

Standard kalima on obverse (without ʿalī wallā Allāh), reference to ʿAli b. al-Talib on reverse (ʿalī wallā Allāh wasti rasul Allāh). Weight based on the Delhi Sultanate tanka, also adopted by the contemporary Mehrabansids.

2340 AV 1/2 mithqal (about 2.15g), 763-764 only R

Struck at Sabzawar and Nishapur, the latter RR.

2341 AR 6 dirhams, several variants (4.3g), type E C

Struck at numerous mints 763-772, also struck at Damghan dated 759 (R). It is possible that ʿAli Muʿayyad was involved in some sort of opposition against Hasan Damghani, but it seems also conceivable that the 759 dated coins were struck 763-765 still using an old frozen date, or a die-cutter’s error.

2342.1 AR 4 dirhams? (about 2.75g), type E S

Struck at Astarabad and Damghan only, from 769-774.

The 4 dirham denomination is perhaps rather a quarter tanka to the Delhi sultanate standard. Silver coins of this weight were first introduced into Khurasan in the name of Ṭagḥay Timur in 752 (type KM, #G2246), during the Sarbadar reign of Yahya Karabi.

2342.2 AR 4 dirhams?, type F S

Struck at Astarabad, Jurjan and Rayy, known dated 767-769.

2342.3 AR 4 dirhams?, local type of Bistam RR

Known dated 771 only. Mint followed by date in central area / Shiʿite kalima in central circle, the Imams in the margin.

2342.4 AR 4 dirhams?, local type of Bistam, known dated 772 or undated RR

Mint in central circle, surrounded by coarsely engraved names of the Shiʿite Imams / Shiʿite kalima in square, ornaments in margin.

2342A AR 2 dirhams, type E (about 1.4g) RR

2342B AR 1 dirham, type F (about 0.7g) RR

2342T AE fals, various designs, dated & struck at Sabzawar circa 764-781 S

AMIR OF ASTARABAD (WALID)

References same as the Sarbadars.

The only ruler of the Shiʿite state who issued coinage was Amir Wali, who emerged in Astarabad after the fall of the Ilkhans. His coinage is anonymous, and easily confused with that of the Sarbadars. There are six types, labeled WA through WF, with the mint & date on the obverse, the kalima on the reverse. Types WA-WB have Sunni reverses, citing the four Rashidun, despite Amir Wali’s Shiʿite belief, whereas types WC-WF are Shiʿite and cite the twelve Imams. All coins are struck to a mithqal standard of about 4.3g for the six dirham coin (gradually declining to about 4.1g). The so-called “4 dirham denomination is more likely 1/4 Delhi tanka.

Most of Amir Wali’s coins were struck at their capital, Astarabad. Some of the four-dirham types were struck at Damghan, Jurjan and Simnan, other denominations at Damghan, Simnan and Rayy, of which only Rayy is rare. A few additional mints are very rare.

Astarabad was lost to the Sarbadars 767-773. However, there is a very common Walid 6 dirham issue of Astarabad dated 769 (type #2343.1), despite the lack of chronic evidence of any Walid reoccupation of Astarabad before 773. Perhaps they were actually struck circa 773-775, before the introduction of the very common type WF in 775 at Astarabad, with 769 inscribed for some unknown political reason.

Type WA: Square composed of the Kufic kalima inscription, mint in center, all within plain circle / plain circle, date on reverse, Sunni reverse (759-760, 4-dirhams only).

Type WB: Obverse as WA, but date outside square on obverse / octfoil on Sunni reverse (761-765, 4-dirhams only).

Type WC: Obverse as WA / Shiʿite kalima in hexafoil (766 only, 4-dirhams only). The 4 dirham denomination is very likely 2/3 Delhi tanka.

Type WD: Mint & date in quatrefoil (often highlighted) / Shiʿite kalima in hexafoil (occasionally plain circle) (769, 778-780, 786).

Type WE: Mint in central circle, date around in plain margin separated by 3 annulets / Shiʿite kalima in hexafoil, the 12 Imams around (774 only).

Type WF: Mint in central looped quatrefoil, date in surrounding segments / Shiʿite kalima in hexafoil or plain circle, the 12 Imams around in the margin (775-785).

For similar coins of other types, see the previous section (Sarbadars).
temp. Amir Wali, 757-788 / 1356-1386

2343.1 AR 6 dirhams, type WD, dated 769, 778, 780-781, and 786
Struck primarily at Astarabad (all dates except 779 & 781, year 781 know for other mints), all other mints are rare. 591

2343.2 AR 6 dirhams, type WF, struck 775-785
Astarabad coins are dated 775 & 777, possibly also 776. Damghan becomes the primary mint from 781 onwards.

2344.1 AR 4 dirhams (or ¼ Delhi tanka), type WA, struck only at Astarabad 759-760
For denomination, see note to #2342.1 above. Basically one type, with several clear variations, mainly struck at Astarabad.

2344.2 AR 4 dirhams, type WB, struck 761-765, also known dated 768 for Simnan (S)
Astarabad is the most common mint. Others are scarce.

2344.3 AR 4 dirhams, type WC, struck only at Astarabad in 766
For coins of Astarabad 767-773, see the Sarbadar section.

2345.1 AR 3 dirhams, type WD, dated 769 & 780 only

2345.2 AR 3 dirhams, type WF, struck 775-777

2346 AR 2 dirhams (or ¼ Delhi tanka), type WB

AFRASIYABID (AND MAR’ASHID)

An ancient Iranian Mahdist dynasty in Mazandaran with several branches. Their coinage was all produced from 753, before the collapse of the Ilkhanate in 758, until at least 776 (1352-1374+). Due to the uncertain chronology and local possessions of the rulers, coins cannot be readily assigned to a particular ruler. All are either totally anonymous or cite the name of the Shi’ite hidden Imam, al-Mahdi Muhammad. Most are stylistically similar to contemporary Sarbadar or Walid coins, and follow the same weight standards.

Technically, upon the death of the Afrasiyabid ruler Kiya Afrasiyab in 760/1359 (ruled since 750/1349), control over Mazandaran passed to his rivals, the Mar’ashids, then led by Qawam al-Din (d. 781/1379). However, Afrasiyabid, Mar’ashid and other tribal groups battled one another for decades. At present, their coins cannot be separated into Afrasiyabid and Mar’ashid issues, although technically, coins dated up to and including 760 can be assigned to Afrasiyabids, those dated 761 or later to the Mar’ashids. Further research required.

The only two confirmed mints of the Afrasiyabids and the Mar’ashids are Amul and Sari. Most coins are reasonably well struck, comparable to contemporary Sarbadar and Walid issues.

Anonymous, circa 753-776+ / 1352-1374+
Citing the 12th Shi’ite Imam, the hidden Imam al-Mahdi Muhammad, often with the title al-sultan.

A2347 AR 6 dirhams (approximately 4.2g) R

B2347 AR 4 dirhams (approximately 2.75g), similar RR
See note to #2342.1 for this denomination.

D2347 AR 2 dirhams (1.32g), obverse with pellet in small circle in center RR

C2347 AR dirham, without reference to the hidden Imam al-Mahdi (approximately 0.7g) RR

“Types” #A2347 and B2347 can each be divided into several types of distinctive design, including 6-dirhams of Sari dated 759-760 that is typologically identical to the Sarbadar #2341, but with al-Mahdi Muhammad cited in the obverse center. Another resembles the Amir Wali type #2343.2, Amul & Sari circa 760-762, often with blundered date. Most coins of these

dynasties adhere only loosely to their standard, except for the “4 dirhams”, type #B2347.

For similar Amul 758 coins citing the Golden Horde ruler Jani Beg, see #B2027 (gold dinar) and #2028A (silver 6 dirhams).

JAUNI-QURBANI

A tribal group of Mongol origin centered in the region of Tus, their only mint city. Their coins remain unpublished.

temp. ‘Ali Beg, circa 773-783 / 1371-1381

R2347 AR ½ tanka? (about 5.7g) RRR
Denomination uncertain, perhaps half tanka to the Delhi standard. All known coins were struck at Tus and are dated to the 10th of Jumada I 778, the day on which the die was cut (nuqishat hadhithi al-sikka fi... “this die was engraved on...”).

HUWAYNID

A Shi’ite dynasty in the Gilan province of Iran, whose only independent coinage was struck during the reign of Rida Kiya (Reza Kiya). The Huwaynid tanka is very broad and thin, and similar to other pieces struck at Lahijan bearing the names of other rulers, notably Sultan Ahmad the Jalayrid (types #2314L & 2314M, 4.6-4.7g), Timur (normally 5.8-6.0g, included within the normal post-reform tankas of this ruler), and Qara Yusuf of the Qara Qoyunlu (#O2481, normally about 2.63g, possibly a half tanka). The latter issues were probably all struck under the authority of Rida Kiya, but each is nonetheless classified under the ruler whose name appears on the coin in accordance with the general convention for attribution. Only the anonymous issues are assigned to this dynasty.

Rida Kiya operated only one mint, at Lahijan. The independent full tanka invariably lacks the mint name, but can be assigned to Lahijan on the basis of Timurid coins of similar fabric that bear the name of Lahijan, and by the quarter tanka, which bears the mint name.

temp. Sayyid Rida Kiya, 798-829 / 1396-1426

2347 AR tanka (3 to 4 grams) R
2347A AR ¼ tanka (average about 0.86g) RR
Mint name in square / Kalima in hexagon.

Both denominations are anonymous, assigned to Sayyid Razi Kiya because he was the known ruler at Lahijan during this time. Normally undated, though one tanka subtype is known dated 815 and 818. At least four different anonymous subtypes are known.

TAJASBID

A local Daylamite dynasty centered at Kuchisfan (modern Kuchesfahan (“little Isfahan”)) in Gilan province. Their only recorded mint is Kuchisfan.

Muhammad b. Falak al-Din, fl. 808 / 1405-1406

H2348 AR tanka (to Timurid standard), in his name & citing his son Falak al-Din, dated 808 or undated RRR

TAGHAYTIMURID

A minor kingdom centered around Astarabad, its rulers descended from the Ilkhan ruler Taghay Timur. Only one ruler issued his own coinage. All coins were struck at Astarabad, though on one rare issue, the mint name is given as Aqalim, “the climes” or “the countries”, probably an epithet for the dynastic capital Astarabad or an epithetical name for a nearby military or administrative compound. All silver struck to the 5.7-5.8g tanka standard of Shabrukh’s Astarabad tankas or marginally lighter. All 4 tanka types are now illustrated at Zeno.

Pir Muhammad b. Luqman, 807-810 / 1405-1407

2348 AR tanka, anonymous (pointed quatrefoil / ornamental trefoil), normally dated 808 RR
2349.1 AR tanka, with name of ruler (inner circle / plain square), normally dated 810 RR
Tamgha and mint name in obverse center, marginal legend around.

591 For Astarabad, only 769 and 780 are common, both probably struck for several years as frozen dates, 769 circa 773-775 and 780 circa 780-785. For the years 781-785 Damghan is the only other often available mint (S), the coins always abysmally struck.
2349.2 AR tanka, as #2349.1 with the mint name Aqalim transferred from the obverse to a central inner square on the reverse RRR

All versions of type #2352 were struck with the same dies as the 12-dirhams, with the date rarely legible.

2350 AR dinar or ½ tanka (about 5.5g), in the name of the ruler, Herat mint only

This denomination is probably derived from the contemporary Indian tanka, on which it is the half, with individual specimens varying from about 5.1g to 5.7g. Coins of this type are dated circa 746-750. There are many distinct types, but their sequence remains to be worked out.

2350A AR ½ tanka (2.75g), similar, known dated 766-768

The date is usually carelessly engraved and often undecipherable. This denomination and the anonymous type #2350D are also based on the Delhi Sultanate tanka denomination. Those of #2351.1 and later issues derive from the Ilkhan denominations, also used by the contemporary Sarbadars.

2350D AR 12 dirhams (double dinar, 8.5-8.6g), dated 758-759

Type AB (fancy octofoil with floral design in central circle / normally in square). Most bear a date that has been traditionally interpreted as 751, with the ‘1’ seemingly recut over a zero. However, I suspect that the 75110 is actually a bungled attempt to engrave 759. The year 758 has not been confirmed for this type. For 12 dirham and 6 dirham issues dated 758 but in the name of the Chaghatayid ruler Buyan Quli Khan, see #A2009 & B2009. The double dinar is equal to two Sarbadarid or Walid 6-dirham coins. Many specimens are lightweight. This denomination is unrelated to the dinar kebeki of the Chaghatayid Central Asian mints.

2351.1 AR 12 dirhams (8.5-8.6g), dated 762-772

Type AC (lobated square / normally in plain square, not highlighted). Date often blurred or illegible.

2351.3 AR 12 dirhams (8.5-8.6g), known dated 771, but other dates probably exist

Type AD (obverse in plain hexafoil, reverse normally with spiraled kalima).

2352.1 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 4.3g), type AB, known dated 758 only

2352.2 AR 6 dirhams (dinar, 4.3g), type AC, date usually off flan

Nome: Nasir al-Din Muhammad (b. Abi’l-Fath), 659-718 / 1261-1318

The Mehrabaniids were local Sistani rulers of putative Saffarid ancestry. They were allowed to rule as Mongol vassals, but only proclaimed their independence and produced their own coinage in the 690s/1290s (see note to #2355), with the exception of some of the earliest cast copper coins of Nasir al-Din Muhammad (#2355B), some of which cite the Ilkhan ruler Hulagu. Their chronology is not known with great accuracy, nor are the weight standards of their coinage, except for the gold, which uses the same standard as the gold tanka of the Delhi sultanate (about 11.0 grams).

Their copper coins contain a variable proportion of lead, and are sometimes nearly pure lead. No distinction is made here between those that are principally lead or copper, as the issuers probably did not care and used whatever was available.

Please note that several listings have been changed from the first edition.

The only Mehrabani mint is Nimruz, now in the southwestern corner of Afghanistan but just a few miles from the borders of Iran and Pakistan. The contemporary names of the silver denominations are unknown, as is their relationship to one another. The gold and silver is normally dated in the outer margin, which is frequently off the flan. Gold and silver coins with full mint & date are surprisingly rare. The copper and lead jitals are invariably undated.

Nasir al-Din Muhammad (b. Abi’l-Fath), 659-718 / 1261-1318

2355 AR dinar (7.3g), With titles al-malik al-mu’azzam & abu al-muzaffar. Known dates are 69492 and 710-716, though because the dates are somewhat stylized and often partly off the flan, dates of the 710s have sometimes been interpreted as 720s (the waw after the first


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digit is usually omitted, as it should be). Most examples also bear the month. The denomination is perhaps 2/3 of the contemporary Delhi sultanate tanka of 11.0g. In the first edition I had mistakenly placed this type after the issues of his son Nasr al-Din, hence the inverted sequence of type numbers.

2355A AE jital, undated
Probably contemporary to the silver, i.e., circa 710-718.

2355B AE cast heavy fals, undated
Cast on thick flans, perhaps mixed with iron and lead, but not magnetic. Probably two separate denominations, one weighing about 22-28g, the other 12-16g. Most, if not all, appear to cite as overlord the Ilkhan Hulagu, but the decipherment of "Hulagu" is conjectural. On the cast fals, Muhammad is entitled nasir al-haqq wa’l-din, but on his silver he is nasir al-dunya wa’l-din.

al-Malik b. Nasr, unknown ruler, probably circa 670s-680s / 1270s-1280s

2355H AE cast heavy fals
Found together with examples of #2355B that were marketed in the early 2000s. Average weight 10-12g. It is not known if al-Malik was himself a Mehrabanid.

Nusrat al-Din Muhammad b. Muhammad b. Abi Bakr), circa 718-731 / 1318-1331

2354 AR dinar (approximately 5.3-5.5g)
Known dates are 723-725, usually with month. The standard appears to be equivalent to half the Delhi sultanate tanka of 11.0g, perhaps slightly less. With title al-shah al-a’zam.

2354A AE jital, undated
Qubt al-Din Muhammad I, 731-747 / 1331-1346
Gold and silver coins of Muhammad I bear the title al-sultan al-l’adil, also found on his copper (#2357). All four letters of ‘adil are ornamentally attached to another, unlike issues of his later successor Qubt al-Din Muhammad II.995

V2356 AV ½ tanka (5.5g)
2356 AR ½ tanka (approximately 5.1-5.3g)
2357 AE or PB jital (or fals)
Some of the copper/lead jitals bear the name Qubt al-Haqq wa’l-Din without any further names or titles. These are all tentatively assigned to Muhammad I.

Taj al-Din, 747-751 / 1346-1350

2358 AR dinar (weight not determined), known dated 750
R

2359 AR dinar, heavy standard (8.0-8.5g)
Probably identical to the Kult 12 dinar standard (about 8.4g). Known dated 768. Unlike the boldly struck gold tankas, both types of the silver dinars are almost invariably poorly struck.

2359A AR dinar, light standard (5.4g, ½ Delhi tanka?)
Known dated 763-770. It appears that the two standards might have been struck simultaneously, for inexplicable reasons.

2360 AE or PB jital, at least 5 varieties, undated, with or without his title al-malik al-l’adil or al-malik al-a’zam
Qubt al-Din Muhammad II, 784-788 / 1382-1386

AV tanka (11.0g)
When visible, the date is always 768, often (perhaps always) with the month Safar. Both gold & silver have the title al-malik al-a’zam, occasionally al-malik al-l’adil on the silver coins. It is surprising that the Mehrabanids would have abandoned the higher title of sultan in favor of malik.

2361 AV tanka (11.0g)
When visible, the date is always 768, suggesting that Muhammad may have been named king before his aging and ailing father died, or that the dates preserved in the chronicles are incorrect. With title al-malik al-a’zam al-l’adil.

2362 AE or PB jital
Jitals of Qubt al-Din I and II are not easily distinguished. Normally the ruler’s title on this type is al-malik al-a’zam. All coins issued during the reign of Taj al-Din Abu’l-Fath (788-806 / 1386-1404) are in the name of Timur, thus classified as Timurid RR.

Qubt al-Din Muhammad ‘Ali, 806-822 / 1404-1419

2363 AR tanka, normally dated 810 or 812
R

2363A AE fals, dated 809 only
RR
During the year 812, Nimruz fell under Timurid suzerainty.

Anonymous, 8th/14th century

2364 AE or PB fals, many varieties
Types #2364 and 2365 resemble named issues of the 14th century, rather than either earlier or later issues. For this reason they are assumed to be issues of the Mehrabanids.

2365 AE or PB jou, similar, inscribed jou on reverse
Jou = “grain of barley”
Later anonymous coppers, beginning in 795, are civic issues, catalogued under #B3190 and A3209. Later silver coins of Nimruz (after 812) bear only the names of Timurid, Shaybanid, or Safavid rulers, who were overlords to the local dynasts, and are assigned to those dynasties. The local rulers are not named. Anonymous copper fulus were struck from 795 until at least 885, usually dated (type #B3190 for Nimruz, also #N3194 for Sijistan, the latter extremely rare).

Taj al-Din, 747-751 / 1346-1350

2358 AR dinar (weight not determined), known dated 750
RR

2359 AR dinar, heavy standard (8.0-8.5g)
R

2359A AR dinar, light standard (5.4g, ½ Delhi tanka?)
R

2360 AE or PB jital, at least 5 varieties, undated, with or without his title al-malik al-l’adil or al-malik al-a’zam
C

2361 AV tanka (11.0g)
RR

Anonymous, 8th/14th century

2364 AE or PB fals, many varieties
S

TIMURID

See Tabataba’i under the Ilkhans. There is not even a barely adequate treatment of this long and complex series.997 The only dedicated study, volume VI of the British Museum catalogs of their Islamic coins, is totally obsolete, not surprising after more than 125 years.


The Timurid dynasty was founded by Timur Lang, known to the west as Tamerlane, “Timur the Lame”. His armies carved out

959 If indeed the name Hulagu is correctly read, then this type might have been struck between about 659 and the 670s, perhaps posthumously well after Hulagu’s death in 664, similar to contemporary dirhams of Mardin and elsewhere.

A hoard of perhaps 100-200 examples of #2355B and 2355H, previously extremely rare, reached the market circa 2000, now thoroughly distributed.

961 Despite the more than 40 years between the reigns of Muhammad I and Muhammad II, the differentiation between their various types of jitals remains enigmatic. More research needed!

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 256
of the new tanka. The standard tanka itself was reduced in
During the years 795-797, the tanka of 6.2g was adopted at
In the early 10th century, the Timurids were driven out of
As new lands were conquered by Timur, their traditional local currencies were retained, only the name of the former ruler was replaced by that of Timur and his nominal overlord. As a result, there was a plethora of local coinages, each of which circulated predominantly in the region of its prototype. The local silver coins of Herat, derived from the late Kari issues of Pir Ali dated 782, came to be known as the tanka. In 792/1390, its weight was reduced to about 6.2 grams. During the years 795-797, the tanka of 6.2g was adopted at most Timurid mints, the principal exception being Samarqand, where the old dirham seems to have been pegged at exactly ⅓ of the new tanka. The standard tanka itself was reduced in three consecutive stages, first to about 5.6g during the period 807-812, then to 5.15g in 827/828, finally to 4.78g (then equivalent to one mithqal in most of Iran) during the years 895-898. A few peripheral regions maintained local currencies, either briefly or continuously throughout the entire Timurid period.

There is virtually no Timurid gold coinage. Copper coinage struck until about 818 generally bore the name of the Timurid ruler, but thereafter was entirely autonomous, and therefore not easily assignable to a specific ruler. For that reason I have only regarded copper coins as Timurid if they bear the name of the Timurid ruler. The rest are subsumed under the rubric of Iranian Islamic Copper (#3183-3198) or Central Asian coppers (#3274-3286), depending on the location of the mint. Timur’s coinage can be divided into three sequential series, the first citing the Chaghhatayid overlord Sayyarghentsh (771-790 / 1370-1388). The second series cites the Chaghhatayid “successor” Mahmud (790-800 / 1388-1396), but was continued posthumously throughout the kingdom until 806/1403, together with his heir apparent Muhammad Sultan on many coins dated 803-805. The third series cites only Timur without either a Chaghhatayid “overlord” or Timurid heir, struck principally, if not entirely, at mints in Iraq and the Jazira (806-807).

In the early 10th/11th century, the Timurids were driven out of all their western and northern possessions by the Seldjucks and Shahyandis. Under Zahir al-Din Babur they established themselves in India, which they ruled until 1274/1857 as the Mughals (“Mongols”). The only “western” mints they retained were Kabul and Qandahar, both of which adopted standard Indian types during the reign of Akbar, as well as the city of Balkh briefly in 1056/1057. For post-1605 Mughal coinage, see the century editions of SCWC.

More than 130 mints are known to have struck Timurid coins, at least eighty during the reign of Timur alone. For Timur’s pre-reform coinage, mint information is given after each entry. For his post-reform coinage, the most frequently encountered mints are Herat, Qum, Isfahan, Yazd, Shiraz, Shaykh Abu Isfah (= Kazerun), Shabankara, Lar, Baqubah, Tabriz, Ahlak (Behshahr), Erzincan (now without name, but of unmistakable style), Darband, and Astarabad, and above all Samarqand, though only for the ¼ tanka. Many other mints are occasionally available in small numbers. Tankas of Shahrub are the most common coins of the dynasty. Numerous mints are common, notably Aburqab, Abbasabad, Herat, Isfahan, Kashan, Kerman, Lar, Qazvin, Qum, Sabzawar, Samarqand, Sari, Saveh, Shiraz, Sultaniya, Tabriz and Yazd. Most mints were either closed or lost to the Timurids soon after Shahrub’s death in 850. By the 860s, the only common mints were Astarabad, Herat and Samarqand, and to some extent Sabzawar and Sari. By the time of Sultan Husayn’s reform of 895, Astarabad and Herat had become the common mints for the western rulers. Samarqand and Bukhara for the eastern. Tankas of Mashhad, Sabzawar, Damghan and Tun are also relatively available for Sultan Husayn, whose tankas are nearly as common overall as those of Shahrub.

There is a great variety of different designs for most silver types of the Timurids, especially before Shahrub’s coinage reform in 827/1423. Unlike the Ilkhangs and their immediate successors, uniform type designs were never successfully promulgated throughout the kingdom. Each mint or group of a few mints perpetuated its own designs, while nonetheless adhering to the common weight and fineness standard. The first two attempts to establish a uniform coinage proved largely unsuccessful and were inevitably short-lived until the third attempt survived. The attempt by Shahrukh in 827/1423 was only partially successful, that of Abu Sa’id in 864 moderately successful (only until 873), whereas the last attempt by Husayn in 896 survived until the end of his reign in 911 and was preserved by his disruptive successors and later adopted by the Shaybandis.

The major exceptions were the three reverse patterns, which were maintained at most mints after their introduction. Here are the reverse patterns, but please note that there was no standardization of the reverse design prior to Shahrukh’s reform in 827/1423.

Reverse type T1 has the kalima in three lines within square (K1 according to my classification as noted before #A2275), usually in Kufic calligraphy, with the names of the four Rashidun in petals around the square. At some mints, other arrangements of the kalima were used. It was introduced by Shahrub at Herat in 827, at most of the other mints in 828.

Reverse T2 has the kalima (usually K1) in naskhi calligraphy within a simple quatrefoil, with the names of the Rashidun, usually with their epithets, in the outer segments. It was introduced by Abu Sa’id in 864 (#2146-2), but virtually never used after his death in 873.

Reverse T3 has the kalima (K1 or K2, in naskhi calligraphy) in a central area formed by four surrounding panels shaped like “sausages” (usually representing clouds in Chinese paintings), in which appear the names of the Rashidun, usually with their epithets. It was introduced by Sultan Husayn at Herat in 895 (#2432.3), at other mints the following year.

With few exceptions, silver coins of the Timurids were not very carefully struck. Typically about 80-90% of the type is visible, though for the coinage of Timur and the pre-reform coinage of Shahrub (before 827), the average quality is often much worse. From the reform of 828 to the early dated coins of Sultan Husayn struck in 875, the strike is generally better, with fully struck coins not at all uncommon. Post-875 coins are once again less carefully manufactured. Timurid coinages circulated extensively, so that examples are often heavily worn. In light of the countermarks applied from the 870s to the 910s, it is evident that coins of Timur and Shahrub remained in circulation at least until the end of the Timurid era, i.e., for as much as 100 years. Although the practice of countermarking coinage began during the early years of Shahrub I, it was primarily after the reform during the reign of Abu Sa’id in 864/1470 that this practice flourished. Countermarks usually bore the name of the ruler, sometimes with mint or date, sometimes just an epithet characteristic of that ruler’s coinage (e.g., beh bud for Sultan Husayn). There are also civic countermarks, and others that remain unassigned to any specific ruler or location.

For each ruler, countermarked types are listed after the regular coin types. Where applicable, the arrangement of the kalima were used. It was introduced by Shahrukh at Herat in 827, at most of the other mints in 828.

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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 257

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Checklist of Islamic Coins

## Pre-reform currencies, citing the nominal Chaghatayid overlord Suyurghatmish (771-790 / 1370-1388):

The pre-reform listing here is not complete. Many of the types listed here actually comprise several different local types, each in its own design. There are also a few multiple and fractional denominations, as well as some local types of various weight standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Mint(s) and Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2366</td>
<td>AV fractional dinar (about 1.15g)</td>
<td>Known only from Khwarizm, sometimes dated 781, stylistically and monetarily following the Sufid issues of the same mint.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2367.1</td>
<td>AR 2 dinars (1.71g), with Muhammad in diamond on reverse, mints in Fars &amp; Kirman, dated 788-789</td>
<td>Timur did not occupy Shiraz until well into 789. This type was issued by the Muzaffarids at Zayn al-Abidin, perhaps hoping that Timur would retain him as governor of Fars. Timur instead replaced him with Yaha, though Zayn al-Abidin recovered his position after Timur left Fars and returned to Central Asia in 790. The reverse is identical to #2286.2 of Zayn al-Abidin.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2367.2</td>
<td>AR 2 dinars (1.44g) (mint in central circle, margin usually divided into 4 segments / plain square), mints in Greater Luristan, dated 789-790</td>
<td>Coarse calligraphy. The only frequently available mint is Aydhaj. Some other mints occasionally used a plain circle reverse.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2368</td>
<td>AR 2 dinars (1.98g), local type of Greater Luristan, principally Aydhaj mint, dated 787-789</td>
<td>So far, only the mint of Aydhaj is confirmed, but examples from other Luristan mints may exist. This type was struck by the Hazaraspid ruler, who recognized Timur in order to claim independence from his erstwhile Muzaffarid suzerain, Zayn al-Abidin. In 789, at least six Luristan mints produced type #2367.2, during Timur’s actual occupation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2369</td>
<td>AR 2 dinars (1.98g), Adharbajyan type, mint in central circle with 3 or 4 panels around, known dated 788, but usually undated</td>
<td>Tabriz and Hamadan are the only common mints. The design bears the names and titles of Timur and his nominal suzerain Suyurghatmish, and is stylistically identical to types struck by Sultan Ahmad the Jalayrid, Toghtamish of the Golden Horde, and an anonymous issue assigned to Ibrahim the Shirvanshah.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2370</td>
<td>AR 2 dinars (1.26g), west-central Iranian type, undated, but probably struck in 789</td>
<td>Principal mints, Alishan and Burujird in Lesser Luristan (i.e., Luri Kuchik, which never appears as a mint name).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2371</td>
<td>AR 2 dinars (various standards from 1.98 down to 1.26g), struck in mints of the central Jibal, many subtypes at each mint, some rarer than others</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2380 AR 2 dinars (1.08g), second Adharbayjan type, (plain circle both sides, mint in reverse center), 796 only

2381 AR dirham (miri) (= ¼ tanka, 1.55g), Samarqand type, also used at a few other mints, 790-807

The reform tanka seems to have been set at four times the weight of this dirham, aka miri, though this hypothesis remains unconfirmed in contemporary literature. Full tankas were not struck at Samarqand until after Timur’s death, during the reign of Khalil Sultan. This type is conventionally called dirham, but the actual name of this denomination is unknown, although recent evidence suggests that the denomination was known as miri, i.e., “of the mir”. This was the regular denomination only at Samarqand and Khwarizm under Timur, but was occasionally used at several other mints after the reform in 795, mainly in northwestern Iran. The weight of these “quarters” is close to one fourth the weight of the reform tanka. Of all the mints, only Samarqand is common (790-796 very common, later dates scarce).

2381A AR dirham (miri) (1.55g), Samarqand 807

Timur + Mahmud + Muhammad Sultan, even though Mahmud had died in 800 and Muhammad Sultan in 805!

2382 AR 2 dinars (1.62g?), obverse in square, mints in Iraq & southern Jazira, 795-796

The principal mint for the type is Baghdad.

2383 AR akçe (1.3-1.5g), Mardin & Amid mints, mint name in reverse center, several minor subtypes, all undated

2383A AR akçe (1.3-1.5g), as #2383 but countermarked Allah hasbi on obverse or reverse

A2384 AR akçe (1.25-1.30g), Erzincan mint, with the characteristic lobated square reverse

2384 AR akçe (various weights between 1.1g and at least 1.7g), Ottoman issue, Amasya mint

Struck by the Ottoman Mehmet Çelebi in the sole name of Timur, who conquered most of what is now Turkey in 804/1402.

2385 AR akçe (about 1.2g), Isfendiyarid issue, mints of Kastamonu and Sinop (rarely clear on coin), dated 807-808 (sic)

See also #11264 for an issue of Germiyan.

2385H AR akçe (1.08 or 1.17g), Haji Tarkan mint, undated (Zeno-47615)

Standard obverse (as #2381), reverse with ‘adil in central circle, mint name around. This is the only Timurid coin struck within the Golden Horde region. Although undated, it was likely struck during the political disarray after the death of Toqtamish in 797.

2385L AR fractional (1/10?) tanka (approximately 0.6g), without mint or date, but style of Lahiyan

For copper coins dated before the reform, see #2389 below.

**POST-REFORM COINAGE (circa 792-807 & thereafter)**

**Post-reform coinage, citing the nominal Chaghhatavid overlord Mahmud (792-803/1390-1401), then at some mints until 807:**

Mahmud died in 800/1398, but his name was retained on most of Timur’s coinage until his death in 807.

The post-reform denomination (tanka) derived from the reduced weight dinar kebeki introduced at Herat in 782, further reduced to approximately 6.2g at Herat in 792, at which time it spread to other mints in Khorasan and Central Asia, and was subsequently adopted throughout the Timurid kingdom in 795-797. However, several mints continued to produce pre-reform denominations much later, as at Samarqand & Khwarizm until the 810s.

Z2386 AR double tanka (12.5g), Dimashq mint only

Struck during Timur’s invasion of Syria in 803. Contemporary accounts mention the production of numerous multiple tanka denominations at Damascus, called balish (“cushion”), varying from the double tanka to as much as 100 tankas. Only the double tanka is known to have survived.

2386 AR tanka (6.2g), many subtypes

Each mint or group of mints within a single province had distinctive subtypes, which changed periodically over the 15 years during which types #2386, 2386F, 2387 & 2388 were produced (792-807).

At least 100 subtypes exist, mostly unpublished, at least with an illustration. There was no attempt made to standardize the imperial coin designs until 827/828, during the reign of Shahrukh.

Despite the theoretical standard of 6.2g, most specimens weigh between 5.75g and 6.15g, even when minimally worn and undamaged. Perhaps Timur’s administrators perceived themselves so powerful that they believed that their citizens might fear that their heads might be lopped off should they refuse to accept the underlying tankas.

Many varieties lack either the mint name, the date, or both.

2386F AR tanka, type as last but countermarked hasbi Allah

This countermark occurs mainly on coins struck at mints in Armenia and eastern Anatolia. The date and issuer are unknown, but the mark is likely to have been used circa 800-802. Further research needed!

RR

(2387 & #2388 are now listed after #2390.)

RR

2388C AR reduced tanka or ½ dinar kebeki (4.00-4.05g), without mint or date, believed struck in the region of modern Tajikistan

2388E AR ½ tanka, approximately 3.00-3.10g, usually in the style of A-2386 as used at Herat mint

Known dated 792 & from undated types in the 790s, usually without mint name. Several other mints have been reported but apparently unpublished.

2388G AR ½ tanka, approximately 2.1g, mint name on obverse, several variants with reverse in square

Mints of Huwayza and Shushtar in Khuzestan provinces.

2388H AR ¼ tanka, approximately 1.4-1.5g, mint and date in central circle, known only from Aydhaj dated 797 & 798

2388I AR ¼ tanka (about 1.5g), plain circle both sides, mint name interlinear within kalima on reverse

Known from Garni mint, dated 799 (in words).

2388T AR 1/10 tanka (about 0.58g), no mint or date

Style of Lahiyan in Gilan province. Struck on very thin broad flans, usually with much weakness.

RR

(2389 now listed just listed before #2376.)

2389N AE fals, citing Timur and his nominal overlord Mahmud, struck mainly at Nimiruz

2390 AE ‘adliya, Fars & Kirman region mints

Individual specimens vary in weight from less than 2g to nearly 20g, but it is unclear whether these ‘adliyas were struck to several different denominations or randomly at any weight. Most are without any overlord, but some cite either Mahmud or both Mahmud and Muhammad Sultan. The denomination ‘adliya is cited on most of these coins. The lightest coins are earlier, known dated AH795, whereas the heavier issues are known dated 806-808 (sic).

**Post-reform coinage, citing Mahmud and the Timurid heir Muhammad Sultan, normally struck 803-805:**

2387 AR tanka

As with the previous tanka types, each region had its own subtypes. Muhammad Sultan died in 805, and no new heir-apparent was appointed. This type was struck as late as 807 at some mints.

See #2381A for the dirham (¼ tanka) citing Muhammad Sultan.

**Post-reform coinage, without overlord, usually with title amir-i jahangushay, “world-conquering amir” (806-807):**

RR

2388 AR tanka

Known only from Iraqi mints, principally Baghdad and Mawsil.

RR

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609 We do not know the actual shape of the larger denomination “cushions”. Could the concept of such large silver coins have been derived from the contemporary Chinese sycey shapes?

610 First struck at Herat in 792, extended to Jurjan and probably Danighan in 793, then to most of the empire shortly, after the conquest of Shiraz and Tabriz in 795, but never produced at Samarqand or Khwarizm.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 259
Khail Sultan, 807-811 / 1405-1409

All silver coins of this ruler also include the name of his nominal overlord, Muhammad Jahangir, except the countermark.

2391 AR tanka, known dated 808-810 RR
Although Khail Sultan’s coinage maintains the weight standard of Timur, actual weights of his undamaged tankas vary from about 5.7g to more than 6.6g. His actual standard is unclear.

2392 AR ¼ tanka (miri), dated 807-809 A2393 AE fals, with name of ruler, Samarqand only, dated 808-811 RRR

K2393 AR tanka, countermarked type, with khail sultan bahadur in rectangular cartouches RRR

Muhammad Jahangir, alone, 811 / 1408-1409

M2393 AR tanka, Samarqand 811 only (Zeno-92611) RRR
Inscribed al-matawakkil ‘ala Allah al-malik al-ka(mil?) al-sultan muhammad jahangir, mint & date below.

Pir Muhammad (b. Jahangir), at Balkh, 807-808 / 1405-1406

2393 AR tanka, dated 807 or undated R

A2394 AE fals, Balkh mint, dated 807 or undated RRR
Qaydu (b. Pir Muhammad b. Jahangir), vassal under Shahrukh at Balkh, 808-811 / 1406-1409

2394 AR ¼ tanka (miri), design similar to Timur’s issue of Samarqand RRR
All silver and copper coins of Qaydu cite Shahrukh as his overlord.

2394A AE fals, Balkh mint only, undated RRR
Mint & date on obverse, only the name ‘Ali repeated four times within a square on the reverse.

Abu Bakr (b. Miranshah), at Tabriz, 807-809 / 1405-1407

2395 AR tanka RRR
All examples cite his father Miranshah as Abu’l-Fath Amiranshah and himself as Abu’l-Muxaffar Abu Bakr (sic). Usually without mint name, but an example of the Qazwin mint was recently reported (Zeno-61021).

Pir Muhammad (b. ‘Umar Shaykh), in Fars, 807-812 / 1405-1410

2396 AR tanka, citing Shahrukh as overlord RR
Known only from Yazd dated 811 (about 5.6 grams), identical to normal Shahrukh type #2400.1 except for the name Muhammad in spiraled Kufic within a square medallion in center of obverse.

Rustam, as independent ruler at Kashan, circa 812-817 / 1410-1414

2397 AR tanka, citing Shahrukh as overlord, Kashan mint only, undated, always weakly struck RR
The weight standard of Iskandar’s silver tankas is approximately 5.6g for all tankas.

2398.1 AR tanka, usually citing his uncle Shahrukh as overlord, Sunni reverse RR
Struck principally at Kashan & Yazd. An example of Isfahan 813 lacks any mention of Shahrukh.

2398.2 AR tanka, similar, but without overlord and Shi‘ite reverse RR
Known from several mints, including Sari, Yazd, Ta’s605, Qumm, and possibly Amul, but the mint name is rarely visible. On the obverse, Iskandar takes the titles Jalal al-Din and mulkiyya qulqul al-umam, with the next normally within a plain or pointed quatrefoil, each mint using its own variation.

Shahrukh, 807-850 / 1405-1447

The weight standard of Shahrukh’s silver coinage was not standardized until about 822, with up to four different standards in use simultaneously in different regions.

Technically, his name should be cited as “Shahrukh I”, but it is truly unnecessary.

First series (807-812, as late as 819 at some mints), normally with title al-sultan al-a’zam.

2400.1 AR tanka (6.2g), Khorasanian mints, primarily Herat & Sabzawar. Both this type and #2400.2 have the laqab mu’in al-din.
No genuine gold coins are confirmed for Shahrukh or his successors, except for #A2431 of Sultan Husayn.

2400.2 AR tanka, similar, but weight reduced to about 5.6g, Nimruz & Khwarizm mints (812-819) R

A2401 AR dirham (aka miri, ¼ tanka, circa 1.55g), similar, mints of Khwarizm & Samarqand only RRR
Style and calligraphy as on #2381 of Timur, titles as #2400.1.

Local series (810-825, at a few other mints until 819):

D2401 AR tanka (5.9g), local standard of Astarabad (810-825), date usually in numerals S
Also struck at Sabzawar circa 814-819, and at Lahijan and Damghan, both undated. The weight of this type seems to have fallen gradually or in steps to about 5.6g by 825. Astarabad 801 is error date for 810.

E2401 AR ½ tanka (2.95g), similar to #D2401 RR

Second series (807-819, thus overlapping the first series):

Struck at mints in the Jibal, Fars and Kirman.

2401.1 AR tanka (5.6g), as #2400.1 but with additional title mu’in al-din, many regional variants S
Struck at Isfahan and mints in Fars province 807-819, mainly Shiraz, Yazd, Shabankara & Shaykh Abu Ishaq (= Kazirun). After 812 the title was adopted at Kirman and at additional mints in central Iran, primarily Saveh and Kashan.

2401.2 AR tanka (5.6g), similar but without mu’in al-din, local issue of Kirman province (807-809) RRR
Struck at Kirman and Shahrak (= Banum), distinguished by the central oval cartouche bearing the ruler’s name on obverse.

2401.3 AR tanka, with mu’in al-din but with Shi’ite reverse RR
Known dated 817, without mint, but style of Sari.

Countermark series (circa 814-819):

Probably stamped only in Khorasan and Central Asia, mostly on hosts of either Timur or earlier issues of Shahrukh himself.

2402.1 AR tanka, countermarked type (contemporary with second series, circa 814-819), with shahrukh bahadur in variously shaped cartouches, without mint name C
Ch‘en Ch‘eng, a Chinese envoy to the court of Shahrukh at this juncture (817/1414), reported the practice of countermarking the coins in circulation, and noted that it constituted a tax on money.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 260

602 A ¼ miri (0.50g) of Samarqand, date missing, is reported, but it may be a clipped down miri used for jewelry (Zeno-43028).
603 Zeno-52213, very clear name and most of bahadur visible.
604 The Ta’s mint reverse has the Shi’ite kalima in a square within a circle, the Rashidun within the segments between the square & circle.
At this time Shahrukh was completing his conquest of sections of central and southern Iran still held by Timurid and other rivals. Many variations of cartouche and calligraphy. The most common type has the countermark in a square cartouche. All countermarks in the name of Shahrukh are undated.

For similar countermarks with the additional word amir, see #2402.3.

2402.2 AR tanka, similar, but with mint name added to countermark
Samarqand and Herat are the only mints which are not at least very rare. All other mints are in Central Asia, including Bukhara, Kosh, Nisa, Qarshi, Shash, Shahrukhya and Tashkent.

2402.3 AR tanka, similar, without mint name, but with inscription amir shahrukh, occasionally followed by the word bahadur

2402.4 AR tanka, similar, without mint name, inscription sultan shahrukh, normally in naskhi script

2402.5 AR tanka, similar, without mint name, other forms of the royal inscription, various epigraphy

Third series (819-822), with claim to the caliphate (Khahada Allah mulkahu wa khilafatahu or something similar in the benediction):

2403 AR tanka (5.6g), many subtypes struck throughout the kingdom
Shahrukh’s claim to the caliphate is known only from his coins and seems not to have been mentioned in any of the chronicles. Not all mints adopted this protocol, e.g., Samarqand. Conversely, at some mints the type continued after 822, as late as 825 at Khwarizm, the last mint to abandon this protocol.

Fourth series (822-827):

2404 AR tanka, (5.6g for all coins), new designs
Designs for this type vary by mint, but are sometimes similar to issues of the first three series. Some mints, such as Samarqand and Herat, used types that resemble those of the forthcoming fifth series, but distinguishable by weight and layout of the legends. All coins of this period lack both the claim to the caliphate and the title mu’ın al-din (some coins of Khwarizm and at least one additional mint, dated 822-825, still retain the claim to the caliphate and are thus regarded as examples of type #2403).

Fifth series (827-850, posthumously till 852 at Tabriz):

2405 AV ¼ mithqal (about 1.19g), style as #2405
Known with mint & date off flan (Zeno-95850). It is not clear whether this was an intended coin or a jewelry piece.

2406 AR ½ tanka, similar (5th series)
This denomination was used principally at Sari & Amul in Mazandaran province.

2407 AR ¼ tanka, similar (5th series)
Struck only at Erzincan, dated 840.

2407K AR ¼ tanka (5th series), AR tanka, as #2405 but Shi’ite reverse
Struck only at Ruyan in 828.

Miscellaneous local coinage:

2408 AR ½ tanka (about 1.7g), local Iraqi and Jaziran coinage, circa 808-833+
Known principally from Baghdad, Wastan, & Huwayza.

2408E AR tanka (circa 5.3g), Erzincan mint, known dated 822-824. plain circle on both sides
See type #2500 for further description of this design.

2408J AR dirham? (2.90-2.95g), Jarun mint on the Persian Gulf

2408K AR ½ tanka? (1.60-1.65g), Jarun mint

2408M AR dirham? (circa 2.2g), mints of Amid & Mardin
Local currency, identified by K5 on reverse, mint in center. Denomination uncertain, as is the dating of the type.

2408W AR akçe (about 1.50-1.55g(606), struck only at Wastan, undated
Now the resort town of Geväş on Lake Van.607 Probably struck circa 824, at the time of Shahrukh’s first conquest of Tabriz and threatened invasion into eastern Anatolia.

2408X AR fractional tankas and other local denominations
At least a dozen miscellaneous types, of either fractional tanka or local currency denominations. Mostly without mint & date
dates.

2409 AE ‘adliya, mainly at mints in Fars, with name of ruler, variable size
Normally with a brassy color, and generally similar to type #2390 of Timur. Weights can vary from less than four to more than 15 grams. Dated 807-811 only. Later copper’s lack the name of the ruler and are therefore reckoned as civic issues, of which the vast majority are dated 832, Bukhara the most common mint.

2409A AE fals, with the ruler’s name, principally Balkh mint and usually undated
Dated examples mainly before 818, but observed until 823.

‘Ala al-Dawla, at Herat & Sabzawar, 851 / 1447

2410 AR tanka

2411 AR ¼ tanka, Herat mint only

Abu Bakr (b. Muhammad Juki), at Balkh, 851 / 1447

2412 AR tanka, Balkh 851 only

Name written Abu Bakr (accusative case) on all known coins.

Ulugh Beg I, at Samarqand, 851-853 / 1447-1449

2413.1 AR tanka (circa 5.15g), obverse inscriptions in Arabic
Several mints are known, of which Samarqand, Sabzawar, and Herat are the least rare. He sometimes takes the title mughith al-din, and his name is usually followed by the tribal term gurkan. An example of Sabzawar 851 (Zeno-64034) includes the title mughith al-din, sometimes with three pellets above the th.

2413.2 AR tanka, similar, but obverse in Turkish with the Arabic script, mainly mint of Herat (852 only)
The earliest occurrence of the Turkish language on Islamic coinage. Apparently struck to a heavier standard of 5.5-5.6g, but further research is needed to determine the metrology of the silver coinage of this reign.

2413A AR ½ tanka, Sari style (Zeno-53665)

‘Abd al-Latif, at Samarqand only, 854-855 / 1450-1451

2414 AR tanka, reverse T1
No additional titles, but with the patronymic bin shahrukh bahadur bin timur gurkan, one of the unusual Timurid patronymic titles after about 820.

‘Abd Allah, at Samarqand only, 854-855 / 1450-1451

2415 AR tanka, reverse T1

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 261
Abu Sa'id Gurkan, at Samarqand and Transoxiana, 855-873 / 1451-1469

Also in Khorasan and adjacent regions from 863/1459 onwards, parts of Mazandaran from 864/1460.

2416.1 AR tanka, Sunni reverse with kalima in square (reverse T1)
First regular series of this reign, struck from 855-864 at most mints under his control. Samarqand is the only common mint.

2416.2 AR tanka, Sunni reverse with kalima in quatrefoil (reverse T2)
Second regular series of this reign, introduced after the temporary conquest of Astarabad in 864 and struck until the end of the reign in 873. The reverse cartouche has the same shape as the common countermark of his reign (#2417). Many mints, of which Astarabad is the most common, with Herat and Samarqand also relatively common. Abu Sa'id seized much of central & western Iran after the death of the Qara Qoyunlu Jahanshah in 872, with tankas struck at several mints in that region, usually dated 873, of which only Yazd is occasionally available. Abu Sa'id was killed the following year while chasing the Aq Qoyunlu ruler Hasan into northern Adharbayjan.

2416.3 AR tanka, Sunni reverse with kalima in hexafoil, Astarabad 864 only
Special design commemorating Abu Sa'id's first conquest of Astarabad in 864.

A few additional reverse types are known (R+).

2416.4 AR tanka, Sunni reverse with kalima in octofoil, Nimruz 867 only

2416A AR ¼ tanka, local type of Sari (Sunni), reverse as type #2416.2
R

2416B.1 AR ¼ tanka, square reverse as on #2416.1
R

2416B.2 AR ¼ tanka, quatrefoil reverse as on #2416.2
C

2417 AR tanka, countermarked type, quatrefoil border
Examples of this countermark with mint or date are rare. Struck from 864-873, concomitant with #2416.2. Countermarking was cheaper than melting down and striking new coins.

2418 AR tanka, countermarked type, other shapes
By style, struck before 864, always without mint name. Some variants may have been struck later.

T2419 AR tanka, Shi'ite reverse, mint & date in obverse inner circle, T1 style reverse, Sari 872 only

2419 AR tanka, Shi'ite reverse, without mint name, undated, several varieties
Believed struck at Ruyan, possibly also at Sari.

Abu'l-Qasim Babur, 851-861 / 1447-1457

2420.1 AR tanka, Sunni reverse, without kunya Abu'l-Qasim, struck 851-853, normally T1 reverse.
All coins struck prior to the conquest of Herat in 853 lack the kunya Abu'l-Qasim as a few do later issues (mainly variants of type #2422). A subtype of Astarabad 851 & 852 has mint & date in central circle on obverse.

2420.2 AR tanka, with kunya Abu'l-Qasim (853-861) S

Most common types have T1 reverse, but also known with fancy hexfoil reverse (Astarabad 858), inner circle reverse (Herat 859) and other rare variants.

2421.1 AR ¼ tanka, as #2420.1 (without kunya)
RR

2421.2 AR ¼ tanka, as #2420.2 (with kunya)
R

2422 AR tanka, Shi'ite types
Struck primarily at Sari and Amul, often without mention of the mint name, occasionally dated, almost always overstruck on earlier coins (mainly of Shahrukh). Over the years various scholars and numismatists have misattributed this type to Zahir al-Din Babur, the conqueror of India some 70 years later.

Most Shi'ite types of Abu'l-Qasim Babur and later Timurids have either the names of the 12 Shi'ite Imams or the names of the first four Imams Mahammad, 'Ali, Hasan and Husayn, but often omit the phrase 'Ali walid Allah'. There are many different arrangements of the text.

Shah Mahmud, at Herat and Astarabad, 861-863 / 1457-1459
Not to be confused with Sultan Mahmud, who briefly occupied Astarabad 864-865 (see #V2454).

2423.1 AR tanka, Sunni reverse T1
Hera mint only, with regnal title mu'izz al-dunya wa'l-din (all his other types are without this title).

2423.2 AR tanka, Shi'ite reverse (inner circle / hexafoil), Astarabad mint
RR

2423.3 AR tanka, Shi'ite reverse (multifoil / inner circle), Sabzawar mint
RR

2423.4 AR tanka, Shi'ite reverse (inner circle / inner circle)
RR

Without mint name but believed struck at Sari, based on style.

Sultan Ibrahim, at Herat and Nishapur, 861 / 1457

2424 AR tanka, without additional titles

2424A AR ¼ tanka, similar, Herat mint only

Sultan Muhammad, in central & western Iran, 850-855 / 1447-1451

2425 AR tanka, Sunni reverse (usually type T1), occasionally overstruck on earlier Timurid types, mainly of Shahrukh
S

Yazd is the most frequently available mint. Kashan & Shiraz are also not especially rare. About 13 mints known in all.

2426 AR ½ tanka (about 1.7g), struck only at Huwayza, sometimes without mint name
R

2426A AR ¼ tanka, with knot typical of Kashan mint
R

Without mint name, but presumably struck at Kashan.

2426L AR tanka, similar to #2425 but Shi'ite reverse
RR

Sari mint only, with names of the first three Shi'ite Imams 'Ali, Hasan & Husayn in the reverse margin, normally followed by the epithetical name Zayn al-Abidin of the fourth Shi'ite Imam, Ali b. Husayn.

2427 AR tanka, countermarked 'adl sultan mahammad on various hosts, always without mint & date
R

The same wording was also used by the Aq Qoyunlu prince Muhammad (903-905), but the two can easily be distinguished by style, cartouche and undertypes. The cartouche of this type is normally a simple square or rectangle, or a plain circle.

2427f AE 'adliya, Shiraz mint, broad thin flan, undated

Sultan Husayn, 1st reign at Astarabad, 862-864 / 1459-1460

2428 AR tanka, known dated 862
RR

Normally undated, identified by central obverse inner circle citing the ruler without his kunya Abu'l-Ghazi, reverse in square.

For the following ruler in charge of Astarabad in 864-865, Sultan Mahmud, see #V2454.

Sultan Husayn, 2nd reign at Astarabad, 865-868 / 1461-1464

2428A AR tanka, known dated 865
RR

Linear inscriptions overtype, without title Abu'l-Ghazi, reverse in hexafoil.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 262

608 The occupation of Astarabad after the death of Abu'l-Qasim Babur in 861 is complex, with the following data hopefully correct:

861-862 Shah Mahmud #2423.2
862 Jahanshah (Qara Qoyunlu) #2493
862-864 Sultan Husayn, 1st reign #2428
864 Abu Sa'id #2416.3
864-865 Sultan Mahmud #V2454
865-868 Sultan Husayn, 2nd reign #2428A
868-873 Abu Sa'id #2416.2
873-874 Hasan (Aq Qoyunlu) #2512
thereafter Sultan Husayn, 3rd reign #2431

Surprisingly, it seems that all these invasions and government changes brought little harm to the city of Astarabad! Shah Mahmud is not the same period as Sultan Mahmud, who later ruled over Hissar 873-900.
Sultan Husayn, 1st reign or 2nd reign

2429 AR tanka, countermarked "all sultan husayn, usually in rectangle
Always without mint, date and the term beh bud, this countermark belongs to either the first or second reign, or both of them, but cannot at present be assigned to one of these reigns. Lacking beh bud, it was unlikely to have been used during the third reign.

Yadigar Muhammad (Abu al-Muzaffar), at Herat, 873-875 / 1469-1470

A2430 AR tanka, normal strike with ruler’s name, known from Herat 874 but usually undated

2430 AR tanka, countermarked type, ruler’s name in cartouche (usually square or rectangle)
The countermark always lacks mint and date. Usually found poorly struck.

Sultan Husayn (Abu’l-Ghazi), 3rd reign, at Herat, etc., 873-911 / 1469-1506

Known as sultan husayn bayqara in the chronologies.

Coins of Sultan Husayn’s first and second reigns lack the title abu’l-ghazi, which appears on all coins of the third reign, except for some small fractional denominations (due to available space). As for the various lighter types, though marked or countermarked with a denomination, the fractionalss, all of which probably date to the last 16 years of his reign, the monetary denominations stated here are tentative, as are the suggested dates.

A2431 AV ashrafi, struck only at Herat
This type is inscribed with the denomination ashrafi and was likely intended as a donation.

2431 AR tanka (5.15g), pre-reform type (reverse normally in a square, a restoration of type T1)
Only the mints of Herat and Astarabad are common. The type has beh bud in an eye-shaped lozenge in obverse center, similar to the countermark #2437. Beh bud means “prosperity”, and was the name of Sultan Husayn’s coinage.

A2432 AR ¼ tanka (1.28g), similar, reverse has the kalima either within a square or a quatrefoil

W2432 AR double tanka (9.56g), similar to #2434.2, struck only at Astarabad in 909
Two known specimens confirm that this denomination is two Timurid tankas, based on the Timurid Central Asian mithqal weight (4.70g). Since this is a fraction of the mithqal weight, it is called a "tanka" coin.

2432.1 AR tanka (4.78g), post-reform standard but design similar to #2431 (reverse in square), struck only at Astarabad 892-894, thick narrow flans
All Timurid tankas struck from 892 onwards follow the 4.78g standard, later adopted by the Shaybanids, with a few exceptions as noted above. This type is inscribed with the denomination beh bud, which appears on all coins of the third reign, except for some small fractional denominations (due to available space). As for the various lighter types, though marked or countermarked with a denomination, the fractionalss, all of which probably date to the last 16 years of his reign, the monetary denominations stated here are tentative, as are the suggested dates.

2432.2 AR tanka (4.78g), post-reform type, special type of Astarabad, 895-896 only, beh bud in knotted diamond on obverse, reverse in square (type T1)

2432.3 AR tanka (4.78g), normal post-reform type (reverse T3, as described under type #2405), mint name with beh bud in eye-shape cartouche, Sunni reverse, struck 895 and later
Herat & Astarabad are by far the most common mints, but Balkh, Merv, Mashhad, Sabzawar, and Tun are often obtainable. About 20 mints in all are known. Virtually all specimens show some weakness of strike.

2433.1 AR ¼ tanka, similar to #2432.1 (reverse in square, type T1)

2433.2 AR ¼ tanka, post-reform type similar to #2432.3 (reverse T3)

2434.1 AR tanka, similar to #2432.3 but Shi’ite formula in the reverse field, names of the 12 Imams in margin
Struck principally at Damghan and Sari (896+, normally undated). Husayn did not allow Shi’ite coinage at Astarabad until 908 (see the following type).

2434.2 AR tanka, obverse as last, but the reverse has the Shi’ite formula in the margin, names of the Twelve Imams in “mill-sail” pattern in the field
Struck in 908-909 at Astarabad. These bear a variant of the so-called “mill-sail” reverse best known from early Safavid coinage. The design is formed by the extended tails of the final y of ‘Ali repeated four times in the form of a mill-sail, an unusual term referring to the sail of a windmill.

2435.1 AR light tanka (about 4.0g-4.1g), Sunni reverse
Minted in the Mazandaran province, at Amul, Barfurushidh & Sari, sometimes without mint name. Struck on thick, narrow flans, similar to contemporary Qq Qoyulu tankas, actually issued by local dynasts, but in the name of Sultan Husayn. The Sunni reverse is normally or always in Kufic script.

2435.2 AR light tanka (about 4.0g-4.1g), Shi’ite reverse
Minted in the Mazandaran province, but without mint name.

2435A AR full tanka (about 5.0g), Sari mint
Mint name in obverse cartouche, Shi’ite kalima in octofoil reverse field with what are probably the first four Shi’ite Imams in the margin. Normally on thick narrow flans.

2436 AR reduced tanka of half-mithqal weight (roughly 2.39g), mint in central circle on obverse, known from Herat 906 & 908, Mashhad 909, and Tabas 911

This coin evidently circulated as a tanka, even though it weighs exactly half the normal post-reform tanka. Herat is the only mint occasionally available.

A2437 AR “2 miri” (2 Herati dinars, = 2/3 reduced tanka) (1.59g), struck only at Astarabad, and inscribed beh bud do-miri, always undated
Presumably struck late in the reign, during the financial crisis which erupted after 906/1500. For the denominational terminology, see #F2440. Contemporary accounts of the period mention a tanka valued at six dinars of account.

B2437 AR provisional “tanka” of 1/3 mithqal weight (1.59g)
Inscribed beh bud tanka in central lozenge, thus to be regarded as a tanka. This type never bears the mint, but was likely struck at Herat at the same time as the 2-miri of Astarabad (#A2437), Known dated 910.

609 Sultan Husayn contested the city of Herat with Yadigar Muhammad from 873-875, after which he held the city as his administrative capital, unchallenged until his death in 911.

610 The only known specimen in private hands weighs 4.73g, suggesting that the intended weight of the ashrafi was one mithqal, then about 4.78g.

611 An alternative explanation of the inclusion of beh bud on the coinage of Sultan Husayn appeared in the Babur-Namah, an historical text attributed to the later ruler Zahir al-Din Babur, but undoubtedly actually written by one of his chroniclers. According to A.S. Beveridge’s translation, it states “Beh-bud Beg was another. He had served in the pages’ circle during the guerilla times [i.e., circa AH682-873] and gave such satisfaction that the Mirza [i.e., Sultan Husayn] did him the favour of putting his name on the stamp [countermark] and the coin.” There is no evidence for this presumption, most likely applied posthumously as a humorous tale.
Note that the last words of this text, “on the stamp [countermark] and the coin”, seems to indicate that coins bearing the phrase beh bud were both countermarked and newly struck.

612 This type proves that the reduced weight was introduced in 892, not 895 as I originally presumed, at least in Astarabad. Specimens of other mints dated in the 890s but prior to 895 are unknown.

613 The obverse of both #2435.1 and 2435.2 bears beh bud in eye-shaped cartouche, as on type #2431.

614 Issues of Barfurushidh may have been struck to a somewhat lighter standard, circa 3.7g. More information needed, for this variant and for an overall analysis of types #2435.1 and 2435.2.

615 This type bears no indication of denomination, but incorporates the same design as type #A2437 of 2 “miiri” at Astarabad, i.e., 2 miri or Herati dinars of account. Since this type weighs 50% more and was contemporary to the 2 “miiri” of Astarabad, it should be the equivalent to 3 “miiri”, which was a term for the reform tanka introduced in 895. The principal evidence is the countermark on type #F2440. Further research would be helpful.

616 See the note following #F2440 to understand why I’ve decided to accept Davidovich’s reading as mimi rather than hari.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 263
2437 AR tanka, first countermarked type (beh bud alone in eye-shaped cartouche), used circa 873 until 895 or slightly thereafter.
A few rare variants of types #2437 and 2438 have a cartouche of a different shape. Found on Timurid coins of Sultan Husayn and earlier, especially Shahrukh, as well as coins of other contemporary dynasties, Qara Qoyunlu, Aq Qoyunlu, etc.
2438 AR tanka, second countermarked type, as last (beh bud in eye-shape cartouche), but with mint name added and larger cartouche, used circa 895-906. 
2438A AR “tabrizi” tanka, similar, but countermarked with beh bud tabrizi, usually followed by mint name. Presumably an indication that the value of the coin was the same as the contemporary Aq Qoyunlu standard at Tabriz introduced in 902 by Ahmad Gode (4.78g). Known mints include Mashhad and Marv.
2439 AR tanka, third countermarked type, wording as #2438 (beh bud + mint name) but inscribed within a six-petalled lotus, always undated, estimated to have been used 906-911.
A few dies have an eight-petalled lotus.
A2440.1 AR “tanka” (4.78g), countermarked beh bud tanka, probably used circa 895
A2440.2 AR “tanka” (circa 4.1g?), similar, but with the countermark ‘adl tanka, date unknown.
F2440 AR “3 miri” (i.e., 3 dinars of Herat), countermarked beh bud seh miri plus mint name on various tankas (at least two different shapes of the cartouche).
Davidovich read the denomination as seh miri, ‘three amir tankas’, and in the post-Soviet periods, Russian scholars have universally accepted this term. Until very recently, I disagreed, and read the term as hari, i.e., “of Herat”, given that Herat was the capital of the first ruler on whose coins this term appeared. There is a recently discovered piece in the Tübingen collection, dated 897, that clearly shows hari or miri with what I interpreted as an unambiguous h. However, m and b can be so similarly engraved that a single specimen out of many hundreds of known specimens cannot prove it instead of m. Has anyone discovered decisive evidence in contemporary documents?
It seems that the reform of 895 implied a valuation of the mithqal.
2440A AR “5 miri” (i.e., 5 dinars of Herat), countermarked beh bud panj miri on various hosts (two shapes of cartouche).
The dating of this type is unknown, probably circa 904-906.
H2440 AR “½ miri”, countermarked ‘adl-i nim miri in plain octagon border by unknown authority.
Known with a later countermark (type #2439) of Balkh mint, so no later than 906. This is an issue of either some regional governor of Sultan Husayn somewhere in Khorasan (seems likely) or of his opponents in Transoxiana, such as Sultan Ahmad in Samangan or Sultan Mahmud in Hisar. Oddly, the denomination cited in the countermark seems not to fit into the known monetary policy of the Timurids.

Muhammad Husayn (b. Sultan Husayn), rebel against his father at Astarabad, 903-906 / 1498-1501.
2440 AR tanka (4.78g).
This type is readily identified by the word fath (“victory”) in the obverse cartouche, usually with the date inscribed within that word.  
2441 AR tanka, countermarked type, with fath and date, but without mint or name of ruler.
This type is assigned to Muhammad by virtue of its similarity to the previous type, #2440. Found on Timurid and surprisingly often on Aq Qoyunlu tankas.
2441A AR ½ tanka (1.59g), generally as #2440, mint of Astarabad, undated.

2441B AR 1/6 tanka (0.80g), similar, mint of Astarabad, undated.

A  Faridun Husayn, at Astarabad, 911-912 / 1506
(‘adl-i ‘Adl, b. Sultan Husayn).
2442.1 AR tanka (4.78g), with his kunya abu l’-‘adl in central cartouche.
Shi’ite reverse with kalima in square.

C  Faridun Husayn in central cartouche, Astarabad mint, known dated 912.
2442A AR ½ tanka, with abu l’-‘adl in obverse central cartouche.
Shi’ite reverse with kalima in square.

R  Faridun Husayn in cartouche on various Timurid tankas.
2442B AR tanka, countermarked abu l’-‘adl on various Timurid tankas.
2442C AR 2 shahi (18.80g), countermarked abu l’-‘adl on 2 shahi hosIs of the Safavid ruler Isma’i’il I.
2442D AR shahi (9.40g), same countermark on 1 shahi host of Isma’i’il I.
2442E AR ½ shahi (4.70g), same countermark on ½ shahi host of the Isma’i’il I.

Muzaffar Husayn (b. Sultan Husayn), at Herat, 911-912 / 1506
Also citing his brother Badi’ al-Zaman, with whom he shared the authority at Herat.
2443 AR tanka, Herat mint only.
Distinguished by beh bud herat within plain quatrefoil on obverse. The name Muzaffar Husayn to the left, Badi’ al-Zaman to the right. Type T3 Sunai reverse with the four Rashidun.
2443N AR tanka, countermarked type, reported only for the mint of Nishapur, undated (Zeno-94408).
The countermark appears within a plain quatrefoil, beh bud nishapur, similar to the cartouche of type #2443. This attribution seems consistent, but should currently be regarded as tentative.

Muzaffar Husayn (b. Sultan Husayn), at Herat, as sole ruler, circa 911-912 / 1506.
2443A AR tanka, Astarabad mint only.
The full royal name on this type is sultan abu l-muzaffar ibn sultan husayn, with the mint name beh bud astarabad in the same eye-shape cartouche of his father’s common type (#2432.3).
Shi’ite reverse with kalima in square, 12 Imamis in margin.

Badi’ al-Zaman (b. Sultan Husayn), as rebel at Balkh against his father Sultan Husayn, circa 905-908 / 1499-1502.
2444 AR tanka, known dated 905.
Anonymous, assigned to ruler by design & date.

B2444 AR tanka, countermarked beh bud balkh within elongated cartouche on various earlier types.
This invariably undated type is tentatively assigned to the rebellion of Badi’ al-Zaman circa 905-908, but further study is needed. It bears the same cartouche as his later three tanka countermarks (type #2445). The same beh bud balkh within a six-petalled lotus cartouche is an ordinary issue of Sultan Husayn (#2439).

Badi’ al-Zaman, alone, as independent ruler, various places, 911-914 / 1506-1508.
2444 AR tanka, known dated 911-912.
Known principally from Astarabad and Nimruz.
2445 AR 3 tankas, countermarked beh bud seh tanka with mint name on various hosts.
The attribution of this countermark, engraved within an elongated cartouche and occasionally dated 911 or 912, to Badi’ al-Zaman is based on its appearance on a tanka of Faridun Husayn (#2442), who succeeded Husayn and was ousted in 912 by Badi’ al-Zaman. However, recent evidence suggests that it might have been introduced by Husayn a few months before his death at the end of

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617 Some recent evidence suggests that the second countermark may not have been introduced until 899. A few rare examples are dated, either 899 or 900. One rare variant bears the legend within a rosebud, known only from Mashhad dated 900.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 264
911 (cf. #B2437 for a tanka of \(\frac{1}{3}\) mithqal weight struck before his death). If correct, one may assume that the countermark was introduced by Sultan Husayn and continued unchanged under his son and successor at Herat, Badi' al-Zaman. Principal mints are Herat, Nishapur, and Sibzawar. An extremely rare variety has beh bud seh tanka-yi tabrizi, followed by the mint name (Kha).

Muhammad Muhsin Khan, at Mashhad, 911-912 / 1506-1507 (Abu'l-Nasr, b. Sultan Husayn)

Also known as Kebek Khan.

2446 AR tanka  RRR
Both regular and countermarked coins invariably lack the mint name. This type bears the name muhammad muhsin khan in the field, kebek khan in the central rosebud shape cartouche. Shi‘ite reverse with kalima in square.

2447 AR tanka, countermarked Kebek Khan, occasionally with date, in rosebud cartouche

Muhammad Qasim, at Mashhad, 913 / 1507

2447Q AR tanka, Shi‘ite reverse, Mashhad mint, undated Inscribed ‘adl saheb zaman in obverse central cartouche, with null-sail Shi‘ite reverse (Zeno-94449).

Muhammad Zaman Khan, at Astarabad, 920-923 / 1514-1517

Muhammad Zaman briefly seized Astarabad, but to no avail.

2448 AR tanka

Shahrukh II b. Abi Sa‘id, nominal sovereign in Gilan, 896-897 / 1490-1491

2449.1 AR tanka, struck to full-weight Shahrukhii standard (5.15g), struck only at Timajan

2449.2 AR tanka, reduced standard (approximately 4.1g) Coins of this and the following type were struck at Lahtijan and Timajan by the local Gilani rulers. This type normally bears the same reverse as the reform tankas of the Aq Qoyunlu ruler Ya‘qub, inscribed faman yamu mithqal... within a square.

2450 AR ¼ tanka, reduced standard (approximately 1.0g) Ulugh Beg Kabuli, at Kabul, 873-907 / 1469-1501

A2451 AR tanka, known only from Kabul dated 896

2451 AR tanka, countermarked type

The countermark reads ‘adl sultan ulugh beg kubuli, sometimes without ‘adl or kubuli, occasionally dated (known dated 898).

Sultan Ahmad, at Samarqand & Bukhara, 873-899 / 1469-1494

Pre-reform coinage (5.15g tanka) of Sultan Ahmad and the other two adversaries to Sultan Husayn, Ulugh Beg Kabuli & Sultan Mahmud, are extremely rare, struck only circa 874 (none known for Ulugh Beg). There seems to have been no coinage for these three rulers circa 875-895/1428-1449, except for the anonymous civic coppers, usually dated with the ongoing frozen year 832. Both regular coinage and all known countermarks for these three rulers commenced in 896, just after the reform introduced under Sultan Husayn in Herat, with the tanka reduced to 4.78g.

2452.1 AR tanka (5.15g), pre-reform  RRR
Known only from Samarqand, dated 874 and 889, the first in the Ashmolean Museum, the second in a private collection.

2452.2 AR tanka (4.78g), post-reform  S
Struck only at Samarqand and Bukhara, dated 897-899. Ahmad adopted the weight standard of Sultan Husayn’s reform but retained the T1 reverse design.

2453 AR tanka, countermarked type, always without mint name, known dated 898

Countermarked ‘adl sultan Ahmad gurkan, sometimes with date, normally within plain hexafoil. Probably struck only during the reform period, 897-899.

Sultan Mahmud, 1st reign, at Astarabad, 864-865 / 1460-1461

V2454 AR tanka  RRR
Reverse T2, as on type 2416.2 of Abu Sa‘id. Mint is likely Astarabad but no known specimens reveal the mint name.

Sultan Mahmud, 2nd reign, at Hisar, 873-900 / 1469-1495, also in Samarqand 899-900 / 1494-1495

2454.1 AR tanka (5.15g), pre-reform  RRR
Struck only at Hisar in 874. Reverse central field in plain quatrefoil, as the reform tankas of Abu Sa‘id (type T2).

2454.2 AR tanka (5.15g), pre-reform, but same design as the reform type (#2454.2), but with reverse T1  RRR
Known only from Hisar, dated 891-893.

2454.3 AR tanka, post-reform, reverse T3 (as on reform coins of Sultan Husayn) R
Struck at Hisar 896-898 and at Samarqand in 899-900. No coins of this ruler are known dated between 875 and 890.

2455 AR tanka, countermarked types, occasionally dated (known 898-900), always without mint name

Many variants of the countermark, such as ‘adl sultan mahmud followed by either gurkan, bahadur or ghazi.

Anonymous, fl 896 / 1491

2455G AR tanka, countermarked ‘adl sultan ghazi 896 on various hosts

The issuer is undetermined, but likely the Timurid ruler Sultan Mahmud, who acquired the title ghazi.

Sultan Mas‘ud (Abu’l-Ghazi), at Hisar, 899-906 / 1494-1500

2456 AR tanka (4.78g), mint of Hisar, known dated 900

Plain obverse, usually with title ghazi, reverse type T1.

2457 AR tanka, countermarked types, rarely dated, always without mint name, known dated 902-903

The normal countermarks are (1) ‘adl abu’l-ghazi sultan mas’ud bahadur, and (2) ‘adl sultan mas’ud ghazi.

Baysunghur, at Bukhara in 900 / 1495, and at Samarqand, 900-903 / 1495-1498

2458 AR tanka

Struck at Bukhara 900 & Samarqand 900-901. Baysunghur sometimes uses the title Ghazi on both his regular coins and the countermarked tankas.

2459 AR tanka, countermarked types, usually dated (900-902), but always without mint name

Sultan ‘Ali (Abu’l-Muzaffar), at Bukhara, 900-905 / 1495-1500, and at Samarqand 903-905

2460 AR tanka

Sometimes dated, e.g., Bukhara 902, Samarqand 903. Reverse either type T1 or T3.

2461 AR tanka, countermarked types

Frequently dated, but always without mint name, dated 903-904.

Sultan Uways, in northeastern Khorasan, 913-927 / 1507-1521

B2462 AR tanka, sultan uways in central cartouche on the obverse

Apparently always without mint & date.

A2462 AR tanka, countermarked type, with ruler’s name but without mint or date  RRR

The name is written either as uways or ways, the latter without the initial alf.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 265
Timurid (Mughal)

Aman ur Rahman, Zahir uddin Muhammad Babur, Karachi 2005, listing of Babur’s coinage, but difficult to use.

There is no single catalog for Kamran or Humayun. For coins of Akbar before 1601, see the KM catalog The Standard Guide to South Asian Coins and Paper Money since 1556 AD, Iola 1981 (now outdated).

For Timurid coins dated 1601 and later, see the most recent SCWC century catalogs.

The later Timurids were driven from Central Asia and Afghanistan by the Safavids and Shaybanids from about 905 until 916, retreating ever further eastward and ultimately conquering large regions of India under Babur in his last five years. They ultimately established their capital at Agra (aka Akbarabad) in north central India and became known as the Mughal Emperors (“Mongols”), ruling over India until the mid-18th century and nominally until 1947, when the last “Mughal” Emperor, the British King George VI, acknowledged the independence of India.

Listed here are only those coins that were struck in the traditional Timurid areas, primarily in what is now Afghanistan. Other issues are considered Indian coins and are thus excluded from this Checklist, as are all issues subsequent to the death of Akbar. As usual there must be an exception, in this case #A3017 & 3017 for coins in the name of Shah Jahan I struck at Balkh under the Janids.

Zahir al-Din Babur, 1st reign, at Samarqand, 903 / 1497-1498

H2462 AR tanka (4.78g), struck only at Samarqand and dated 903

Obverse is 4-line text in plain circle, mint & date at bottom, reverse type T1.

I2462 AR tanka, countermarked type, dated 903 but always without mint name

Zahir al-Din Babur, 2nd reign, at Samarqand only, circa 905-906 / 1500-1501

K2462 AR tanka (4.78g), struck only at Samarqand dated 906

Date & mint in central circle on obverse, royal text in margin, reverse type T3.

Zahir al-Din Babur, 3rd reign, in Khorasan and parts of Transoxiana, 910-937 / 1504-1540

In India 932-937 / 1526-1530.

As for the gold ½ ashrafi of Badakhshan style listed in the 2nd edition as type #M2462, Aman ur Rahman has decisively proven that these alleged issues of Babur were clipped down examples of the common type of Humayun (type #A2464).

P2462 AR double tanka (9.4g), Balkh mint only

2462.1 AR tanka or shahrukhi (4.7g), struck at mints in Khorasan and adjacent areas to the east between 910 and 933, without title Ghazi

Obverse with horizontal inscriptions, often with a small central rosebud inscribed either muhammad babur or the mint name. Known from Badakhshan 910-930, Balkh 924-927 and Qandahar 933, the last with mint name in the rosebud. The reverse kalima is of type T3.

2462.2 AR tanka or shahrukhi, similar, also without Ghazi, normally undated

Obverse with part of the royal protocol in central field, either circle or multifoil, the rest in the circular marginal legend. The mint is always & the date is almost always in the obverse margin. Known from Badakhshan, Balkh, Ghaznayn (sic), Kabul, Qunduz and without mint name. Mintless most common, Kabul somewhat common. Usually reverse T3, but many variants.

2462.3 AR tanka or shahrukhi, similar, but with the additional title Ghazi, struck from 933-937 / 1526-1530 at Kabul and various Indian mints (principally Lahore, Agra, Jaunpur and Delhi)  

Many different obverse & reverse arrangements. The title Ghazi (“victorious”) was adopted in mid-933 after he defeated Rana Sangha of Mewar in central India. These are regarded as the first Mughal coins of India. Most have date or mint off flan, usually struck with considerable flatness.

2463 AR tanka, countermarked types, known dated as early as 903 but usually undated, in his name, but always without mint name, sometimes with the title Ghazi, numerous types

Countermarked types struck before and after the invasion of India have not been distinguished. The 903 date belongs to Babur’s first ephemeral reign in Transoxiana during that year (RRR). Anonymous copper coins popularly called ½ dams (about 9.0g) were struck at several mints in India for Babur 936-937 and for Humayun 938-946. They were never struck west of Lahore, and are thus excluded from this Checklist. Most are common.

Muhammad Humayun, 937-963 / 1530-1556

As sole ruler:

A2464 AV ¼ ashrafi, struck at Badakhshan but always without mint name, often dated

S

B2464 AR shahrukhi (4.7g), struck mainly at Indian mints, also Badakhshan (RRR), Kabul (RRR) and Qandahar (RRR)

C

G2464 AR light shahrukhi (3.93g), similar style to B2464, struck only at Qandahar

RR

C2464 AR ½ shahrukhi (1.96g), struck at Qandahar

R

K2464 AR light shahrukhi (3.93g, countermarked ‘adl urdu) 952 on earlier Qandahar shahrukhis of Humayun or Kamran

RRR

Struck by the army of Humayun after his defeat of Kamran and abandonment of alliance with the Safavids.

As vassal under the Safavid Tughlaks:

D2464 AV ¼ ashrafi, also citing the Safavid Tahmasp I, mint name not on coin

Undoubtedly struck at Qandahar.

E2464 AR shahrukhi, similar, struck at Qandahar, known dated 951

RRR

F2464 AR ½ shahrukhi, similar, Qandahar mint Humayun was forced to seek Safavid protection at the end of 950, and returned to Qandahar, with Safavid reinforcements, late in 951. He abandoned the Safavid alliance early in 952 (see type #K2464). Types D2464-F2464 have Shi’ite reverses.

Additional types struck only at Indian mints lie outside the scope of this Checklist.

Kamran Mirza, various locations, 937-962 / 1530-1555

H2464 AV ¼ ashrafi, Badakhshan type

RR

I2464.1 AR shahrukhi (4.70g), struck principally at Kabul, full weight

R

I2464.2 AR shahrukhi (3.90g), Qandahar mint, local currency

RRR

Believed to have been struck circa 952-954, at a weight that does not correspond to contemporary Mughal or Safavid currency.

J2464 AR shahrukhi, countermarked type

S

Always without mint name and undated, usually in square frame. Fully struck countermarks are rare.

Abu’l-Qasim Muhammad b. Kamran, d. 968 / 1560

M2464 AV ¼ ashrafi, Badakhshan type (but without mint name), undated

RRR

Akbar, 963-1014 / 1556-1605

P2464 AV ¼ ashrafi, Badakhshan type, often dated

C

Two different weights are known for this type, a true ¼ ashrafi of about 0.85g and what is probably a ¼ mithqal of about 1.15g. 

620 The denomination shahrukhi has been investigated in depth by S.H. Hodivala, Historical Studies in Mughal Numismatics (Bombay, 1923, reprinted 1976), pp. 1-10.

621 Stan Goron has shown that these “copper” coins were actually struck in highly debased billon, declining to almost pure copper by the mid-940s. Thus they are billon bahlolis, not half dams. The dam & its half were introduced by the Delhi sultan Sher Shah in 946, replacing the bahli. 

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 266
The latter has been incorrectly described as 1/10 mohur, as the then current mohur weighed 11.02g, not 11.50. Further research is needed to corroborate these two variants.

**Q2464** AR shahrukh (4.7g), mainly mint of Kabul but some Indian mints also known, dated 960s and early 970s

**R2464** AR ½ shahrukh (2.35g), known only with mint off flan, dated 965

Style suggests mint of either Kabul or Qandahar.

**S2464** AR tanka, countermarked 'adl-i akbar or something similar, usually dated R

Normally overstruck on contemporary Shaybanid tankas. Always without mint name, but probably issued predominantly in the portions of his kingdom in what is now Afghanistan & Pakistan.

Many other types exist in copper, silver and gold, but these lie outside the scope of this Checklist, as they are conventionally regarded as Indian coinage. At present, the most comprehensive listing can be found in the Krause-Mishler catalogs, as noted above the listing for Zahir al-Din Babur.

**Sulayman Mirza, in Badakhshan, 936-992 / 1529-1584**

Many of his coins were struck in the name of an overlord (#A2464, H2464, M2464, P2464). The types listed here bear his personal name Sulayman and were struck during his periods of independence in Badakhshan.

**2464** AV ¼ ashrafi, struck at Badakhshan but always without mint name.

Two weight groups, circa 0.9g and 1.15g, as for Akbar.

**2465** AR tanka, several variants

Struck at Balkh and Qunduz, but usually without mint name. Some have been incorrectly assigned to a Shaybanid ruler at Balkh also named Sulayman (former type #3000).

Also struck in Kabul, dated 974 and 98x (RRR).

**2465A** AR tanka, countermarked shah sulayman or something similar on various Shaybanid coins

**Shahrukh III (b. Ibrahim b. Sulayman Mirza), in Badakhshan, 983-987 / 1575-1579**

**2466** AV ¼ ashrafi (1.15g), without mint name but usually dated R

_During the Timurid period, copper fulus were struck at many mints in both the eastern and western portions of the empire. Those that bear the name of a ruler are included as issues of the appropriate ruler, but the vast majority are strictly anonymous, and are here regarded as civic coinage. The western mints (Tabriz, Isfahan, Shiraz, etc.) and central mints (Herat, Balkh, Kabul, Sabzawar, Tun, Mustahad, etc.) are included with #3183-3196, the eastern mints (Bukhara, Samarqand, Tirmidh, Qarshi, Hisar, etc.) with #A3274-3286._

**ARGHUNID**

A local dynasty at Qandahar, which briefly enjoyed independence during the struggles between Timurids, Safavids, and Shaybanids for control of the region.

All coins were minted at Qandahar in 926, indicating the year in the Mongolian animal cycle (lu-lu, in the Arabic script) in addition to the Hijri date in numerals. Both types are anonymous. Denominational names are tentative.

**Shuja’ Beg, 917-928 / 1511-1522**

**K2467** AV ½ ashrafi (1.78g)

**L2467** AV ¼ ashrafi (0.89g)

**KARLUGHS OF HAZARA**

The Karlugh Turk Shihab al-Din, formerly serving the Timurids at Kabul, came to Hazara in 1472 and established the Karlugh dynasty in that region, naming his capital Pakhl i Sarkan. They ruled until 1703, as a nominal subordinate of the Mughals from about 1550 onwards.

Coins are known from only one ruler, Zahir al-Din, whose silver tankas were struck at Pakhli (Pakhl i on the coins), always undated, circa 1530-1550. Pakhli is now Mansehra, a thriving city along the modern highway to China, about 50 miles north of Islamabad.

**Zahir al-Din (b. Ghiyath al-Din Mahmud), mid-10th/11th century**

**P2467** AR tanka (4.1-4.2g), mint of Pakhli

Undated, Sunni shahada on reverse.

**TARKHANS**

Local dynasty in the Sind, with their capital at Tatta, now in southern Pakistan. Their sole coinage consists of anonymous copper damris.

_temp. Mirza Muhammad, 975-993 / 1567-1585**

**R2467** AE damri, floral branches on obverse, mint (Tatta) & date on reverse R

**SHIRVANSHAHS (3RD DYNASTY)**

Zlobin, G.V., _Monety shirvanshakhov dinastii Derbendi (Tret'ya Dinastiya)_ Moscow 2010. In addition to the coins that are either anonymous or cite the name of the Shirvanshah ruler, Zlobin also includes coins of the Shirvanshah region in the names of other dynasties 784-956 (Jalayrid, Timurid, Safavid, etc.). An excellent detailed study.

**Ruled in Shamakhi and adjacent districts. Until 877, all their coinage is either anonymous (listed here) or in the name of a foreign sultan (and therefore classified as regular coinage of the named ruler). All coinage after 877 bears the name of the Shirvanshah ruler.**

For the reign of Kayka’us and type #2468 of Ibrahim, there are at least half a dozen mints in the Caucasus, of which Shamakhi and Shabiran are the least rare. For the next period (types #2469 and #2470), the principal mints were Darband and Shamakhi, as well as rarer issues from Bakuya and Ardabil. From 834 until the end of the coinage in 953, all coins were struck at Shamakhi. See also #2492 for normal coins of Ibrahim I and Khalil Allah I bearing an anonymous countermark assigned to the Qara Qoyunlu.

The quality of strike of the coins through most of the reign of Farrukhsiyar is reasonably good, but later coins are almost invariably poorly designed and weakly struck, often quite disheartening.

_temp. Kayka’us, 745-774 / 1344-1372**

**2467.1** AR dinar (2.1g), type A

_Anomalous, as type B of Shaykh Uways (Jalayrid) but without name of any ruler. Struck circa 766-770 to the current Jalayrid weight standard. Mint in middle line of obverse field.

**2467.2** AR dinar, type B, similar, but mint name within inner square on obverse, anonymous “royal” legend around._

**temp. Ibrahim I, 784-821 / 1382-1418**

**2468** AR 2 dinars (1.98g), central circle with three panels around on obverse, anonymous RR

_Design identical to type #2369 of Timur. Mints of Gushchasi and Mahmudabad, usually undated but known dated 788. Seized by the Timurids from about 789-809._

**2469** AR tanka (about 5.0-5.5g), anonymous, 812 and later

_For stylistically similar coins dated 809-812 and in the name of the Golden Horde ruler, Shadi Beg, see #2054._

**temp. Khalil Allah I, 821-869 / 1418-1466**

**2470** AR tanka (5-vaned design with mint name in center / various reverse arrangements, date in center)

_Several other designs are known, all of them undated and very rare, probably early issues, to a standard of about 4.5g. The 5-vane type, dated 823-853 (sometimes undated), follows a weight of about 4.0-4.1g, but occasional specimens weigh up to 4.5g or as low as 3.0g. Probably coinage to be weighed rather than counted.

Reverse has the date, usually in words but occasionally in numbers. There are two principal types, one with the date between the lines of kalima type K1, the other with the date in the center of kalima K5. Known dated as late as 853, possibly 856._
Farrukhsiyar, 869-906 / 1466-1500
From this reign onwards, all coins were minted at Shamakhi.

2471.1 AR tanka (5.1g), first standard, used circa 869-877 S
Type #2471.1 is always anonymous, assigned to Farrukhsiyar by date & style. All later issues cite his name. The only reasonably common year is 877, with the date in the center of type K5 reverse. If held upside down, coins dated 877 are incorrectly read as 887!

2471.2 AR tanka (2.6g), second standard, used circa 879-882 R

2471.3 AR tanka (2.08g), third standard, used circa 891-899 S
From 891-894, the date appears beneath the kalima on the reverse; 895-899 has the date in a cartouche in the obverse center, with one or more designs for each year.

2471.4 AR tanka or akçe (1.9g), fourth standard, attested 900-904 R
The earlier coins, following Timurid precedent, were probably known as tankas, the later smaller coins perhaps as akçes. The time of the terminology transition is unknown.

2471.5 AR tanka or akçe, fifth standard (1.7g), attested for 905-906 R

2471M AR tanka or akçe, fifth standard (1.58g), Shamakhi 907 only RRR

2471.2 AR tanka (2.6g), second standard, used circa 879-882 S

2472 AR akçe (approximately 1.58g), several designs RR

Ibrahim II, 908-930 / 1502-1524

2473.1 AR akçe, first standard (1.58g), used 908-910 R
Coins of Shamakhi dated 911-912 are Shi’ite types in the name of the Safavid ruler Isma’il, thus considered Safavid issues.

2473.2 AR akçe, second standard (1.1g), dated 913 RRR

2473.3 AR akçe (about 0.9g), third standard, used from 916 until end of reign S
The second standard akçe started out at approximately 0.9-0.95g, falling to about 0.8g in 920, then gradually to about 0.72 by the end of the reign, rather than in steps.

Khalil Allah II, 930-942 / 1524-1534

2474.1 AR akçe (about 0.7g), struck 930-937/938 C
Normally with date on reverse in central rectangle.

2474.2 AR akçe (0.5-0.55g), struck 938-942 S
Date within central rectangle, 938-939 (S), then in marginal inscription together with the mint name around a central floral filled with a grille.

Mahmud b. Ghazi, 907-908 / 1501-1502

2472 AR akçe (approximately 1.58g), several designs RR

Ibrahim II, 908-930 / 1502-1524

Shahrukh, 942-945 / 1534-1537

2475.1 AR akçe (about 0.5g), reverse has 3-line inscription, date below (always 942) RR

2475.2 AR akçe (about 0.5g), reverse has circular legend including date around a triangle (always 944) RR

Burhan ‘Ali, circa 951-955 / 1544-1548

A2476 AR akçe or double akçe (approximately 0.8g) RR
The true name of this denomination has not been determined.

QARA QOYUNLU

See also Rabino, cited for the Jalayirids.

The “Black Sheep” Turkomans emerged in north central Anatolia in the mid-14th century. After the death of Timur in 807/1405, they overran much of Iraq and northwestern Iran, introducing their own coinage in 810 or 811 (type #2476).

Under Jahanshah they moved eastward, expelling the Timurids from most of central Iran during the reign of Jahanshah, who even briefly marched into Astarabad and Herat in 862. Upon his death in 872, the kingdom rapidly collapsed into petty rivalry between several candidates, only two of which are known to have issued coins in their names. All of the Qara Qoyunlu territories were seized by the Aq Qoyunlu ruler Hasan by the end of 874 or early 875.

A branch of the Qara Qoyunlu fled to India, where they eventually established their own kingdom, known as the Qutbshahi and centered at the city of Golkonda in east-central India, until overtaken by the Mughals in 1098/1687. For tankas of the period of Qara Yusuf and Iskandar, Tabriz is by far the most common mint, though Bidlis is only modestly scarce for type #2478. Some issues of Urm (i.e., Urmia) and Maragha are not especially rare. The 1/3 tanka was minted primarily at Mawsil, ‘Iṣfahān, and Baghdad, none of them common.

As a result of the Timurid ruler Shahrukh having won suzerainty over the Qara Qoyunlu in the 830s, coinage bearing the name of the Qara Qoyunlu ruler was suppressed. Instead, coins either bore the name of Shahrukh (Tabriz, Sultaniya) or were anonymous (Baghdad, Hilla). All other mints were either lost to the Qara Qoyunlu or closed, with of course a few minor exceptions, such as Shahrukh’s coins of Erzincan in the 840s. During the year 853, somewhat more than two years after the death of Shahrukh, Jahanshah placed his own name on the coinage and adopted Timurid denominations and metrology. In this later period, the most common mints are Tabriz, Kashan, Kerman, Shiraz, Lar, and Lahijan. Overall, Qara Qoyunlu coinage is known from about sixty different mints.

Prior to the reign of Jahanshah, most types listed here refer to single designs, with only minor variations from mint to mint. Under Jahanshah and his petty successors, individual mints or groups of nearby mints adopted local subtypes, which are not regarded here as distinctive types.

Tankas of Qara Yusuf followed a theoretical standard of about 5.4g, but individual specimens can be considerably lighter, anywhere between 4.0g and 5.4g, thus abandoning the relatively fixed weight standard of Timur and his successors. Qara Yusuf’s tankas were thus meant to be weighed, not counted. This variable standard was maintained under Iskandar, presumably until his submission to Shahrukh in 839. When regular Qara Qoyunlu coinage was resumed under Jahanshah in 853, the Shahrukh standard of about 5.15-5.20g was adopted and carefully maintained until the demise of the dynasty in the 870s.

The Iraqi denomination “1/3 tanka” prior to Jahanshah is not connected to the contemporary tanka but seems to have been derived from the 1.7-1.75g standard adopted by the Jalayrid ruler Sultan Ahmad after the death of Timur in 807. It seems to have been a slightly reduced version of the 1.80g weight based on 10 nokhod, i.e., 1/10 of the mithqal of about 4.31g that was inherited in Iraq and the Jazira by the Jalayrids. We do not know the Qara Qoyunlu weight of the mithqal prior to Jahanshah, but it seems likely that the Central Asian 4.78g mithqal was acquired from the Timurids at some point between 839 and 853.

Qara Yusuf, 2nd reign, 809-823 / 1406-1420

2476 AR tanka, 1st series, as nominal vassal under Sultan Ahmad the Jalayrid, struck 809-812 RR
Most coins bear the date 809 in the obverse field, occasionally together with the date 810 or 811 in the obverse marginal. The year 809 should be regarded as the accessional date of Qara Yusuf during his second reign, not the actual date of the coin. There are no coins known from his first reign, circa 792-802/1390-1400.

2477 AR tanka, 2nd series, in the sole name Qara Yusuf, with the title amīr, struck 812-813 RR
(For the third issue, see Pir Budaq I below, #2482-83.)

2478 AR tanka, 4th series, as nominal vassal of his son Pir Budaq, struck 814-821 S
During this period, average weight of the tanka declined, with individual specimens ranging from about 5.4g to less than 4.0 grams, with different ranges at individual mints. Further research is needed.

Tankas of this type struck at Bidlis, usually dated 814, introduced the floriated hexagon obverse that was to become the standard design of the Shiraf Khan.

2479 AR 1/3 tanka (circa 1.75g), 4th series, mints in Iraq and the Jazira R

622 For their rather boring coinage, see Goron & Goenka, The Coins of the Indian Sultanates, pp. 332-342.
AR akçe (about 1.3g), Erzincan type (hexafoil / lobated square), local standard, probably contemporary with the 4th series
Frequently found countermarked by later rulers, especially Pir 'Umar (#2484).

A2481 AR akçe or double dirham (about 1.45g), local standard, Mardin mint only, Artuqid style
Always undated, but theoretically struck circa 821-823, perhaps also earlier. Royal inscriptions as on the 4th series.

M2481 AR tanka, 5th series, in his name alone with title Jalal al-Din, struck only at Erzincan, normally dated 822
See reference to type #2500.

O2481 AR ¼ tanka (about 2.65g), local issue
Believed to have been struck only at Lahijan, stylistically similar to coins of Timur of that mint and to the mintless Husaynid type (#2347).

2481 AR ¼ tanka, mints in Iraq and the Jazira
Some mints began using this type as early as 816 (Hilla), possibly even 814 (tentative reading on a coin of Baghdad at Tübingen). It is not known whether the name of Pir Budaq was omitted on this type for political reasons, or simply for lack of space.

Pir Budaq I, nominal sovereign, 813-821 / 1410-1418
Pir Budaq I was the son of Qara Yusuf, who used his son’s name for reasons of legitimacy. Pir Budaq died in 821, two years before his father’s death.

2483 AR ¼ tanka, similar, struck at Tabriz, always undated
Insofar as no ¼ tanka was struck bearing the joint names of Pir Budaq and his father Qara Yusuf, it is likely that this type was struck either in both the third (813-814) and fourth (814-821) periods, without the name of Qara Yusuf due to the small size of the coins.

Pir 'Umar, rebel at Erzincan, 822-823 / 1419-1420

2484 AR “akeçesi” (about 1.28g), countermarked Pir 'Umar 823 in a teardrop composed of pellets, on various hosts

Shah Muhammed, in Iraq, 823-837 / 1420-1434
2485 AR ½ tanka, mint of Mawsil

temp. Aspan, in Baghdad & Hilla, 837-844 / 1434-1440
2486 AR “heavy tanka” of 2 mithqals (about 8.6g), Baghdad mint, usually dated, most often 837
Anonymous, Shi'i inscriptions bearing the names of al-Hasan and al-Husayn followed by sbitan rasul Allah, “grandsons of the messenger of God,” assigned to Aspan by date. The weight coincides with two iraq mithqals, but the actual name of this denomination is unknown.

2486A AR “heavy tanka” (8.6g), Hilla mint, undated
Similar, but longer obverse inscriptions, including al-husayn bin abu 'abd Allah, and the enlarged legend sbitan rasul Allah al-fatihah. Same reverse.

2486B AR normal tanka (5.0g), Ruyan mint, undated
Certainly not an issue of Aspan, but an adoption of his coin type in Ruyan (in Mazandaran) by a local ruler. It is listed here for convenience.

2487 AR ¼ “heavy tanka” (2.15g), undated, mints of Baghdad & Hilla, undated
Also anonymous, with Shi‘ite inscriptions, citing Hasan, Husayn and Ja‘far al-Sadiq, the 6th Imam.

temp. Fulad Sultan, in Baghdad & Hilla, 844-848 / 1440-1444

Y2488 AR “heavy tanka” of 2 mithqals (about 8.6g), normally dated 847/848.
Legends & design as #2486, distinguishable by date, and by the location of the word duriba on obverse, atop the field on #2486, below the field on this type.

2488 AR 1/5 tanka (1.7g), undated
Anonymous, same legends as on type #2487, but distinguished by weight. The denominations of this and #2489 are conjectural.

2489 AR 1/10 tanka (0.85g), similar, undated

Iskandar, in Adharbayjan and eastern Anatolia, 823-841 / 1420-1438

R2490 AV fractional denomination (about 1.1g), mint & date unknown
The attribution to this ruler is likely but not yet corroborated.

R 2490 AR tanka, standard type (pointed hexafoil / plain circle), almost always undated
Individual specimens range primarily between 4.2g and 5.2g. Most examples have the phrase al-mulku lillah / al-hamdu lillah interlinearly in the reverse field, the mint name atop the obverse field. Tabriz is by far the most common mint.

2490B AR tanka, type of Mardin & Amid (ornamented hexagon / plain circle with kalima K5, dynastic toughra in center), undated

2490E AR tanka (circa 5.0g?), Erzincan mint only, style as #2500 of the Aq Qoyunlu ruler 'Uthman, q.v.

2491 AR ½ tanka (1.5-1.6g), mints in the Jazira
Stuck principally at 'Imadiya.

A2492 AR akçe or double dirham (about 1.2g), Artuqid style, mint of Mardin only
This is the last Artuqid style coinage of Mardin, ultimately derived from the standard issue of Sati Beg in 739.

2492 AR tanka, anonymous, countermarked man iltaqay 'illa al-haqq naju in a plain rectangle, mostly on Shirvanshah hosts

R “He who takes refuge in the Truth (God) is saved.” This countermark was applied to coins seized as booty during Iskandar’s campaign against the Shirvanshah in 833/1430.

2492A AE fals, in his name, various designs, usually without mint name

Jahanshah, 841-872 / 1438-1467

2493 AR tanka (5.15g), many variants of design and layout, Sunni reverse
His coinage prior to 853 was in the name of Shahrukh, the Timurid, and thus reckoned as Timurid coinage of that sovereign (type #2405). The post-827 standard of Shahrukh (5.15g) was retained after 853.
The date 852 at Kashan is an error for 856, with retrograde “6”.

2493A AR tanka (5.15g), similar, but Shi‘ite reverse
Mints of Damavand and Firuzkuh, or without mint name.

2493H AR tanka (5.15g), struck at Astarabad and Herat during Jahanshah’s invasion in 862, eastern style, similar to 861-863 Timurid issues

2494 AR tanka, countermarked types
Many varieties, differing in shape of cartouche, mint and date. All include the name of the ruler. Most are dated, always between 868 and 872.

2495 AR ¼ tanka (1.28g), mainly mints of Shiraz & Kashan

625 Most commonly on coins of the joint reign of Qara Yusuf and Pir Budaq (#2480), but also on coins of Timur (#A2384) and others, all of the Erzincan design and standard.

624 SICA 9:383.

623 Kashan was not seized by Jahanshah until 855 or 856, after the expulsion of the Timurid Sultan Muhammad.
Anonymous fals of this period are classified as civic coppers and assigned to #3183-3196 by mint name.

Hasan ‘Ali, 872-873 / 1467-1468

Also in rebellion against his father Jahanshah circa 866-869.

2496 AR double tanka (±10g), struck at Tabriz in 872 only

Although the mint name never appears, it is likely that this fine-rolled engraved issue was struck only at Hasan ‘Ali’s capital, Tabriz. 626 Surprisingly, no single tanka of Hasan ‘Ali is known, except for the countermarked type #2497.

2496A AR ½ tanka (1.7g)

Without mint or date, probably struck at or near Baghdad.

2497 AR tanka (normal weight), countermarked ‘adl mirza ‘Ali or something similar on various hosts

This type is most likely an issue of Hasan ‘Ali when in rebellion against his father (Jahanshah) in the 860s, though some mint marks have indeed been struck during his short independent reign. 626

Pir Budaq II, rebel at Qumm, circa 866-870 / 1461-1465

A2498 AR tanka (about 5.10-5.15g)

Other coins assigned by 19th century scholars to this ruler are now recognized as issues of Qara Yusuf in the sole name of his son Pir Budaq I (types #2482 and 2483).

Yusuf b. Jahanshah, in Fars & Kirman, 873-874 / 1468-1470

B2498 AR tanka (about 5.10-5.15g), countermark in his name with mint and date Kirman 874

2498 AR ¼ tanka (1.28g), struck in his name, known from Shiraz 873.

AQ QOYUNLU


See also Rabino, under Jalayrids. Only a small fraction of currently known coins have yet been published, and many of them incorrectly.

Like the Qara Qoyunlu, the “White Sheep Turkomans” also originated in north-central Anatolia and eventually took control of most of Iran, Iraq and the Caucasus. Their coinage is generally similar to that of the Qara Qoyunlu. The events of 872-873, culminating in the disastrous defeat of the Timurid Abu Sa’id in 873, resulted in the Aq Qoyunlu seizing nearly two thirds of Iran and most of Iraq. Coinage in their own name was resumed in 872 at al-Hims in western Anatolia and in 873 through Iran and parts of Iraq, stylistically and monetarily derived from the Qara Qoyunlu precedent.

Except for some of the Anatolian and Jaziran issues, their copper coinage consists of anonymous civic issues, which are included under the rubric of Iranian Civic Copper (#3183-3196, by mint name).

Prior to 857, Aq Qoyunlu coinage was limited to a few mints in eastern Anatolia, principally Mardin, Amid and Erzincan. Only silver and copper were struck, with most copper lacking the ruler’s name. The early series ended by 857 and for the next 15 years there was no Aq Qoyunlu coinage, which resumed in 872, save for a few very rare issues in the sold name of the contemporary Mamluk ruler and thus regarded as Mamluk rather than Aq Qoyunlu.

As a result of the conquests of 872-873, Hasan inherited the western Timurid lands that had previously belonged to Jahanshah of the Qara Qoyunlu. Coinage of Qara Qoyunlu style, similarly struck on thick narrower flans, was adopted throughout the Aq Qoyunlu lands, including several mints in eastern Anatolia. A gold dinar modeled on the Mamluk ashraf of Qa’itbay (3.5g) was introduced as well. From 872 onwards, the silver coinage was struck at a large number of mints spread out over the vast territory. The most common mints in the Jazira are Erzincan, Mardin, Amid, Hissn (sometimes al-Hissn). From the region of Adharbayjan, Tabriz is the only common mint. Iraqi mints are all rare. The central and southern Iranian mints of Khashan, Qumm, Isfahan, Yazd, Shiraz, Lar, and Kirman are relatively common. In the Gilan province, Putin and Labianan are the most common mints, together with an undeciphered mint that is written somewhat like Ani, but clearly of the same style as other mints in Gilan. This mint should not be confused with Ani in Armenia, which was also an active mint at the time (and very rare). Finally, large numbers of coins were struck at the mints of Sari, Amul, and Barfurushid in Mazandaran, currently the most common of all their coinage.

In all, more than 65 mints are known for the Aq Qoyunlu. As with the Timurids and later Qara Qoyunlu, most Aq Qoyunlu types occur in numerous designs, varying chronologically and by mint. With few exceptions, the sequence of these largely undated types remains undetermined.

The Aq Qoyunlu dinar was struck to the contemporary standard of the Mamluk ashrif (3.56-3.42g), a tad lighter than the contemporary Venetian ducat. Its design is closely modeled on the Mamluk prototype, normally including Greek style borders as dividers between text lines on both obverse & reverse. The dinars were struck circa 873-898, mainly at Tabriz, occasionally at Mardin. They are occasionally found in small numbers within late Mamluk or early Safavid hoards.

Most Aq Qoyunlu silver coins struck prior to 872 do not follow a fixed weight standard, whose basis is unknown. Thereafter, the standard of the antecedent Timurid and Qara Qoyunlu silver tanka of about 5.1-5.15g was universally adopted, with the fractional denominations struck in some regions, usually ½ or ¼ tankas. During the reign of Ya’qub a reduced weight tanka was introduced in the Caspian provinces. After the death of Rustam in 902/1497, the weight of the standard tanka was reduced to 4.78g, thus matching the reduced Timurid tanka introduced by Sultan Husayn several years earlier, in 895/1490. However, more full or fractional coins of several local denominations had already been ushered in under Rustam. The names of these local denominations after 897/1492 suggested here are conjectural.

The denomination names given here for the silver coinage of Hasan and later Aq Qoyunlu rulers are derived from the Timurid convention. However, Ottoman tax records (defters) utilize a different set of names, but I have undertaken the effort to correlate the denomination names used in the Ottoman defters with surviving coins. For that reason, I have retained the Timurid terminology.

After 873, the practice of countermarking silver coins became increasingly widespread. Those naming the ruler are listed under the appropriate ruler, anonymous types are listed at the end of this dynasty (#2564-x). Counters were applied to coins of various standards and denominations, even coins of Timur that were nearly a century old. For example, coins of all Timurid and Aq Qoyunlu standards (6.2g, 5.6g, 5.15g, 4.78g, etc.) may be found with the identical countermark.

Please note that as the result of my research in the mid-1990s, both the denominations and types of the Aq Qoyunlu coinage have been substantially revised from the first edition of this Checklist.

‘Uthman, 780-839 / 1378-1435

All coins of ‘Uthman are believed to have been struck after the death of Timur in 807/1405, almost never dated.

2499 AR akçe (about 1.2g), Erzincan style (obverse in hexafoil, reverse in lobated square) 625 RR

2500 AR tanka (about 5g), Erzincan & Kemah only 626 RR

Except for the royal inscriptions, this type is stylistically identical to types of the Qara Qoyunlu Qara Yusuf & Pir Budaq (#M2481), his successor Iskandar (#2490E), and the Timurid Shah Rukh (#2408E). The earliest type, of Qara Yusuf & Pir Budaq, is known dated 822. This was followed by Iskandar and Shah Rukh, though the order of those last two issues remains obscure. The issue of ‘Uthman was probably the last, struck circa 826 or very shortly thereafter.

All types of this design have both obverse & reverse within plain circle, with a religious text interlinearly in the obverse field and the mint name interlinearly in the reverse field.

625 The reverse bears the Sunni kalima in the center (i.e., without ‘ali wali Allah) with the date 872 below, surrounded by the 12 Shi’ite Imam’s in the margin. The ruler is cited as al-sultan al-malik al-‘azam al-‘adil al-sa’id al-ghazi (?)-al-fadil al-kamil sultan hasan ‘ali bahadar khan.

627 Two specimens were found in a hoard, with date 869 and lacking the common 870-dated countermark of Jahanshah, published by Sir Richard Burn (Numismatic Chronicle, 1938). Rabino refers to a specimen dated 869, not illustrated.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 270
2501 AR dirham or akçe (various weights, 1g to 3g), miscellaneous types
Usually without mint name, but likely struck principally at Erzincan, either before or after type #2499.

2502 AE fals, in his name
Lion & sun type, struck at Mardin.

‘Ali, 839-842 / 1435-1438

2503 AR light tanka (±3g), known from mint of Hisn (= Hasankeyf)

2504 AE fals, in his name

Ja’far b. Ya’qub, rival at Erzincan, 839-840 / 1435 -1436

T2505 AR akçe or 1/3 tanka (1.70g), Kemah mint, undated
The ruler seems to be named Ja’far Çelebi on this akçe (E&E-142).

2505 AE fals, in his name Ja’far, known dated Ramadan 839

Hamza, 839-848 / 1435-1444

2506 AR light tanka, citing his father ‘Uthman
Probably struck as viceroy before his father’s death in 839, when he was governor or Mardin, 835-839. Tankas of this ruler vary from 2.5g to more than 3.5g. His coins were struck at Mardin & Amid, but often lack the mint name; they are always undated. Nearly all tankas of this type #2507 have the obverse field within a hexagon and the kalima K5 on the reverse, with the early Aq Qoyunlu tamgha in the center.

2507 AR light tanka, in his sole name, without ‘Uthman, presumably struck 839 and later

2507B AR akçe (about 1.70g) (central circle / type T1 as used by the Timurid Shahrukh), Bayburt 845
Name Hamza written oddly but likely. (E&E-149/150)

2508 AE fals, similar to #2502, citing Hamza
Most examples are the lion & sun type, struck at Mardin.

Shaykh Hasan (b. ‘Qara ‘Uthman), at Erzincan, circa 848-850 / 1444-1446

2508H AR ½ akçe (about 0.85g) (octagon looped at the corners / square), Erzincan 849
Date written partly in words, partly in numerals. Mint name below obverse field, usually barely legible. (E&E-143/1446)

Mahmud (b. ‘Qara ‘Uthman), at Erzincan, circa 850-854 / 1446-1450

2508M AR akçe (about 1.70g) (inner circle / type T1 of the Timurid style), Erzincan, undated
Mint in inner circle, royal legend around.369 (E&E-151)

Jahangir, 848-857 / 1444-1453

2509 AR light tanka (±2.0g), probably only Mardin mint
Style of #2506-2507, except the obverse in plain circle.

2510 AE fals

Hasan (Abu’l-Nasr360), 857-882 / 1453-1478
All coins bearing the name of Hasan were struck after the death of Jahanshah in 872. Earlier coinage struck under his authority bears only the name of his Mamluk overlord Khushqadam and is thus regarded as Mamluk (#A1023).

2511 AV ashrafi (about 3.4g)

2512 AR tanka (5.1g), Sunni reverse
Many variants of design, style and cartouche. Struck throughout the Aq Qoyunlu territories, from 872 until 882. Normally struck on thick narrow flans, but early issues of Astarabad were struck on thin broad flans, stylistically similar to type #2405 of Shahrukh.

2512A AR tanka (5.1g), as last but with beh bud in central obverse cartouche
Without mint name, but believed to be of mints from Tabaristan or far western Khorasan.

2513 AR ½ tanka (3.4g), struck primarily at Tabriz

A2514 AR ½ tanka (2.5g), struck at Siri

2514 AR ½ tanka (1.7g), struck at various mints in eastern Anatolia, the Jazira & Iraq

A2515 AR ¼ tanka, struck at various mint in Fars and the Jibal (1.25g), especially Shiraz
Usually without mint or mint off flan. Rare with clear mint.

2515 AR tanka (5.1g), Shi’ite reverse, mint of Amul

2515A AR tanka (5.1g), Shi’ite reverse with names of both the 12 Shi’ite Imams and the 4 Rashidun (all 16 on the reverse!), mint of Ruyan, dated 873

2516 AR tanka, countermarked types, many varieties, usually with the formula ‘adl sultan hasan, often with a name of a mint

Khalil, 882-883 / 1478

2517 AR tanka (5.1g)363

2518 AR ½ tanka, struck in the Jazira but without mint name

2519 AR ¼ tanka, struck at mints in southern & central Iran, mainly Kashan

Ya’qub (Abu’l-Muzaffar), 883-896 / 1478-1490

2519 AR ashrafi (about 3.4g)

2520 AR tanka (5.1g), pre-reform, with Sunni kalima reverse (dated 883-890), struck throughout the kingdom
On the reverse, the kalima is inscribed in a central square (sometimes in a differently shaped enclosure), citing the four Rashidun in the four marginal segments.

2521 AR ½ tanka (about 1.7g), similar, struck at mints in the Jazira
On a few rare examples of this type, the ruler’s kunya is given as Abu’l-Fath or Abu’l-Nasr, probably only at the very onset of the reign (an example with abu’l-fath is known dated 883).

A2522 AR ¼ tanka (1.28g), similar, struck at mints in southern and central Iran, of which Abarquh, Kashan and Shiraz are most common

G2522 AR tanka (5.1g), pre-reform type but with Shi‘ite reverse, struck at Siri

2522 AR tanka (5.1g), post-reform (890-896), with faman ya’mulu mithqal dhira khayr adh yarahu in the center of the reverse, struck at most mints except those using the lighter tanka (#2523)
“He who does the weight of one grain [worth] of good, shall see it,” i.e., shall be rewarded for it by God. The kalima, usually followed by the date (usually off flan), appears in the marginal segments surrounding this inscription on the reverse.

2523 AR light tanka (4.0-4.1g), struck at mints in Mazendaran (Sari, Amul, Barfurushdih) and Gilan provinces (Lahijan, Rasht, Timajan)
Normally with the Sunni kalima in central reverse, as on #2520).

630 Coins of this ruler Khalil retain the style of Hasan’s types #2512, 2514 and A2515 for the three denominations listed. They are altogether different from the late Ayyubid coins of al-Zahir Khalil (#867N, 867P, 867Q), who ruled only at al-Hisn (Hasankeyf) some 30-odd years later. The title al-zahir occurs on all the Ayyubid issues, but never on the Aq Qoyunlu.

632 These six words represent the perfection of Islam. I am saddened by those who use the name of Islam to justify violence and hatred, contrary to the truth of their religion. And equally saddened by Christians, Jews, Hindus and others who misbehave similarly.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 271
2533.1 AR 2/5 tanka (2.05g), struck throughout the kingdom wherever full-weight tankas were struck, Sunni reverse

Coins of this denomination struck at Mardin are somewhat lighter (1.85-1.95g), perhaps heralding the lighter tanka subsequently introduced at most of the Aq Qoyunlu state after Rustam’s death.

2533.2 AR 2/5 tanka (2.05g), similar but Shi’ite reverse

(Zeno-72433)

2534.1 AR light tanka (3.4g) of Mazandaran & Gilan, Sunni kalima reverse

Despite the Sunni kalima, the reverse margin cites the early Shi’ite Imams, as on type #2534.2.

2534.2 AR light tanka (3.4g), similar, but Shi’ite kalima reverse

2534A AR ½ light tanka (1.7g), reverse type undetermined, Ruyan mint

2535 AR tanka, countermarked types, usually with mint name, often dated

C

Countermarked either on full tankas (5.1g) or light tankas (4.1g) of previous reigns, as well as full tankas (5.1g), light tankas (3.4g) of himself, apparently indiscriminately on coins of any of these standards. For countermarked 2/5 tankas (2.05g), see #2536.

C

Occasionally found countermarked on Timurid hosts, of Shahrkh and later, possibly also of Timur.

C

2536 AR 2/5 tanka, countermarked types

RRR

2537 AR tanka (weight reduced to the reform standard of Husayn Bayqara, #2432, approximately 4.78g), struck principally at Tabriz S

On some rare tankas Ahmad bears the title al-qa’im bi-amr Allah. The title Göde is never found on the coins.

2538 AR 2/5 tanka (1.9g) R

2539 AR ¼ tanka (1.2g), known for Tabriz and possibly other mints in Iran RR

2539 AR light tanka of Mazandaran & Gilan (3.65g) R

After the death of Rustam, the weight of the light tanka was slightly increased. It remained at 3.6-3.65g until the reign of the Safavid Shah Tahmasp I (#2608), and was later revived for a few issues of the Safavids Muhammad Khudabanda and ‘Abbas I.

2540 AR 2/5 tanka, countermarked types RRR

The countermark may exist on the full tanka as well.

Muhammad (Abu’l-Mukarim), 903-905 / 1498-1500

On some silver coins he bears the alternative kunya Abu’l-Muzaffar or Abu’l-Nasr.

2541 AV ashrafi (about 3.4g) RR

2542 AR tanka (4.78g), struck principally at Tabriz R

2543 AR ½ tanka (2.4g), struck at mints in Adharbayjan and Gilan R

2544 AR light tanka of Mazandaran (3.65g) RR

2545 AR tanka, countermarked types (various weights from 4.0 to 5.1g) R

This countermark is easily confused with the mark of the Timurid Sultan Muhammad (#2427). Further research needed.

2546 AR 2/5 tanka, countermarked types R

2546A AE fals, with name of ruler RR

Alvand (Abu’l-Muzaffar), at various places, 903-910 / 1498-1504

Alvand’s principal rule, at Tabriz, was 905-906 / 1500-1501.

2547 AV ashrafi (about 3.4g) RR

2548 AR tanka (4.78g) S

2548 AR ½ tanka (2.4g), struck at mints in Adharbayjan and Gilan (see Tabataba’i, as noted above) RRR

2549 AR 2/5 tanka (1.9g) S

Shiraz is by far the most plentiful mint, though there are several other mints, mostly in southern Iran.

2549 AR ¼ tanka (1.2g), believed struck only at Erzinca in Anatolia R

2550 AR ½ light tanka of Mazandaran (1.82g) R

2551 AR 2/5 tanka, countermarked types R

2552 AR akçe, countermarked on Ottoman akçes RR

Normally on akçe of Bayezit II.

Murad (Abu’l-Muzaffar or Abu’l-Fath), 905-914 / 1499-1508

Murad ruled 905-914 in the Jazira, including the mint towns of Mardin & Amid. He replaced Alvand through the Aq Qoyunlu territory in 906, but was driven out of Tabriz by the Safavids in 907, whereafter he first fled towards the southeast, striking coins in central & southern Iran until 908/909, after which he returned to

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 272

633 ICA auction 14, lot 471.
Anonymous, countermarked silver coins, mainly circa 880s-900s / 1480s-1500s

The following silver anonymous countermarks are usually found on full tankas of the Aq Qoyunlu as well as their predecessors, the Timurids and the Qara Qoyunlu, and also on late Aq Qoyunlu 2/5 tankas. They are sometimes found on denominations not included in the following descriptions.

All varieties of #2564 are undated, and all except #2564.5 lack any indication of mint. The first three (#2564.1-2564.3) are probably personal countermarks of individual rulers, still unidentified. Some additional anonymous countermarks are known, all very rare. No comprehensive analysis of the countermarks has yet been undertaken.

Until a thorough study of the host types underlying these countermarks is completed, their attribution to the Aq Qoyunlu is tentative.

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2552.1 AR tanka (full weight, about 4.6-4.7g), known from Kirman 707 (Zeno-100625)

2552.2 AR tanka (reduced weight, 3.8-4.0g, occasionally heavier)

2552H AR ½ tanka (about 1.9g)

K2565 AR maydın?, without mint or date

A2556 AR akçe, countermarked by Murad (usually anonymous) on Ottoman akçe

Qasim (Abu'l-Muzaffar), in Diyar Bakr634, 903-908 / 1498-1502

His coins were struck at Mardin, Amid and al-Hisn.

2556 AV ashrafi (about 3.4g)

2557 AR tanka (approximately 4.55g)

2558 AR 2/5 tanka (approximately 1.85g)

2559 AR 2/5 tanka, countermarked types, various weights

2559D AR 1/5 tanka (approximately 0.92g)

Anonymous, early period (presumably all before 873)

2563 AE fals, usually with the Aq Qoyunlu tamgha, mints of Mardin & Amid

Most of these fals bear a royal title, such as al-sultan al-'adil (or al-malik al-'adil), but cannot be assigned to specific rulers. Struck on broad thin flans (22-30+mm).

Anonymous, later period (after 873)

2563A AE fals, usually with the Aq Qoyunlu tamgha

Thick narrow flans (12-18mm). Struck at Mardin, Amid, Ruha and al-Hisn. Copper fals struck by the Aq Qoyunlu at Iranian mints after the Tabriz conquest in 873 lack the Aq Qoyunlu symbol and are always purely anonymous. They are therefore classified as civic coinage, included among types #3183-3196.

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634 Diyar Bakr, in two words, is an old Arabic tribal name for a large portion of the Jazira centered around Mardin and Amid. Diyarbakır, in one word, is the modern Turkish name of the city formerly known by its ancient Aramaic name Amid, known as Amida under the Romans.

635 This inscription has been misread as a nasrabad, lacking the first long alif, as though it were the name of a mint city.

636 Most of the Musha’sha’ family fled Iran after the Qajar collapse in 1924, many settling in or near Los Angeles, California. I met one of the sons about 1960, when we were both residing in the same men’s dormitory as undergraduate students at UC Berkeley.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 273
During the first two reigns (Isma‘il I and Tahmasp I) the sequences of designs and subtypes at the various mints have not yet been adequately established. What is clear is that even within a single weight standard, designs were regional rather than national, either to a single mint or to a group of mints within the same monetary district. Moreover, during these two reigns, at least three weight standards were maintained simultaneously for different portions of the kingdom (silver coinage only638). Besides the standard shahi coinage used in the western region, there were two major regional coinages. The first was a separate shahi sequence for the eastern region, including the provinces of Khorasan, Qustain, Sistan and Astarabad, maintained until about 974. The second was a fixed tanka standard of just over 3.0g for Mazandaran province, inherited from the Aq Qoyunlu and maintained until sometime during the reign of ‘Abbas I. From the time of Isma‘il II in 984/1576 onwards, there is a regular sequence of uniform types used everywhere in the empire, with occasional exceptions, predominantly in Mazandaran and Khorasan.

In most cases after the accession of ‘Abbas I in 996/1588, fractional denominations are much rarer than the standard denomination. The full range of denominations is not always well understood. Moreover, since they were struck from dies intended for larger flans, the mint and date are frequently off-flan on many fractional types (see exceptions, however, when smaller dies were used for the fractions). In the 250 years of their existence, the Safavids operated more than 125 mints, many briefly or sporadically. Only Tabriz and Isfahan are consistently common throughout this era. Other mints that are frequently, but not always common include Ganja, Nakljawan, Irawan, Tifts, Ardabil, Rash, Lahijan, Amuli, Sari, Barfurushidi, Mashhad, Herat, Kashan, Qumrn, Shiraz, Yazd, Kirmam, Nimruz, Astarabad, Dawraq, Ramhurmuz, Dizulf, Huwayza, Qazvin and perhaps a few more. Whereas most coins struck under the design of Isma‘il II and thereafter bear the full mint and date (sometimes off flan), many issues of the first two rulers, Isma‘il I and Tahmasp I, lack the mint name or date, or both. Safavid gold is generally rather better struck than the silver, but poor strikes are also common, especially from the 1000s to 1020s. Until the reorganization of mintage technique under Shah ‘Abbas I in 1026, most gold and silver coins exhibit varying degrees of weakness. Moreover, the earlier coins were normally struck on planchets that were smaller than the dies, so that at least some portions of the design are inevitably off the flan. From 1026 onwards, better quality control was exercised at most mints, and dies were no longer appreciably larger than the flan, with a few notable exceptions, such as type #2645 of ‘Abbas II, as well as most of the fractional denominations. The calligraphic style was normally naskhi until ‘Abbas I, thereafter increasingly nastaliq on the obverse but almost always naskhi on the reverse.

During the entire Safavid period, the principal circulating coinage was always silver. Gold was struck in substantial quantities under Isma‘il I and Tahmasp I, and moderate quantities under their successors until about the year 1019, during the reign of ‘Abbas I. For the next 110 years only minuscule amounts of gold coins were produced, probably only for donative purposes. Modest quantities of gold coinage resumed in 1129, but never in massive amounts. On the other hand, reductions in the annual production of silver coinage were relatively uncommon, with reduced production known to have occurred principally circa 979-983, 1006-1024, 1082-1095, and to a lesser extent, 1110-1122.

When compiling the first edition of this Checklist, I still regarded the original shahi as a coin of one mithqal (about 4.7g at the time), but as a result of my subsequent research, I was able to demonstrate that the original shahi must have been the silver coin weighing two mithqals (±9.4g). Thus I had to rewrite much of the early Safavid section for the 2nd edition, specifically the reigns of Isma‘il I and Tahmasp I. Original catalog numbers were retained, only the descriptions altered to reflect later research. Thus, for example, type #2567 was formerly described as 2-shahi, but is now a single shahi. Fortunately, types listed in the first edition did not need to be renumbered, despite the fact that the new coinage had a different weight standard.  

### Contemporary reference to their actual monetary names. All of their coins cite the full name of the current ruler. 

The only mints for this dynasty are the nearby cities of Dizful and Shusharat. All of their coins are usually somewhat weakly struck, usually with flat areas or double struck. Dates of reign have not been determined for most rulers. The tentative dates given below are derived strictly from the coins.

**Fallah b. al-Muhsin, fl. 905-906 / 1499-1500**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Coin Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2565</td>
<td>AR ½ &quot;tankā&quot;</td>
<td>(approximately 2.0g)</td>
<td>RR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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### The Shahs of Iran

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637 Tomān is the Mongolian word for “ten thousand”.

638 Seven hundred years of inflation has reduced the dinar to an infinitesimal fraction of its original value. At the time of Ghazan Mahmūd’s reform in 1297, the Tabriz dinar was a gold coin of about 4.3g, so that a toman (10,000 dinars) would be equal to about $2,131,990 at the current gold value of $1542 per troy ounce. Today, the toman (≈ 10 rials), at today’s exchange rate of 1 rial = 977 toman, is worth just over 1/100 of a cent. In other words, it would take nearly 1.9 billion modern toman to equal the toman of AH1297! (reckoned on 7 June 2011).

639 Some gold issues of these two sultans may be local, in particular Herat and Nimruz fractions of Tahmasp I. Further research is needed. Thanks to Mike Locke for pointing this out to me.

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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 274
altered denominations, except in a few cases where former types had to be divided, as noted where appropriate. Virtually no changes have been undertaken between the 2nd and this 3rd edition. At the commencement of Safavid rule, the mithqal was a unit of weight equivalent to about 4.70g, noticeably lighter than the contemporary Timurid/Shaybanid mithqal of about 4.78g. Under the early Safavid, the mithqal was gradually reduced in weight, until at the time of 'Abbas I it weighed approximately 4.61g, a level which it has retained to the present day. 640 The mithqal is divided into 24 nokhod. When I lived in Iran in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the mithqal and nokhod were regularly used to determine the price of precious metal coins.641

During the reigns of Isma'il I and Tahmasp I, there was no uniform design used for a given type at all mints, though related mints within a single province often shared a common design. Safavid coinage up to and including 'Abbas I remains unstudied and poorly understood, with new varieties and new dates frequently discovered. In a few cases where the same weight standard was used for different types (normally in different regions), the mint can only be distinguished when the mint name is clearly legible.642 From the accession of Isma'il II in 984 onwards, with minor exceptions, a uniform type was employed at all mints, the principal exception being the mithqal coinage of Khuzestan (circa 1600-1700), intended primarily for trade with India. Countermarking was relatively unpopular during the Safavid period, with the solitary exception of the massive series under Muhammad Khudabandah, circa 992-996 (type #2624). There are a few rare countermarks during the reigns of Isma'il I and Tahmasp I, and some moderately scarce ravi or similar marks on the mahmuds of Khuzestan. In addition, some 17th century Safavid coins that reached the Dutch colonies in Ceylon were countermarked with the Dutch East India Company seal in about 1688.

Anonymous?, circa 908-910 / 1502-1504

2568.1 AR tanka, struck by Shi'ite partisans in Mazandaran (3.60g), always undated, several sub-types.

Most have the names of the 12 Imams on the obverse with the mint in a central cartouche, the Shi'ite kalima on the reverse. They were struck by local Shi'ite partisans in that region circa 908-910, and are tentatively classified as Safavid only because on a few specimens the name Isma'il appears in one of the outer marginal segments of the obverse.643 Mints of Chepekrud, Gultappeh, Sari & Timajan, of which only Sari is frequently available.

2568.2 AR tanka (4.15g), similar source, but different weight

Known from Barfurushd & Sari. This type, or at least one version thereof, may have been struck during the time of the Aq Qoyunlu ruler Baysunghur, 896-897 (see initial note for that version thereof, may have been struck during the time of the Aq Qoyunlu ruler Baysunghur, 896-897 (see initial note for that ruler). All known examples are undated.

Isma'il I, 907-930 / 1501-1524

This full titulature was al-sultan al-'adil shah isma'il bahadur khan al-safawi al-hussayni, with some variations.

2569 AV ashrafi (3.55g)

The ashrafi standard, theoretically around 3.55g but in practical terms around 3.45g, was used from 907 to about 927. 640 It remains to be determined if the reduction from 4.70g to 4.61g was an abrupt change under 'Abbas I or a gradual change over the course of the 16th century. I am inclined to favor a gradual alteration.

641 The nokhod was a small dried pea used as a weight, defined as 1/24 of a toman (1 toman = 9600 nokhod, used 907-923). 642 The half shahi was also known as a pul.

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641 The nokhod was a small dried pea used as a weight, defined as 1/24 of a mithqal (about 0.192g according to the present canonical mithqal of 4.61g). The dried peas were still widely used in the 1960s, when I lived in Iran, especially for buying and selling gold, I too would carry a supply of the peas whenever I wanted to buy some gold coins. In order to maintain a fair and honest balance, the seller would choose one of the peas, I should choose one of his, etc. etc., an effective means of insuring evenhandedness. It is conceivable in that different climate zones, the average weight of the pea varied slightly, accounting for some minor regional variations affecting the weight of silver coins.

642 However, when the cartouche and legend arrangement are known, it should be possible to assign nearly all coins to specific mints, or at least to a specific province, even when the mint name is off the flan on all known examples, or entirely omitted on the dies.

643 It is unclear whether the observed presence of the name Isma'il is normal or anomalous in this series. The marginal segments are largely off the flan, as most pieces were struck from dies that were much broader than the flans.
Gunbad, Qandahar and Nimruz (additional mints will undoubtedly be discovered). All other mints should be reckoned as western or local.

2584 AR ½ shahi (pul, 5.08g)  S
2585 AR ¼ shahi (2.54g)  R

Coins of this standard are occasionally countermarked 'adl shah (#2589).

Third standard in the East (1 toman = 9600 nokhod), used 927-928:

2585F AR ½ shahi (4.67-4.70g)  R

For this standard the obverse has the mint in pointed hexafoil shaped cartouche at nearly all mints. Other denominations may exist. I failed to recognize this short-lived type for the 2nd edition.

Fourth standard in the East (same as the second standard in the West, I toman = 8100 nokhod), used 928-930:

A2586 AR shahi (7.88g)  S
B2586 AR ½ shahi (pul, 3.94g)  C
C2586 AR ¼ shahi (1.97g)  R

Mazandaran & Gilan local standards:

2586 AR tanka (3.6g), Mazandaran mints  S

The relationship of the Mazandaran tanka to the toman has not been established. The Mazandaran standard was inherited from the later Aq Qoyunlu rulers and retained until the early years of 'Abbas I (#A2638).

In addition to the common mints of Amul, Barfurushid and Sari, also known are Gutapheh, Chepekrud and Ruyan, as well as several varieties of mintless examples.

2586T AR tanka (3.42g), Gilan mints  RR

Struck at Timajan & Lahijan.

2587 AR ½ tanka (1.8g), Mazandaran provincial mints  R

Larin standard:

The larin was a silver coin struck on a folded-over piece of silver wire, either with special rectangular dies or with ordinary coin dies. Normally, only a fragment of the inscriptions is visible. They are popularly known as "hairpin money". The earliest larsins were struck at the inland town of Lar and the coastal town of Jarun, but later issues (beginning with Tahmasp I) were struck at numerous mints throughout Iran. The larsins of Isma'il I and the earliest issues of Tahmasp I are quite thick and compact, but gradually though the Safavid period, they became longer and thinner, earning the nickname "hairpin money", though they have never been found stuffed with human or animal hair.

The city name Lar was the root of the denominational term. Larins were intended for the Indian Ocean trade, especially to India, where the larsins were frequently folded over a second time. The denomination "laari" still survives in the Maldives Islands.

Some versions include the mint, the date, or both.

Countermarked coinage:

2588 AR larin (5.15g)  RR

The 5.15g standard, introduced in 827 by the Timurid ruler Shahrukh, was retained for the Iranian larin as long as it was produced.

2589 AR tanka, with name isma'il, on hosts of earlier rulers, mainly Aq Qoyunlu or Timurid  S

A few rare examples of this and the following countermarks applied to shahis and half shahis of Isma'il I are known. Some versions include the mint, the date, or both.

2589 AR tanka, as #2588 but anonymous, with just 'adl shah, without the ruler's name  R

Found mainly on #2583-2585, probably related to the weight reduction of either the 3rd or 4th standard of the East. It is also found occasionally on various sorts of pre-Safavid coinage.

2589H AR tanka, as #2589 but countermarked 'adl baldat Herat 916 in plain hexafoil  RRR

Believed to have been struck upon the Safavid conquest of Herat from the Shaybanids, just after the death of Muhammad Shaybani.

Fourth gold standard (based on 4.67g), used 930 until at least 934:

2590 AV mithqal (4.67g). This standard was used in all regions until some time between 934 and 937, then restored in or shortly before 955 and retained thereafter until the end of the reign (#M2593, N2593 & O2593).  R

2591 AV ½ mithqal (2.33g)  RR

2592 AV ¼ mithqal (1.16g)  RR?

At present, undated examples of this standard cannot readily be assigned to this series rather than the 4th gold standard. For the time being, unless otherwise proven, they should be catalogued under the relatively common fourth standard series (#M2593 through O2593). Further research is essential. My impression is that with rare exceptions, the design of 4th standard gold coins is always distinguishable from 1st standard pieces.

An undated gold coin of Nimruz mint weighs 0.76g, an unknown denomination, perhaps 1/6 mithqal (RR).

Second gold standard (about 3.90g), used at western mints circa 938-940:

A2593 AV heavy ashrafi  R

Undated gold coins are known from the Tabriz mint weighing about 2.58g (RRR), probably struck circa 934-937 as they are known from a hoard terminating in year 938. Denomination unknown at present. Dated specimens not reported.

Third gold standard (about 4.1-4.2g), both eastern and western mints from the 940s to about 954

Known only from the half unit and the quarter. The initial date was some undetermined point in the 940s.

B2593 AV heavy ½ ashrafi (about 2.05-2.10g)  R?

The relationship of the weights of types A2593 to B2593 and C2593 is unknown, due to the small sample of coins weighed.

C2593 AV heavy ¼ ashrafi (about 1.02-1.05g)  C

Struck mainly at Herat, always undated.

Fourth gold standard (about 4.65g or slightly lighter), theoretically after 954:

M2595 AV mithqal (about 4.65g)  S

Tahmasp I, 930-984 / 1524-1576

His full titulature was al-sultan al-tad'ul al-kamal al-hadi al-wali abu'l-muzaffar shah tahmasb bahadur khan al-safawi al-hassayni.

On some of his latest coinage, he was entitled ghulam ‘ali b. abi talib ‘alayhi al-salam al-sultan al-tad’ul al-hadi abu'l-muzaffar padshah tahmasb al-safawi or something similar.

As a result of my research at Oxford during the autumn of 1986, I reorganized the silver coinage of Tahmasp I for the 2nd edition of the Checklist. Wherever possible, I retained the old enumeration. Please note that the gold coinage still requires further research. Sadly, the listings for his silver coinage is still tentative. During the past several years I’ve all too often encountered specimens that I was unable to assign to a specific type.

Although the precise weight of the mithqal during this reign has not been securely determined, I have used a theoretical value of 4.67g. It is probable that the initial standard was based on the roughly 4.70g of the previous reign, reduced to about 4.63 or 4.64 by the end of the reign, either gradually or in stages. The causes of the decline remain enigmatic. Although the precise weight of the mithqal during this reign has not been securely determined, I have used a theoretical value of 4.67g. It is probable that the initial standard was based on the roughly 4.70g of the previous reign, reduced to about 4.63 or 4.64 by the end of the reign, either gradually or in stages. The causes of the decline remain enigmatic.

My reclassification of weight standards and types since the first edition has led me to question the existence of types #2595, 2598 and 2607. Because these fractional denominations are so often undated, they cannot presently be confirmed. All are probably rare, though not necessarily very rare.

The mints in Gilan province (Lahijan, Timajan, Kuchafsan, Gurjyan, Daylamian and Rasht) seem to have used additional local standards, but not enough data is available to accurately determine their nature and time of use.

First gold standard (based on 4.67g), used 930 until at least 934:

2590 AV mithqal (4.67g). This standard was used in all regions until some time between 934 and 937, then restored in or shortly before 955 and retained thereafter until the end of the reign (#M2593, N2593 & O2593).  R

2591 AV ½ mithqal (2.33g)  RR

2592 AV ¼ mithqal (1.16g)  RR?

At present, undated examples of this standard cannot readily be assigned to this series rather than the 4th gold standard. For the time being, unless otherwise proven, they should be catalogued under the relatively common fourth standard series (#M2593 through O2593). Further research is essential. My impression is that with rare exceptions, the design of 4th standard gold coins is always distinguishable from 1st standard pieces.

An undated gold coin of Nimruz mint weighs 0.76g, an unknown denomination, perhaps 1/6 mithqal (RR).

Listings for his gold coinage is also still tentative. During the past several years I’ve all too often encountered specimens that I was unable to assign to a specific type.

Second gold standard (about 3.90g), used at western mints circa 938-940:

A2593 AV heavy ashrafi  R

Undated gold coins are known from the Tabriz mint weighing about 2.58g (RRR), probably struck circa 934-937 as they are known from a hoard terminating in year 938. Denomination unknown at present. Dated specimens not reported.

Third gold standard (about 4.1-4.2g), both eastern and western mints from the 940s to about 954

Known only from the half unit and the quarter. The initial date was some undetermined point in the 940s.

B2593 AV heavy ½ ashrafi (about 2.05-2.10g)  R?

The relationship of the weights of types A2593 to B2593 and C2593 is unknown, due to the small sample of coins weighed.

C2593 AV heavy ¼ ashrafi (about 1.02-1.05g)  C

Struck mainly at Herat, always undated.

Fourth gold standard (about 4.65g or slightly lighter), theoretically after 954:

M2595 AV mithqal (about 4.65g)  S

648 The first portion of this titulature translates as "servant of Ali, [who is the] son of Abu Talib, may peace be upon him."

649 At present, the latest I have seen for the 1st gold standard is 934 and earliest for the 2nd standard 938. Until coins dated between 935 and 937 are discovered, the precise timing of the new standard remains a mystery.
N2593 AV ½ mithqal (about 2.33g) S
O2593 AV ¼ mithqal (about 1.16g) C

First western silver standard (1 toman = 8100 nokhod) used 930-937 in the west (also 930-931 in the east):
Tahmasp’s first western silver standard was a continuation of the second western standard of Isma’ul I. Examples of eastern mints (listed in the note to #2583) dated 930-931 and to the same weight standard as #2593 & 2954 are now listed separately as #L2606 & M2606, respectively.550

2593 AR shahi (50 dinars, 7.88g), western mints S
Examples of early mints (listed in the note to #2583) dated 930-931 and to the same weight standard as #2593 & 2954 are now listed separately as #L2606 & M2606, respectively.550

2594 AR ½ shahi (25 dinars, 3.94g) S
2595 AR ¼ shahi (12½ dinars, 1.97g) R
A2596 AR 1/10 shahi (5 dinars, 0.79g) exists??

Second western standard (1 toman = 6400 nokhod), used 937-947:

2596 AR shahi (6.22g) C
2597 AR ½ shahi (3.11g) S
2598 AR 10 dinars (1.24g) R

Fourth western standard (1 toman = 4800 nokhod), used 954-959:
Principal coins of the 4th through 6th western standards follow the same weights (4.67g, 2.33g, 1.17g), but their values were adjusted, with the 1 mithqal weight coin rising from 1 shahi (50 dinars, struck 954-959) to 4 bisti (80 dinars, struck 960-971+) and finally to 2 shahis (100 dinars, struck 975-984). The designs were carefully changed at all mints so that it shall become easy to quickly distinguish undated or date-missing examples once the series is published in detail.

2601 AR shahi (4.67g; = one mithqal) C
2602 AR ¼ shahi (2.33g) S

Found mainly as an undated type of Barfurushid in Mazandaran, with mint in teardrop cartouche, most of which are light, around 2.15g, and may actually represent a local standard (or criminal behavior by the local authorities). Examples of other mints adhere to the 2.33g weight (R).

2603 AR ¼ shahi (12½ dinars, 1.17g) (Former type #2604 has now been subsumed under D2605.)

Fifth western standard (1 toman = 3000 nokhod), used 960-971 or somewhat later:

A2605 AR 4 bisti (80 dinars, 4.67g) S
The bisti was a coin of 20 dinars, as its name suggests (bisti = “twenty”). The shahi of 50 dinars was not coined under this standard.
B2605 AR 2 bisti (40 dinars, 2.33g) RR
Confirmed only from the Sari mint.
C2605 AR bisti (20 dinars, 1.17g) C
This type is the only lightweight Safavid denomination that is far more common than contemporary larger denominations.655 This issue, which lasted some 1½ years, may have been inspired by the contemporary Ottoman ask, which was, however, struck to a much lighter standard (0.76g).
D2605 AR 10 dinars (0.58g)
2605 AR 4 bisti, countermarked ‘adl plus mint name on shahis of the 4th western standard (#2601) R

A2596 AR ¼ shahi (2.33g) S
B2606 AR shahi (2.33g) C
C2606 AR ½ shahi (1.17g) R

First eastern standard (1 toman = 8100 nokhod), used 930-931, same as first western.652 This and the following eastern standards were used at some of the mints enumerated in the note to #2583. In some cases the eastern standard corresponded to contemporary western standards, but were nonetheless distinguished by different arrangements and designs. See note to #A2608.

L2606 AR shahi (7.88g) R
M2606 AR ½ shahi (3.94g) S

Second eastern standard (1 toman = 5700 nokhod), used 934-954:
Briefly, during the years 940-941, some eastern mints adopted the second western standard (1 shahi = 6.22g). Both full (R) and half shahis (RR) are known.653

2606 AR shahi (5.54g) C
2607 AR ¼ shahi (2.77g) S?

A2608 AR ¼ shahi (1.38g) R
In the first edition I said that the western standard was introduced in the east in 944. That is not correct. Only in 955 was the 4th western standard introduced in the east, corresponding to the third eastern standard. Later (circa 960-971+), although the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th eastern standards were both based on the toman of 3000 nokhod, the choice of denominations was utterly different, with the 80 dinar in the west and the shahi (± 50 dinars) in the east. With the adoption of the sixth western standard in 975, uniformity was at last achieved (except in Mazandaran and Lar, where local standards were maintained).654

Third eastern standard (1 toman = 4800 nokhod), used 955-959 (same as 4th western standard): E2608 AR shahi (4.67g) S
(Type #2608 is now listed following #2609A.)

Fourth eastern standard (1 toman = 3000 nokhod), used 960-971 or later:
2609 AR shahi (2.92g) R
2609A AR bisti (1.17g) (Later eastern issues are included with the western. See #A2606.) S

Local standard of Mazandaran:
2608 AR tanka (3.6g) S
The Mazandaran tanka was probably maintained throughout the reign. It derived from an Aq Qoyunlu prototype.

Local standard of Khuzestan:
A2610 AR mithqal (4.6-4.7g), struck late 930s-940s. RR
Minted at Dizful & Ramhurmuz, perhaps also Shushbar.

Lar in standard:
2610 AR larin (hairpin shape), struck with regular coin dies showing only fragment of inscription (5.1g) R
2611 AR larin, struck with special oblong dies made for larin products (5.1g) S

650 The layouts and cartouches of the eastern mints will readily be distinguished once this series has been thoroughly published.
651 Back around 1970, I had the pleasure of selecting some specimens from a hoard of at least 2000 pieces, mostly well circulated and worn, as though they had been in use for several decades. Well-struck examples in high grades are rare. Rather beastly coins, eh?
652 This standard may have been used as late as 933, but at present, I am unaware of any silver coins from eastern mints dated 932 or 933.
653 These 940-941 coins came to my attention very recently, and I have not had the opportunity to determine precisely which mints were involved.
654 Mazandaran coinage is seldom dated, so the sequence of types remains unknown. The tanka was likely abandoned well before the end of the reign.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 277
**Countermarked:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2611P</td>
<td>AR shahi, with ‘adl followed by a mint name, known dated 944-947, about 6.22g, Struck mainly at Isfahan, Kashan, Shiraz, Kirman, published in ONS Newsletter in 2004.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

known from Astarabad & Bistam, of which only Astarabad is reasonably available. All are undated, but believed to have been struck in the mid to late 950s.

*Isma'il II, 984-985 / 1576-1578*

The traditional Shi'ite kalima and the names of the twelve Imams on the reverse were replaced during this reign by a Persian couplet (coins of Khorasanian mints retained the traditional kalima reverse). The tyrannical Isma'il II was said to have loathed the idea that coins bearing the kalima would be touched by infidel hands. The kalima and the Imams were restored upon his death for the duration of the Safavid coinage.

All regular coinage of Isma'il II adheres to the unified 6th western standard of Tahmasp.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2612</td>
<td>AV ½ mithqal (2.34g)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2613</td>
<td>AR 2 shahi (4.61g), retaining the last standard of the previous reign (1 toman = 2400 nokhod)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2614.1</td>
<td>AR shahi (2.30g), with couplet reverse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2614.2</td>
<td>AR shahi (2.30g), with kalima reverse, known only from Mashhad and Qandahar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2615</td>
<td>AR larin (5.1g)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2615</td>
<td>AR ½ tanka (about 1.85g), local currency of Mazandaran province, Barfurushdih mint</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Muhammad Khudabandah, 985-995 / 1578-1588

All silver coinage of this reign is struck to the standard of 2400 nokhod, inherited from the previous reigns of Tahmasp I and Isma'il II. From this time on, nearly all silver coinage falls into uniform sequential types, used throughout the empire, except in Khuzestan until circa 1108/1697. All denominations of this ruler are based on the gold mithqal and silver 2 shahi of 4.61g.

The Iranian mithqal was fixed at 4.61g from this reign until at least the 1970s.

Types of the reign of Muhammad Khudabandah:

A. Central obverse cartouche containing long royal inscriptions followed by the mint. The date appears below the mint name, either within the cartouche or immediately below (985-986), with the Sh'i kalima and 12 Imams on reverse.

B. Small central obverse cartouche containing mint & date, royal inscriptions in field (986-995). Reverse as type A.

C. Countermarked ‘adl shahi, usually followed by the mint name and often the date, all within a cartouche (many different shapes and layouts) (992-996).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2615</td>
<td>AV 2 mithqal (9.22g), Mashhad mint only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2616.1</td>
<td>AV mithqal (4.61g), type A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2617.1</td>
<td>AV ½ mithqal (2.30g), type A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2616.2</td>
<td>AV mithqal (4.61g), type B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2617.2</td>
<td>AV ½ mithqal (2.30g), type B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2618</td>
<td>AR 2 shahi (4.61g), type A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2-shahi coin came to be known formally as a *mumhammad* after the name of this ruler, but was commonly called *mahmudi* after the Gujarati coin of roughly similar weight (later known in Gujarati as a *kori* and last struck in Kutch state in 1948).

**Local standards:**

A2625 AR ½ tanka (about 1.85g) Struck only at Sari, Amul and Barfurushdih in Mazandaran.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2625</td>
<td>AR larin (hairpin shape, about 5.1g)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Abbas I, 995-1038 / 1588-1629

All bear the royal protocol ‘*abbas bande-se shah-e velayat* (“Abbas, servant of the king of the Velayat”) together with mint & date, as the distinguishing feature of the obverse.

The dates of transition from one type to the next remain imprecise. All have the standard Shi’ite kalima on the reverse, usually within a circle, occasionally surrounded by a marginal legend bearing the names of the 12 Imams.

Types of “Abbas I:

A. Name of the ruler in a central cartouche, normally containing the above-mentioned protocol, surrounded by further titulature in the surrounding margin. The mint and date are placed either within the cartouche or directly below it. Many examples, especially in silver, lack either mint or date or both (circa 996-1004).

B. Mint in central, usually circular, cartouche in obverse. The date is sometimes inside the cartouche, sometimes outside to the upper left. Often dated 1005, which was maintained at some mints as a frozen date for an undetermined length of time (circa 1005-1014+).

C. Obverse divided into three horizontal panels, with the mint normally in the center panel. Surprisingly, this type remains unknown with legible date, although I would propose that this type was struck during the late 1000s or early 1010s, between types B & D. Types B & C may have been struck simultaneously for several years.

D1. Mint, date and royal protocol all in central circle, usually without any marginal legend around. Coarse, thick calligraphy, with the die much broader than the flan. Normally poorly struck (from about 1014 until 1026).

D2. As D1 but neater calligraphy and dies usually not significantly broader than the flan. The quality of strike is variable. Some examples are quite finely made, especially from Tabriz, the most prolific mint (1026-1038).

E. Obverse inscription *az bahr-e khayr in sekke-ra kalb-e 'ali 'abbas zad*. “For the sake of goodness ‘Abbas, the dog of ‘Ali, struck this coin.” Struck 1032-1037, usually without mint name, occasionally with mint name Mazandaran, where it was a local type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2626</td>
<td>AV 2 mithqal (9.22g)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2627</td>
<td>AV mithqal (4.61g)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2628</td>
<td>AV ½ mithqal (2.30g)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

655 Countermarks dated 996 would have been applied posthumously, unless they were actually dated 992 with a retrograde number “2”, which seems more likely.

656 The “King of the Velayat” is ‘Ali b. Abi Talib, the fourth caliph after the death of the Prophet and regarded by Shi’ites as the rightful successor to the Prophet. The Shi’ites do not recognize the first three caliphs, Abu Bakr, ‘Umar & ‘Uthman.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 278
Types #2626-2628 were struck from 996 until 1002 or shortly thereafter. The date of transition from the 4.61g to the 3.9g standard remains to be determined, but must lie between about 1002 and 1005.

2629 AV heavy ashrafi (about 3.9g) S

Probably used from 1005 until 1018. The metrology of the gold coinage of this reign has not been fully established, due to the paucity of published specimens. The actual denominational name of this weight series is unknown. I have reckoned “heavy ashrafi” simply for convenience. Coins of this type struck at Mashhad in 1014 have recently become relatively common. All other issues are rare.

A2630 AV ½ heavy ashrafi (about 1.95g) RR

Presumably used after 1018, the latest date occasionally available. The precise nature and time frame of this type remains to be determined. Thereafter, for more than a century, circa 1020-1126, gold coinage ceased to have been struck in Iran, except for a few extremely rare issues believed to have been intended only for royal presentation.

First silver standard (1 toman = 2400 nokhod), used 996-1004 S

Same as the standard of his predecessor Muhammad.

2631 AR abbasii (= 4 shahi, 9.22g), first type, A, known dated 996-1004

2632.1 AR 2 shahi (4.61g), type A, general type with circular or multilobe central cartouche

2632.2 AR 2 shahi (4.61g), variant of type A, local Khuzestani type with vertically elongated central cartouche

Mints of Huwayza, Dizful, Dawraq, Ramhurmuz and Shushitar.

2633 AR shahi (2.30g), general type A

Second standard (1 toman = 2000 nokhod), used 1005-1038

2634.1 AR abbasii (4 shahi, 7.68g), type B, mint in central cartouche

2634.2 AR abbasii (7.68g), type C, three-panel obverse

2634.3 AR abbasii (7.68g), type D1, coarse calligraphy

2634.4 AR abbasii (7.68g), type D2, fine calligraphy

Some issues of Tabriz 1026 are superbly struck, perhaps as a special strike for the inauguration of type D2. Coins of Baghdad and Tiflis are usually extremely crude. Abassi & fractions of this type dated 1052-1054 are issues of ‘Abbas II (#2642-2644).

2635.1 AR 2 shahi (3.84g), also known as mahmudi, type B R

Coins of this type continued to be struck at mints in Khuzestan (Huwayza, Dawraq, Dizful, and Ramhurmuz) presumably until the end of the reign. Other mints are scarce. See note to type #2650.1.

2635.2 AR 2 shahi (3.84g), type C (three-panel) R

2635.3 AR 2 shahi (3.84g), type D1 S

2635.4 AR 2 shahi (3.84g), type D2 R

2636.1 AR shahi (1.92g), type B R

2636.2 AR shahi (1.92g), type D1 S

2636.3 AR shahi (1.92g), type D2 R

A2637 AR ½ shahi (0.96g), type C (three-panel) RR

B2637 AR bistii (0.77g), type D1 or D2 RR

F2637 AR abbasii (7.68g), type E R

Struck 1032-1037, presumably only at Mazandaran, occasionally cited on the coin. Most examples are undated.

G2637 AR shahi (1.92g), type E RRR

H2637 AR bistii (0.77g), type E, with mint name Mazandaran RRR

Local standards:

2637 AR larin (hairpin shape, about 5.1g), several types RR

A2638 AR ½ tanka (about 1.8g), with central cartouche, Sari mint in Mazandaran only, always undated R

This was the last series from Mazandaran struck to a local standard. It was probably struck from the late 990s onwards, terminating circa 1010-1020.

Some additional local types and/or standards exist, not listed here due to lack of descriptive information.

Safi I, 1038-1052 / 1629-1642

All coinage of Safi I was struck to the standard of 2000 nokhod, inherited from ‘Abbas I.

No gold coinage confirmed for this reign.

An important study of his silver coins was published by Stan Gorin in ONS Newsletter 176 in 2003.

Types for the reign of Safi I:

A. Safi bande-ye shah-e velayat (known only for the full abbasii) (1038 only; except for Tiflis 1039).

B. Hast as janghale shah safi,657 (struck 1038-1050)

C. Legend as B but with mint name enclosed within a circle in the lower portion of the obverse (1050-1052).

2638.1 AR abbasii (7.68g), type A R

Used only in 1038 (also 1039 at Tiflis).

2638.2 AR abbasii (7.68g), type B, without cartouche around mint name (struck 1038-1050) S

2638.3 AR abbasii, type C (7.68g), circle around mint name (1050-1052)

2639.1 AR 2 shahi (3.84g), type B R

2639.2 AR 2 shahi (3.84g), type C S

2640.3 AR shahi (1.92g), type A RRR?

2640.1 AR shahi (1.92g), type B S

2640.2 AR shahi (1.92g), type C RRR

2641 AR 2 shahi (mahmudi, 3.84g), mints in Khuzestan, mint name in central circle on obverse R

Struck only at Huwayza and Dawraq. All examples that I have seen bear the royal protocol of type B, inscribed circularly around the obverse margin.

‘Abbas II, 1052-1077 / 1642-1666

Types for the reign of ‘Abbas II:


B. Be-giti seek-e shahbeqerani / sud az tugh-e haqq ‘abbes-e thani,658 nashki (upright) calligraphy on obverse (1054-1068), struck from dies about the same size as flans. Coins 1054-1064 normally have the date center right, 1064-1068 have it at lower left (with a few exceptions, as usual), always on obverse.

C. Same couplet, nasta‘liq (flowing) calligraphy on obverse (1067-1077) and nashki reverse, struck from dies usually much broader than flans. Coins 1067-1068 have date lower left, 1069-1077 have date center right. Types B & C overlap 1067-1068. The fractional silver coins were usually struck from the same dies intended for the larger denominations, thus mint & date off flan.

A2642 AV ashrafi, couplet type B, struck for presentation only RRR

First silver standard (1 toman = 2000 nokhod) used 1052-1054 only:

Same as the standard of his predecessor Safi I.

2642 AR abbasii (7.68g), type A S

Coins of this type are distinguishable from the type D2 issues of ‘Abbas I only by date and calligraphic style.

2643 AR 2 shahi (3.84g), type A RR

2644 AR shahi (1.92g), type A RR

Second standard (1 toman = 1925 nokhod), used 1054-1077:

657 “From his soul he is the slave of Shah Safi”, referring not to himself but to Safi al-Din Ardabili, founder of the family’s theocratic and political strain in the early 8th/14th century.

658 “In the world, ‘Abbas the second, by favor of God, struck the coins of Sahebqerani.” Sahebqerani can be translated as “lord of the auspicious conjunction”, an astrological term that referred to the conjunction of two planets. It was first adopted by Timur of the Timurid dynasty, alluding to his intention of conquering both East and West.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 279
### Types of the reign of Sulayman I (excluding mint of Huwayza):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Rarity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Couplet, <em>zad at-taqi-y-e Allah sall-e Saheb qerani / saheb-e dowran soleymo-e jahan</em> (1070-1086)</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Soleymo-band-e shah-e velayat, in the nasta’liq script, usually quite finely struck (1081-1095)</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Similar, naskhi script, normally quite well struck (1093-1094)</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Information

- **M2657 AV 20 ashrafi (about 57g), type D, known from Isfahan 1096**
  - RRR
  - Struck from the same dies as the silver 20 shahi (#2657) of the same mint & date.

- **M2658 AR 10 shahi (18.45g), type A, struck at Isfahan 1097**
  - R
  - Possibly struck for circulation.

- **M2665 AR 20 shahi (3.69g), type B**
  - RRR
  - Known dated 1084-1092. By this date, the type had spread to other mints.

- **M2666 AR 2 shahi (3.69g), type C, struck only at Huwayza**
  - C
  - The use of the type C was largely limited to presentation coins of multiple denominations.

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655 It is possible that some examples dated 1053-1054 still follow the 3.84g standard applicable to type A. Further research needed.

660 This rule of thumb has been questioned in recent and still unpublished research undertaken by Rudi Matthee of the University of Delaware. I now suspect that the introduction of the simple *al-i walla Allah* type began around the 1060s and very early 1070s during the reign of ‘Abbas I. Further research essential.

661 “After the time of ‘Abbas the second, Safi struck the coins of *Saheb qerani*. A variant has the first half of the distich *ba-der-e shah ‘abbas-e thani*, but the distinguishing portion (*be-giti*, "in the world") is commonly off the flan. Relative rarity of the two variants is unknown.

Stephen Album, *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, 3rd edition, PAGE 280
Sultan Husayn, the nurturer of the religion”

Sultan Husayn surrendered to the Hotaki Afghans in Muharram 1115, beheaded by order of Ashraf Khan four years later, in 1119. His name is often spelled Hoseyn or Hossein in western texts.

Types for the reign of Sultan Husayn:

A. Zaid za toufig-e haqiq be-chereh-ye zar / sekeh-e ye soltan hoseyn-e din parvar (1105-1107).668
B. Gashh saheb-e sekkh za toufig-e rabbi ol-mashreghyan / dar jahan kalb-e amir-e 'menin soltan hoseyn (1107-1114).669 The second half of the verse commences kalb-e dargah-e amir... for coins dated 1115-1123.
C. Hoseyn hande-ye shab-e velayat (1113-1129 & rarely in 1130, the last year at Tabriz only).
D. As C, but reduced weight standard for silver (1129-1135).
E. Hoseyn kalb-e aastan-e 'ali, used on some but not all coins of Mashhad between 1129 and 1137.

The formula of type E translates to “Husayn, dog at the threshold of the commander of the believers,” where ‘Ali can refer to either the fourth Orthodox caliph and first Shi‘ite Imam, ‘Ali ibn Abi Talib, champion of the Shi‘ites, or ‘Ali b. Musa, the 7th Shi‘ite Imam, buried at Mashhad.

B2669 AV double ashrafi (6.92g), type A, known from Isfahan 1107
A2669 AV mithqal (4.61g), type A670
2669 AV ashrafi (3.46g), type C/D only

Struck from 1127 onwards, but Isfahan 1134 is by far the most common date/mint combination. The distinction between types C and D does not apply to the gold currency. All gold struck within the Safavid empire from about 1020 until 1127 was intended solely for presentation, not for circulation.

The revised ashrafi of 1127 onwards was marginally lighter than its early Safavid counterpart, about 3.46 instead of 3.55g, and was reckoned as 3/4 mithqal of essentially pure gold, reflecting a reduced weight standard for silver (1129-1135).

2669A AV reduced ashrafi? (circa 2.6g), type C/D, with margin inscription added to obverse

Inscription al-sultan ibn al-sultan al-khagan ibn al-khagan khaluda Allah khilafatuhu. The last word reflects a putative claim to the caliphate by Sultan Husayn.

2669B AV ¼ mithqal (1.15g), type B, Mashhad 1109 only
2669E AV ashrafi (3.46g), type E, Mashhad mint

668 “Upon the face of gold, by the grace of God, was imprinted the stamp of Sultan Husayn, the nurturer of the religion”
669 In this world, Sultan Husayn, the dog at the threshold of the commander of the believers (i.e., ‘Ali ibn Abi Talib), became master of the die, by the grace of the Lord of the Two Easts”.
670 “The Two Easts (“ol-mashreghyan”) probably refers to Iraq and Iran, reflecting the Safavid claim to Iraq. The second version translates as “Sultan Husayn, dog at the threshold of the commander of the believers, became master of the die, by the grace of the Lord of the Two Easts.”

StephenAlbum, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 281
A2689 AR 20 shahi (8.64g), similar, to #2677.1 but with outer margins, containing the royal titles on obverse, the 12 Imams on reverse

2678 AR abassi (4 shahi, 6.91g), type C, round flan
2679 AR 2 shahi (3.45g), type C, rectangular flan
2680 AR 2 shahi (3.45g), type C, round flan
2681 AR shahi (1.73g), type C, rectangular flan
2682 AR shahi (1.73g), type C, round flan

Third standard (1 toman = 1400 nokhod), used 1129-1135, recognized at Mashhad until 1137:

2683.1 AR abassi (5.34g), type D, plain border of pellets as reverse margin
2683.2 AR abassi (5.34g), type D, 12 Shi’ite Imams named in reverse margin

The first type, pellets around the reverse, was struck 1129-1132, occasionally in 1133. The Imams types was struck 1132-1135, also 1131 at Qazwin. Further overlap may exist, perhaps due to the continued use of functional dies.

Fourth standard (1 toman = 1200 nokhod):

2687 AR abassi (4.61g), struck only in 1134 at Isfahan

This light standard was struck as an emergency issue during the Afghan siege. It can be distinguished from type #2683 by weight. Coins dated 1133 to this standard were also struck during the siege in 1134 using surviving obverse dies of the previous year. There are no fractions.

Tahmasp II, 1135-1145 / 1722-1732

Types for the reign of Tahmasp II (two additional types are known for rare multiple denominations, not listed here):

A. Couplet, be-giti sekke-ye sahebqerani / zad as toufiq-e haqq tahmasp-e thani (all dates).672

B. Tahmasp-e ghazi band-e shah-e velayat (at Yazd 1135 only, also on a few donatives not listed here).

C. Tahmasp-e thani ghulam-e shah-e din (at Kirman in 1135 only).673

Nearly all coins of all types bear the Shi’ite kalima on the reverse, surrounded by either the names of the 12 Imams or a plain beaded border without any inscription. Coins with the couplet az khoras-sec ke bar zar... formerly assigned to Tahmasp II and ‘Abbas III are now correctly assigned to Nadir Shah as viceroy (#2735-2738). The exact denominations for types #2689 and 2689 are uncertain, either 16 and 8 shahi, respectively, based on an abassi heavier than the standard 5.34g, or 20 and 10 shahi based on a reduced abassi of 4.61g (1 mithqal). Precise weights were casually maintained for presentation issues.

2688 AV ashrifi (3.46g), type A only
2689 AR 20 shahi (5 abassi, 26.88g), type A, struck normally at Isfahan

Also known for Tabriz, dated 1135 (unique).

B2689 AR “16” shahi (4 abassi, 23.05g), type A

Struck as donatives and known from Mashhad and Shiraz, probably other mints as well. Other types of presentation silver have been reported besides the four listed here (#A2689-D2689).

C2689 AR 10 shahi (2½ abassi, 13.44g), type A, Isfahan only

D2689 AR “8” shahi (2 abassi, 11.53g), type A, citing the 12 Imams around the reverse

2689.1 AR abassi (5.34g), type A, 12 Shi’ite Imams named in reverse margin, used throughout his reign

2689.2 AR abassi (5.34g), type A, plain beaded border as reverse margin, used 1142-1145

2690 AR 2 shahi (2.68g), type A

2691 AR shahi (1.34g), type A

A2692 AR bisti (0.53g), type A

Possibly a ½ shahi (0.67g). Usually found holed or mounted, almost never with legible mint & date.

2692 AR abassi (5.34g), type B, Yazd 1135 only

2692A AR abassi (5.34g), type C, Kirman 1135 only

Sayyid Ahmad, rebel at Kirman, circa 1138-1141 / 1725-1728

Inscribed ahmad band-e ye shah-e velayat.

A2693 AR abassi (5.34g), Kirman mint

B2693 AR 2 shahi (2.67g), same type, Kirman mint, dated 1138

2694 AR ashrifi (3.46g)

2695 AR abassi (5.34g)

2696 AR 2 shahi (2.67g)

2695 AR shahi (1.34g)

A2697 AR bisti (0.53g)

Sayyid Ahmad, rebel at Kirman, circa 1138-1141 / 1725-1728

Inscribed ahmad band-e ye shah-e velayat.

A2693 AR abassi (5.34g), Kirman mint

B2693 AR 2 shahi (2.67g), same type, Kirman mint, dated 1138

2694 AR ashrifi (3.46g)

2695 AR abassi (5.34g)

2696 AR 2 shahi (2.67g)

2695 AR shahi (1.34g)

A2697 AR bisti (0.53g)

Sam Mirza, in Tabriz, 1160 / 1747

Coins of this short reign were struck to the 1200 nokhod standard first introduced by Nadir Shah in 1160, struck only at Tabriz.

Types for Sam Mirza:

A. Couplet sekke bar zar be-giti chu tolu-e nayr-eyn / vareth-e molk-e soleyman sam ebn-e soltan hoseyn together with mint & date, kalima reverse, usually with the 12 Imams cited around.

B. Sam ebn-e soltan hoseyn band-e ye shah-e velayat with mint & date. The reverse inscription for the shahi has apparently not been published.

2697 AR 5 shahi (5.76g), rectangular flan, type B

The ruler’s name is written sam ebn-e soleyman. Standard Shi’ite kalima on the reverse.

2698 AR abassi (4.61g), round flan, type A

2699 AR shahi (1.15g), round flan, type B but without the patronymic

Sulayman II, 1163 / 1750

Silver coins of this reign were struck to the 1200 nokhod standard.

672 Thanks to Stan Goron for this information.

673 Abbasis of Mashhad dated 1136 of type #2686 and 1137 of type #2683 were struck by order of the local ruler at Mashhad, Malik Mahmud Sistani, but in the name of Sultan Husayn. See note to #A2706.

674 “By the grace of God, Tahmasp the second struck the sahebqerani coin throughout the world.”

675 “Tahmasp the Second, servant to the King of Faith”, i.e., servant to ‘Ali ibn Abi Talib.

676 “He struck coins of gold in the world, ‘Abbas the third, shadow of God, the second sahebqeran.”

677 “By the grace of God, he struck coins of gold in the world, ‘Abbas the second servant to the King of Faith.”

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 282
Types for the reign of Sulayman II:

A. Obverse couplet is "zad az lof-e haq SQske-se ye kamrani / shah-e "adl postar soleymane-e "thani679", with Shi’ite kalima reverse.

B. Obverse with short inscription al-soltan soleymen in place of the couplet, reverse with mint, date and the benediction khalada Allah malkahu.

2699 AV double mohur (about 22.0g), type A RRR
About two dozen specimens appeared on the market in the early 1980s, long dispersed and now almost never available.

A2700 AV ashrafi (3.45g), type A RRR
2700 AR 6 shahi (6.91g), type B R
2701 AR abbasi (= 4 shahi, 4.61g), type A RRR
A2702 AR shahi (1.15g), type B RRR

Isma’il III, 1163-1169 / 1750-1756

Types for the reign of Isma’il III:

A. Formula esma’il bande-ye shah-e velayat plus mint & date on obverse, Shi’ite kalima reverse, usually in a small circular cartouche with blank margin around.

B. Obverse as last but mint & date on reverse. Without the kalima.

C. al-soltan esma’il on obverse, mint, date and benediction khalada Allah malkahu on obverse together with the date, mint & its epithet on reverse.

D. Name al-soltan esma’il, together with khalada Allah malkahu on obverse together with the date, mint & its epithet on reverse.

N2702 AV mohur?, type B, struck only at Qazwin in 1165 RRR
Known only from Rabino #289, but the weight & denomination are not mentioned.

2702 AR rupi, type A (11.52g) S
Struck principally at Rasht & Mazandaran, about equal rarity, other mints extremely rare. These rupis reflect some of the finest die-engraving of the Safavid period.

2702Q AR rupi, type D (11.52g), Qazwin 1165 only (Zeno-92202) RRR
2703 AR 6 shahi (6.91g), type C R
2704 AR abbasi (4.61g), type A RRR
2705.1 AR shahi (1.15g), type A R
Struck at Shiraz, Rasht, and Mazandaran.

2705.2 AR shahi (1.15g), type B, Isfahan & Qazwin only RRR
2705.3 AR shahi (1.15g), type C, Mazandaran only RRR

SISTANI MALIKS OF MASHHAD

After the fall of Isfahan to the Afghans in 1135 and the arrest of Sultan Husayn, a certain Malik Mahmud Sistani seized power in Mashhad, but was ousted by the future Nadir Shah after just over three years in power.

Malik Mahmud Sistani, 1135-1139 / 1722-1726

A2706 AR abbasi (5.34g) RRR
Inscribed mahmol bande-ye shah-e velayat. Struck at Mashhad only in 1137 and 1138. Coins of Mashhad in the name of Sultan Husayn (type D & E) dated 1135-1137 were issued under the authority of Malik Mahmud, but without his name.

B2706 AR abbasi (5.34g), with couplet inscription RRR
Couplet is... be-tofiqu-e amir (al-mu’minin .... dar gah-e mahmol shah, possibly also with word kalb (“dog”). Mashhad mint, but known only without legible date.680

OTTOMAN OCCUPATION OF IRAN

From 1135/1722 until 1148/1735, parts of northwestern Iran were occupied by the Ottomans, including Armenia, Georgia and Tabriz. Coins of the occupation retain the 1400-nokhod standard of Husayn’s year, after a long siege at Isfahan. Their coins are readily distinguishable by their Sunni legends. There exists a large variety of types and denominations, not always fully understood. The couplets are quite intricate, replete with puns and other word-plays which cannot be salvaged in translation.

Ifshan is the most common mint for all three Hotaki rulers, though Qazwin is relatively common for Azad Khan (types #2726 & 2730). Quality of strike is generally excellent throughout the series, though many pieces are either off-center or on flans narrower than the dies. All silver coins except the allegedly 5 and 10 shahi coins (#2715 & #2716 of Mahmud, #2719 of Ashraf) were struck at the 1200-nokhod standard introduced by Mahmud’s opponent Sultan Husayn as an emergency currency during the siege of Isfahan in 1134. This standard was held by the Hotaki until the demise of Ashraf in 1142, but the previous standard of 1400-nokhod was restored by Tahmasp II at all mints recovered from the Afghans, until once again lowered to the 1200-nokhod by Nadir Shah in 1150.

Mahmud Shah, 1135-1137 / 1722-1724

Types for the reign of Mahmud Shah Afghan:

A. Couplet obverse, Sekkeh zad az mashreq-e Iran cho qors-e aftab / Shah Mahmud-e Jahan-e siyadat-anash.681

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 283

679 “By the grace of God, he struck the coins of prosperity, the shah who dispenses justice. Salayman the Second”

680 Former collection of S. Goron, reported 1 July 2002.

681 “He struck coins from the east of Iran, like the face of the Sun, Shah Mahmud the World-Conqueror of Sayyid descent.” This short couplet is so replete with puns and double entendres that a “complete” translation might fill an entire page with text and commentary.
2718 AV ashrafi (3.46g), type A
2718A AV ashrafi (3.46g), full couplet of type A with mint below / full couplet of type D, date below, Isfahan 1140
2719 AR 5 shahi? (about 7.2g, to undetermined standard), type B
See note to type #2715 of Mahmud Shah.
2720 AR abbasi (4.61g), type B
2721 AR abbasi (4.61g), type D, struck only at Isfahan, 1140-1411, normally with accession year 1137 on reverse
2721A AR shahi (1.15g), type E

Azad Khan, 1163-1170 / 1750-1757

Types for the reign of Azad Khan (struck 1167-1170 only). The chronology of the various types remains uncertain.

A. Couplet type, with mint & date on reverse, Ta ke azad dar jahan bashad / sekke ye saheb oz-zaman bashad.
B. Same couplet, mint & date below couplet, Sunni kalima on reverse.
C. Couplet type, with mint & date on reverse, Ta zar o sim dar jahan bashad / sekke ye saheb oz-zaman bashad.
D. Same couplet, mint & date below couplet, Sunni kalima on reverse.
E1. Ya saheb oz-zaman (“O Master of Time”) on obverse, mint (with epithet) & date on reverse.
E2. Ya saheb oz-zaman on obverse, with mint below, Shi’ite kalima and mint (without epithet) on reverse.
F. Odrekiy va saheb oz-zaman (“Give me succor, O Master of Time”) on obverse, mint & date on reverse.

There is some doubt whether types E and/or F belong to Azad Khan or to Karim Khan; I have tentatively assigned both to Azad, based on extant mint/date combinations. Further research essential.

Types C & D have occasionally been assigned to Karim Khan Zand, but it is clear from the range of mints & dates that they can only belong to Azad.
2732 AR shahi (1.15g), type B
RR

2733.1 AR shahi (1.15g), type E1, mints of Isfahan & Shiraz (tentative attribution)  
RR

2733.2 AR shahi (1.15g), type E2, Isfahan 1167 only (tentative attribution)  
RRR?

2734 AR shahi (1.15g), type F, Isfahan & Rasht (tentative attribution)  
RRR

AFGHAN REVOLT AT ASTARABAD

Anonymous, circa 1172-1173 / 1760

2734D AR 6 shahi (6.91g), ya saheb oz-zaman obverse, mint and date plus khalada Allah mulkahu reverse  
RRR

Known only from Astarabad, dated 1173.

AFSHARID

See bibliographic entries under the Safavids and Durrans.

Founded by Nadir Shah (Ndr-quli Beg), originally a general in the service of Tahmasp II. Nadir received the vice-regency of the eastern provinces in 1142/1729, in recognition of his services in defeating the Afghans at Isfahan, and became king upon his deposing Abbas III in 1148/1733. After 1163/1750, the Afsharids remained a local dynasty in Mashhad for another 55 years, until 1218/1803, as vassals of the Durranis but sporadically permitted to exercise the mint right in their own name.

Nadir Shah, as viceroy in the East, 1142-1148 / 1729-1735

All coins of Nadir as viceroy are anonymous, with the couplet, Az Khurasan sekeb bar zar shod be-tafigh Khuda / Nusrat o emdud-e shah-e din 'Ali-e Musa Reza.695 The silver is struck to the 1400 nokhod standard of contemporary Safavid sultans and their rivals. Earlier numismatists, including Lane Poole & Rabino, have wrongly assigned coins bearing this couplet to either Tahmasp II or 'Abbas III (Safavid), depending on the date. Mashhad is the most common mint, though Mazandaran & Simnan are only scarce. All other mints are rare. From the reign of Tahmasp II until the closure of the Mashhad mint under Nasir al-Din Shah Qajar, the mint name Mashhad is normally accompanied by the epithet muqaddas, "holy".

2735 AV ashrafi (3.46g)  
RR

2736.1 AR abbasii (5.34g), 12 Imams in reverse margin  
C

2736.2 AR abbasii (5.34g), pellets only in reverse margin  
C

2737 AR 2 shahi (2.68g)  
RR

2738 AR shahi (1.34g)  
R

Nadir Shah, as king, 1148-1160 / 1735-1747

Silver coins of types A & B were struck to the 1400-nokhod standard, types C & D to the 1200-nokhod standard, introduced in 1150. Gold coins of all types follow either the Indian mohur or the Safavid ashrafi (3.46g).

Types A & B were struck on thin broad flans similar to previous Safavid issues, whereas types C & D were struck on thick narrow flans (with a few exceptions) typical of contemporary Indian coinage, for both gold and silver.

Types for the reign of Nadir Shah as king:

A. Toughra type, couplet obverse, sekheh bar zar kard nam-e saltanat-ra dar jahan / nader-e iran-zamin o khosrov-e giti-setan.696 The chronogram for the year 1148 is on reverse, arranged as a toughra, mint and date on either side, occasionally both sides (1148-1150). There are two variants, type A1 with the mint below the obverse, type A2 with the mint on the reverse, ordinarily inserted within the toughra.

B. Toughra type, couplet obverse, zu saheb oz-zaman, mint & date plus khalada Allah mulkahu reverse  
RRR

Anonymous (tentative attribution)  
RRR

C. Al-sultan nader on obverse, usually in small central medallion, with mint & date on reverse (1150-1152). The benediction khalada Allah mulkahu appears on reverse at all mints except Bahkara, whose type is here indicated as C*.

D. Couplet obverse, haft soltan bar solati-ye jahan / shah-e shahan nader-e sahebgeran,697 reverse as C (1151-1160), introduced first at Delhi, called Shahjahanabad on the coins, then adopted throughout Iran in the following year. There are two subtypes: D1 without Khalada Allah mulkahu on reverse, D2 with Khalada Allah mulkahu on reverse. D1 was used at all Iranian mints as well as Sind, D2 at Kabul and all Indian mints other than Sind.

Two additional types were used only at Indian mints:

E. Sekke ye mobarak-e padshah-e ghazi nader shah, i.e., except for the name nader, identical to contemporary coins of the Mughal Muhammad Shah, i.e., with mint & date in the traditional Mughal julus formula on the reverse, zarve X sau-e Y julus-e meymunat-ma'rus, where X & Y are the mint and regnal year, respectively.

F. Couplet obverse, dadeh zib-e tazeh-ru bar mehr o mahu / az sekke-ye nader shah-e gtit-panah,698 reverse as type E.

Initially, Nadir Shah maintained the late Safavid denominations based on the gold ashrafi of about 3.46g and the silver abbasi of 5.37g, together with some characteristic fractional denominations. After his conquest of Qandahar in 1150, Nadir integrated the Indian and Iranian monetary systems, introducing the gold mohur of 11.04 grams and the Shahjahanabad rupee of 11.52g from the Mughals, i.e., with the mohur weighing 22/24 of the rupee. India had long before adopted the Iranian mithqal weight, which by the 17th century had become fixed at 4.61g, with the traditional Mughal rupee weighing exactly 2½ mithqal. Nadir ordered the abbasi to be reduced from 5.37g to 4.61g, i.e., from 28 to 24 nokhod, reducing the toman from 1400 to 1200 nokhod in silver. The rupee (rupai) was thus fixed at 2½ abbasia, equivalent to 10 shahis.

A double rupi or 5 abbasia silver coin was also struck, but only in the eastern half of his kingdom. The gold ashrafi retained the Safavid weight of about 3.46g, equivalent to ¾ of a mithqal, and was struck only at Iranian mints.

Afsharid coins of the 6 shahi, rupi, and double rupi denominations are occasionally found countermarked rusyi or khali, occasionally dated. See #A3094 ff. for details.

2739.1 AV mohur (11.00g), to the Mughal standard of 23/24 of the rupee weight, type D1  
S

Struck at Iranian mints (& Sind), of which only Isfahan, Tabriz, and Mashhad are relatively common.

695 “Nadir, the Shah of Shahr, the Sahebgeran, the sultan over the sultans of the world.”

696 “From the coins of Nadir, the king who grants asylum to the world, he gives beauty and cheer to the sun and the moon.” The words from the coins of Nadir can also be understood as from (his) brilliant coins.

697 In principle, it seems that the actual weight of the new Afsharid mohur was a trifle lighter, as specimens in extremely fine or better condition tend to weigh between 10.85 and 10.95g, whereas the Mughal mohurs usually range 10.95 and 11.02g. To the contrary, contemporary rupis in comparable grades maintain the full theoretical Indian weight of 11.52g, sometimes as heavy as 11.60g. Whereas the Mughal rupee at their capital Shahjahanabad and their declining territory still under effective Mughal rule, as well as the regions under European influence, maintained the 11.52g rupee, subordinate regions, such as the Maratha territories, had already reduced the rupee to local standards between 10.9 and 11.4 grams. Nadir Shah retained the 11.52g weights for all mints, in both Iran and India.

698 “By the grace of God, coinage in gold in Khurasan became the succor and support for the King of the Religion, ‘Ali b. Musa Reza.” The Shi’ite caliph ‘Ali b. Musa is buried at the shrine in Mashhad.

699 “The coins of gold placed the name of the sultan in the world, the Nadir of the land of Iran, the Caesar who seizes the universe”. The word Nadirmeans “rare” or “unparalleled”, whence the pun. The spelling “Nader” reflects the Farsi pronunciation of Nadir.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 285
2739.2 AV mohur (11.00g), type D2, with khalada Allah mulkahu on reverse
Indian mints, including Bhakhar, Peshawar, Derajat, and Kabul.698

RRR

2740.1 AR ashrafi (3.46g), type A1, broad flan RR

2740.2 AR ashrafi (3.46g), type A2, broad flan RR

2741 AR ashrafi (3.46g), type B, broad flan R

2742 AR ashrafi (3.46g), type C, struck on thick narrow flans, mainly at Mashhad

A2743 AR ashrafi (3.46g), type D, thick narrow flan, Mashhad mint

2744 AR rupi (11.52g), type D2, Kabul and Indian mints, including Bhakhar, Peshawar, Derajat, and Lahore) extremely rare.

2744.1 AR rupi (11.52g), type D1, Iranian mints, without the formula khalada Allah mulkahu

The only common mints are Isfahan, Tabriz and Mashhad, with Tiflis, Qazvin and Shiraz only moderately rare. Also struck at Sind (S, RR with date).

2744.2 AR rupi (11.52g), type D2, Kabul and Indian mints, with the formula khalada Allah mulkahu added to the reverse

The only frequently seen mints are Bhakhar & Peshawar.

2744.3 AR rupi (11.52g), also type D2 as #2744.2, but struck at Shahjahanabad (Delhi), dated 1151-1152

This is the conquest coin that proclaims Nadir’s defeat of the Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah and his occupation of Delhi. Nadir restored Muhammad Shah in exchange for the contents of the Mughal treasury, allegedly some 700,000,000 rupees, plus the Mughal throne (the Peacock Throne, still in Tehran) and other riches.

2745 AR rupi (11.52g), type E, Azimabad (= Patna) only

RRR

2746 AR rupi (11.52g), type F, struck at Murshidabad and Muhammadabad Benares

RRR

2746A AR ½ rupi (5.76g), type F, Murshidabad only

RRR

2746B AR ½ rupi (2.88g), type F, Murshidabad only

RRR

2746C AR ¼ rupi (1.44g), type F, Murshidabad only

RRR

2746D AR 1/16 rupi (0.72g), type F, Murshidabad only

RRR

Coins of type F, struck only at Murshidabad, were probably produced only for presentation purposes. Only the full rupi is occasionally available. A complete set of all five denominations exists in the Ashmolean Museum (SCA 9:1404-1409).

2747 AR 6 shahi (6.91g), type C

A

Some rare examples are struck on broad flans, with a blank outer margin on both sides, not just on the obverse, probably for presentation purposes.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 286

698 In his corpus of Durrani coins, Whitehead includes “a double mohur of inferior style” of Lahore 1151 in the British Museum. When compared with the Lahore 1152 double rupee (Rabino-380), it is clear that the double mohur was not an official issue but a later jewelry piece. No genuine double mohur has been reported.

699 Sotheby’s, 15 November 1984, lot 471 (not illustrated).

700 In the 1960s I saw large numbers of Mughal rupees for sale in Tehran, terminating with year 22 of Muhammad Shah, but as there were few collectors interested in them, they were regularly melted down for silver. In 1965 I saw about 100-200 Nadir rupees of Shahjahanabad at a money-changer in Mashhad and purchased 6 or 7 pieces at just over the bullion price. When I returned the next day to buy some more, I was informed that the remainder had been melted for a jeweler! The seller assumed that I had already purchased what I wanted.

701 First reported in the ONS Newsletter, no. 202, p.14 (Tiflis 1150).

702 “By order of the Eternal One, coins of the sultana te in the name of ‘Ali were struck (same meaning, RR).

703 “After the pearl of the age of justice (i.e., Nadir Shah), coins were struck in gold in the name of the Sultan ‘Ali and illumined the world.” In fact, Nadir was assassinated by his own military commanders fearful of his ferocious cruelty and rising insanity.
2760 AR abassi (4.61g), type A
(Please note that the order of #2759-2764 has been altered.)
2761 AR abassi (4.61g), type B
2763 AR shahi (1.15g), type A

Ibrahim, before his formal enthronement,
Jumada II-Dhu’l-Hijja 1161 / June-December 1748

Types for the pre-enthronement reign of Ibrahim:

Z. Evocation Ya 'ali ebn-e musa al-reza, kalima reverse as type A of 'Adil Shah. This type is anonymous, and its attribution has been a matter of debate since 1886. It was formerly assigned to either 'Adil Shah or Shahrukh, but recent evidence has clinched the assignment to Ibrahim before his formal enthronement, as R.S. Poole had first looked likely in his 1886 publication.

This type was incorrectly entered as type C of 'Adil Shah in the first edition of this Checklist, corrected in the second.

All coins are dated 1161 (later coins are noted on #2759); coins dated 1160 are presumably examples where the engraver forgot to engrave the final digit, not an uncommon error for many 18th & 19th century Iranian coins.

A2759 AV mohur (11.00g), type Z, struck only at Isfahan

2759 AR rupi (11.52g), type Z

Types of this coin were also struck in 1162 at Kirman & Rasht, and in 1163 at Rasht for unknown reasons (mulings??). Three reverse variants: (1) the 12 Imams, (2) pellets without a surrounding empty margin, (3) pellets surrounded by a broad empty margin.

2762 AR abassi (4.61g), type Z
2762A AR shahi (1.15g), type Z

Ibrahim, as formal ruler, 1161-1162 / 1748-1749

Types for the reign of Ibrahim following his formal enthronement on 17 Dhu’l-Hijja 1161 (8 December 1748):

A. Obverse couplet, sekke-ye sahebqerani zad be-toufiq-e elah / hancho khorshid-e jahan-afroz ebrahim shah.704 Mint & date on reverse.

B. Obverse couplet, beneshast cho aftab naqsh-e zar o sim / ta yaft sharaf za sekke-ye ebrahim shah.705 Mint & date on reverse.

(D Type C has been reassigned to Amir Arslan Khan, below.)

D1. Al-soltan ebrahim in medallion on obverse, mint & date on reverse.

D2. As D1, but with khalada Allah mulkahu added to reverse.

A2764 AV ¼ mohur (2.76g)

2764 AR 12 shahi (13.82g), type A

2765 AR 6 shahi (6.91g), type D2, struck only at Astarabad

2766 AR abassi (= 4 shahi, 4.61g), type A

2767 AR abassi (4.61g), type B

(Types 2768 & 2769 have been reassigned to Amir Arslan Khan and are listed after #2770.)

A2770 AR 2 shahi (2.30g), type B

2770 AR shahi (1.15g), type D1, struck only at Tabriz and Tiflis

Amir Arslan Khan, at Tabriz only, 1161 / 1748

All coins of Arslan Khan are anonymous.

Types for Amir Arslan Khan:

A. Anonymous type (Tabriz mint only), obverse couplet, Za feyz-e hazrat-e bari o sameveisht-e gaza / ravaj yaf be-zar sekke-ye Emam Reza,706 kalima reverse. This type was wrongly classified as type C of Ibrahim in the first edition of the Checklist, corrected in the second edition.

704 “By the grace of God, Ibrahim Shah has struck the Sahebqeran coin, like the sun illuminating the world.”
705 “The shine of gold and silver was declining like the [setting] sun, until receiving the glory from the coin dies of Ibrahim.”
706 “By the favor of the Lord Creator and the vicissitudes of fortune, the coins of the Imam Reza ['Ali b. Musa] in gold have again found circulation.”

707 “By order of the king of kings, Nadir the Sahebqeran, the coins of Herat bore the name and sign of Shahrukh Shah.”
708 “By God’s command he struck coins in the world, Shahrukh, the dog on the threshold of Reza.” Reza is the eighth Shi’ite Imam, ‘Ali b. Musa al-Rida (al-Reza in Farsi), buried at Mashhad.
709 Except for Qazvin in 1163-1164, none of these cities fell within Shahrukh’s rule after his second enthronement in 1163, as ally of the Durrani ruler Ahmad Shah. The local authorities preserved his obsolete type B, reflecting their opposition to nearer Iranian rulers, such as the Safavids, Hotakis and Qajars, as well as the threatening Tsar of Russia and the feared Ottoman Sultan.
Shahrukh, 2nd reign, 1163-1168 / 1750-1755
From 1163 onwards, Shahrukh was vassal under the Durrani.

See types #2776 & 2777.1 for coins dated 1164-1170 but retaining type B of the first reign. Aside from a few rare issues of Isfahan, Mazandaran and Rashid, all type D coins were struck at Mashhad.

Types for second reign of Shahrukh as nominally independent king:
D. Couplet obverse, doubarer doulat-e Iran gereft az sar javani-rā/be-num-ē Shahrukh zād sekke-ye saheberqanerā,-109 mint on reverse (1163-1168).
2779 AV mohur (11.00g), type D, struck only at Mashhad
2780 AV ashrafi (3.46g), type D, struck only at Mashhad
2780 AR rupi (11.52g), type F, dated 1198 only RRR
2781 AR shahi (1.15g), type D RR
2783 AR rupi (11.52g), type E R
2784 AR rupi (11.52g), type F, dated 1198 only RRR
2785 AR shahi (1.15g), type D RR
2786 AR shahi (1.15g), type E RR

Shahrukh, 3rd reign, 1168-1210 / 1755-1796
Coins of the third reign were struck in the name of the Durrani overlord (regarded as normal Durrani issues), except during the years 1186-1198, when Shahrukh exercised the mint right in his own name. All coins of this reign were struck at Mashhad.

Types for third reign of Shahrukh as independent king:
E. Couplet obverse, Sekkeh zād az sa'y-e nader-e thani saheberqan / kalī-'ī soltan-e Khorasan Shahrokh shah-e jahan,-711 mint on reverse (1186-1197), date usually below obverse, often undated.
F. Couplet obverse, undeciphered, known only from a rupi dated 1198 in the Tübingen collection.

2782 AV mohur (11.00g), type E RRR
2783 AR rupi (11.52g), type E R
2784 AR rupi (11.52g), type F, dated 1198 only RRR
2784 AR shahi (1.15g), type E R

Nadir Mirza, in Mashhad, 1210-1218 / 1796-1803
As nominal governor under the Durrani until ejected after Fath ‘Ali Shah conquered Mashhad in 1218/1803.

Nadir struck coins in his own name briefly in 1216 only. Other 1210-1218 issues of Mashhad cite only the Durrani king and are thus classified as Durrani issues.

All his coins bear al-soltan nader within a cartouche on the obverse, surrounded by a blank margin, with the mint, its epithet, and the date, together with the phrase edama Allah doulatahu (“may God prolong his reign”), on the reverse.

2785 AR rupi (11.52g) RR
2786 AR shahi (1.15g), same type RRR

ZAND
See bibliographic entries under the Safavids.

All coins of this dynasty are technically anonymous (except those of Abu-l-Fath Khan and Sayyid Murad), but most bear an indirect evocation incorporating the ruler’s name, as noted in the type descriptions for each reign. All except Karim Khan’s type D and the issues of Ja’far Khan and Lutf ‘Ali Khan, bear the Zand couplet, introduced by Karim Khan in 1166. Until 1181, all Zand coinage was struck to the 1200-nokhod standard, but in that year the standard was reduced to 960 nokhod, meaning that the old rupi was now valued at 12½ instead of 10 shahis. At that time, the value of old coins, in terms of account units, was increased by a corresponding amount (as noted in the listings). In 1190, the standard was again reduced, this time to 800 nokhod, yielding a value of 15 shahis for the rupi.712

The difference between the devaluations of the toman during the Zand period and earlier devaluations was that instead of reducing the size of the coin, the coin sizes were retained but their values relative to the toman of account were increased. The older method, reducing the coin size, was resumed in the first year of the reign of ‘Ali Shah (1212/1797).

Common mints for Karim Khan are Tabriz, Qazwin, Rashid, Mazandaran, Isfahān, Keshān, Yazd, Shiraz, and the court mint of Rikab. No coins of the later rulers are especially common, but for some types, the mints of Isfahan, Keshān, Rashid or Yazd are occasionally available.

The overall quality of strike of Zand coins in silver and gold is remarkably good. Well-struck specimens are not especially rare for most types and mints, though artistically outstanding examples are rare and in strong demand. The die work is often superb, but as most coins were struck from dies that were larger than the flan, most extant specimens rarely do justice to the fine quality of the dies. In general, the obverse design was larger than the flan, the reverse design slightly to substantially smaller. There is a great variety of different cartouches, legend arrangements, calligraphic styles, etc., for the reverses, sometimes even at a single mint within a single year.

Karim Khan, 1166-1193 / 1753-1779
The name Karim is the 42nd Beautiful Name of God, meaning “the Bountiful”, “the Generous”. Technically, all of his coinage was anonymous, but most bear the formal evocation, ya karim, “O the generous!”

The Iraqi city of Basra was briefly brought under Zand control, circa 1190-1192, when silver abbasis and gold quarter & half mohurs, the first two of type D, the half mohur of type C. The “1196” half mohur is 1192 with the “2” retrograde.713

Types for the reign of Karim Khan Zand:
A. The Zand couplet shod afof o mah zar o sim dar jahan / az sekke-ye emam be-haqz saheb az-zaman,714 mint and date below, kalima on reverse (mainly 1166 to the early 1170s).
B. The Zand couplet on obverse, mint & date on reverse (struck 1169-1174 in gold, 1172-1179 in silver). A variant of this type is listed as #2799A.
C. As type B, but evocation ya karim added to reverse (struck 1173-1193), almost always atop the field, often in a cartouche that protrudes into the margin.715
D. Without couplet, instead the Shi’ite kalima on obverse, mint, date & evocation on reverse (generally struck 1174-1178 for some silver, then until 1193 for some gold coins and small silver shahis).
E. The Zand couplet on obverse, mint, date, together with the kalima, on reverse (see listings for dates).
F. Obverse as type A with the mint name & date below, evocation ya karim and the benediction khalaad Allah mulkahu on the reverse (see listings for dates).
G. Obverse as type A, short evocation ya karim & date only on reverse (see listings for dates).

Several local types bearing the Zand couplet, sometimes together with the evocation ya karim, were struck at mints in the Caucasus from about 1182-1236, but these are reckoned as issues of the local khans, q.v. (#2939 ff.)

711 “For the second time the state of Iran has taken on youthful vigor, for it struck Saheberqan coins in the name of Shahrukh.”
712 “Shahrukh, the dog of the Sultan of Khorasan [i.e., the 8th Imam, ‘Ali b. Musa], king of the world, has struck coins, by the efforts of Nadir, the second Saheberqan.” The puns and nuances of the Farsi text cannot be transferred into an English translation. For example, the Sultan of Khorasan can also be interpreted as the Durrani overlord, Taimur Shah, whom Shahrukh serves as though he were his dog!
713 The mint name is always Basra without the article umm al-bilad, which was also used on contemporary Durrani coins and civic coppers of Balkh.
714 “The sun and moon have become gold and silver throughout the world, by the coins of the Imam, indeed, the Master of Time.”
715 The year of transfer from type B to type C varied from mint to mint, hence the overlap 1173-1179. For example, Isfahān commenced type C in 1173 (perhaps as early as 1172, as a gold ¼ mohur is reported for that year and type), but Shiraz, Karim Khan’s capital, not until 1179.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2787</td>
<td>AV ¼ mohur (11.00g), type B</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2788</td>
<td>AV ½ mohur (5.50g), type C</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td>2789</td>
<td>AV ¼ mohur (5.50g), type D</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2790</td>
<td>AV ¼ mohur (2.75g), type B</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2791</td>
<td>AV ¼ mohur (2.75g), type C</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2792</td>
<td>AV ¼ mohur (2.75g), type D</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td>2793</td>
<td>AR rupi of 10 shahi (11.52g), type A</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td>2794</td>
<td>AR rupi of 10 shahi (11.52g), type B</td>
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<td>AR rupi of 15 shahi (11.52g), type C</td>
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<td>AR double abassi of 10 shahi (9.22g), type C</td>
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<td>2797</td>
<td>AR 6 shahi (6.91g), type B</td>
<td>RRR</td>
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<tr>
<td>2798</td>
<td>AR 6 shahi (6.91g), type G, obverse with Zand couplet below, reverse with ya karim &amp; date</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2799</td>
<td>AR abbasi (4.61g), type C</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2799A</td>
<td>AR abassi (4.61g), type B</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2800</td>
<td>AR abassi (4.61g), type D</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td>2801</td>
<td>AR abassi (4.61g), type D (1174-1178 only, mainly at the court mint Rikab)</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2802</td>
<td>AR abassi (4.61g), type E, Qazwin only, 1172-1176</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td>2803</td>
<td>AR abassi (4.61g), type F, probably only at Mazandaran, 1177-1179</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2803G</td>
<td>AR abassi (4.61g), type G, struck only at Mazandaran, 1180 (117x also reported)</td>
<td>RR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2803M</td>
<td>AR abassi (4.61g), countermarked rayyij, occasionally dated, on types #2799-2802</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2804</td>
<td>AR shahter (1.15g), type B</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2805</td>
<td>AR shahter (1.15g), type C</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2806</td>
<td>AR shahter (1.15g), type D, struck primarily at Tabriz and Yazd, probably until 1193</td>
<td>R</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A rupi of this ruler is purported to exist, but has not been confirmed by the author.

**Abu’l-Fath Zand, 1193 / 1779**

Abu’l-Fath’s types are identical to types C and D of Karim Khan, except that the obversion above the reverse has been replaced with his name abu’l-fath. For convenience, I have labeled them as types C & D, rather than A & B.

- 2807 AV ¼ mohur, Zand couplet obverse, type C | RR |
- 2808 AV ¼ mohur, kalima obverse, type D | RRR |
- 2809 AR shahter (1.15g), type C | RRR |

**Sadiq Khan, 1193-1195 / 1779-1781**

Coins of this reign are identical to type C (couplet) and type D (kalima) of Karim, respectively, including the evocation ya karim, and are distinguished only by date, and for that reason I have named them C and D. No coins dated 1193 can be assigned to this ruler and are thus regarded as issues of Karim.

- 2810 AV ¼ mohur, Zand couplet, type C | Shiraz mint only, for presentation only | RRR |
- 2811 AV ¼ mohur (2.75g), Zand couplet, type C | Shiraz mint only | S |
- 2812 AR rupi (15 shahi, 11.52g), Zand couplet, type C | Shiraz mint only | S |
- 2813 AR 4/5 rupi (9.22g, formerly described as a double abassi), couplet type C, Mazandaran mint only | Shiraz mint only | RRR |

**Sadiq Khan was assassinated during Rabii’ 1 1195, and was succeeded by ‘Ali Murad, but all silver and gold coins citing Karim Khan and dated 1195 are assigned to Sadiq for convenience, as they cannot be assigned to one of the two reigns. Similar coins dated 1196-1197 in the name of Karim Khan are now assigned to ‘Ali Murad (q.v.).**

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 289

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716 In 1964, I visited a shop in Lalehzar Avenue in Tehran that manufactured these and other tokens. These are known as noorer ("new year") tokens.

717 For this reason, I now regard Sadiq’s types as C and D (formerly as A and B) because they are identical to Karim’s C and D in all respects, and have not replaced the phrase ya karim with a theoretical ya sadiq. For both Abu’l-Fath and Sadiq, there is no longer a type called A or B. Sadiq Khan was murdered in Rabii’ 1 1195, shortly after ‘Ali Murad Khan conquered Shiraz and took Sadiq prisoner. Thus coins of type #28210 through #2814 dated 1196 are technically issues of ‘Ali Murad, but are still with the evocation of Karim. A few examples dated 1197 are also known for #2810. ‘Ali Murad replaced the evocation ya karim with his name ya ali at most mints in 1196, Kashan in 1197. A rupi of Isfahan dated 1194 and bearing his name is reported, but unconfirmed. Normal issues of Isfahan, with the evocation ya karim and dated 1194-1196, are listed under Sadiq Khan, even though Isfahan was technically controlled by ‘Ali Murad, theoretically in rebellion against Sadiq.
All circulation coins of this reign have the Zand couplet (except type #S2815) and all have the evocation ya 'ali, sometimes repeated three or four times in the reverse margin. Silver coins of this reign presumably continued to be struck to the 800 nokhod standard. Accordingly, the coin of rupi weight (11.52g) continued to be reckoned as 15 shahis. Coins dated 1196 and 1197 with the evocation of ya karim rather than ya 'ali are now assigned to 'Ali Murad, who replaced ya karim with ya 'ali at most mint later in 1196, at all mints by 1197. These coins are listed below, as types #E2815 & #G2815. Fractional silver denominations may also exist.

First series, with evocation ya karim, struck 1196-1197:

E2815 AV ¼ mohur (2.75g), couplet type, usually dated 1196
- Known for Kashan (RR) and Khuy (RRR) dated 1197.

G2815 AR rupi (15 shahi, 11.52g), dated 1196 only

Second series, with evocation ya 'ali, struck 1196-1199:

S2815 AV mohur (11.00g), kalima type, Shiraz mint only
- Donative issue, the only type struck for 'Ali Murad Khan with the kalima instead of the Zand couplet.

2815 AV ¼ mohur (2.75g), couplet type

2816 AR rupi (15 shahi, 11.52g)

2817 AR 4/5 rupi (12 shahi, 9.22g)
- This type was listed as a double abbasi in the first edition, corrected in the second. Struck only at Mazandaran.

2818 AR ½ rupi (5 shahi, 3.84g), Rasht mint only

2819 AR shahi (1.15g)
- Struck primarily for presentation purposes.

Ja'far Khan, 1199-1203 / 1785-1789

All coins of this reign have the evocation ya nam' ja'far-e sadeh filling the entire obverse, mint & date on reverse. All were struck at Shiraz, except for a rupi and shahi of Isfahan dated 1199.

The obverse evocation refers not to Ja'far Khan but to the 6th Shi'ite Imam, Ja'far b. Muhammad, al-Sadig, grandfather of al-Rida (Reza), killed in 148/765 and buried at the Jannat al-Baqi cemetery at the holy city of al-Madina in Saudi Arabia.

2820 AV mohur (11.00g)
- Struck only at Shiraz, 1199-1203.

2821 AV ¼ mohur (2.75g), posthumous, only known dated 1205
- Dated 1199-1205 correctly on reverse.

2822 AR rupi (15 shahi, 11.52g)
- Types #2822-2824 were struck as late as 1205, two years after he was murdered.

2822A AR rupi, debased style
- This type is identical to #2822 except that the weight is reduced, varying from about 8.5g to 11g, coarse calligraphy, always undated, with the mint name Shiraz. Find evidence suggests that these were imitative rupis struck somewhere in or near Sind (now in Pakistan) for local use, similar to type #2845 of Isfahan, in the name of the Qajar ruler Agha Muhammad Khan.

2823 AR 2/5 rupi (= 6 shahi, 6.91g)

2823A AR abbasi (4.61g), possibly dated 1205

2824 AR shahi (1.15g), for presentation only

Sayyid Murad, at Shiraz, 1203-1204 / 1789-1790

Coins of this reign bear the traditional Zand couplet of Karim Khan on the obverse, with his name sayyed morad atop the reverse in lieu of an evocation. All were struck at Shiraz.

A2825 AR rupi (11.52g)

B2825 AR shahi (1.15g)

Lutf 'Ali Khan, 1203-1209 / 1789-1795

Struck only at Kirman, with distich obverse, sekkeh bar zar gasht din-e ja'far az lutf-e ali, probably in 1207-1208 only. Earlier dates mentioned in the literature as issues of Lutf 'Ali are now assigned to Abu'l-Hasan Beglerbegi (type #I2826). Toman-based gold denominations replaced mohur-derived units before 1207.

ZAND REBELS

A number of local uprisings took place during the waning years of Zand rule. The coins ascribed to these uprisings all have the Zand couplet and follow Karim's type B or C, i.e., either with or without the evocation ya karim, as indicated for the rebels' types. The attributions are likely.

Taqi Khan Bafqi, in Yazd, circa 1199-1201 / 1785-1787

Without evocation, otherwise stylistically identical to contemporary issues of 'Ali Murad.

A2826 AV ¼ mohur (2.75g), known from Yazd 1199 only

B2826 AR rupi (= 15 shahi, 11.52g), similar, Yazd only, always undated

Hedayat Allah, in Rasht, 1199-1200 / 1785-1786

E2826 AV ¼ mohur (2.75g), mint of Rasht only
- With evocation ya Allah in place of ya karim. Shi'ite kalima obverse.

F2826 AR ¼ rupi (= 5 shahi, 3.84g), Rasht 1200 only
- With evocation ya karim, which distinguishes this type from #2818 of 'Ali Murad Khan, which bears the evocation ya 'ali. Karim was already dead for seven years, but the evocation no longer refers to the ruler!

Abu'l-Hasan Beglerbegi, in Kirman, 1193-1206 / 1779-1791 or 1792

I2826 AV ¼ mohur (2.75g), with the Shi'ite kalima on obverse
- Minted only at Kirman, with evocation ya karim above reverse; known dated 1204 (Sotheby's, 15 November 1984, lot 472).

J2826 AV ¼ mohur (2.75g), with the Zand couplet of Karim Khan, known dated 1206
- With evocation ya karim above reverse.

QAJAR

For bibliographic references, see entries under the Safavids. In general, the literature about Qajar coins is woefully inadequate and replete with errors and oversimplifications. Even the basic work of matching types to mints and dates remains undone. At present, the most comprehensive listing can be found in the Krause-Mishler Standard Catalog of World Coins, 18th and 19th century volumes.

In all, more than 35 mints struck coins for the Qajars, plus many others for civic copper coinage. For the first ruler, Muhammad Hasan Khan, only the rupis of Mazandaran and Rasht are common. Coins of Agha Muhammad Khan, especially silver, are remarkably scarce in view of his lengthy reign of eighteen years. Coins of all later rulers are abundant, except for the imposters in 1216 and 1250.

The number of mints for silver and gold reached its maximum under Fath 'Ali, the same mints remained common, so long as they continued to operate, with Tabaristan having replaced Mazandaran. Several additional mints, though generally rare, are common for short durations. For the rulers after Fath 'Ali, the same mints remained common, so long as they continued to operate, with Tabaristan having replaced Mazandaran about 1235. A tentative indication of rarity can be inferred from the listings in the Krause-Mishler catalogs, but the published market pricing is hopelessly obsolete.

In general, Qajar coins are rather carelessly struck. Well-struck and reasonably well-centered examples are generally scarce, though for some issues (especially in gold), finely manufactured specimens are the norm, particularly for the smaller denominations.

According to Rabino, silver coins theoretically maintained “parity”, i.e., a fineness of at least 99% silver, until the end of the reign of Fath 'Ali Shah. There is no information for Muhammad Shah. For Nasir al-Din Shah, the legal fineness was supposed to have been 90%, but
smelting revealed a fineness average of 82-85%, perceived as evidence of fraudulent activity by some of the mintmasters, and a reason to close the provincial mints and modernize the Tehran mint.

Modern minting machinery, imported from Austria, was placed in use during the mid-1290s. Most machine-struck silver and gold coins dated 1293-1295 are rare, with large-scale production commencing in 1296 for silver, 1297 for gold.

During the Afsharid through Qajar periods in Iran, as well as the Durrani periods in Afghanistan, and occasionally under the earlier Safavids, mint names were frequently inscribed along with their characteristic epithets. The normally encountered epithets are as follows, including several mints which did not operate as Qajar mints (marked with an asterisk, mostly Durrani mints). Dates are given in the Hijri calendar when appropriate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Epithet Understanding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ahmadshahi*</td>
<td>Ashraf al-Bilad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardabil</td>
<td>Dar al-Irshad, Dar al-Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astrabad</td>
<td>Dar al-Mu'minin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahawalpur*</td>
<td>Dar al-Surur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkh*</td>
<td>Umm al-Bilad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basra*</td>
<td>Umm al-Bilad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bukhara*</td>
<td>Balda-yi Fakhira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burujird</td>
<td>Dar al-Surur, changed to Dar al-Shawka during the year 1243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farah*</td>
<td>Dar al-Rifah (copper only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamadan</td>
<td>Balda-yi Tayyiba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herat</td>
<td>Dar al-Saltana, Dar al-Nusrat (the latter occasionally after 1273) also Dar al-Islam on some rare issues of 1273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hisar*</td>
<td>Shadman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irvan</td>
<td>Chukhr-1 Sa’di</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isfahan</td>
<td>Dar al-Saltana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabuli*</td>
<td>Dar al-Saltana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kashan</td>
<td>Dar al-Mu’minin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kashmir*</td>
<td>Khitta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khyu</td>
<td>Dar al-Safa (from 1238 onwards)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khwarizm*</td>
<td>Dar al-Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirman</td>
<td>Dar al-Iman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirmanshanah</td>
<td>Dar al-Dawla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lahore*</td>
<td>Dar al-Saltana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mashhad</td>
<td>Muqaddas, Ard-i Muqaddas, Ard-i Aqdas, and similar variations (sometimes without mashhad); the full name of the mint is mashhad al-rida ‘alayhi al-salat (with variations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mazandaran*</td>
<td>Dar al-Marz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multan*</td>
<td>Dar al-Aman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nihavand</td>
<td>Dar al-Nishat (1240s only), more rarely mah al-basta, which was a repeat of its early medieval title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nishapur</td>
<td>Dar al-Mulk, known dated 1242 only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qandahar*</td>
<td>Dar al-Qarar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qazvin</td>
<td>Dar al-Saltana, Dar al-Muwahhidin (the latter in Safavid times only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qumm</td>
<td>Dar al-Iman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rashit</td>
<td>Dar al-Marz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rikab</td>
<td>Durrabkhana-yi Mubarak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarakhs*</td>
<td>Nusrat al-Islam (1276 only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shahjahanabad*</td>
<td>Dar al-Khilafa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiraz</td>
<td>Dar al-’Im</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shushtar</td>
<td>Dar al-Mu’minin (under Fath ‘Ali Shah only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simnan</td>
<td>Dar al-Marhama (1240s only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sistan</td>
<td>Dar al-Nusrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabaristan</td>
<td>Dar al-Mulk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabriz</td>
<td>Dar al-Saltana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tehran</td>
<td>Dar al-Saltana, Dar al-Khilafa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuysirkhan</td>
<td>Dar al-‘Izza (after circa 1245, for Fath ‘Ali Shah only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urumi</td>
<td>Dar al-Nashat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yazd</td>
<td>Dar al-‘Ibada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zanjan</td>
<td>Dar al-Sa’ada, later Dar al-Nishat (both epithets in the 1240s only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Muhammad Hasan Khan, 1163-1172 / 1750-1759**

After the assassination of Muhammad Hasan Khan in 1172, the Qajars withdrew from leadership until the death of Karim Khan in 1193.

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719 Renamed Tabaristan in 1236, at which time the epithet was changed to Dar al-Mulk.

720 “Fate has auspiciously struck coins in gold, in the name of ‘Ali, son of Musa, Reza.”

721 “The coinage of prosperity, in the name of ‘Ali b. Musa Reza, became current with the fortune of the true faith, by grace of God.”

722 For type B, there are three subtypes of the first half of the couplet:

(B1) be-zar o sim ta neshan bashad
(B2) ta zar o sim-ra neshan bashad
(B3) ta zar o sim dar jahan bashad

All three varieties share the same second half of the couplet, sekhe-ye saheb oz-zaman bashad. Regrettably, I have never attempted to determine which mints & dates exist for which subtype.

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**Types for the reign of Muhammad Hasan Khan:**


**B. Evocation Ya ‘Ali ebn-e Musa al-Reza on obverse, mint on reverse, date on either side. This is identical to type Z of the Afsharid Ibrahim’s pre-enthronement coinage. The two types are distinguishable by date & style.

**C. Couplet, shod za yom-e din-e haqiq rayev be-tofiq-e khoda / sekhe-ye eqbal bar nam-e ‘ali ye musa al-reza (used at Rashat for at most a few months in 1168).**

All gold & silver coins of this reign follow the 1200-nokhod standard used generally throughout Iran from 1150 to 1181. All are anonymous but can readily be distinguished by type, mint and date.

Coins struck by authority of this ruler and dated prior to 1168 are regular types in the name of the Safavid Isma’il III, thus listed under that ruler. All coins assigned to this reign are dated 1168-1172, except for a few rare posthumous issues dated 1173 & 1175 (¼ mohur of Tabriz, type #2826), 1174 (rupi of Kashan, type #2827), perhaps authorized by Fath ‘Ali Khan Afshar in opposition to Karim Khan.

The only readily available coins of Muhammad Hasan are the rupis of type 2827 struck at Rashat and Mazandaran. All others are rare. Coins of this reign are normally superbly struck, often reckoned amongst the most beautiful of all Islamic coins.

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**Types for the reign of Agha Muhammad Khan:**

**A. Obverse couplet as type A of Muhammad Hasan Khan (be-zar sekheh az meymunat zad qaza / be-nam-e ‘Ali ebn-e Musa al-Reza), mint on reverse.**

**B. Obverse couplet as type C of Azad Khan Afghan, in the name of Saheb oz-Zaman, with some variations (couplet beginning ta zar o sim…), mint and evocation ya Mohammad on reverse.**

**C. Obverse with Zand couplet as types A through C of Karim Khan (couplet shod afsh o nash…), with mint and evocation ya Mohammad on reverse. Type C* differs from the normal type C because it lacks the evocation ya Mohammad.**

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Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 291
The coinage of Fath ‘Ali Shah (1212-1250) is still little understood, and the chronology of the various denominations is contentious. The type descriptions have been revised since the first edition, and the weight standards of the silver coinage are somewhat obscure, but the following development seems likely.

D. Kalima obverse, mint, date and evocation ya Mohammad on reverse, normally with date below the mint and the evocation below the mint.


The weight standards for the silver coinage of this reign are somewhat indecisive, but at the present state of research, the following development seems likely.

From 1194-1201, the toman of 800 nokhod (1 rupi = 15 shahis), introduced by Karim Khan in 1190, remained in use. From 1201-1204, the toman was revalued to 600 nokhod (1 rupi = 20 shahis). From 1204-1211, the toman was revalued to 528 nokhod (1 rupi = 10/11 of a riyal, with the riyal, introduced in 1204, fixed at 25 shahis, yielding a rupi worth something over 22 shahis). From 1211-1212, the riyal was reduced to the same weight as the rupi (1 riyal = 1 rupi = 25 shahis), with the toman reduced to 480 nokhod. This currency basis was used for the final issues of Agha Muhammad Khan, all issues in the nickname Baba Khan, and type CO of Fath ‘Ali Shah, terminating in 1213.

Older coins were presumably revalued in accordance with their weights, though I am unaware of any published reports that might corroborate this hypothesis. Contemporary accounts of European travelers to Iran indicate massive shortages of domestic coins during the reign of Agha Muhammad, clearly reflected in the relative rarity of his coins nowadays. The differences between types, weight standards and denominations are not yet understood. Hence the actual weight is given for each type. Nor has the chronology of the four standards and denominations been established. Type A is clearly early (1194-1200), but types B, C, and D were used concurrently from 1201 onwards, occasionally at the same mint during the same year. For this reason, I have not provided date ranges for the various denominations of types B, C, and D.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date Ranges</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A2831</td>
<td>AV 50 toman (410g), struck on square planchet, Tehran 1210 only</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>Only the 50 toman denomination was struck on square planchet. The 20 toman and 10 toman pieces are round.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2831</td>
<td>AV 20 toman (164g), peacock obverse, Tehran 1210 only</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2831</td>
<td>AV 20 toman (164g), lion obverse, Tehran 1210 only</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2831</td>
<td>AV 20 toman (164g), kalima obverse, Tehran 1211 only</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E2831</td>
<td>AV 10 toman (82g), kalima obverse, Tehran and Isfahan 1211 only</td>
<td>RRR</td>
<td>The above five heavy gold types were allegedly struck to mark the formal coronation of Agha Muhammad in 1210. If this is correct, one would assume that most examples were retained in the Qajar treasury until they were later sent to Russia as part of the reparations stipulated by the treaty of Torkmanchay in 1243/1828.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2831</td>
<td>AV ¼ toman (light standard, used 1205-1211, 4.10g), type B</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2832</td>
<td>AV ½ toman (4.10g), type C</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2833</td>
<td>AV ¼ toman (4.10g), type D</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2834</td>
<td>AV ¼ toman, heavy standard (3.20g) (1201), type C</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2835</td>
<td>AV ¼ toman, middle standard (2.88g) (1202-1205), type C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The riyal bore a fixed relationship to the currency toman (1 riyal = ¼ toman = 1250 dinars) and thus sank in weight in proportion to the toman. On the other hand, the rupi was a fixed weight of silver (60 nokhod) and thus rose in value (in dinars) as the currency toman was devalued. The origin of the riyal weight is unknown, though it is approximately equal to half the weight of the silver rouble of Catherine II of Russia.

The origin of the riyal weight is unknown, though it is approximately equal to half the weight of the silver rouble of Catherine II of Russia. Kingship belongs to God. The origin of the riyal weight is unknown, though it is approximately equal to half the weight of the silver rouble of Catherine II of Russia. Kingship belongs to God.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 292
A2853 AV ½ toman (3.07g, same as type #2858), now confirmed as type A RRR Known only from Tehran 1212.

2853 AR riyal (11.52g), type A R
2854 AR riyal (11.52g), type B R
2855 AR ¼ riyal (5.76g), type A R
2856 AR ¼ riyal (5.76g), type B RRR
2857 AR shahi (1.15g), type B RR

Fath ‘Ali Shah, 1212-1250 / 1797-1834

When carefully struck, coins of Fath ‘Ali Shah were superbly executed. Unfortunately, most examples, especially in silver, exhibit significant weakness of strike.

Types for the reign of Fath ‘Ali Shah (types A-F & CO refer to silver, types R-Y refer to gold). All types bear the ruler’s name and titles on the obverse, mint & date on reverse.

CO. (Coronation issue) amadeh az Fath-i ‘Ali sekekh bez-ar-e shahi,277 on obverse, mint & date on reverse, to the standard of 1 toman = 480 nokhod (1 riyal = 11.52g), used 1212-1213 only. The riyal was reckoned as 1250 dinars, or ½ toman. The reverse bears the slogan al-mulku lillah, “the kingship is God’s”.

A. Ruler’s name with title al-sultan, to standard of 432 nokhod for the toman (1 riyal = 10.36g), used 1213-1218. The reverse normally has the exclamation al-‘izza lillah, “God’s is the glory” at the top. Normally with thick boxy calligraphy, especially on the obverse.

B. Title al-sultan ibn al-sultan, plain fields, also to standard of 432 nokhod, used 1217-1222. Medium flowing calligraphy (nastaliq). Sometimes with al-‘izza lillah (not used after this type).

C. Legends as type B, but floriated fields and thinner, more flowing calligraphy, standard of 432 nokhod, used 1222-1232. Types B and C are visually distinctive and can readily be separated with a minimum of experience. Beginning with type C, dies were cut with very delicate background scrollwork, a practice retained until the end of hammered coinage in Iran.

D. As type C, but standard reduced to 384 nokhod for the toman (1 riyal = 9.21g), used 1223-1240. See note to #2886.

E. New inscription with ruler’s name followed by the title khosro-ye sahebqeran (“Caesar of the fortunate conjunction”) on the obverse. The standard was reduced to 360 nokhod, the principal coin a qiran (qiran, transliterated as kran in most European languages) of 1000 dinars weighing 6.91g, used 1240-1250.

F. Keshvarsetan type, with title khosro-ye keshvarsetan (“Caesar, the conqueror”) struck from dies intended for gold type Y, same standard as type E, known with dates 1246-1250.

The weight reductions of the gold coins did not correspond chronologically to the reductions of silver coins. It remains to be determined how the values of gold and silver coins were reckoned during this reign.

Very little fractional gold has been published, though it seems not exceptionally rare. Only a selection of fractional and multiple gold is listed here:

R. As silver type CO, 1 toman = 6.14g, used 1212-1213.
S1. As silver type A, 1 toman = 6.14g, used 1213 until at least 1216 and perhaps as late as 1217 or 1218, sometimes undated.
S2. As silver type B, 1 toman = 6.14g, known dated 1218-1221, often undated.
T1. As silver reverse type B, obverse somewhat like type A (not found for silver coinage), 1 toman = 5.76g, known dated 1221.
T2. As silver type C, 1 toman = 5.76g, used 1221-1224.
U. As silver type C, 1 toman = 5.37g, used 1224-1227.
V. As silver type C, 1 toman = 4.80g, used 1227-1229.
W. As silver type C, 1 toman = 4.61g, used 1230-1240 or later.
X. As silver type E sahebqeran, 1 toman = 4.61g, used 1240-1245.
Y. As silver type F (khosro-ye keshvarsetan), 1 keshvarsetan = 3.45g, used 1246-1250.

Many of the fractional silver and gold coins, especially those smaller than half the standard denomination, were struck for presentation or celebratory purposes. Such coins did not have to follow the same precise weight standards as circulation coins.

For that reason, the denominations given here for many of the smaller fractions are conjectural. Moreover, because the denomination is never inscribed on the coins, it can only be confirmed by physically weighing the coins.

Gold coinage

2858 AV ½ toman (3.07g), type R, struck 1212-1213 Specimens in pale gold, bearing mint name Rashid, are probably later jewelry copies; the epigraphy of these pieces is irregular.

2858A AV ¼ toman (1.54g), type R, known only from Yazd 1212 (SARC auction 11, lot 762) RRR

2859 AV toman (6.14g), type S1, struck 1213-1216 or slightly later Some coins of this type dated 1213 were struck on broader flans from dies ornamented with multiple dots throughout both obverse & reverse (RRR).

2860 AV ½ toman (3.07g), type S1 RRR
2860C AV toman (6.14g), type S2, struck 1217-1221 R
2860F AV toman (5.76g), type T1, struck 1221 only, always dated on both sides RRR Also known for Tehran with obverse & reverse date “122”, intended for either 1220 or 1221.

2861 AV toman (5.76g), type T2, struck 1221-1224 R
2862 AV ½ toman (2.88g), type T2 R
2863 AV 5 tomans (26.85g), type T2 RRR
2863 AV toman (5.37g), type U, struck 1224-1227 S
2864 AV toman (4.80g), type V, struck 1227-1229 S
2864H AV ½ toman (2.40g), type V, presentation style with reeded edge, Tabriz mint RRR Only reported specimen dated “122” with final digit omitted, unless the floral object shaped like “8” was accepted as “8”.

A2865 AV 3 toman (13.82g), presentation style, type W RRR
2865 AV toman (4.61g), type W, struck 1230-1240 C

In the late 1960s, an immense hoard almost exclusively of this type reached the market, allegedly from the Soviet Union. Its terminal date is 1235 and it was said to have contained at least 10,000 specimens, though that quantity cannot be confirmed. By far the most common piece in the hoard was Yazd 1233, though tomans of several other mints & dates were also found in large numbers.

Broad flan copies of tomans of Yazd 1232 or 1233 are known, struck in gold, silver, or base metal, sometimes coupled with a reverse of the Safavid ruler, ‘Abbas II (see note to #2645). They are most likely late 19th century jewelry imitations, easily distinguished by inappropriate epigraphy.

Some examples are known struck after 1240 (R).

2865A AV toman (4.61g), type W, as type #2865 but struck on reeded edge planchet for presentation purposes RR
2866 AV ½ toman (2.30g), type W R
2866A AV ½ toman (2.30g), type W, presentation type with reeded edge, Tabriz mint RRR
2867 AV ¼ toman (1.15g), type W RRR
2868 AV 4 toman (6.14g) (also called sahebqeran), type X, struck 1240-1245 R
2869 AV ½ toman (2.30g), type X RRR
2870 AV keshvarsetan (3.45g), type Y, struck 1246-1250 S
2871 AV keshvarsetan, obverse portrays the king seated on throne, with medallion bearing the ruler’s name to the left, mint & date in fancy border on reverse RRR

Silver coinage

There exist additional multiple denominations (3 & 5 toman in gold, 2 and 5 riyals in silver), mainly types C and D; all are extremely rare, issued solely for donative purposes.

277 “From Fath ‘Ali came the royal coins of gold”.
278 Gold coins of types S2 and T1 have only recently been confirmed. The dates of transition for these types remain uncertain due to a paucity of dated pieces.
The silver coinage of this reign was based on a riyal of 1250 dinars (= 25 shahi) until AH1240, thereafter on a qiran of 1000 dinars. The choice of fractions varied from mint to mint, depending, so it seems, on the local dinar of account, which varied from city to city (Rabino quotes the French traveler Duprê, who described the complex accounting situation circa 1223/1809).

The list of silver fractions given here is undoubtedly incomplete. Furthermore, the precise denominations of certain fractions remain to be ascertained, as noted in the descriptions.

2872 AR riyal (11.52g), type CO, struck 1212-1213
2873 AR ½ riyal (5.76g), type CO
Coins of type CO are frequently found mounted. It is probable that all coins of this type, together with the gold type R, were presentation types and not intended for normal circulation. They retain the 11.52g standard of Baba Khan, i.e., Fath ‘Ali before his coronation.

M2874 AR 2½ riyal (28.80g), type A
Struck to rupi standard of type CO, thus 2.5 x 11.52g. Known only for Kashan 1213.

2874 AR riyal (10.36g), type A, struck 1213-1219
Coins of type A are frequently dated on both sides, usually at the bottom of the field. Mismatched dates are fairly common.

2875 AR ½ riyal (5.18g), type A
2876 AR ¼ riyal (2.59g), type A
2877 AR ⅛ riyal (1.30g), type A
This has not been determined whether this fractional type is to be reckoned as one sixtieth of a riyal (1/6 riyal = 1.73g), or as an abacus of four shahi (= 4/25 riyal = 1.66g).

2878 AR 2½ riyal (28.25g), type B, reported only for Tabriz 1213 (sic)
A presentation issue to the 11.52g riyal standard of type CO.

2878 AR riyal (10.36g), type B, struck 1217-1222
Types A and B overlapped 1217-1219 at some mints.

2879 AR ½ riyal (5.18g), type B
M2880 AR 2 riyal (20.72g), type C, presentation strike with reeded edge
RRR

2880 AR riyal (10.36g), type C, struck 1222-1232
2880A AR riyal (10.36g), similar to #2880 but struck within a collar, with either plain or hand-cut reeded edge
RRR
This and other listed types of collar-struck coins of this reign seem to have been struck almost exclusively at Tabriz (#2880A, 2882A, 2886A, 2887A, and 2888A).

2881 AR ½ riyal (5.18g), type C
2882 AR ¼ riyal (2.59g), type C
2882A AR ¼ riyal (2.59g), as last but struck with collar, plain or hand-cut reeded edge, mainly Tabriz mint
RRR
2883 AR ⅛ riyal (1.30g), type C
2884 AR ½ riyal (3.45g), type C, Isfahan only
2885 AR ⅛ riyal (2.07g), type C, Yazd only
2885A AR ⅛ riyal (2.07g), type C, presentation style with or without reeded edge, broad margins, mainly Tabriz
RRR
A2886 AR 2 riyals (18.42g), type D
Struck only for presentation.

2886 AR riyal (9.21g), type D, struck 1232-1240
Coins of types C and D dated 1232 are currently indistinguishable except by weight. However, it is believed that at each mint, special symbols, mainly in the reverse marginal ornamentation, were used to mark each standard. The marks varied from mint to mint. The code, if it exists as I believe, remains to be deciphered.

2886A AR riyal, type D, similar to last but struck within collar, plain or hand-cut reeded edge, struck mainly at Tabriz
RRR
2887 AR ½ riyal (4.61g), type D

2887A AR ½ riyal, similar to last but struck within collar, plain or reeded edge, mainly Tabriz
2888 AR ¼ riyal (2.30g), type D
2888A AR ¼ riyal, similar to last but struck within collar, plain or hand-cut reeded edge, mainly Tabriz
2889 AR ⅛ riyal (1.15g), type D
2890 AR ½ riyal (3.07g), type D, mainly Isfahan
RR
Usually dated 1236, though some specimens seem to be dated 1246, perhaps with 3 recut to 4 or 4 recut to 3. Also known from Burujird dated 1240. Others mints may exist.

2891 AR 1/5 riyal (1.84g), type D, Yazd & Tehran only
Individual specimens often weigh in the 1.5-1.6g range, perhaps intended as 1/6 riyal. Probably issued mainly as holiday donatives rather than for circulation. Often found ex-mounted from jewelry. The Tehran example (Zeno-44671) weighs 1.84g.

2892 AR 1/12 riyal (0.76g), type D, Mazanderan only
A2893 AR ½ qiran (3.45g), type D, principally mints of Tehran and Shiraz
RRR
Struck from about 1236 onwards to the standard later adopted for the type E qiran. The function of such an isolated denomination is unknown.

U2893 AR 2 riyals (18.42g), type E, struck only at Mashhad 1246, mint & date on both sides, names of the Twelve Imams in the reverse margm
RRR

2893 AR riyal (9.21g), type E, struck only at Mashhad
S
Struck to the previous standard of 384 nokhod to the toman dated 1241-1246. By weight, the new qiran was precisely 3/4 of the type D riyal retained for this type, from which one can calculate that this riyal was 1-1/5 qirans.

2894 AR qiran (6.91g), type E, struck 1240-1250
2894F AR qiran (6.91g), Fath ‘Ali Shah seated on throne, struck at Isfahan 1241, standard reverse
Same design as the gold presentation type #2871.

2895 AR ½ qiran (3.45g), type E
2896 AR 2/5 qiran (2.76g), type E, struck only at Kirmanshahan
RR
2897 AR 1/5 qiran (1.38g), type E, mainly at Kirman
A single specimen has been reported minted at Tabriz.

RRR
2897B AR ¼ qiran (0.86g), type D, Shiraz 1248 only
The unique specimen struck from small dies, with the number 8 of the date recut over 7.

2898 AR qiran keshvarsetan (6.91g), type F, struck 1246-1250 at a limited number of mints
R
The keshvarsetan was intended only for gold, but occasionally used for silver as well, perhaps inadvertently.

RRR
2899 AR 1/5 qiran (1.38g), type F, struck only at Kirmanshahan
C2900 AR qiran, machine-struck pattern produced in England from dies engraved by W. Bain
RR
With lion & dragon holding a shield on reverse, below which appears the English letter B for Mr. Bain. Rabino #573.

Local provincial coinage:

2900 AR panabadi (about 2.5-3.0g), struck at Panahabad (Karabakh) in name of Fath ‘Ali Shah (circa 1214-1217/1800-1803)
RRR

A2901 AR abbasi (about 2.0g), Sheki mint (struck by the khan of Sheki in the name of Fath ‘Ali) (1241-1242)
D2901 AR 5 abbasi (15.50g), rectangular, Ganja mint
C2901 AR abbasi (3.10g), round, Ganja mint
B2901 AR ½ abbasi (1.55g), rectangular, Ganja mint

RRR

The three Ganja types bear the inscription Sultan Fath ‘Ali zarb Ganja on obverse, the Shi’ite kalima on the reverse. They were struck 1215-1217 only, and follow approximately the same standard adopted in 1804 for the Russian-style coinage of Georgia (KM73-75).

730 SICA 9, #1252.
731 Ponterio auction, Nov. 2009, lot 9656.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 294
Husayn Quli Khan, rebel at Isfahan against Fath 'Ali Shah, 1216 / 1801

J2901 AR riyal, Isfahan 1216 only RRR

Husayn ‘Ali Shah, 1250 / 1834

M2901 AV tomman Known from Shiraz 1250 (Peus 384, lot 1408).

2901 AR qiran, reported for Yazd & Kirman mints RRR

Sultan ‘Ali Shah, 1250 / 1834

E2902 AV tomman RRR

2902 AR qiran, Tehran mint RRR

Muhammad Shah, 1250-1264 / 1834-1848

Types for the reign of Muhammad Shah.732 silver coinage:

A. Mohammad shahshah-e enbiya’ (“Muhammad, king of the prophets”) on obverse, mint & date on reverse, to standard of 360 nokhod for the tomman (qiran = 6.91g), used 1250-1251.

All type A through type B silver coins of Muhammad Shah dated 1250-1254 must be weighed to confidently determine the type.

B. Similar, but reduced to standard of 330 nokhod (qiran = 6.33g), used 1251-1252.

C. Similar, but reduced to standard of 300 nokhod (qiran = 5.76g), used 1252-1254.

D. Similar, but reduced to standard of 280 nokhod (qiran = 5.37g), used 1254-1264 (most coins dated 1254 are type C standard).

E. Similar, same standard as type D, lion & sun obverse, Mohammad shahshah-e enbiya’ legend, mint & date on reverse, used at Tehran only, 1258-1264.

Types for his gold coinage:

R. As silver type A, to a standard of 1 toman = 3.84g (20 nokhod), used 1250-1254.

S. Similar, but to a standard of 1 toman = 3.45g (18 nokhod), used from 1255 until the end of his reign in 1264.

T. Lion & sun, arranged as silver type E, 1 toman = 3.45g, struck only at Tehran.

2903 AV tomman (3.84g), type R, struck 1250-1254 R

Some specimens are struck on carefully produced flans, with handcut reeded edge, presumably for presentation (RRR).

2904 AV tomman (3.45g), type S, struck 1255-1264 S

Design as type E of the silver coinage. Most specimens, if not all, have handcut reeding on the edge. Struck 1258-1264, but actual known dates undetermined.

2905D AV 1/10 toman (0.34g), type S, known only from Isfahan, undated RRR

2906 AR qiran (6.90g), first standard, type A, struck 1250-1251 S

Coins of type A are normally dated 1250, rarely 1251.

2907 AR ½ qiran (3.45g), type A R

2908 AR ¼ qiran (1.72g), type A S

2909 AR qiran (6.33g), second standard, type B, struck 1251-1252 R

Most coins of type B are dated 1251.

2910 AR ½ qiran (3.16g), type B R

2911 AR qiran (5.76g), third standard, type C, struck 1252-1254 S

2912 AR ½ qiran (2.88g), type C C

2913 AR qiran (5.37g), fourth standard, type D, struck 1254-1264, until 1266 at Mashhad A

The adoption of the 4th standard led to a massive recoinage in 1255 — qirans of this year are by far the most common of this reign. Fourth standard coins dated 1254 are very rare, as they are perhaps only the result of the usage of obsolete dies.

Posthumous dates 1265-1266 struck at Mashhad are issues of the rebellion of Hasan Khan Salar against Nasir al-Din Shah (RR).

2914 AR ½ qiran (2.68g), type D S

Only Shiraz, dated 1260-1264, is relatively common; other mints are rare.

2915 AR ¼ qiran (1.34g), type D R

2915A AR ½ qiran (0.67g), type D RRR

Some examples may be of earlier types, probably distinguishable only after die studies are completed, i.e., probably never.

2915B AR ¼ qiran, uniface strike, obverse only RR

Obviously without mint & date, weight from about 0.6g to 1.0g, struck for New Year celebrations, hence the variable weights. Not assignable to a specific type of this reign.

2916 AR 2 qirans (10.75g), lion & sun, type E RR

Most examples of #2916-2918 have handcut reeding on the edge.

2917 AR qiran (5.37g), lion & sun, type E S

2918 AR ½ qiran (2.68g), lion & sun, type E R

Nasir al-Din Shah, 1264-1313 / 1848-1896

Coins of the reign of Nasir al-Din Shah are not easily sorted into subtypes. For the Checklist, I have used a generic type designation for the basic design and denomination, with royal legend on obverse, mint & date on reverse. There is a wide variety of different borders, frames and ornaments, as well as variation in the royal inscriptions, calligraphy styles and layout of the inscriptions. Some clearly distinctive special types are listed here individually, as they are readily distinguishable and keenly sought by collectors.

Types for the reign of Nasir al-Din Shah, silver coinage:

A. Name & titles on obverse (various arrangements of the text), mint & date on the reverse, struck to a standard of 1 toman = 280 nokhod (1 qiran = 5.37g), inherited from Muhammad Shah and used 1264-1274 (until 1276 at Herat).

B. Similar, but to a standard of 260 nokhod (1 qiran = 4.99g), used 1271-1296 (note overlap with type A).

Types for his gold coinage:

R. Similar, to a standard of 1 toman = 3.45g. The same dies were often used for both gold and silver. Strangely, the transition from the 5.37g to the lighter 4.99g standard took place gradually at various mints between 1271 and 1274.733 By 1275, the lighter standard was universally adopted, but coins of both standards continued to circulate together, with apparently no desire to separate them at different values.

Between 1293 and 1296, modern machine-made coinage was introduced into Iran at the Tehran mint. These are not included in this Checklist, but can be referenced in SCWC. The remaining provincial mints were closed down at the same time, gradually between 1293 and 1297. The machine-struck qiran weighed 4.61g (24 nokhod), and the toman 2.88g (15 nokhod).

NOTE: Regular issues are #2921-2922, 2927-2932 and 2935. All other issues are special types, presentation issues, or commemoratives.

2919 AV 3 tomans (10.35g), type R RRR

2920 AV 2 tomans (7.90g), type R RRR

2921 AV toman (3.45g), type R C

2922 AV ½ toman (1.72g), type R S

A2923 AV ¼ toman (0.86g), type R RR

Some examples are clearly lighter, circa 0.65-0.70g, suggesting that they are 1/5 toman rather than ¼ toman issues.

733 The exception is Herat, occupied by Iran briefly in 1269 and again from 1273-1279, with silver qirans struck in the name of Nasir al-Din during all those years. Issues until 1276 weigh 5.37g, with the reduced weight of 4.99g commencing in 1277. After the Barakzay reconquest of Herat during the last month of 1279, the Iranian qiran was retained as the Herat denomination until the closure of the mint in 1308 for silver coinage (copper issues continued until 1348). Silver qirans in the name of Nasir al-Din Shah continued to be struck during the early months of 1280. They were probably struck during the brief period between the death of Dost Muhammad at Herat eight days before the end of 1279 and the formal coronation of Sher Ali Khan at Kabul about two months later.

The only gold coin known from Herat is the ½ toman dated 1276 (RRR, type #2922).

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 295
2923 AV 2 tomans (7.90g), portrait obverse (facing portrait)
Struck principally at Kirmanshahan in 1271.

2923A AV 2 tomans (7.90g), portrait obverse (Shah seated on throne, cross-legged), wreathed obverse & reverse
Struck only at Isfahan in 1271.

2924 AV 2 tomans (7.90g), toughra obverse
Struck only at Mashhad in 1281.

2925 AV toman (3.45g), portrait obverse (profile portrait, head facing left), struck 1271-1274 at Tehran (cf. #2935)
Also known for Astarabad 1276 (SARC auction 8, lot 388).
Other mints may exist.

2925A AV toman (3.45g), obverse portraying Shah seated on throne, Isfahan mint only

2925B AV toman (3.45g), toughra obverse (similar to silver type #2936), struck only at Mashhad
One form lacks the mint name as Mashhad, but rather has the title zarb-e ard aqdas imam 'alayhi al-salam, an honorary title of the city of Mashhad.

2926 AV ½ toman (1.73g), portrait obverse, as #2925, struck at Tehran

2926A AV ½ toman (0.69g), portrait obverse as #2925, reported for Tehran 1272 only, but other mints or dates undoubtedly exist

2927 AR qiran, first standard (5.37g), type A

2928 AR ½ qiran (2.68g), type A

2929 AR ¼ qiran (1.34g), type A

2930 AR qiran, second standard (4.99g), type B
For examples of #2930 & #2927 with reeded edge, see #2938N.

2930K AE “qiran”, probably close to the 2nd standard
These are copper issues struck from dies used for silver qirans, perhaps intended to be silver-plated and passed as “genuine” qirans. Known from Astarabad 1279, Isfahan 1278, Tabriz 1279, Kirmanshahan, date missing, Tehran 1278, perhaps others as well, perhaps produced illicitly by the government, or more lightly, privately with stolen official dies.

2931 AR ½ qiran (2.49g), type B

2932 AR ¼ qiran (1.25g), type B
When the date is illegible or missing, and the coin is worn or damaged, qirans, halves and quarters cannot necessarily be assigned to types A or B, due to uncertain interpretation of their weight. They may be categorized as types #2930X, #2931X, and #2932X, respectively.

2933.1 AR ½ qiran (0.62g), type A or B, uniface
Uniface examples were struck on rather broad, wafer-thin flans. These were intended as favors for the New Year celebration and were known as shahi safid, “white shahi,” to distinguish them from the copper shahi. Theoretically the shahi safid of type A should weigh 0.67g and type B 0.62g, but actual specimens vary considerably in weight, so that types A and B cannot be distinguished unless the date is clear, as is virtually never the case. Therefore I have listed them as a single type. Uniface pieces were struck with either obverse or reverse dies.

2933.2 AR ½ qiran (0.62g), type A or B, struck with both obverse and reverse dies, usually with legible mint name and occasionally dated
The following types, #2934-2938, also #2938C & 2938S-2938U, are best regarded as a temporary or transitional coinage. Except for #2935, these types normally have hand-cut reeded edges on broad evenly round planchets, whereas type #2935 was struck rather carelessly on traditional planchets for general circulation, where they were retained for many years.
Types #2938G-2938N are presumably presentation issues.

2934 AR qiran, profile portrait type, second standard (struck in 1272 at Tehran only)

2935 AR ½ qiran, profile portrait type, similar
Struck only at Isfahan (S), Qazwin (R) and Tehran (C), 1271-1275. Unlike the full qiran (#2934), the half qiran was crudely struck for normal circulation.

2935A AR ½ qiran, similar, but carefully struck on broad reeded planchets

2936 AR qiran, toughra type, various issues struck in the 1280s and 1290s, mainly at Mashhad

2937 AR qiran, double-headed eagle type, struck at Astarabad 1277-1278

2938 AR qiran, flower design obverse, struck at various mints, first standard
The obverse legend is divided into four petals, sometimes with a central medallion. Struck mainly at Astarabad and Hamadan.

2938C AR qiran, facing half portrait obverse, Tehran 1271 & Astarabad 1272
Same style & size as the gold double toman of Kirmanshahan 1271 (#2923), with crude reeding. Both probably unique.

2938G AR 5 qirans (26.85g), wreaths in margin as #2938K, milled on carefully produced, unreeded edge and almost perfectly struck, Tehran 1267
Undoubtedly struck for presentation purposes, perhaps in recognition of Nasir al-Din’s conquest of Mashhad in the previous year. The blank planchet may have been imported from Europe or India, as Iran lacked the technology to produce such a planchet during the 1850s.

2938J AR 2 qirans (about 10g), standard inscriptions as #2930 but with broad blank margins on carefully shaped planchets, Tabriz 1294
Probably produced only for presentation purposes, with special royal titulature in the lower section of the obverse, khusro-ye sahebqeran.

2938L AR qiran, style of type #2930 with normal titulature, broad blank margins as #2938J, Tabriz 1280
Titulature al-sultan ibn al-sultan.

2938K AR qiran, similar to 2938J but with wreaths filling the outer margins on both sides, Tabriz 1293 with the “9” retrograde
Also with the obverse text including the title khusro-ye sahebqeran, but at the top of the obverse area.

2938N AR qiran, standard inscriptive type as #2927 & 2930, but with hand-engraved reeded edge, struck at several mints, without outer margin

2938S AR qiran, lion & sun types, three varieties, Tehran mint only, dated 1295-1296 (KM845.1, 845.2, and 845.3)

2938T AR qiran, wreath type, standard inscriptions, struck on hammered blanks, Tehran 1295 only, with mint epithet dar al-khilafa (KM844)

2938U AR qiran, as #2938T but without mint epithet (KM845.4), Tehran 1296 only
Modern machine-struck qirans were introduced in 1294 and in larger quantities from 1295 onwards, followed by additional denominations in silver & gold commencing in 1296/1297. It is unknown why the Tehran mint would continue producing hand-struck coins in 1295 and 1296, albeit in negligible quantities.

The machine-struck coinage is listed in SCWC, with indication of rarity and value, now increasingly obsolescent. There are many multiple denominations and pre-modern award medals not listed above for Fath ‘Ali Shah, Muhammad Shah, and Nasir al-Din Shah, in both gold and silver. All were likely intended solely as presentation or largesse issues, and all are very rare. They are usually of exceptional workmanship. There were also award medals struck as military orders, both in silver and gold, usually with a couplet narrating that the medal is an award for bravery. Most have the lion & sun motif on either obverse or reverse. Some are relatively common, others very rare, and nearly all are found ex-mount. There is no comprehensive catalog of these pieces, though a small number were listed and illustrated by Rabino.

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734 Only reported specimen is Tübingen #97-6-97.
Khanates of Caucasus

More than a dozen independent khanates arose in the Caucasus during the chaos that emerged after the death of Nadir Shah in 1160/1747. Seven of these khanates (Ganja, Shkvet, Derbent, Kuba, Karabak & Georgia) issued distinctive coins of their own from some time in the 1750s to between 1800 and 1828, ceasing their production as they were absorbed into the Russian Empire. Their coins have only been superficially researched, and no good publications have yet appeared, though it is anticipated that this will change, given fittingly increased numismatic interest in the Caucasus region. Not only the sequences of types, but even the sequences of rulers are still imperfectly known. The listings here are surely fragmentary, due to the inaccessibility of the material and lack of publications, and are meant only as a preliminary organization of a little-known coinage. However, since about 2005 major research has been underway, published as articles in the ONS Newsletter, in various Russian academic publications, and soon as independent volumes.  

The principal denomination was the abassi (aka abazi), which began at its Iranian weight of 4.6 grams and sank to various reduced standards, ranging from about 2.0 to 4.3 grams at the different khanates. The sequence of weight standards for the various khanates remains obscure. All coinage is anonymous or in the name of a living or deceased Iranian shah.

Ganja

A thorough study of this series by A.V. Akopyan is expected to be published in 2011 or shortly afterwards.

One of the more important khanates numismatically, with its solitary mint at Ganja, located in northwestern Azerbaijani. The earlier coins are local types in the names of either Nadir Shah or Karim Khan, later types anonymous, some with the Zand couplet introduced by Karim Khan, some with the Shi’ite kalima, some with the evocation ya saheb oz-zaman, “O master of time.” The “master of time” can refer either to the 12th Shi’ite Imam, the current ruler, or perhaps the Tsar of Russia!

All coins of this khanate bear the mint name Ganja. Until the end of type #2943 in 1181, all coins of Ganja were generally neatly struck on compact flans and are regularly found in very fine or better condition. Later in 1181, much broader and thinner silver planchets were introduced, usually at least partly weakly struck until 1189. Thereafter, the overall quality continued to deteriorate. Individual specimens of all types after 1181 are quite frequently up to 10% lighter than the theoretical standard, even high grade examples. Copper coins of the time of the khanate are indistinguishable from ordinary Iranian civic coppers, and are thus listed under that rubric (#3230).

Types for the coins of Ganja (as on Zeno.ru):

A. Legend al-sultan nadir on obverse, zarb-e ganja & date on reverse.
B. Shi’ite kalima on obverse, zarb-e ganja, with ya karim above, on reverse, often dated (on reverse).
C. Couplet shod aflat o mah sar o… on obverse (as on type #2800 of Karim Khan Zand), mint, date and ya karim on obverse. The phrase ya karim may appears within the central circle, or outside the circle in a separate cartouche.
D. Phrase ya saheb oz-zaman on obverse, mint, date & ya karim on reverse.
E. Shi’ite kalima on obverse, mint, date & ya karim on reverse, within the central circle, accompany by on reverse, within the central circle, accompany by ya Allah in a separate cartouche above.

T. Georgian type, al-hamdu lillah rab al-‘alamin, “praise to God, Lord of the universe”, on the obverse, mint, date and ya karim on the reverse.

temp. Shah Verdi Khan, 1160-1174 / 1747-1760

All coins of Shah Verdi Khan are of type A.

2939 AR abassi (4.6g), in the name of Nadir Shah, dated “1155”, 1172-1174

Coins dated 1155 were presumably struck 1169-1172 with a fictitious date that lay within the lifetime of Nadir Shah, whereas coins struck 1172-1174 bore the actual date. Coins of Shah Verdi Khan struck until 1168 are regular types of the Afsharid rulers Ibrahim and Shahrukh.

2940 AR ½ abassi (2.3g), similar, “1155” & 1173

A2940 AR ¼ abassi, similar, dated “1155” only

temp. Muhammad Hasan Khan, 1174-1195 / 1760-1780

2941 AR abassi (4.6g), in the name of Nadir Shah (type A), dated 1175-1181

Coins of this type dated 1187 and 1188 are errors for 1178 and 1177, respectively.

2942 AR ½ abassi (2.3g), similar, dated 1178 only

A2943 AR ¼ abassi (or shahi, 1.15g), similar, occasionally undated

2943 AR abassi (4.6g), kalima obverse (type B) dated 1174-1177, 1179, 1181 and “1189”, the last an error for 1179

One variety of this type is undated, stylistically resembling the Iravan & Nakhjawan abassas of Karim Khan struck circa 1179-1181.

A2944 AR abassi (about 3.8g), with the couplet shod aflat o man… (type C), reduced weight, 1181-1188 and “1194” (1194 presumably a typo for 1184) S

Identical to type C of Karim Khan Zand, but weight reduced from 4.6 to 3.8 grams. Date above the mint name within the central circle, ya karim in a separate cartouche outside the circle.

B2944 AR ½ abassi (about 2.3g), type as #A2944, dated 1188 only

C2944 AR ¼ abassi (or shahi), type as last, known dated 1183-1184, 1186, 1188

Weight probably about 0.95g (examples known in the Hermitage Museum).

F2944 AR abassi, type A2944 countermarked rayij

H2944 AR abassi (about 3.2g), type C, 1188-1189

As #A2944 but with ya karim inside the central circle and the date at the bottom of the circle. Note the weight reduction.

2944 AR abassi (about 3.08g), with ya saheb oz-zaman on obverse (type D), dated 1181 and 1189-1195

Examples of 1189 seem to be heavier, perhaps about 3.4g. Further research needed.

The 1181 issue is probably most likely error-dated.

2944U AR fractional abassi (about 1.9g), denomination undetermined, type D, known dated 1193

2944V AR fractional abassi (about 0.9g), denomination undetermined, type D, known dated 1189

Karabakh-Georgian occupation, 1195-1198 / 1780-1783

2944A AR abassi (probably 3.08g), ya saheb oz-zaman (type C), but dated 1196-1198

temp. Hajji Beg, 1198-1200 / 1783-1785

2944C AR abassi of reduced weight, shod aflat o mah… couplet (type C)

2944B AR abassi of reduced weight, ya saheb oz-zaman (type D)

temp. Rahim Khan, circa 1199-1200 / 1785-1786

2944M AR abassi of reduced weight, couplet type C

The attribution of types #2944B, 2944C and 2944R is tentative.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 297
AR abassi (about 3.3g), with Zand couplet shod aftab o mah... on obverse, mint & date only on reverse, without ya karim

RRR Dated only 1187, several specimens on Zeno.ru.

No coins can be attributed to the ephemeral reign of Asker Khan (1203/1788-1789), as all issues of 1203 are indistinguishable by type. Russian numismatists have traditionally assigned the 1203 abassi to Asker Khan, acceptable back in the days when such a “rarity” would fetch at most a minimally higher price.

Types #2946 and 2947 are type-identical to #2945, and are assigned to ruler by date. For these three types, there is considerable variation in the form of the cartouche surrounding the inscriptions on both obverse and reverse, but these changes apparently do not coincide with the reigns of these rulers.

temp. Qasim Khan, 1203-1209 / 1789-1794

AR abassi, weight uncertain, perhaps circa 2.6g, possibly reduced to about 2.35g sometime during this reign

R? 2946 temp. Mustafa Khan, 1209-1236 / 1794-1820

AR abassi (about 1.80g, struck 1209-1212)

R? 2947.1 AR abassi, weight of about 2.30g restored, struck 1214-1235

S 2947.2


SHIRVAN (SHEMAKHA)

A mountain kingdom in northern Azerbaijan, with its capital at Shamakhi (Shemakha) on coins. The coins are usually very crudely struck, and often found holed or otherwise damaged. With the exception of type #A2945 and the couplet type #2945A, all coins are anonymous, bearing the legend ya saheb oz-zaman (“O master of time”) on obverse, mint & date on reverse, and are assigned to ruler by date. Obverse and reverse cartouches vary, but the sequence of cartouches has not yet been established.

The only mint for the khanate was Shamakhi. Coins are normally quite poorly struck, with considerable weakness and ghosting. Crudely engraved dates are often difficult to decipher. Attractively struck coins are truly exceptional (except for #A2945, normally well-made and well-preserved). Since the collapse of the Soviet Union these coins have become more available, but the true nature of their rarity remains to be established.

Muhammad Sa'id Khan, sole rule, circa 1177-1180 / 1763-1766

AR abassi (4.6g), with Shi’ite kalima obverse, ya karim and the mint & date on reverse

RR Dated 1177-1179 and “1170”, the latter presumably fictitious (as is “1155” of Ganja). Prior to 1177, Shirvan was divided into two or more rival principalities, none of which produced coinage. Examples with rather barbarous calligraphy are believed to be more than contemporary imitations.

temp. Fath ‘Ali Khan, 1180-1203 / 1766-1788

AR abassi (about 3.0g), with ya saheb oz-zaman on obverse, ya karim, mint & date on reverse

S 2945

No coins can be attributed to the ephemeral reign of Asker Khan (1203/1788-1789), as all issues of 1203 are indistinguishable by type. Russian numismatists have traditionally assigned the 1203 abassi to Asker Khan, acceptable back in the days when such a “rarity” would fetch at most a minimally higher price.

Types #2946 and 2947 are type-identical to #2945, and are assigned to ruler by date. For these three types, there is considerable variation in the form of the cartouche surrounding the inscriptions on both obverse and reverse, but these changes apparently do not coincide with the reigns of these rulers.

temp. Mustafa Khan, 1209-1236 / 1794-1820

AR abassi (about 1.80g, struck 1209-1212)

R? 2947.1 AR abassi, weight of about 2.30g restored, struck 1214-1235

S 2947.2


temp. Mehmet Hasan Khan, 1212-1217 / 1797-1802

AR abassi (about 2.40g), obverse couplet as #2948

R 2949 temp. Mustafa Khan, 1217-1221 / 1802-1806

AR abassi (2.20g?), obverse couplet as #2948

RR 2950 AR abassi (2.20g?), obverse couplet as #2948

RR 2951 AR abassi (2.20g), ya saheb oz-zaman instead of couplet of previous issue

RR temp. Jafer Quli Khan, 1221-1231 / 1806-1815

AR abassi (2.05g), Russian crown above date on obverse (not ya saheb oz-zaman, as indicated in the 2nd edition)

RR 2952

AE bisti (approximately 23-24g), legends only on obverse

RR “Bisti” means “twenty”, presumably referring to a denominational value of 20 dinars.

RR 2953 AE bisti (same weight as #2953), with large crowned date on obverse

RR Some examples weigh in the 10-14g range, perhaps a smaller denomination. Further research needed.

temp. Isma’i’l Khan, 1231-1236 / 1815-1819

AR abassi (2.05g), type as #2952

RR 2955 AR abassi (2.05g), type as #2952

RR 2956 AR ½ abassi (1.03g?)

RR 2957


References:

737 It is not known why Ganja was striking the al-handu littlah and Shi’ite kalima abassas simultaneously every year from 1201 until 1205. Akopyan suggests that type #2944P was struck at Tiflis for export to Ganja, but the calligraphic and ornamentation differences impugn that proposition. The complexity of the Ganja coinage circa 1195-1207 has never been fully explained.

738 A magnificent medallic multiple abassi was struck at Ganja in 1209, presumably as an award medal and therefore excluded here (Zeno-20209).
**DERBENT (DARBAND)**

A khanate in southern Daghestan, with a solitary mint at Derbent. Coins are dated from the 1190s to the 1210s. A list of rulers is not available from western sources.

All known coins bear the mint name Darband and all have the phrase ya saheb oz-żaman obverse, as at Ganja.

Anonymous, 1190s-1221 / 1770s-circa 1807

2957 AR abassi (about 2.2g), several types RR

**KUBA (QUBA)**


A small khanate just south of Derbent, with which it is from time to time united.

All coins bear the mint name Qubba (aka Quba), and all are miserably struck, known dated 1214-1223, sometimes undated but usually so disgracefully struck that the date is illegible. They share the ya saheb oz-żaman obverse of Ganja and Derbent and often bear ya ‘ali atop the reverse (a rare example dated 1215 has ya ‘aziz above the reverse).

temp. Shaykh ‘Ali Khan, 1206-1225 / 1791-1810

2958 AR abassi (about 2.3g) RRR

**KARABAKH (PANAHABAD)**

A small khanate in the southern Caucasus, corresponding approximately to the largely Armenian small region known as Nagorno Karabakh, surrounded on all sides by the modern republic of Azerbaijan. Its mint is indicated on the coins as Panahabad, which means “city of refuge”, and was located at Shushi within Nagorno Karabakh. 379

All coins bear the mint name Panahabad, never Shushi. Quality of strike is at best mediocre, especially for the silver coins, with fully struck examples unknown. Most are found either holed or mounted, and usually heavily worn, quite abominable. The silver abassi was locally known as the panahabadi.

temp. Ibrahim Khalil Khan, 1177-1221 / 1763-1806

2959 AR abassi (about 4.40g), Shi’ite formula obverse R

2960 AR ½ abassi? (probably about 1.80g), similar RRR

For silver coins of Panahabad in the name of the Qajar king Fath ‘Ali Shah (dated 1214-1217), see type #2900 under that ruler.

2961 AE ½ bisti, usually undated R

Usually with lion & sun motif on obverse, but also known with the lion alone, a peacock or an undeciphered toughru. Known dated in the 1190s.

temp. Mahdi Quli Khan, 1221-1235 / 1806-1822

2962 AR abassi (4.40g), Russian crown above date on obverse, Shi’ite formula and mint on reverse, 1222 only RR

2963 AR abassi (4.40g), Shi’ite formula obverse, dated 1221-1231+ R

2964 AR abassi (about 4.30g), couplet obverse (undeciphered, including ya saheb oz-żaman), known dated 1225-1228 or undated R

Earlier dates circa 1230-1234 reported but not confirmed. This type is often dated on both obverse & reverse.

**GEORGIA (KARTLI-KAKHETI) (BAGRATID)**

In addition to the section in the Standard Catalog of World Coins, the following are useful:


Anonymous, 1179-1213 / 1765-1798

2965 AE puli (4.5g) S

Erekle II, 1176-1213 / 1762-1798

2966 AE 2 puli (9g) R

2967 AE puli (4.5g) S

2968 AE 2 puli (9g) S

2969 AE bisti (= 4 puli, 18g) S

2970 AE puli, same countermark S

2971 AE 2 puli, same countermark S

Gioiri XII, 1213-1215 / 1798-1800

2972 AE bisti (= 4 puli), countermarked monogram of Erekle on his own types or on those of Teimuraz II S

2973 AE puli (4.5g) R

2974 AE bisti (= 4 puli, 18g) RRR

2975 AE 2 puli (9g) R

David, as regent, 1215-1216 / 1800-1801

A2975 AE bisti, peacock obverse RRR

Anonymous, 1179-1213 / 1765-1798

2976 AE puli, same countermark S

All silver coins are anonymous, but have the evocation ya karim of Karim Khan Zand, the Iranian ruler.

2977 AE 2 puli (9g) S

2978 AE puli, same countermark S

R2975 AR ½ abazi (= 4.61g), struck 1182-1190 RRR

Same inscriptions as the abazi, type #2975, arranged slightly differently.

2979 AR abazi (3.08g), struck 1179-1213 S

An abazi dated “1166” could not have been struck earlier than 1196, due to style and calligraphy. In the ONS Newsletter 197, Paghava and Turkia have convincingly demonstrated that the ‘6’ is a retrograde ‘2’, and that 1122 is a shuffled 1212, an argument strengthened by the similarity of the reverse dies to abazis struck


An independent Christian kingdom under the later Bagratid dynasty. Though Christians, their coins follow Islamic models. The copper coins bear the name of the ruler, usually abbreviated.

All later Bagratid coins bear the mint name Tiflis (modern Tbilisi). The silver coins are generally found nicely struck. The coppers were often somewhat softly struck, were extensively circulated, and therefore found ordinarily in very worn condition.

Earlier Bagratid coinage, struck from the 11th-13th centuries AD, is not included in this Checklist, but is described and discussed in the four references for Georgia noted above. Most have inscriptions in Arabic or Persian, with the earlier issues dated primarily according to the local era, normally frozen dates for each type.

Please note that the type numbers are in reverse order, as for some idiomatic reason. I originally listed them from the smallest to the largest denominations.

Teimuraz II, 1157-1176 / 1744-1762

2974A AE bisti (= 4 puli, 18g) RRR

2974 AE 2 puli (9g) R

2973 AE puli (4.5g) R

2972 AE bisti (= 4 puli), countermarked monogram of Erekle on his own types or on those of Teimuraz II S

2971 AE 2 puli, same countermark S

2970 AE puli, same countermark S

2979 AR abazi (3.08g), struck 1179-1213 S

An abazi dated “1166” could not have been struck earlier than 1196, due to style and calligraphy. In the ONS Newsletter 197, Paghava and Turkia have convincingly demonstrated that the ‘6’ is a retrograde ‘2’, and that 1122 is a shuffled 1212, an argument strengthened by the similarity of the reverse dies to abazis struck

379 Nagorno Karabakh was originally founded as an autonomous Oblast in the USSR in 1923, under direct pressure from Stalin and against the will of the Armenians. It declared independence in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet regime. Its population is predominantly Armenian, but its independence is not yet internationally recognized.

740 Although this denominations was already published by both Pakhomov (see plate XVI:147) and Kapanadze, but without their actual weight, I was hesitant to accept its existence until it was confirmed by the prestigious Georgian scholar Irakli Paghava, who plans to publish an advanced study of the /sirma/ coinage. The weight of the ½ abazi was equivalent to the current Iranian mithqal, the basis of the contemporary Zand coinage.
SHAYBANID

Lowick, N.M., “Shaybanid silver coins,” Numismatic Chronicle, ser. 7, vol. 6 (1966), pp. 251-330. This has now been superseded by the following:

Davidovich, E.A., Korpus zolotykh i serebryanykh monet Sheibanidov, Moscow, 1992 (includes extensive bibliography, pp. 411-416). Quite a few additional types have since been discovered, especially for mints in Khorasan and adjacent regions.


The Shaybanids were an Uzbek dynasty based in Samarqand and Bukhara, deriving their name from a genealogical history purportedly tying them to the early Islamic Shaybanid Arabs. Their silver coinage closely followed Timurid prototypes, similar to tanks of Sultan Husayn and his immediate successors, and perpetuated the tanka denomination for another century. Circulating gold coinage was prepared only for the late rulers ‘Abd Allah II and ‘Abd al-Mu‘min, of which only the former is common. Copper coins are invariably anonymous and are listed here as civic coinage, which have only recently become available outside the territories of the former Soviet Union. Even the silver coins were seldom seen in the West before about 1980.

The earliest Shaybanid silver tankas weighed one mithqal, then reckoned as 4.78g. From 913-919, the tanka weight was increased by one twelfth, to about 5.15g, but the mithqal weight was restored shortly thereafter, probably in 924 (see note to #2981.2). The weight of the mithqal fell gradually over the course of the century, reaching about 4.6g by the Janid takeover in 1007/1159.

During many of the Shaybanid reigns, Shaybanid and occasionally earlier tankas were countermarked, mostly anonymously and thus not always readily assigned to a particular ruler. Countermarks that can be assigned to a specific ruler, by name, title or date, are listed with the appropriate ruler. All others are listed generically as type #2999X.

The mint names on most Shaybanid coins are prefixed with the expression shirmad, roughly translatable as “lion-hearted.” The term is not an epithet for the mint, but rather the epithet for the currency, just as beh bud had previously been the epithet for the currency of the Timurid ruler, Sultan Husayn.

Subtypes of Shaybanid silver coins are characterized by their obverse & reverse cartouches, which were changed at frequent intervals and are normally indicative of particular mints from the time of Abu Sa‘id and later rulers. Davidovich has published excellent charts of these types, though additional designs continue to be discovered, especially for Iskandar.

Herat is by far the most plentiful mint for silver coins of the founder, Muhammad Shaybani, though several other mints are not especially scarce (Astarabad, Bukhara, Marw, and Samaranqand), as are coins lacking the mint name altogether. For silver coins of later reigns, the only common mints are Balkh, Bukhara, and Samaranqand, as well as a few issues of Tashkent (Tashkand) during the reign of Iskandar and Herat for ‘Abd Allah II. Shaybanid tankas are almost never well struck and normally exhibit significant weakness. Only coins of Muhammad Shaybani, ‘Abd al-Latif, and Nawruz Ahmad are sometimes more carefully struck, though fully-struck well-centered examples are unknown for all rulers of this dynasty. The nadir of production quality was reached during the long reign of Iskandar, whose tankas are typically struck 50% flat or worse.

Silver coins of Muhammad Shaybani, as well as those of ‘Abd Allah II and his successors, are normally dated, whereas coins of intermediate rulers are frequently undated. Dates are invariably in ciphers on gold and silver, either in words or ciphers on civic copper. On the silver coinage struck between the late 940s and about 990 the date numerals may be scattered around various parts of the obverse, thus often difficult to ascertain.

As for the copper coins, at present, it seems that Bukhara, Hisar, and Samaranqand are the most common mints, with the mint of Qarshi not especially rare. All other mints seem to be rarer. Copper coins are usually quite poorly struck, and are frequently found with various countermarks. After the 930s, copper becomes rare and increasingly poorly struck, although further research has yet to be undertaken to determine what sorts of copper coinage might have remained in circulation thereafter. All copper coins are anonymous, and are listed as Central Asian civic copper coins, #A3274 –3285.

Circulating gold coinage is known only from Herat and Mashed, together with a series of “mintless” issues presumed to have been struck at Badakshan, all in the names of either ‘Abd Allah II or ‘Abd al-Mu‘min. A few gold mithqals are known for other rulers, of which only the issue of Muhammad Shaybani has been confirmed. Given their extreme rarity, it is believed that these earlier mithqals were intended solely for presentation.

Except for the first two rulers, the ruler’s name normally appears within the central cartouche on the obverse. The mint and date occasionally appear with the cartouche as well, though the mint name appears more frequently within the lower left region of the outer inscriptive area, whereas the date appears virtually anywhere within the obverse outer area (within the cartouche on most tankas of ‘Abd Allah II and his successors), very occasionally on the reverse.

MAIN SERIES

Abu‘l-Fath Muhammad Shaybani, 905-916 / 1500-1510

A2978 AV mithqal (4.78g), presumably a donative

RRR

2978.1 AR tanka (about 4.78g), without central cartouche on obverse, first standard, 906-913

RR

Struck only at Bukhara and Samaranqand, usually with the regnal title Nasir al-Din. As a rarer version with central cartouche and this weight standard was briefly struck at Astarabad in 914.

2978.2 AR tanka, with obverse cartouche, second standard (about 5.15g, used 913-916, usually dated at most mints)

C

The increase in a currency weight standard was so unusual that contemporary chroniclers saw fit to praise Muhammad Shaybani for his generosity.

742 This prefix was read by Lowick as shahr mard, which is orthographically unacceptable, and formerly by me as sar mazd, equally impossible. However, Davidovich has argued conclusively that shirmad is correct.

743 Davidovich lists a hoard of over 600 tankas of Samaranqand 913, in the national museum at Tashkent (Tashkand), not available for sale to the public.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 300
The mint sometimes appears in the central cartouche, more often in the lower outer region, either just below the cartouche or adjacent to the outer border. Consequently, mint-off-flan tankas are common. Herat is by far the most common of the roughly 20 known mints.

2979 AR ½ tanka (2nd standard only)
One of the few pre-modern Islamic coins to bear the name of a denomination, nim tanka (“half tanka”), within the central obverse cartouche. Known dated 914, but the date is commonly off the flan, which is typically smaller than the die. Struck at Herat, Marw, or without mint.

2980.1 AR tanka, countermarked ‘adl shirmard plus mint name (rarely dated) on Timurid and other coins
At least 10 different mints are currently known, of which only Herat is reasonably available. The dates found on a few specimens confirm the attribution to Muhammad al-Shaybani.

2980.2 AR tanka, similar countermark but without mint name, occasionally dated
Countermarks of this ilk are found on various Timurid tankas of all weight standards beginning with those of Timur. Some have the prefix darb (carb in Persian) as well, but without a mint name. Countermarking seems to have been temporarily abandoned after the 913 reform, until the reign of Abu Sa‘id, 937-940. Known dates observed for the two countermark subtypes assigned to Muhammad Shaybani range from 907 to 911.

Kuchkunji, 916-937 / 1510-1531
Known with several different titles, Abu'l-Muzaffar, Muzaffar al-Din, and Abu'l-Mansur. No countermarks assignable to Kuchkunji have been reported.

2981.1 AR tanka, heavy standard of 5.15g (used 916-919)
R
No countermarks of Kuchkunji dated 920-923 are known, whence the date

2981.2 AR tanka, reduced standard of about 4.75g (924-937)
C
No coins of Kuchkunji are known with the weight of the standard mithqal (4.75±) remains unclear. Davidovich’s argument that the transition was gradual seems to have been based on the misreading of dates. Moreover, a gradual transition seems implausible in light of contemporary monetary conceptualization. On both subtypes, the ruler’s name appears either within the obverse cartouche or outside. In the former case, the mint name fills the cartouche.

2981.3 AR tanka, Iranian standard (3.89g)
Used at Iranian mints (Mashhad and further west) temporarily under Shaybanid control in 932-934, adopting the first eastern weight standard of the Safavid ruler Tahmasp I, as on #2986B (½ shahi). Earlier and later Iranian mint issues all conform to the current Shaybanid rather than the Safavid standard.

Abu'l-Ghazi ‘Ubayd Allah, 946-947 / 1539-1540
With the title ulus khan, which never appears on the coins.

R2982 AR tanka (5.15g)
Known dated 919, but with mint off flan (or without mint name, which seems more likely), struck during 'Ubayd Allah’s brief opposition to Kuchkunji.

Abu Sa‘id, 937-940 / 1531-1534
With titles Muzaffar al-Din or Nasr al-Din. From this ruler onwards, all Shaybanids of the main branch claimed the title Abu'l-Ghazi, “father of the victorious”.

2982 AR tanka

2982A AR ½ tanka, Astarabad mint only

2982F AR tanka, countermarked abu sa‘id bahadur khan or something similar

Abu'l-Ghazi ‘Ubayd Allah, 2nd reign, 940-946 / 1534-1539

2983 AR tanka
Many examples of Bukhara and Balkh are unusually well struck.

2984 AR ½ tanka

‘Abd Allah I, 946-947 / 1539-1540

When without clear date, coins of ‘Abd Allah I can be readily distinguished from ‘Abd Allah II by the calligraphy of the central obverse cartouche enclosing the ruler’s name, naskhi (upright) for the first, nasta’liq (flowing) for the second.

‘Abd al-Latif, 947-959 / 1540-1552

2985 AR tanka

2986 AR tanka

2986A AR ½ tanka, known only from Balkh

RRR

2986B AR ¼ tanka, unknown with legible mint

Nawruz Ahmad, 959-963 / 1552-1556

2987 AR tanka

Coins of this type are frequently very well struck, showing virtually all of the inscriptions and reasonably centered, but never perfect.

Pir Muhammad I, 963-968 / 1556-1561

2988 AR tanka
When without clear date, coins of Pir Muhammad I can be readily distinguished from Pir Muhammad II by calligraphy within the central cartouche of the obverse, naskhi (upright) for the first ruler, nasta’liq (flowing) for the second (see note to #2995).

2989 AR tanka, countermarked ‘adl pir muhammad or something similar (without name of mint)

Iskandar, 968-991 / 1561-1583
Shaybanid coins of this & earlier reigns were occasionally countermarked in the Mughal Empire, sometimes with the name of Akbar, more commonly with just the name of the city, either Kabul or Qandahar, and the date.

2990 AR tanka

2991 AR tanka, countermarked ‘adl iskandar, probably always without mint name & undated

‘Abd Allah II, 991-1006 / 1583-1598

2992 AV mithqal (about 4.6g), struck at Mashhad & Herat
RR?

2993 AR ½ mithqal (about 2.3g), similar, RR when dated

2994 AR ¼ mithqal? (about 0.90-0.95g), similar, RR when dated

S

The quarter mithqal was probably struck solely at Badakhshan, though the mint name almost never appears on the coin.

The full and half mithqals were struck only at Mashhad & Herat. This type is clearly lighter than a proper ¼ mithqal and may have had a different denominational name, more likely regarded as either 1/3 mithqal (unlikely) or 1/12 Indian mohur (likely), as it is consistently too heavy to be viewed as a ¼ ashrafi, too light to be a ¼ mithqal.

2995 AR tanka

C
The tankas assigned by Lowick to an ostensible joint reign of Iskandar & ‘Abd Allah II are normal coins of the latter denoting ‘Abd Allah as the son of Iskandar. Nasta’liq calligraphy was introduced in or just before 993 by ‘Abd Allah II, replacing the earlier naskhi, but only within the central obverse cartouche. Thus undated coins of this ruler can readily be distinguished from coins of ‘Abd Allah I by the nasta’liq calligraphy within the obverse cartouche. The obverse marginal and the reverse legends remain in naskhi script.

744 Other mints are Awbah, Bistam, Bukhara, Khwarizm, Kish, Langar, Nasaf, Nishapur, Sabzawar, and Turbat, mostly in Khorasan, all very rare.

745 Many coins have the first two titles combined as Abu'l-Muzaffar al-Din, grammatically incorrect in Arabic but presumably acceptable in Persian.

746 Of course, it is always conceivable that old dated dies remained in use well after the inscribed year.

747 An example clearly bearing the mint name Badakhshan was acquired at Tübingen in 1997.
‘Abd al-Mu'min, 1006-1007 / 1598

2996 AV ¼ mithqal? (0.90-0.95g) RRR

Without mint name, stylistically identical to #2994 and thus almost certainly struck at Badakhshan. See the note to #2994 for the denomination.

2997 AR tanka R

Known from five mints, throughout the kingdom (Balkh, Bukhara, Herat, Mashhad and Samarqand).

Pir Muhammad II, 1007 / 1598

2998 AR tanka R

To distinguish coins of Pir Muhammad II from Pir Muhammad I, see note to #2988. Struck mainly at Bukhara & Samarqand.

‘Abd al-Amin, 1007 / 1598-1599

2999 AR tanka R

Struck at Balkh and Samarqand, the latter extremely rare.

Anonymous, 916-1007 / 1510-1599

2999X AR tanka, anonymous countermarks on various Shaybanid tankas, not assigned to a specific ruler RR

See Zeno-46753 for the countermark ‘adl-i khan-i ghazi on a tanka of Kuchkunji, also 966733 for an unread countermark on a tanka of the same king.

LOCAL RULERS

Timur Muhammad, contender at Herat, 918-919 / 1512-1513

A3000 AR tanka R

(#)3000 Sulayman Sultan, at Balkh, circa 974-975 / 1566-1567. AR tanka — Davidovich has demonstrated that coins once ascribed to this ruler are really issues of Sulayman Mirza the Timurid (#2465). Hence type #3000 must now be deleted.

Muhammad Ibrahim, at Balkh, 1008-1009 / 1599-1600

3001 AR tanka, sometimes dated on both sides R

Javanmard ‘Ali, rebel probably in Samarqand, fl. 983 / 1575-1576

3001E AR tanka RRR

Not known with visible mint (Davidovich #2608, still unique).

(#)3002 Yar Muhammad II, at Bukhara, circa 957-959 / 1550-1552, AR tanka — Tankas formerly assigned to this ruler have been reassigned to the Janid ruler of the same name (#3011), sometimes also called Yar Muhammad II of the Shaybanids. The ruler’s name and title bahadur khan in the obverse cartouche are in the nasta’liq script, thus no earlier than the 990s.

Burhan Sayyid, at Bukhara, circa 958-964 / 1551-1557

3003 AR tanka, Bukhara mint only RRR

The ruler’s name is sometimes cited as Sayyid Burhan.

3004 AR tanka, countermarked ‘adl burhan on coins of earlier Shaybanid rulers (no mint name) RRR

Darwish Ahmad, at Balkh & Bukhara, circa 981-987 / 1573-1579

A3005 AR tanka, struck only at Balkh RRR

Din Muhammad, at Marw & other places, 968 & 974-980 / 1566 & 1566-1572

B3005 AR tanka RRR

Struck on thick narrow flans, unlike other Shaybanid tankas, but similar to contemporary Safavid flans. Probably struck only at Marw, but only one example known with legible mint (Marw).

Sultan Sa’id, at Samarqand & Andigan, circa 975-980 / 1567-1572

3005 AR tanka, struck at Samarqand & Andigan RR

Timur Ahmad, at Tashkent, circa 963-964 / 1556-1557

3006 AR tanka, struck only at Tashkent RRR

Bahadur Khan, ostensibly at Bukhara & Tashkent, towards 1000/1500 but dates undetermined

A3007 AR tanka RR

Although well-represented in formerly Soviet museums, coins of this type do not seem to have appeared in the market. There seem to be two distinct groups, both with bahadur khan in the central cartouche, an earlier group with those words in naskhi (time of Iskandar, according to Davidovich), a later group with nasta’liq script (probably struck in the chaotic years immediately following the death of ‘Abd Allah II in 1006).

It is possible that this type is actually an anonymous issue (or two separate anonymous issues), as the title bahadur khan was applied by most Shaybanid rulers to their titulature.

Kildi Muhammad Khan, at Tashkent, circa 1008-1010 / 1599-1601

3007 AR tanka RRR

Markov’s inventory of the Hermitage collection lists two later rulers of Tashkent, Jan Muhammad and Turun Muhammad. The former is probably a misreading of khan, for when unpointed, as on the coins, jan and khan are indistinguishable, and khan forms part of the titulature of every Shaybanid ruler. Turun Muhammad is now listed as a Kazak of Tashkent (#3008). (Former type #3008, the anonymous AE dangi of the Shaybanid period, has been reclassified among the Central Asian coppers [#A3274-3286], and has been deleted as a type of its own.)

‘ARABSHAHID (ILBARIO)


A small kingdom in the area of Khwarizm founded circa 921/1515 by Ilbars b. Barkay. It survived until replaced by the Inakids (Khan of Khiva) before 1219/1804. Only three rulers are known to have struck coins.

Known mints are Nisa and Abiward, both on the frontier between ‘Arabshahid and Safavid lands (both now in Turkmenistan, close to the current Iranian border). However, most pieces lack the mint name altogether. Coins of Hajji Muhammad I are invariably weakly struck, often with less than 25% of the type visible. Coins of other rulers are also poorly struck, though little is known about them.

Dust Muhammad, 953-965 / 1546-1558

I3008 AR tanka (approximately 3.8-4.0g) RRR

J3008 AR of uncertain denomination, countermarked ‘adl dust muhammad khan on 2-shahi of the Safavid Tahmasp I RRR

Hajji Muhammad I, 965-1011 / 1558-1602

M3008 AR tanka (approximately 3.8-4.4g), usually undated but known dated 972 RR

Usually without mint name, occasionally Nisa. When visible, the mint is Abiward (RR).

N3008 AR ½ tanka (approximately 2.2-2.25g), always undated R

Anusha Muhammad, 1074-1097+ / 1664-1685+

S3008 AR tanka (approximately 4.0g) ***

Not known in private hands. Kochnev has published the type, known only in museums in Tashkent. Kochnev has provided strong evidence that the type was struck at Samarqand in 1096, though the coins bear neither mint name nor date.

KAZAKHS OF TASHKENT

See ‘Arabshahids above.

A small Kazakh (Qazaq) principality closely connected to the Janids. Their coins consist only of very crudely manufactured silver tankas to the same standard as the contempor ary Janid, Imam Quli Khan.

Very few specimens in the trade market, but a rather large hoard is preserved at the Uzbekistan Historical Museum. The mint name Tashkent appears in the lower left of the obverse, outside the central area containing the ruler’s name. None are dated.
Tursun Muhammad, before 1022 / 1613 until 1037 / 1628

R3008 AR debased tanka (about 4.4–4.5g) RR?

**AMIR OF QUNDUZ**


The Amir Khusro Shah, erstwhile governor for the Timurids, proclaimed his autonomy in 902. Anonymous copper coins were struck at three mints. A single silver coin is also known.

The coppers were struck at Qunduz, Hisar, and Tirmidh, of which the last is relatively scarce. Dated examples invariably bear the frozen year 907 (sometimes blundered), though the date is sometimes omitted. The zero is often written as a circle, thus often misread as 957. It is not known how long these coppers were struck, but given their abundance and many varieties, it was likely produced until at least the mid-910s, perhaps several decades longer. All show a deer or antelope on the obverse, mint inscription on the reverse, usually with the denomination. The date is normally above the deer on the obverse, but is occasionally found elsewhere, or on the reverse, or both.

The copper coins are generally 80% or more struck up and are often quite attractive.

**temp. Amir Khusro, 902-910 / 1497-1505**

A3009 AR tanka, Hisar mint only RRR
3009 AE 2 dinars (do dinar), all three mints C
3010 AE dinar, countermarked with revaluation to one dinar ('adl yek dinar or something similar) S

Gregory Cole has shown that the use of this countermark must have continued under the Shaybanids after the demise of Amir Khusro, during the 910s and perhaps as late as the 920s.748

**JANID (ASHTARKHAND)**


Fedorov, Dr. M., “Money Circulation under the Janids….”, ONIS Newsletter 171 supplement (2002), for dating of the Janid rulers. The reign dates presented in this Checklist are very tentative, probably incorrect.

Successors to the Shaybanids, the Janids maintained similar coinage traditions. Their silver coins are almost invariably poorly struck, rarely showing either mint or date. After about 1090/1680, the alloy was rapidly debased, predominantly copper by the early 1100s. To the contrary, their gold coins are always of high quality and purity. The original silver tanka conformed to the 4.7g weight inherited from the Shaybanids, but sank to below 4 grams by the end of the dynasty.

Dates of rule are rather tentative. The standard lists in the genealogical references do not agree with the coins. All Janid rulers use the title Bahadur Khan on their coins.

Balkh, Bukhara, and Samarqand are the three mints recorded for this dynasty, usually named in the lower lefthand corner of the obverse. The mint is rarely visible on the coin, especially after the first four reigns. Few coins are dated, except for Nadr Muhammad Khan, whose reign dates are usually dated within the obverse cartouche. As with the Shaybanids, types are distinguished by the central obverse & reverse cartouche, which seem to have been changed very often at each mint, perhaps annually or even more frequently. The date and mint of most of the cartouches remain undetermined, due to the miserable quality of strike and the lack of adequate research.

Janid silver and billon coins are almost invariably carelessly struck, frequently with 50% or more flatness, even worse after about 1100/1700. Many tankas are so ghastly struck as to be unidentifiable, though it seems logical that once the cartouches and associated calligraphy are thoroughly published, nearly all pieces should be assigned to specific rulers. Well-struck examples do not exist for all but the last ruler, Abu'l-Ghazi Khan. In contrast, the gold coins (introduced circa 1114) are almost always well struck on full flans. There is no identified copper coinage during the Janid period, though the billion dirhams of the 18th century often have more the appearance of copper than silver.749

Coinage of the Janids has not yet been adequately studied, despite the work of Davidovich, as noted above. An increasingly useful selection is posted on Zeno.

**“Yar Muhammad Khan”, circa 1006-1008 / 1598-1599**

3011 AR tanka RR
Struck at Balkh, Bukhara & Samarqand. Yar Muhammad was the grandfather of Baqi Muhammad, and the symbolic founder of the dynasty. Coins were struck in his name by the first Janid, Din Muhammad Khan, while he was the local khan at Herat, and by the latter’s brother Jani Muhammad during the early part of his reign. No coins are known bearing the name of Din Muhammad Khan (cf. #B3005 for a different, but much earlier Din Muhammad).

This type was formerly assigned inappropriately to a fictitious Shaybanid dubbed Yar Muhammad II.

**Jani Muhammad Khan, 1007-1009 / 1598-1601**

3012 AR tanka C
The name Jani is written as Janin with a final “n” on the coins of Bukhara mint. The two name forms refer to the same individual, though I was once incorrectly regarded the two spellings as different individuals.

Tankas of Jani Muhammad and his successor, Baqi Muhammad, are very common despite their short reigns.

**Baqi Muhammad Khan, 1009-1014 / 1601-1605**

3013 AR tanka C
Wali Muhammad Khan, 1014-1027 / 1605-1618
3014 AR tanka S
Imam Quli Khan, 1027-1054 / 1618-1644
3015 AR tanka C
Some examples of this type give the name of the ruler as the son of Din Muhammad Khan (probably RR).

**Nadr Muhammad Khan, 1054-1057 / 1644-1647**

3016 AR tanka S
Most coins of Nadr Muhammad are clearly dated in the obverse margin.750

**Shah Jahan I, at Balkh 1056-1057 / 1647**

Shah Jahan was the Mughal emperor in India (1037-1068/1628-1658), whose Indian coins are abundant.

A3017 AV mohur, normal Mughal type, struck “at” Balkh in 1056 & 1057 RRR
As Mughal KM-260, square areas obverse & reverse. Sometimes found with 1056 on one face, 1057 on the other. Although clearly engraved zarb-i balkh, it seems likely that the were struck elsewhere, probably at Kabul, to just by style and layout.

B3107 AR rupee, same as #A3017, Balkh mint751 RRR
3017 AR tanka, normal Janid type in the name of Shah Jahan I R
Normally undated, always without mint name, and always disgracefully struck. It is likely that all were struck at Balkh.

‘Abd al-‘Aziz Khan, 1057-1091 / 1647-1680
3018 AR tanka, numerous variants, always badly struck S
3019 AR tanka, countermarked name of ruler on earlier coins usually of the same reign RR

748 Private communication based on specimens in his collection.
750 Extremely coarse dateless copper coins were struck at Bukhara and Samarqand at some point between the mid-16th century and about 1800 (types #3286 ff). It is possible that some of these were struck during the Janid period.
751 In a private collection, Germany. Like the mohur, likely struck at Kabul.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 303
Subhan Quli Khan, 1091-1114 / 1680-1702

3020 BI tanka
During this reign, the alloy of the tanka rapidly deteriorated. Most coins are very coppery in appearance, though were probably originally silver-washed. The debasement took place in three stages (not described here) that was analyzed by Davidovich in the 1988 volume of Epigrafika Vostoka.

‘Ubayd Allah Khan I, 1114-1117 / 1702-1705

A3021 AV tilla, struck only at Bukhara in 1114 RRR

3021 BI tanka
Abu’l-Fayz Khan, 1117-1160 / 1705-1747

3022 AV tilla
Normally undated, with dated examples significantly rarer. On some tillas his name includes his father, ‘abu’l-fayz muhammad ibn subhanquli muhammad bahadar khan, one of which is dated 1127 (Zeno-86879).

3023 BI tanka
‘Abd al-Mu’min Khan, 1160-1164 / 1477-1475

From 1160/1747 onwards, the Janids were technically governors under the Manghits of Bukhara, but coins from the region cite only the Janid governor’s name. Actual Manghit coinage began only in 1200/1785.

3024 AV tilla, usually undated, known dated 1160 RRR

Muhammad Rahim, 1167-1171 / 1753-1758

A3025 AV tilla, teardrop / square RRR
B3025 BI tanka (about 3.8 grams), no mint or date RR R?

Davidovich determined a fineness of almost exactly 30% silver and 70% copper for this tanka. These have not appeared in the market as of 2009. Strictly speaking, Muhammad Rahim was not Janid but of the Manghit family that would later assume control of Bukhara.

Abu’l-Ghazi Khan, 1171-1200 / 1758-1785

Both tillas and tankas in the name of Abu’l-Ghazi Khan were struck posthumously until 1203 by the Manghir ruler Shah Murad.

3025 AV tilla, usually dated R

3026 AR tanka or tenga, Bukhara mint only, good silver RR? R

Unlike all other Janid silver, this type is always well struck, with clear mint and date and no weakness, on relatively narrow, thick flans. It may alternatively be regarded as the earliest Manghit tenga. Most or all examples of the tanka are dated 1199-1203.

In the time of Abu’l-Ghazi, the Janid kingdom split into the three khanates, Bukhara, Khiva, and Khoqand, whose coins are listed below (beginning with #3027).

WALID OF BALKH

Schwarz, Florian, SNAT-14c, pp. 10, 118-119.

A minor dynasty in Balkh, descended from Wali Muhammad of the Janids. All coins are heavily debased tengas, containing little or no silver. All are without mint & date, abysmally struck, commonly overstruck on earlier types.

Sultan Sanjar, 1125-1130 / 1713-1718

3026E AE tenga RRR

Muhammad Sultan, circa 1130-1132 / 1718-1720

3026F AE tenga RRR

‘Arab Muhammad, circa 1132-1145 / 1720-1732

3026G AE tenga, tentatively attributed RRR

CHINGIZID OF BALKH

Schwarz, Florian, SNAT-14c, pp. 10, 119.

A minor dynasty in Balkh, of unknown origin. The coins are similar to those of their predecessors, the local Walids, and are also frequently overstruck on earlier types.

Chingiz Muhammad, circa 1145-1150 / 1732-1737

R

3026K AE tenga RRR

Sayyid Abu’l-Hasan, circa 1150 / 1737

3026L AE tenga RRR

HAKIMS OF TASHKENT

V. Nastich has provided a brief description of this dynasty at www.zeno.ru, together with several illustrations.

Muhammad Yunus Khoja ‘Umari, 1204-1215 / 1789-1801

All coins of this ruler cite his name as muhammad yunus khoja.

L3027 AE pul, always anonymous R

Struck either at Tashkent or Shash (nearby mining district), usually undated.

M3027 AE pul, dated 1220 RRR

Legend ‘aqebat khayr bad on obverse, epithet balda-yi fakhira (in place of mint name) and date 1220 on reverse.

BEKS OF SHAHRISABZ

The coinage of this petty dynasty was discovered by V. Nastich and first reported in his paper to the 14th International Numismatic Congress in Glasgow 2009. Thanks to Nastich for his assistance.

Shahrisabz, “Green City”, was formerly known as Kesh, which had briefly been a mint during ‘Abbasids, Qarakhani ds, Chaghatayids and Timurids periods.

The coins of these 19th century rulers cite the mint as Kesh, Kesh-i Dilkash, or Shahrisabz. All coins are anonymous, assigned to specific rulers only by date & the arrangement of legends. Issues of the first two rulers weigh about 3-4g. of Iskandar about 7g. Nearly all are carelessly struck, usually found worn or corroded. Additional struck or cast varieties from both mints may exist.

temp. Khwaja Ishaq, 1215-1223 / 1801-1808
All coins assigned to this ruler are anonymous.

R3027.1 AE pul, dated 1225 RRR

Legend just fulus on obverse, bilad-i kesh on reverse, dated on both sides.

R3027.2 AE pul, dated 1246 & 1250 RRR

Legend ‘aqebat khayr bad on obverse, mint as Kesh-i Dilkash, dated on both sides.

temp. Iskandar, 1262-1272 / 1836-1846

S3027.1 AE square pul, dated 1254 RRR

Legend ‘aqebat khayr bad on obverse, mint Shahrisabz, probably dated on reverse only.

S3027.2 AE lozenge-shaped pul, dated 1257 RRR

Same text as S3027.1, but dated on both sides & different shape.

temp. Iskandar, 1262-1272 / 1846-1856

T3027 AE heavy pul, dated 1268 RRR

Legend fulus-balda-yi fakhira on obverse, mint as Kesh-i Dilkash, dated both sides.

MANGHITS OF BUKHARA

Special thanks to Vladimir Nastich for major improvement of this section, together with the knanates of Khiva and Khoqand.

Successors to the Janids in Bukhara & Samarqand, with a single mint at Bukhara. Except for some of the issues of Haidar Tora and Sayyid Husayn, Manghiti coins lack the name of the current ruler, but cite a deceased hero of earlier times. Most can therefore be assigned to ruler only by date.732

All coins bear the mint name Bukhara, with the epithet sharif, in the form bukhara-yi sharif. The gold and silver were generally well struck until the 1260s, thereafter increasingly less carefully made, especially the silver after the 1290s. Most copper is poorly made and rarely well-preserved, except for the very last issues, #E3044-M3044.

On coins of Bukhara, Khoqand and Khiva (also Kashghar), the numeral '5' appears much like the Latin U (but with the right stroke straighter and taller) and is sometimes misconstrued as '7'. The zero is written as a small circle and sometimes misread as 'S'.

The gold tilla was inherited from the Janids and weighed 4.6g (one mithqal). The silver tenga weighed 3.1-3.2g (7/10 mithqal) throughout this series. The copper pul used a theoretical standard of 4.6g until 1319, but individual specimens often weigh much less. After copper minting resumed in 1319, the pul initially weighed 2.6g. The term pul probably derives from fals (plural falus), which is the denominational term that actually appears on the copper coins.

Bukharian gold and silver coins are normally dated on both obverse and reverse, perhaps to discourage the retention of obsolete dies. However, mint officials obviously did not care, for mismatched dates are legion, often as much as five or more years apart.

Note date overlap between these two subtypes.

**temp. Shah Murad, 1200-1215 / 1785-1800**

| 3027 | AV tilla, in the name of his deceased (marhun) father, Amir Daniyal | Gold and silver coins of 1200-1203 name the deceased Janid ruler Abu'l-Ghazi Khan and are regarded as posthumous issues of the Janid types #3025 & 3026. |
| 3028 | AR tnga, similar | The word marhun actually appears on these two types. |
| A3029 | AE cast squarish pul (circa 3g), anonymous, dated in his reign Bukhara / falsus, known with double-date 1208/1209. |
| B3029 | AE heavy pul (circa 8g), anonymous, known dated 1209 and possibly also 1213 & 1214 | Thick uneven flan, round or oval, zarb bukhara / 'aqebat khayr bad, date on reverse. |

**Haidar, 1215-1242 / 1800-1826**

| 3029.1 | AV tilla, in his own name with titles mir and padshah, plus the kunya Abu'l-Ghazi, struck 1215-1220 | The kunya Abu'l-Ghazi, “father of the victorious”, can alternatively be interpreted as a reference to the long-deceased Janid ruler of that name, as though Haidar were a subordinate governor (amir) under his overlordship! Note that mir is a short form for amir. Haidar is commonly dubbed Haidar Tora in western sources, but the sobriquet Tora never appears on his coins. Occasionally encountered with regnal year 1 (ahad). |
| 3029.2 | AV tilla, in his name mir haidar amir al-mu'minin, 1221-1229 | The title amir al-mu'minin theoretically indicates that Haidar was claiming the caliphate, which then technically belonged to the Ottoman sultans. |
| 3030.1 | AV tilla, in the name of his grandfather Amir Daniyal and father Ma'sum Ghazi (= Shah Murad), both deceased, 1229-1235 | |
| 3030.2 | AV tilla, inscribed rahmat bad bar ma'sum ghazi, "may mercy be upon Ma'sum Ghazi", 1227 & 1234-1241 | Note date overlap between these two subtypes. |
| 3031.1 | AR tnga, in his name, mir haydar padshah on the obverse / bukhara-yi sharif on reverse, dated 1215-1218 | |
| 3031.2 | AR tnga, in the names of Amir Daniyal & Ma'sum Ghazi, reverse as last, dated 1216 & 1218 | |
| 3031.3 | AR tnga, in his name, no min, thick narrow flan, inscribed mir haydar / sultun (in circle), 1221 only | R |
| 3031.4 | AR tnga, in his name, inscribed mir haydar / amir al-mu'minin, dated 1222-1225 | S |
| 3031.5 | AR tnga, in his name, amir haydar sayyid in teardrop / bukhara-yi sharif, dated 1226-1237 | S |
| 3032 | AE double pul (9.2g), in his name, 1228 only | A similar single pul (4.6g), also dated 1228 only & in the ruler’s name, has been reported but remains unconfirmed (was type #3032.1). |
| 3033.1 | AE pul, anonymous, bukhara-yi sharif / 'aqebat khayr bad, date on both sides, dated 1215-1218 | R |
| 3033.2 | AE pul, similar but falus bukhara / 'aqebat khayr bad, date on both sides, dated 1215-1226 | R |
| 3033.3 | AE pul, similar but zarb bukhara / 'aqebat khayr bad, dated both sides, 1228-1241 | R |
| 3033.4 | AE pul, similar, but bukhara khayr / falus, date on reverse only, 1237 only | R |
| 3033A | AE pul, cast, fals (or falus) / bukhara, date on one or both sides, weight uncertain | S |

**Sayyid Husayn, 1242 / 1826**

| A3034 | AV tilla, with name of ruler as sayyid amir husayn sultan | |
| 3034 | AR tnga, with name of ruler as sayyid husayn amir | |

**temp. 'Umar, 1242 / 1826-1827**

From this short reign onwards, all Manghiti coins lack the name of the active ruler. Gold tillas all retain the merciful inscription from #3030.2. Silver tengas all refer to the deceased Haidar, amir haidar marhun 'aqebat mahmud, “Amir Haidar, the deceased, may he always be praised”. All coppers are purely anonymous.

Since 'Umar was not deposed until several weeks before the end of 1242, it is customary to assign all anonymous coins dated 1242 to 'Umar, with those of Nasrullah commencing in 1243. Coins of 'Umar are identical to those of his successor Nasrullah, except for the date.

| U3035 | AV tilla, dated 1242 | R |
| V3035 | AR tnga, dated 1242 | R |

A tenga is his name, sayyid 'umar amir / zarb bukhara-yi sharif 1242, has been reported but remains unconfirmed.

**temp. Nasrullah, 1242-1277 / 1827-1860**

| 3035 | AV tilla | S |
| 3036 | AR tnga | C |
| 3037.1 | AE pul, rectangular flan, dated 1242-1244 | S |
| 3037.2 | AE pul, round flan, either struck or cast, later dates (several variations) | R |

**temp. Muzaffar al-Din, 1277-1303 / 1860-1886**

| 3038 | AV tilla | C |
| 3039 | AR tnga | C |
| 3040 | AE pul, 1278-1287 only | R |

Round (cast) or rectangular (struck) flans. Muzaffar al-Din became a Russian vassal in 1284/1867. There was no change of type to mark the political change.

**WARNING**: Broad-flan tengas of this reign & the next purporting to be “presentation” tengas (size of gold tillas) are later imitations, probably made for jewelry purposes during the 1920s & 1930s. They were not intended to fool collectors, and thus have a modest value. Some crude machine-struck forgeries on normal flans are also known, probably made in the 1980s, not for jewelry but to rip-off collectors.

**temp. 'Abd al-Ahmad, 1303-1329 / 1886-1910**

| 3041 | AV tilla | C |
| 3042 | AR tnga, dated 1303-1311 and 1319-1322 | C |
| 3043 | AE pul, style as #3040, dated 1319 only | R |

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732 SCWC no longer assigns the anonymous Manghiti coins to specific rulers, but arranges them only by type.
3043A AE 1/32 tenga, dated 1321-1322

Date and zarb bukhara-ye sharif on obverse, falus and date on reverse, with numeral 32 above. The tenega was equal to 64 pul or fulus, so this denomination can also be regarded as a double pul.

The silver tenga and gold tilla commenced at about 3.1g and 4.6g, respectively, but the tenega was gradually reduced to 2.6-2.8g by the 1260s.

All gold and most silver coins of this dynasty were carefully struck, though the silver is commonly found very worn. The copper, both the early "dirhams" and the pul, were indifferently struck, and usually found worn or corroded.

NOTE: Almost all rulers, from 'Alim Khan onwards, also bore the titles Sayyid and Muhammad, which appears on most of the coins. Only Muhammad 'Ali Khan (1238-1258) actually bore Muhammad as part of his personal name, while Khudayar Quli, on the contrary, was entitled sayyid, without the name Muhammad.

temp. 'Alim Khan, 1329-1339 / 1910-1920

'Alim Khan served as a nominal Russian vassal until March 1918 (Jumada 1136). Thereafter, he ruled as independent Khan until ousted by the Soviet forces on 2 September 1920 (18 Dhu'l-Hijja 1338). He fled to Kabul, where he died in 1944.

3043B AE 1/32 tenga, dated 1322-1323 & 1327-1328

Date and fulus bukhara on obverse, 6-petal cartouche with 32 in center on reverse. See #B3044.1 for later dates or when the date is off flan or illegible.

Anonymous, 13th/14th century

3043K AE pul, date obscure, thus not ascribable to any ruler, probably late 1200s and early 1300s

temp. Narbuta Beg, circa 1185-1213 / 1770-1799

Narbuta Beg, circa 1185-1213 / 1770-1799

3044 AE pul or dirham, anonymous, various types

Muhammad 'Ali Khan, 1213-1225 / 1799-1810

Some coins of this and the following ruler bear his name, others are anonymous, as noted in the type descriptions.

3045 AE dirham, silver-coated, with name of ruler

3046 AE dirham, silver-coated, anonymous but inscribed dirham

Types #3046, 3052, and some varieties of #3044, can only be assuredly distinguished when the date is legible.

3047 AE pul, with name of ruler

3048 AE pul, anonymous, several varieties

3049 AR tenga, with name of ruler, as muhammad umar khan

3050 AR tenga, anonymous, with his title amir ali mudabbar

3051 AE dirham, silver-coated, with name of ruler

3052 AE dirham, silver-coated, anonymous, with titles only, several variants, assigned by date & design

One interesting variety bears just the word amiri on the obverse, the mint (and sometimes the date) on the reverse, thus suggesting that the silver-coated "dirhams" were actually called amiri (or for short, m i ri) (Zeno-76718). On many types, the denomination was engraved dirham, as #3046.

3053 AE pul, anonymous, assigned to ruler only by date

Muhammad 'Ali Khan, 1238-1258 / 1823-1842

From this reign onward, all gold and silver coins mention the name of the ruler. Copper fulus remain anonymous and can be assigned to ruler only by date (except #3062A).

3054 AV tilla, mint of Kohquand, without couplet

3054A AV tilla, mint of Ferghana, dated 1246

The reverse inscription reads be-ferghana zad sekkeh be-simo zar, "in Ferghana were struck coin[s] of silver and gold". The obverse & reverse inscriptions form a rhyming couplet. (Zeno-69772.)

3055.1 AR tenga, known dated 1239 only

With couplet as #3054A, but be-ferghana instead of be-ferghana.

3055.2 AR tenga, known dated 1243-1246 and later, without couplet

Only year 1245 is occasionally seen.

3056 AE pul, anonymous, assigned to ruler by date

Sher 'Ali Khan, 1258-1260 / 1842-1844

3057 AV tilla

KhANS OF KHOQAND (abdURRANAMID, MINGH)

Ishankhanov, S.Kh., Katalog monet Kokanda XVII-XIX vv., Tashkent 1976.

Kozyrev, Andrei N., personal correspondence to the author.

Successors to the Janids in the Ferghana Valley, whose chief town was Khoqand (modern Kokand). Absorbed by Russia in 1293/1876, not long after the death of Khudayar Khan, who had become a Russian vassal in 1284/1868. The principal mint is Khoqand, often together with its epithet latif ("felicitous"), in the form khoqand-i latif. Most gold coins and a very few silver coins bear the additional epithet dar al-saltanat, briefly dar al-mulk during the short 2nd reign of Khudayar, 1278-1280. Copper coins normally lack the mint epithet, including the word latif.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 306
3058 AR tenga
3059 AE pul, anonymous, dated 1259 only

Muhammad Murad Khan, in Ferghana, 1260 / 1844
A3060 ARenga, minted at Ferghana, dated 1260

The obverse & reverse legends together comprise a rhyming distich with the epithet saheb-e zafar ("holder of victory,"
"the victorious") added to the ruler’s name.

Khudayar Biy, as prince, 1260-1264 / 1844-1848
(later Khudayan Khan)
Inscribed wali nu’miya khudayari, which can be translated as
"possessor of the beneficence of Khudayar." The phrase suffices
as the ruler’s name on all three metals.

L3060 AVtilla, known dated 1262
M3060 ARenga
N3060 AE pul, mint of Ferghana, undated

Khudayan Khan, as Khan, 1st reign,
1264-1275 / 1848-1855
Inscribed with his proper name and titles: sayyid muhammad
dar al-saltanat (usually without muhammad on the gold tillas).

3060 AVtilla, several legend variants
3061 ARenga, several variants
3062 AE pul, anonymous
3062ARenga, citing the ruler by name

Malla Khan, 1275-1278 / 1858-1862
3063 ARenga
3064 ARenga, several variants
3065 AE pul, anonymous

Malla was assassinated in 1278. Coins identical to #3063 & 3064
but dated 1288-1290 are listed as #A3077 & B3077. They have
Malla was killed in 1288. Although it was considered a rebel issue in
or near Khoqand, Irpon Tukhtiev & Vladimir Nastich have
proven that these coins were actually struck at Khoqand in

Shah Murad Khan, 1278 / 1862
Struck only at Khoqand. For tengas in the name of a Muhammad
Murad Khan dated AH1260, see #A3060.

3066 AVtilla
3067 ARenga

Khudayan Khan, 2nd reign, 1278-1280 / 1862-1863
The mint epithet is Dar al-Mulk, used only in this reign.

3068 AVtilla
3069 ARenga, two distinct variants
Sayyid Sultan Khan, 1280-1282 / 1863-1865
3070 AVtilla
3071 ARenga
3072 AE pul, known dated 1280-1281

Khuday Quli Khan, 1282 / 1865
His full title is sayyid khuday quli khan, without the name
Muhammad.

3073 ARenga

Khudayan Khan, 3rd reign, 1282-1292 / 1865-1875
3074 AVtilla
3075 ARenga, several varieties of the frame designs
3076 AE pul, anonymous

"Malla Khan", pseudo-reign, 1288-1289 / 1873-1874

There is no doubt that Muhammad Malla was killed in
1278/February 1862. Although it was considered a rebel issue in
or near Khoqand, Irpon Tukhtiev & Vladimir Nastich have
proven that these coins were actually struck at Khoqar in

Khans of Khiva (Khorezm) (Inakid, Kungrat)
Velaminov-Zernof, V., “Money bukharskiya i khivinskiya,” Trudy Vostochno-
ogo Otdeleinitya Arkeologicheskogo Obshchestva, v. 4 (1859), pp. 328-
456 (not seen by the author).

Severova, M.B., “Kollektsiya Monetnyh Shtempeley Khivinskogo Khanstva
iz Gosudartvennogo Ertizatsha”, Epigrafika Vostoka, v. xxv (1988),
pp. 94-114.

Kleshchinov, V.V. Atlas monet Khorezma 1337-1338, Moscow 2006.

Kozyrev, Andrei N., and Vladimir Nastich, personal correspondence to the
author.

A small kingdom centered around the city of Khiva on the lower
Amu Darya River, now within Uzbekistan. It was founded by a
certain Iltazar before 1219/1804. Although there have been no
significant publication for this series since 1859, thanks to
comments and correction from Vladimir Nastich, the listing
here is reasonable complete. Additional types, varieties and
dates continue to be discovered.

Nearly all coins bear the mint name Khwarizm (Khorezm), followed
by the epithet dar al-saltanat for the gold coinage, but dar al-islam
for the silver (from #3083 onwards) and most copper. A few have the
mint name Khiqaq (or Khiva) or Marw, as noted in the descriptions.
The rare gold is generally very well struck, as is the early silver, until
about 1280. Later silver is often weakly struck and usually found
severely worn, as is the copper of all periods.

temp. Iltazar, 121X-1221 / 1800-1805
S3080 ARenga, anonymous, dated 1216

Muhammad Rahim, 1221-1241 / 1805-1825
T3080 AVtilla, with mint name Khiqaq

Known dated 1227, 1230, 1234, 1236, 1237.

My thanks to Andrei Kozyrev for this information.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 307
the obverse proves that the interpretation as 1269 is correct (Zeno-75357). "9". However, a coin with this die on the reverse and clearly dated 127[0] on a diacritical for the vowel "u" than a numeral, though it could be regarded as in the center of the right edge of the field, as it more closely resembled forgotten to chisel the last digit of the date. I ignored the small character cut date "126" as 1260, either truly 1260, or 126x where the engraver had

757 “Muhammad Rahim, chief of the sultans, struck coinage in gold by the grace of the Generous (God).”

758 On my price list #160, lot 21, I listed an example on which I read the clear date “126” as 1260, either truly 1260, or 126x where the engraver had forgotten to chisel the last digit of the date. I ignored the small character cut in the center of the right edge of the field, as it more closely resembled a diacritical for the vowel “u” than a numeral, though it could be regarded as “g.” However, a coin with this die on the reverse and clearly dated 127[0] on the obverse proves that the interpretation as 1269 is correct (Zeno-75357).

759 “By the grace of God, the generous, the beneficent, he struck coins in gold, the shah, Qutlugh Murad”.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 308
Later studies in Chinese have been published since about 2000.

After Xinjiang (Sinkiang, aka Chinese Turkestan) was annexed to China between 1757 and 1759, several Islamic rebellions took place, for which coins were struck during three of them. Chinese coinage of Xinjiang at first consisted only of cast copper cash, often with the mint name on the reverse in the Arabic script. In the late 19th century, hammered silver ½ micals were extensively produced, replaced by machine struck copper and silver (plus some very rare gold) since the 1890s. Only the rebel coins are included here. The proper Chinese machine-struck coins are listed in the 19th and 20th century editions of the Standard Catalog of World Coins, the cash pieces in David Hartill, Cast Chinese Coins.

temp. Ghazi Rashid, at Kuche & Khotan, 1279-1284 / 1862-1867

G3090 AR tenga, struck at Khotan & dated AH1283 RRR
With the kalima & date on obverse, zarb khotan latif on reverse.
H3090 AE cash, produced with mint name Kuche, Uighur inscriptions, occasionally dated 1280 or 1281 S
The denomination was also known as 2 pul, as noted in Zeno.
J3090 AE cash, similar, but with mint name Aksu, undated RRR
Most examples bear the numeral 2 on the reverse, more likely reference to “2 pul” than a regnal year.

temp. Ya‘qub Beg, based at Kashghar (Kashi), 1282-1294 / 1865-1877

All coins of Ya‘qub Beg bear inscriptions in Persian and are stylistically similar to coins of similar denominations of Khoquad. All bear the name of the current Ottoman sultan, whom Ya‘qub Beg recognized as overlord in order to assure protection against both the Russians and Chinese. All coins of Ya‘qub were minted at Kashghar. For gold & silver coins in the name of the deceased Malla Khan that cite the mint as Khoquad, but struck at Kashghar, & dated 1288-1289, see #A3077 & B3077.

M3090.1 AV tilla, mithqal weight (4.5-4.6g), citing ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, struck 1290-1291 RR
Mint name with epithet mahrusa (“protected”).
M3090.2 AV tilla, reduced weight (3.7g), similar, dated 1291-1294 R
Mint name with epithet dar al-salatana.
N3090 AV tilla, citing Murad V, dated 1293 RRR
O3090 AV tilla, citing ‘Abd al-Hamid II, date uncertain RRR
The date has not been confirmed, but is most likely 1294.

P3090 AR ½ miscal, citing ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, struck 1290-1295 (sic) C
Half micals continued to be produced under the authority of the Chinese government after 1294/1877, many with Persian or Turkish inscriptions. These are catalogued in Xinjiang Numismatics and SCWC.

P3090 AE falsus, citing ‘Abd al-‘Aziz, struck 1291-1294, often undated S
The alleged year 1290 is 129x with the final digit missing.

temp. Habib Allah, rebel at Khotan, fl. 1283 / 1866

R3090 AR miscal, anonymous, dated 1283 RR
Sunni kalima on the obverse, zarb khotan latif on the reverse. An example dated 1282 has been reported, but its authenticity has been questioned.

DURRANI (SADOZAY BRANCH)

Aside from the generally excellent listing (but somewhat obsolete) in the Standard Catalog of World Coins (18th and 19th century editions), see the following:


Full translations of the couplets can be found there.

The Durrans were an Afghan family who rose to power in the service of Nadir Shah (1148-1160). The main branch was known as the Sadozay after their eponymous founder, Sado. They adopted the title of durr-i durrani, “pearl of pearls” upon the accession of Ahmad Shah in 1160/1747. By the late 1220s real power had fallen largely to various princes of the Barakzay branch of the Durrani clan, though nominal Sadozay princes continued to sit on the throne until 1258/1842. After 1216/1801, the Durrani patrimony was often split into concurrent branches, typically at Kabul, Qandahar, Herat and Peshawar, but due to complex overlapping of the branches, the rival rulers are listed here in approximate chronological order, irrespective of where they ruled.

Durrani coinage followed the Mughal standards as adopted by Nadir Shah of Iran. Some earlier Durrani copper coins bear the name of the ruler and are listed in this section. Early anonymous copper coins of the Durrani period and all later copper coins are civic issues, and are consequently listed under the general rubric of Iranian Civic Copper.

Each mint enjoyed its own stylistic and calligraphic tradition, though with few exceptions (e.g., issues of Kuchin) the inscription was always uniform at all mints for a given ruler. Even when not legible or off flan, the mint can almost always be determined by calligraphic style and symbols. In this respect, Durrani coinage conforms to the traditions of later Mughal coinage of India. And as with Mughal coinage, Durrani inscriptions tend to be arranged similarly at all mints, though date and regnal year positions vary.

With few exceptions (as noted), fractional rupees are very rare. Not all known fractions are listed here, and additional fractional types continue to be discovered.

The relative rarity of mints and types can be ascertained from the listings in the 18th and 19th century volumes of the Standard Catalog of World Coins, although most of its pricing is obsolete. With some exceptions, Durrani silver and gold coins are usually found in very fine or better grades, usually, but not always, carefully struck.

Coppers are usually in fine or better condition, though often encrusted, corroded, or abominable struck.

For most types, each mint produced a distinctive subtype, ordinarily defined by cartouches, calligraphic style, and the presence of one or more symbols in the field. These distinctions are not noted in the listings here, but can be observed in SCWC, where most types and subtypes are illustrated by mint & variety. In addition, several reigns saw the utilization of more than one couplet. As in the second edition, these distinctions are also not noted here. The mints are typically grouped into Afghan mints (Mashhad, Herat, Ahmadshahi and Kabul) and Indian mints (located in modern Pakistan or India), as each group followed somewhat different patterns of design. Rupees of Indian mints were quite rare until the 1970s, but have become relatively available since then.

The Indian mints were under Durrani control as follows: Ahmadnagar Farrukhabad (AH1174-1176), Ahmadpur (1217), Anwala (1173-1174), Attock (1161, 1170-1199), Bahualpur (1217-1225), Bareli (1173-1174), Bhakhar (1161-1234), Dera (1161-1218), Derajat (1166-1234), Kashmir (1167, 1176-1238), Lahore (1161, 1165, 1170-

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 309

760 Due to the computerization of the SCWC database, the Durrani, Alikozay and Barakzay coins are now organized by ruler rather than by mint. This new organization is more convenient only if the reader has already successfully determined the ruler, but in general, it stinks.

761 Ahmadshahi was the epithetical name of Qandahar, introduced by Ahmad Shah (who else?) during his 10th year of reign.

762 Rupees continued to be minted at Bhakhar in the name of Mahmud Shah after the Sikh conquest, 1235-1252. See types #A3104-B3104, 3134 and
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3090 AR rupee</td>
<td>Least rare are Mashhad and Shahjahanabad, despite their brief production.</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3091 AV ashrafi (about 3.5g), Mashhad &amp; Ahmadshahi mints only</td>
<td>Previously unknown, some 25-30 pieces from Mashhad were discovered in 1994, all dated 1168. Ahmadshahi is RRR.</td>
<td>RR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3091.1 AR sawai rupee (¼ rupees), Dera mint, year 2</td>
<td>Normal round flan, lion on obverse, only text on reverse. Sawai means ¼, so this issue was ¼, i.e., 25% heavier than the standard rupee. The 25% heavier silver denomination was first introduced by the Mughal ruler Jahangir.</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3091.2 AR sawai rupee (¼ rupees), Mashhad mint</td>
<td>Teardrop shape planchet, inscriptions only on both sides.</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3092 AR rupee (11.52g)</td>
<td>Struck at most mints to this standard, which was equivalent to the contemporary Mughal standard. The following mints are known to have different weights: Derajat (about 11.10g), Kashmir (uncertain, probably full weight at the beginning, then reduced to about 11.20g after about 1180), and apparently also Sarhind and Tatta (exact weights undetermined).</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3092A AR nazara rupee, struck on very broad thin flans (43.5mm), Shahjahanabad mint only</td>
<td>Almost all known specimens are mounted and worn, having been used as decorative medals.</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3092F AR ½ rupee, known from Ahmadshahi and Peshawar</td>
<td></td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3092G AR ¼ rupee (about 3.6g), lion on obverse (similar to type #3091.1 of Dera), Rikab mint</td>
<td></td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3092H AR ¼ rupee, mainly from Herat, known dated 1163</td>
<td></td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3092K AR 2 shahi (1/5 rupee), Mashhad mint, year 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3093 AR shahi (1/10 rupee), standard couplet on obverse, mints of Mashhad (R) &amp; Kabul (RRR)</td>
<td>Mashhad shahis are usually found holed or ex-mount.</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anonymous countermarked coins, circa 1170s-1230s / 1760s-1820s

The following countermarks were used by the Durrans in their Indian territories from about 1171 until at least the 1230s. Nonetheless, the origin of these countermarks is unclear. Dated examples range from the 1170s to the 1230s and exist in great variety, of which those of the 1170s and 1180s are the most frequently encountered dated issues. They are found on a wide mixture of Durrani, Iranian and Indian coins, mostly rupees. The place of the countermarking is unknown, as a mint name never appears in the countermark. Their prevalence on coins of Attack and of the Rohilla mints formerly led to their attribution to the Rohillas in Bihar and Bengal, but the presence of regnal years of Ahmad Shah (most commonly years 23-24) and other evidence confirms Durrani provenance for at least a substantial majority of these types. Some rare examples may be of Iranian origin, but for convenience I have assumed that they are all Durrani.

Additional undertypes exist, all rare. See type #2663A for what is likely an earlier type.

The entire ravij series is desperately craving further research!

A3096 AR 2 rupee of Iran (23.04g), countermarked ravij ("current") as #B3096, usually with date | R |

B3096.1 AR rupee, Durrani, Iranian or Indian (most commonly Mughal or Rohilkhand) hosts, countermarked ravij, usually with date | S |

B3096.2 AR rupee, similar ravij countermark but with regnal year of Ahmad Shah in addition to date | S |

C3096 AR 6 shahi of the Afsharid dynasty of Iran, with similar ravij countermark | RR |

D3096 AR rupee, various hosts, countermarked khalis ("pure"), usually without date | RR |

Sulaiman Shah, 1186 / 1772

M3096 AV mohur | RRR |

3096 AR rupee | RR |

Taimur Shah, as Nizam (vicereign), 1170-1186 / 1757-1772

A3097 AV mohur | RR |

3097 AR rupee (11.52g) | S |

Only the Multan mint struck these coins throughout Taimur’s viceregency. Coins of other mints are known from years 1180-1186 (Bhakhar), and 1170-1171 only (Dera, Lahore, Sarhind and Sind, together with a few very rare later years for Lahore). | |

3098 AE falus | RR |

Taimur Shah, as Sultan, 1186-1207 / 1772-1793

Posthumously dated silver coins from Herat (1208-1212 & 1216) & Mashhad (1208-1209), together with gold mohurs of Herat dated 1208-1209, are actually issues of Mahmud Shah when in opposition to Shah Zaman (1207-1216). | |

3099 AV mohur | S |

Kabul and Ahmadshahi are the most available mints, Peshawar only modestly rare. Ahmadshahi mohurs are frequently undated. | |
3109 AR ½ rupee RR
Rupees struck at Kashmir (11.00g) and some other Indian mints used a lighter standard.
A revised design was introduced at Herat, Kabul & Qandahar in 1204. Whereas early dates are somewhat scarce for these three mints, issues of 1204-1207 are the most common rupees of Taimur. This revision was not adopted at Indian mints.

3100N AR nazarana rupee, Kabul 1207/year 21 RRR
Unique specimen, about 35mm, from the William F. Spengler collection.

3101 AR 1/10 rupee (shahi), Mashhad mint only RR

3102 AE dam, Kashmir mint only

3103 AE falus
Struck at Balkh (S), as well as at a number of Indian mints, principally Bhakhar & Multan (R).

Later local issues in his name, more than 30 years later:
A3104 AR rupee, posthumous issue of Sind, full weight (10.9g), dated 1239-1245
B3104 AR rupee, similar, but reduced weight (7.8g), dated 1252-1257 and undated
Some issues either undated or dated 1252 bear the city name Haidarabad as well as the provincial name Sind (R).

Humayun Shah, 1207 / 1793
All coins of this ruler were struck at Ahmadshahi.

3104 AV mohur RRR
3105 AR rupee RRR

Shah Zaman, 1207-1216 / 1793-1801

3106 AV mohur R
3107 AR double rupee R
Struck only at Kabul & Ahmadshahi.

3108 AR rupee (11.52g at most mints) C
Also struck at Mashhad, years 1212-1214 (RR),

3108A AR rupee, with an additional couplet in the reverse margin, struck mainly at Ahmadshahi

3109 AR ¼ rupee S
3110 AR ¼ rupee R

3111 AR shahi (1/10 rupee), Mashhad mint only RRR
3112 AE falus (mainly Kashmir & Multan mints) S

Mahmud Shah, 1st reign at Kabul, 1216-1218 / 1801-1803
Two different couplets were used during this short reign, except for types #3115A and the falus, type #3117. For rupees of Herat, see type #3138.1.

3112 AV double mohur, Bahawalpur mint only RRR
3113 AV mohur, several mints RRR
3114 AR double rupee, Bahawalpur only RRR
3115 AR rupee, couplet type, many mints S
Including Mashhad 1216, with reverse as Shah Zaman type #3108 of Mashhad (RRR). Mashhad returned to Iranian rule in 1218.

3115A AR rupee, with Sultan Mahmud in cartouche on obverse (without the couplet), blank border around (Mashhad mint only) RRR
Same reverse as type #2785-2786 of Nadir Mirza (Afsharid).

3116 AR ¼ rupee, type as #3115 RRR
3117 AE falus, struck principally at Kashmir & Multan

Qaisar Shah, 1st reign, at Kabul & Ahmadshahi (Qandahar), 1218 / 1803

A3118 AV mohur RRR
3118 AR rupee RRR

Shah Shuja‘ al-Mulk, 2nd reign at Kabul, 1218-1224 / 1803-1809
Shah Shuja‘ al-Mulk ruled briefly at Kabul in 1216/1801 (1st reign), but no coins of that ephemeral event have yet been discovered.

3119 AV double mohur, Bahawalpur mint only RRR
3120 AV mohur R
3121 AR double rupee, Bahawalpur only RRR
3122 AR rupee C
3123 AR ¼ rupee RR
3124 AE falus, Mashhad mint S
3124B AE falus, Balkh mint, dated 1218
3124A AE falus, countermarked shah shuja in two lines on earlier types RRR

Shah Shuja‘ al-Mulk (“3rd reign”),
as local ruler at Peshawar 1227 / 1812

G3125 AR rupee RRR
Known from Peshawar 1227/year one only.

Shah Shuja‘ al-Mulk (“4th reign”),
as local ruler at Bhakhar 1233-1234 / 1817-1818

3128 AR rupee RRR
Known from Bhakhar 1234 (and possibly 1233, both without regnal year) and Peshawar 1234/year one.

Qaisar Shah, 2nd reign, in Kashmir only,
1222-1223 / 1807-1808

3125 AR rupee R
Ata Muhammad Bamizai Khan, in Kashmir,
1223-1228 / 1808-1813
This ruler was not himself of Durrani lineage, but a governor in Durrani service who rebelled in Kashmir. His quasi-anonymous coinage bears the name of Shah Nur al-Din, patron “saint” of Kashmir. For all metals, mint of Kashmir only

A3126 AV double mohur (22.0g) S
3126 AR rupee R
3127 AE falus, inscriptions as on the rupee S

Muhammad ‘Azim, in Kashmir for Ayyub Shah,
1228-1234 / 1813-1819

3128 AE falus, Kashmir mint only RR
Anonymous, identified by date and regnal year combination, of which only 1228/year 1 is occasionally seen. Muhammad ‘Azim was technically a Barakzay, but recognized the powerless Ayyub Shah as his nominal overlord.

Mahmud Shah, 2nd reign at Kabul, 1224-1233 / 1809-1817
For various issues of Herat, see #V3138 ff.

3129 AV mohur R
3130 AR double rupee, Kabul mint only RRR

3131.1 AR rupee, full standard (11.52g), struck 1224-1228 C
Full-weight rupees of Kabul 1228/year 5 are commonly found countermarked rayij, sometimes with the as yet unexplained numeral “9”, perhaps for the year 1229.

3131.2 AR rupee, reduced standard, struck 1228-1234 (sic), about 10.68g at Kabul and Peshawar, about 10.35g at Ahmadshahi, 10.80g at Kashmir C
Each mint introduced a design change in 1229 to indicate the reduced weight. For example, at Peshawar the reverse frame was altered from a square to an octagon.

766 Zeno-3296.
767 Single mohurs of Ata Muhammad Bamizai have recently been reported, but are considered modern forgeries. Modern forgeries of the double mohur appeared in 2010.
Derajat rupees of this type dated 1235-1251 are posthumous Sikh issues, listed as type #B3142, weight about 10.80g.

3131A AR rupee (10.68g), sultan mahmud & date in central quatrefoil on obverse, Peshawar mint, 1231-1233 R

3132 AR ½ rupee, Ahmadshahi mint (either standard) RR

3133 AE falus, in his name, Multan & Peshawar S

3134 AR ja’u (aka timasha), struck by the local rulers of Ladakh in the name of Mahmud Shah S

The mint name as tibat (Tibet), struck circa 1815-1842. Over this period, the weight declined from about 2.5g to 2.15g. The Durrans never took possession of Ladakh. Rather, the local king artificially recognized Durrani overlordship, thus pretending to protect his own independence against other enemies.

Sultan ‘Ali, 1223 / 1817

3134S AR rupee, struck at Kabul 1233 only RRR

Ayyub Shah, 1233-1246 / 1817-1829

A3135 AV mohur RRR

3135 AR rupee (10.68g, as #3131.2), without central cartouche on obverse RR

Struck at Kashmir until 1234 (RR), at Ahmadshahi until 1237, at Kabul until 1239, Peshawar until 1245, and Bhakhar (dates undetermined).

The Kashmir rupee weight is about 10.9-11.0g. Peshawar rupees dated year 11 but without Hijri year are remarkably common. It has been suggested that they were struck for several years under the Sikhs after the demise of Sultan Muhammad Tila’i in 1250, whose own coins (#3159) were struck between the death of Mahmud Shah and the brief reign of Shah Shuja’ at Peshawar (KM-732).

3135C AR rupee, sekke az shu’a’-i ayyub shah in large central obverse quatrefoil, Peshawar 1245-1246 RR

Both with regnal year 12 (KM-734).

3135A BI rupee, struck only at Ahmadshahi 1238-1239 RR

Struck in very debased silver, almost coppery in color, part of severe debasement at this mint from 1234 to 1242. See #A3138, C3138 & D3138 for Barakzay issues dated 1240-43, struck on similarly debased silver.

A3136 AR ¼ rupee, known only from Ahmadshahi RR

The first part of this couplet means “he struck gold from the sun and moon, the sultan, protector of the Prophet’s religion, Shah Shuja’ al-Mulk.”

3136 AE falus, struck only at Peshawar R (Types #3137 and A3138 have been moved to the Barakzays.)

Mahmud Shah, at Herat, 1216-1245 / 1801-1829

V3138 AV mohur, Herat mint RRR

3138.1 AR rupee, first standard (11.52g), struck 1216-1239 A

From the late 1220s onward, the silver purity was reduced, either from time to time or gradually, though the actual fineness has not yet been analyzed. Issues circa 1237-1239 are of severely debased billon, perhaps as poor as the contemporary issues of Ahmadshahi (probably less than 20% silver, the rest copper), and are relatively rare. Fine silver was restored in 1240, together with a weight reduction, now listed as type #3138.2.

This type normally dated on both obverse & reverse, with mismatched dates often encountered, usually just one year apart.

3138.2 AR rupee, second standard (10.2g), struck 1240-1243, fine silver RR

3139.1 AR ½ rupee, 1st standard, known dated 1230 RR

3139.2 AR ½ rupee, 2nd standard, normally dated 1243 R

V3140 AR ½ rupee, 1st standard, heavily debased, dated 1239 only RRR

A3140.1 AR ¼ rupee, 1st standard, known dated 1230 RRR

A3140.2 AR ¼ rupee, 2nd standard, known dated 1241 and 1242 RRR

S3140 AR ½ rupee, 1st standard RR

S3141 AR 1/12 rupee, 1st standard RRR

Mahmud Shah, local types in his name, mostly posthumous

Miscellaneous types struck in his name by local rulers after his deposition at Kabul in 1233/1817. See also #3134.

A3142 AR rupee, Bhakhar mint, dated 1239-1269 S

All bear the name mahmud shah in a central octofoil on obverse, whereas his regular issues have his name in normal horizontal inscriptions.

Coins of 1259 (with lion) and later (with or without the lion) were struck under British authority (S).

B3142 AR rupee (10.8-10.9g), Derajat, 1235-1251 S

Struck under Sikh authority by the local ruler Nawab Sher Muhammad as vassal of Ranjit Singh, but without any inscriptive or indicative evidence of Sikh issuance.

C3142 AR rupee (11.1g), Bahawalpur, 1239-1250 R

Beginning in 1251, anonymous rupees were struck at three mints in Bahawalpur state (Bahawalpur, Ahmadpur, Khanpur). These fall outside the scope of this Checklist (see SCWC for details).

D3142 AR rupee, reduced weight (8.2g), Ahmadpur, a mint in the Bahawalpur region, 1248-1249 only RR

E3142 AE falus, Multan mint, circa 1253-1270 R

F3142 AE falus, Kalat mint, posthumously dated in the 1280s & 1290s S

The normal date is 1295, probably struck as a frozen year for at least a decade. Blundered dates are frequently encountered.

Kamran Shah, at Herat only, 1245-1258 / 1829-1842

3142.1 AR rupee (10.35g), dated 1244 (sic) RR

Kamran probably acceded in 1244, though the history texts uniformly place his accession in 1245. All Herat rupees dated 1244 bear the name of Kamran, together with his first couplet, tala bar mehr nazad o noqreh bar mah / za fazye nagh nam-i kamran shah.”

3142.2 AR rupee, Herat mint, dated 1244-1255 S

These rupees bear his 2nd couplet, not yet fully deciphered, mi-azad az mehr tala o noqreh az mah / bakhl ... (bar?) sekke-ye kamran shah.”

A3143 AR ½ rupee (5.18g) RR

B3143 AR ¼ rupee (2.6g) RRR

3143 AR jendak (=1/6 rupee, 1.92g), known dated 1255-1257 RR

The word jendak means “fish scale” and was applied to these coins because of their tiny size.

Extensive copper coins were struck at Herat during Kamran’s reign, but are anonymous and thus included under type #3235.

Shah Shuja’ al-Mulk, 5th reign, as figurehead for the British army, 1245-1258 / 1839-1842

3144 AV mohur R

3145.1 AR rupee (9.40g), Kabul 1255 only, with long couplet RR

Couplet sekke zad bar sim o zar roushanter as khorshid o mah / sultan hami-ye din-e nabi shuja’ al-mulk shah.”
3145.2 AR rupee (9.40g), Kabul 1255 only, with obverse inscription his name and title only, sultan shuja’ al-mulk shurr-i durran

Durr-i durran means “pearl of pearls”.

3145.3 AR rupee, similar, but with name & title shortened to just sultan shuja’ al-mulk shah

Struck 1255-1258 at both Kabul & Ahmadshahi, for which only 1255 & 1256 are common. 774

3146 AR ½ rupee RRR

3147 AR ¼ rupee RRR

Both the ½ and ¼ rupees were struck only at Ahmadshahi, inscriptions as #3145.3.

Fath Jang, 1258 / 1842

3148 AR rupee (9.40g), four subtypes, each with a distinctive imperial legend (KM-488.1 to 488.4) R

Kabul (R) and Ahmadshahi (RRR) mints.

Shahpur Shah, 1258 / 1842

3149 AR rupee (9.40g), Kabul only RR

(Types #3150-3152, previously but incorrectly assigned to the Durrans, have been moved to the Barakzays, listed under Kohandil Khan & Rahamdil Khan.)

ALIKOZAY

For references, see the entries for the Barakzays.

A minor branch of the Durrani family ruling briefly at Herat, from 1258/1842 until ousted by the Iranian Qajars in 1272/1856. All their coinage is anonymous. In the first and second editions I had accepted the received wisdom dating back to 19th century publications that had erroneously assigned these coins to the Sadozay branch of the Durrans.

All coins of the Alikozyas were struck at Herat, normally well struck. Alikozay silver coins from 1263-1271 adopted the contemporary weight standards of the Qajars of Iran. The issue of 1261 followed the Qandahari rupee weight of 5.75g of Kohandil Khan (#3151), which had also been the Qajar qiran weight until reduced to 5.37g in 1255, six years earlier. There are no Alikozya coins known dated 1262.

temp. Yar Muhammad Khan, 1258-1267 / 1842-1851

3153.1 AR qandahari rupee (5.75g), struck 1261 only R

3153.2 AR qirans (5.37g), struck 1263-1267 S

All coins of this reign bear the kalima obverse, mint on reverse.

The date is normally on the reverse.

A3154 AR ½ qiran (2.68g), reported only for 1263 RRR

Known in the Tubingen collection (2.76g). The date is somewhat uncertain.

3154 AR jendak (1.92g), struck 1258-1260 RR

The jendak was equal to 1/6 of the canonical Mughal rupee of 11.52g, also reckoned as 1/5 of a Qandahari rupee.

temp. Sa’id Muhammad Khan, 1267-1271 / 1851-1855

3156 AR qirans (4.61g), type as #3153, dated 1269-1270 R

Coins of 1269-1270 are distinguishable from #3153 by weight, equal to 24 nokhod, reduced from 28 nokhod.

3156A AR qiran (5.37g), aphoristic obverse, struck 1271 only RR

The aphorism is malek-e mulk dar haqiqat ust, “in truth, the possessor of kingship is He”, i.e., God. There are two varieties, one with reverse (mint & date side) in a circle, one in a square. Note that the reduced weight of #3156 was abandoned.

temp. Muhammad Yusuf Khan Sadozai, 1272 / 1855-1856

Muhammad Yusuf was not an Alikozy but an obscure scion of the Sadozay’s (sic) who had gained a following amongst the Hazaras of northern Afghanistan. Upon his overthrow, Herat passed to Iranian Qajar control. Qajar types #2927 and 2930 were struck there 1272-1280 (S).

3155 AV tilla (about 3.1g), dated 1272 only RRR

Obverse & reverse fields enclosed in scalloped borders of 16 to 18 arcs. Otherwise, the legends and their arrangement are the same as #3156A of Sa’id Muhammad Khan.

BARAKZAY

In addition to the listings in the Standard Catalog of World Coins (now somewhat obsolete), the following are useful:


Another branch of the Durrani tribal alliance, rising to power in 1239/1824 and ousted by a palace coup in SH1352/1933 (one of the earliest Barakzay rulers, Pardil Khan, briefly assumed power in Qandahar in 1234/1819 and produced anonymous coins during that year; type #K231). Except for some civic coppers, their hammered coinage ceased in 1308/1891. Later machine-struck coinage lies outside the scope of this Checklist, listed in SCWC. All coppers of this period are purely anonymous and are included with the listings of Iranian Civic Copper.

The listings of the Barakzays have been extensively rewritten, based on my research published in the 1999 article cited above. So far, I have not helped SCWC revise these rulers.

The weight standards of the silver coins are somewhat approximate, as insufficient specimens were available for weighing. For many issues, especially those struck during the 1240s and 1250s, the silver coins were somewhat debased.

With a few rare exceptions, Barakzay silver coinage was struck only at Kabul, Qandahar (named Ahmadshahi until 1279 and occasionally thereafter) and Herat, the gold coinage only at Kabul. The full rupee is the only common denomination for Kabul, its fractions always very rare. Qandahar (Ahmadshahi) also struck full rupees, especially at the beginning and end of Barakzay coinage, but the much lighter qandahari rupee was its principal dominant issue from 1260 to 1298, thereafter the same weight as the Kabul rupee. The Iranian qiran was the sole denomination produced under the Barakzay at Herat, 1280-1308. Gold was apparently struck only for ceremonial purposes, as imported foreign gold coins served the needs of trade. The listings of silver and gold coinage in SCWC are excellent, though many attributions need to be revised. Copper falsus of the Barakzay period are entirely anonymous and included under the Iranian Civic Coppers. Most Barakzay silver and gold coins bear the date on both sides, with the result that mismatched dates are occasionally found, especially for the reign of ‘Abd al-Rahman, the last issuer of hammered coins. All Barakzay types whose numbers contain 3137, 3138, 3150, 3151 and 3152 were formerly listed as Durrani issues.

temp. Habib Allah, at Kabul, 1239 / 1824

3137 AR rupee (10.6g), anonymous, kalima obverse, struck at Kabul in 1239 only (KM473) RRR

775 The dynastic name is spelled either Barakzai or Barakzay. The Encyclopaedia Britannica prefers Barakzay for all references, whereas Wikipedia suggests Barakzai for singular, Barakzay for plural, but uses either in various entries. Both are correct, and I’ve chosen Barakzay with the Y (why not?), at the suggestion of the proprietor of an Afghan restaurant near San Jose, California.

776 The numerous reattributions in my article have not been incorporated into the SCWC, due to my own laziness. Some additional types and dates from the William Spengler collection were sold at my third auction, World Numismatic Auctions #3, July 2008.

777 All Barakzay issues of Qandahar dated 1234-1279 bear the mint name in the honorary form Ahmadshahi. From 1280 onwards, with a few rare exceptions, the traditional name Qandahar was restored.

778 SICA 9:1129.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 313
3137A AR rupee (10.6g), with legend sekke-ye doulat-e soltan-e zaman, struck at Kabul in 1239 only (KM476)

The legend translates as “coin of the government of the Sultan of Time”. Two different arrangements of the obverse legend.

temp. Sultan Muhammad, 1240-1241 / 1824-1826

Sultan Muhammad ruled together with his brother Yar Muhammad for the first several months. Coins of the joint reign and the following sole reign of Sultan Muhammad are typologically identical.

3137B AR rupee (9.85g), Kabul only (KM477)

Anonymous, with legend fakhr kon ey sim o zar az sekke-ye saheb-e zaman, “O strike silver and gold with the dies of the Master of Time”. See #3157 of Dost Muhammad for similar rupees dated 1241-1245 with differently arranged inscriptions.

temp. Purdil Khan, at Qandahar, 1st reign, 1234 / 1819

K3138 AR rupee (10.4g), anonymous, kalima obverse, struck only at Ahmadshahi in 1234 (KM160)

Later issues of the time of Purdil and his brother Sherdil dated 1234-1239 (circa 1819-1824) cite Ayyub Shah and are therefore included with Ayyub Shah’s types #3135 and 3135A.

temp. Sherdil Khan, at Qandahar, 1240-1241 / 1824-1826

A3138 BI rupee (10.4g), obverse bearing the short inscription, ya shah-e ghouth-e a’zam (KM165)

“O Shah, the greatest defender”. Struck only at Ahmadshahi, 1240-1242, of such highly debased billon that they are sometimes misconstrued as copper coins (KM165). Coins dated 1242 were struck posthumously, perhaps because a new design had not yet been chosen by his successor.

B3138 BI ½ rupee, similar (KM166)

temp. Uncertain ruler, at Qandahar, 1241 / 1825

C3138 BI rupee (10.4g), obverse legend sekke-ye saheb zaman

Not yet in KM; example in the Tübingen collection (#99-1668).

temp. Purdil Khan, at Qandahar, 2nd reign, 1242-1245 / 1826-1830

Same inscriptions and layout as #A3138 of Sherdil Khan, struck only at Ahmadshahi.

D3138 BI rupee (10.4g), anonymous, heavily debased silver, kalima obverse, dated 1242 & 1243

Kalima obverse, mint & date reverse. This debased silver type is included as part of copper coins (KM165). Coins dated 1242 were struck posthumously, perhaps because a new design had not yet been chosen by his successor.

E3138 AR rupee (9.15g), type as last but good silver, dated 1244 and 1245 only (KM168)

F3138 BI ½ rupee (5.2g), heavily debased metal, type as #D3138 (KM166)

temp. Kohandil Khan, at Qandahar, 1st reign, 1246-1255 / 1830-1839

H3138 AR rupee (9.15g), same arrangement as #E3138, distinguishable only by date (also KM168)

It remains unclear whether Kohandil succeeded his brother Purdil Khan late in 1245 or early in 1246.

Dost Muhammad, at Kabul, 1st reign, 1242-1245 / 1826-1839

Other anonymous types of Kabul dated 1239-1241 that were formerly assigned to Dost Muhammad are now assigned to Habib Allah (1239) and Sultan Muhammad (1240-1241).

Without the king’s name:

3157 AR rupee (9.85g), first issue, anonymous, same inscriptions as #3137B but arranged with saheb-e zaman in central obverse quatrefoil (1241-1244) (KM478)

3157A AR rupee (9.85g), same inscriptions, but rearranged as on #3137B (1244-1245) (KM479)

A3158 AR rupee (reduced weight, 9.45g), second issue, new couplet in the name of his deceased father, Payinda Khan (1245-1250) (KM480)

Several arrangements of obverse & reverse inscriptions.

In his own name:

3158 AR rupee (9.45g), third issue, new couplet bearing his own name (1250-55) (KM481)

temp. Sultan Muhammad Tila’i, at Peshawar, 1247-1250 / 1831-1834

S3159 AR rupee (approximately 9.45g), anonymous, Peshawar mint only (KM479)

Hans Herrli points out that Sultan Muhammad Tila’a was appointed by the Sikh ruler Ranjit Singh as the feudatory ruler in Peshawar. However, Herrli does not consider Tila’i’s coinage as a Sikh issue.

Muhammad Zaman, at Kabul, 1st reign, 1257 / 1841-1842

K3160 AR rupee (9.45g) (KM485)

Short half couplet tentatively read as mudad kon darin zaman ya saheb oz-zaman, “O Master of Time, help us during this time”.

Muhammad Zaman, at Kabul, 2nd reign, 1258 / 1842

A3160 AR rupee (9.45g) (KM486)

Couplet identical to the first couplet of Shah Zaman, originally used 1207-1214 (#3108). Easily identified by its style, date and reduced weight.

temp. Muhammad Akbar, at Kabul, late 1258 / 1842-1843

S3161 AR rupee (9.45g), anonymous type, kalima obverse, dated 1258 only (KM493)

Very similar to the rupee of Kabul dated 1239 (#3137), differing mainly by the omission of the marginal inscription around the kalima on the obverse.

Dost Muhammad, 2nd reign, 1258-1279 / 1842-1863

A3160 AV tilla, Kabul mint only (KM499)

A3162 AR rupee (9.28g), in his name, Kabul (KM497) and Ahmadshahi (KM188)

Kabul rupees known dated all years 1259-1280 except 1260. Dost Muhammad died at Herat a few days before the end of 1279, so that the news of his death may not have reached Kabul until early in 1280. Thus rupees were struck in his name at Kabul in 1280, sometimes muled with dies dated 1279. Issues of 1259 & 1261 have fine calligraphy, rupees of Kabul 1262-1280 are much coarser, though occasionally, these later dies are quite artfully engraved. Coins of this type are frequently dated on both sides, so that mixed dates, never more than one year apart, are not particularly scarce. Issues of Ahmadshahi are dated only in 1272 and 1273 (R).

A3162N AR nazara rupee (9.28g), same as #3162 but struck on broad thin planchet

B3163 AR ½ rupee (3.09g), similar, known only from Kabul dated 1276

A3163 AR qandahari rupee (5.55g), struck only at Qandahar (1272-1279) (see also #3151) (KM187.1, listed there as ½ rupee) Mint name engraved as Ahmadshahi 1272-1273, then as Qandahar 1273-1279. Formerly misunderstood as a half rupee. An example dated 1281 was in the Spengler collection, probably a mule of a Dost Muhammad obverse with a Sher ‘Ali reverse (KM187.2).

Anonymous (undetermined ruler), at Qandahar, 1258-1259 / 1842-1843

V3150 AR rupee (9.15g), Ahmadshahi mint, 1258-1259

With the Arabic obverse inscription al-mulk lillah al-wahid al-qahhar (“the kingship belongs to God, the One, the Almighty”)
and dated on both sides, this type is perhaps the earliest issue of Kohandil Khan before the formal commencement of his second reign, though it might be a late issue of the short-term Durrani ruler Safdar Khan (b. Shah Shuja'). One example is known dated 1258 on the reverse from an otherwise unknown mint, together with a normal 1259 obverse die. Others are dated either 1258 or 1259 on both sides.

**temp. Kohandil Khan, at Qandahar, 2nd reign, 1259-1271 / 1843-1855**

All coins of this reign are anonymous, with distinctive obverse inscriptions, saheb-e molk-e haqiqi ust ("the Master of Kingdom of Truth is He"), a reference to God) for the heavy rupee and its fractions. The term soltan-e jahan-e haqiqi ust ("the Sultan of the World of Truth is He") was used for the light Qandahar rupee.

3150 AR rupee (9.15g), dated 1259 only (KM183) R

3150B AR ½ rupee (3.05g), similar, also dated 1259 RRR

3151 AR qandahari rupee (5.75g), dated 1260-1271 (KM182)

The Qandahar rupee was noted by several European visitors as equal to 10/17 of the Kabul rupee, though a relationship of approximately 10/16.5 is more likely, assuming that the two mints maintained identical fineness. It is also equivalent to precisely 10/17 of the Kabuli rupee, though a relationship of

3152 AR ½ rupee (dated 1271-1272) (KM184)

 Anonymous coinage, distinguished from type #3151 of Kohandil Khan by the word rayij in teardrop cartouche in reverse center. (Numbers 3153-3155 are now listed under the Alkozay dynasty, just before the Barakzay listings.)

**temp. Rahamdil Khan, at Qandahar, 1271-1272 / 1855-1856**

3152 AR rupee (dated 1271-1272) (KM184)

Anonymous coinage, distinguished from type #3151 of Kohandil Khan by the word rayij in teardrop cartouche in reverse center. (Numbers 3153-3155 are now listed under the Alkozay dynasty, just before the Barakzay listings.)

3164 AV tilla (3.45g), citing saheb az-zaman within a square on the obverse, mint & date on reverse RRR

3164 B AR qiran, similar*780*

**Sher ‘Ali, 1280-1299 / 1863-1879**

Interrupted at Kabul and Qandahar by the two short reigns of Muhammad Afzal and Mohammad A‘zam between 1283/1866 and 1285/1869, but he continued to be recognized at Herat during these years. All normal rupees were struck solely at Kabul.

E3164 AV mohur, known dated 1288 RRR

3164 AR tilla, RR

An unusual variant was struck at Kabul (1293 & 1295) from dies intended for and inscribed with the denomination of the half rupee but with the weight of a double tilla.*781*

T3165 AR rupee (9.22g), milled type, dated 1280 only (KM502) RR

A presentation rupee struck to celebrate the coronation of Sher ‘Ali. Obverse couplet begins be-vilayet-e amir-e kuli-e amir...

3165.1 AR rupee (9.22g), hammered, struck at Kabul 1280-1282 (KM503) C

Obverse couplet begins za ‘ayn-e marhamat...

3165.2 AR rupee (9.22g), dated 1285 only (KM516) R

Obverse couplet begins za elefayat-e kutha...

*779* The contemporary machine-struck British Indian rupee weighed 11.66g of sterling silver, thus with a net silver content of 10.69g. The fineness of the Barakzay rupees has never been analyzed and published.

*780* In the ANS collection.

*781* Cf. S. Album, price list #133, coin #37. The weight of this coin suggests that the intended denomination may have been a double tilla. As an award coin, its actual weight was likely irrelevant.

Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, PAGE 315
3174 AR rupee (9.22g) C
3175 AR qandahari rupee (5.55g) C
3175 AR qiran (½ rupee, 4.61g), Herat mint only S
A3176 AR ½ rupee RRR temp. Wali Muhammad, at Kabul, 1297 / 1880
3176 AR rupee S
Inscribed va saheb az-caman, “O Master of Time”, instead of a ruler’s name, the same as A3170, but stylistically altogether different. Usually dated on both sides.

Wali Sher ‘Ali, at Qandahar, 1297 / 1880
This ruler was named Sher ‘Ali and bore the title wali-ye qandahari. He is called Wali Sher ‘Ali to distinguish him from the previous Sher ‘Ali, who had died in 1296. Sher ‘Ali II would be a more appropriate name.

A3177 AV tilla RRR
3177 AR Kabul rupee (9.22g), struck at Qandahar S
3178 AR qandahari rupee (5.55g), also struck at Qandahar S temp. Muhammad Ayyub, while besieging Qandahar, 1297 / 1880
3179 AR ½ rupee, struck only at Qandahar S
Inscribed al-ma’tika tilah, “kingship is God’s.” The attribution to Muhammad Ayyub is tentative and demanding of further study.

‘Abd al-Rahman, 1297-1319 / 1880-1901
T3180 AV tilla, struck at Qandahar in 1298 RRR
3180 AR rupee (9.22g), hampered types (1297-1308) A
Struck only at Kabul and Qandahar. Some moderately rare Qandahar issues dated 1298 cite the mint name as Ahmadshahi. During this reign, Qandahar struck rupees after 1298 only to the Kabul standard (9.22g).
A machine-struck version of this type was prepared as a pattern by the Heaton mint in Birmingham, dated 1304 on obverse, 1303 on reverse (KM#805) (R). Although technically a pattern, the large number of worn examples indicated that it entered into circulation. Regular machine-struck coinage began in 1308.

WARNING: Debased metal forgeries of Kabul 1305 exist, originally said to have been made in India in the 1960s for the numismatic trade. I now believe that these were jeweler’s imitations, most likely manufactured in Afghanistan during the early 20th century, and that the Delhi dealer was unaware that they were not genuine. This is understandable, given how little genuine common types of Barakzay rupees cost in the 1960s, about 65¢ to $1 each in bulk lots.

3181 AR qiran (= ½ rupee, 4.61g), hampered, Herat only C
A fractional denomination of Herat, probably ¼ qiran, is listed by SCWC without weight and called ½ rupee (KM#418, RRR). More information needed before it can be listed here.
3181Q AR qandahari rupee (5.55g), year 1298 RR Known with mint name either Ahmadshahi or Qandahar. A3182 AR ½ rupee, hampered, mint of Kabul RR Muhammad Ishaq, rebel at Balkh, 1305-1306 / 1888
3182 AR rupee R
Although minted at Balkh, all his coins are inscribed with the name and epithet of Kabul, save for a single example in the Ashmolean Museum with mint name Ard Sharif (“the illustrious land”), an epithet for Mazar-i Sharif near Balkh in northern Afghanistan.
Modern machinery was introduced at Kabul in 1308/1891. After 1308, the provincial mints of Qandahar and Herat continued to produce civic coppers, always hand-struck, sometimes overstruck on machine-struck coins from other countries. The machine-struck coinage is not described in this Checklist, but is listed in SCWC.

IRANIAN CIVIC COPPER
Including the Afghan mints, several mints in the Caucasus, and issues of Baghdad during Iranian occupation.

See bibliographic entries under the Safavids. Also the following:


Kutelia, Tatina, Catalogue of the Iranian copper coins in the state museum of Georgia, Tbilisi 1990 (in Georgian, Russian & English). Unfortunately, there exists no adequate study of this extensive series. The denominations are rarely known with any accuracy, the sequence of types (when undated) is thoroughly opaque. It is probable that many thousands of types have survived, probably more than ten or twenty thousand. All present collections, public or private, each contain only a small fraction of the known types, and almost all remain unpublished. Of accessible collections, those of the American Numismatic Society and the University of Tubingen have the largest representation of types, but both are discouragingly incomplete.

Because the nature of copper coinage pursued different directions in Iran (including what is now Afghanistan) and Central Asia, I have divided the civic coppers into these two regions. Whereas Central Asian coppers are frequently found in large hoards, Iranian fulus are generally found individually, usually worn or corroded, as the result of extensive circulation.

Hoard of more than a handful of pieces are almost never encountered.

From about 800/1400 onwards, copper coinage in Iran (and in Central Asia from about 820/1420) became the prerogative of local authorities. The ruler was no longer cited, and few attempts were made to organize any semblance of uniformity amongst the mints. For convenience, the Iranian civic copper coinage can be divided into three periods. During the first period, from as early as the 780s/1380s at some mints to the early 900s/1500s throughout Iran, the average size was small (2-6 grams), and only a single denomination was normally produced, often called ‘adliya, though the generic term used by most numismatists for the “denomination” is fals. The coins are sometimes dated, and usually have geometric or floral designs, occasionally a pictorial device, on the obverse, normally both the mint and date on the reverse. They are usually found in worn condition, though when a large hoard of a single type has arisen, e.g. Balkh 880 and Badakhshan 866/869, higher grade specimens become relatively common.

The second period covers the 10th/16th century, and is characterized by larger flans (normally 5-10 grams, sometimes heavier), longer inscriptions, and the occasional pictorial device, usually an animal such as a lion, bull, or ram. Towards the end of the period, an attempt at a uniform coinage was promulgated within the Safavid territories, based on a series of denominations known as the ghaz (5 dinars, about 9 grams), qazbegi (10 dinars, about 18 grams), and bistisi (20 dinars, about 36 grams). This remarkable series is described here separately (#K3215, the la’nat series).

Iranian coppers of the second period and the early years of the third period were occasionally countermarked, usually with just the name of the mint, sometimes preceded by ‘adl or ‘adl shahi (#A3215). The most frequently encountered countermark mints are Kashan and Qum.

The third period extended from towards the middle of the reign of ‘Abbas I until the introduction of modern machinery, circa 1010/1600 until 1295/1878 in Iran, but as late as 1348/1930 at some Afghan mints. The simultaneous production of multiple denominations continued occasionally at some mints, but both the weight standard and the preferred denomination varied from mint to mint. Typical weights vary from less than 4 to more than 20 grams, somewhat comparable to contemporary Indian Mughal & Princely State coppers. Each mint would select its preferred weight standard, often with a propensity for multiples of the 4.61g mithqal. Some cities chose to issue more than one denomination simultaneously.

782 During the 20 months I lived in Tehran between 1964 and 1973, I only encountered one large hoard of fulus, consisting of several hundred large heavy fulus, probably weighing about 17-20g each. The dealer kept them in a rusty old bowl, which he had been using as a heavy doorstop for years.
A broad repertoire of pictorial & calligraphic types was employed at most mints, though poor quality of strike all too often obscures the artistry of the die-work.

The coppers are listed here alphabetically by mint for each of the three periods. The listing is undoubtedly incomplete, especially for the first two periods, which are ill-represented in most public and private collections. The survival rate of these coins seems to have been disturbingly low, especially for the first two periods. However, the apparent low survival rate may reflect the numismatic market’s disdain for these coppers prior to the 1980s, except for limited examples in superior condition. Not surprisingly, this series has always been popularly collected in Iran, where higher market prices have discouraged export since about 1970.783

**FIRST PERIOD (CIRCA 780-907 / 1387-1501)**

Included in this grouping are anonymous copper coins struck during the indicated period under the rule of the Timurid, Qara Qoyunlu, Aq Qoyunlu and other minor local dynasties. The few coins that actually bear the name of a ruler are listed with the silver and gold coins of the cited ruler.

With two exceptions, no coppers of this period are truly common.784 This is likely due more to a low survival rate than to a low volume of production. Unlike contemporary Central Asian coppers, these issues were valid only locally and were not hoarded as a store of wealth. They circulated locally for lengthy periods, probably in reasonably large quantities, and are thus normally found worn or corroded. They were generally rather well manufactured.

Local terminology for copper denominations of this period is virtually unknown, although the terms fals or falsus were generic terms that are adopted here. Some coins are inscribed with the name ‘adliya, especially from mints in central and southern Iran. Others, especially those of Khorasanian mints, are denominated as fals or fulus, but many other terms were undoubtedly used from time to time. Most copper coins of this period are dated, sometimes in words but more commonly in numerals.

Coins of this group are virtually never found countermarked, unlike their contemporary Central Asian coppers.

The rarity for types marked R or RR is tentative.

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**SECOND PERIOD (CIRCA 907-1010 / 1501-1600)**

Coppers of the second period tend to be somewhat weakly struck, and are usually found quite worn, damaged or corroded. They were struck from relatively pure copper, which corrodes easily.

The conventional denominational term for coins of this period is falsus. Except for the la’nat series described immediately below, nearly all coins seem to have been struck to a single denomination, though its weight varied both from mint to mint, and sometimes chronically at individual mints.

Anonymous fals of Amid, Mardin and Ruha, usually undated, were first struck under Safavid rule (Isma’il I), replaced in the early 920s by Ottoman issues, first in the name of Selim I, then anonymous but dated with the accession year of Suleyman I (926), followed by similar issues of his successors. The Ottoman issues naming the ruler or his accession year are catalogued under the appropriate rulers.

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<td></td>
<td>Nishapur</td>
<td>920-999</td>
<td>RR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Qazwin</td>
<td>920-999</td>
<td>RR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sabzawar</td>
<td>920-999</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saveh</td>
<td>920-999</td>
<td>RR</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shabankara</td>
<td>920-999</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shiraz</td>
<td>920-999</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sijistan (= Sistan), known dated 837 &amp; 876</td>
<td>920-999</td>
<td>RRR</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sultanllya</td>
<td>920-999</td>
<td>RR</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tabriz</td>
<td>920-999</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tun</td>
<td>920-999</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yazd</td>
<td>920-999</td>
<td>RR</td>
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</table>

For Central Asian mints of this period, see #A3274 ff.

*Stephen Album, Checklist of Islamic Coins, 3rd edition, Page 317*
A3215. countermarked types, various mints  

The countermark is usually of the form 'adi'-a shahi plus the mint name, occasionally with an epithet, occasionally without mint name. The word shahi is frequently omitted. For Central Asian mints of this period, see #3286 ff.

**THE “LA’NAT” SERIES**


During the years 982-995 an attempt was made to establish a uniform coinage at all mints within the Safavid empire. These coins are characterized by the mint name and date (often with a simple pictorial device, usually an animal) on the obverse, and with the short couplet peivasteh be-la’nat-e elahi taghayyur-deh-e fulus-e shahi (“may he who alters the royal fulus be eternally condemned to the damnation of God”) filling the reverse field.

Several denominations were struck with this inscription, as noted in the introduction to Iranian civic coppers. Since I have not preserved the information I gathered regarding which denominations were struck at which mints, I can only provide a single listing for each mint. There are also a few earlier types bearing this inscription, struck at Astarabad, Herat, Isfahan and Mashhad between the 920s and 950s. Most of the mint rarities are tentative, except for Isfahan & Tabriz.

K3215.14 Aresh (dated 978 only)  RRR
K3215.15 Astarabad (earlier issues only, dated 921)  RRR
K3215.1 Dar al-Irshad (= Ardabil)  RRR
K3215.2 Herat  
All la’nat coins of this mint are most likely pre-982. Normally undated, but year 929 has been reported (Zeno-17729).
K3215.3 Isfahan  R
K3215.4 Ja’farabad  RR
K3215.5 Kashan  RR
K3215.6 Kazirun  RRR
K3215.7 Mashhad  RR
Known only from the early series, including one dated 942.
K3215.8 Paswa  RRR
K3215.9 Qazwin  RR
K3215.10 Tabriz  R
K3215.11 Tehran  RR
K3215.12 Urudbad  RR
K3215.13 Yazd  RR
Other mints probably exist, but more research is essential.

**THIRD PERIOD (CIRCA 1010-1294 / 1600-1878)**

Many of the mints listed below operated only for short times. The long-working mints, noted by (†), operated for most of this period, and released large numbers of types, which were changed at intervals from annually to every few years. Most coins were dated, but the date is often not visible due to defective manufacture, wear or corrosion. A general rarity is given for each mint. Individual types are frequently considerably rarer. Some of the more productive mints produced more than 100 types during this interval, few of which are truly common.

Mints marked with (*) were active primarily under Durrani and Barakzay rule after 1747. Durrani issues from Indian mints are omitted, as they always bear the name of the ruler and are therefore listed as issues of the appropriate ruler.

Third period fulus circulated extensively, and are thus normally found in worn condition, often severely worn. Well-struck and well-preserved examples are rare for all but a few types. The series has long been popular and highly valued in Iran since the late 1960s, with the result that attractive specimens are seldom seen outside Iran until market prices caught up in the west and elsewhere since the late 1990s. Most types bear a pictorial obverse. Animal motifs were popular, including the lion, bull, deer, horse, camel, elephant, ram, hare, monkey, etc. The rat is depicted on a common series from Herat dated in the early 1100s (type #3235B). Some portray a hungry lion attacking a deer or a bull. Some are so badly engraved or preserved that the four-legged critter can only be defined as a “quadruped” of uncertain genre. Birds of various sorts were also popular, especially the peacock. One type shows a peacock with a juicy worm in its beak (Ardabili), another illustrates two geese facing each other (Tabriz). Some show either one or two fish.

There are some with human figures, standing, seated, on horseback, mounted on a camel or elephant, even St. George slaying the dragon. Some are quite humorous, such as the soldier leaning on his bayoneted rifle, found on some coins of Kirman and Burjird. Still others might be nicknamed “lifeless”, as they show a ship, bale mark, scales, sword, plants and plant motifs, the surface, various geometric patterns, etc. Purely inscriptional types exist as well. An unusual type of Isfahan mimics the double-headed eagle of the Russian two kopeck coin of the 1810s, including fragments of a pseudo-Cyrillic inscription. Others are overstruck on genuine circulating Russian copper (type #3273F).

There and seemingly infinitely more designs and varieties of the obverse design than the limited sample mentioned above.

Unlike the silver and gold coinage struck during these centuries, the copper fulus rarely bears the mint epithet. A principal exception is the attempted uniform coinage of 1292-1294 produced primarily at Tehran, Tabriz, Qazwin, and Isfahan (#C3236 & D3236), permanently replaced by machine-strike copper coins late in 1294.

As in the second period, the generic term for the third period is fulus, as engraved on most copper coins of this period. However, from domestic and foreign contemporary reports, we know that there were several denominations, known as qaz or ghaz (= 5 dinars), qazbegi (= 10 dinars), bizi (= 20 dinars), and in the 19th century, also nimshahi ("half shahi"); i.e., 25 dinars) and shahi (50 dinars), but these terms almost never appears on the coins. Unfortunately, given the present state of research, actual denominational names cannot be determined with any accuracy, and for that reason, all coins listed here have been lumped together as just fulus (plural fulus).

Existing fulus suggest that each issue followed specific weight standards, often based on 1, 2 or 4 mithqals (approximately 4.61g, 9.22g, 18.43g), with multiple denominations occasionally produced simultaneously. Alternative standards, based on a different basis, are also common. Individual specimens cluster around the current standard, but can weigh as much as 10-20% above or below the standard. Some mints, especially in Gilan and along the Persian Gulf, struck very light fulus, less than 1g for some very rare issues of Lahijan.

During the late Safavid period, circa 1087-1145, several major Iranian mints produced carefully manufactured specimens on large flans, normally round but occasionally hexagonal or octagonal, and always dated. These are known as prestige specimens and are listed separately under the appropriate mints. They are normally found looped, pierced or mounted, suggesting medallic rather than circulation intention. Their normal obverse designs are lion, lion & sun, or bull. Although struck at several different mints, only examples of Isfahan are occasionally available.

Since about 1995, interest in third period Iranian civic coins has blossomed, with the result that well-preserved attractive specimens are highly sought after and remarkably pricey, even for the common mints, as we learned from the SARC auctions #5 & #6. Decent examples of very rare and extremely rare mints nowadays (2009) regularly fetch $100 or more.

Afghan Mints: The Afghan mints are included within this group, as some of their issues fall outside the Durrani, Alishay and Barakzay periods. These are Ahabdshahi (#3217), Badakhshan (#3220), Bahawalpur (#3221S), Balkh (#3222-3222A), Ghaznayn (#3231), Herat (#3235-3235B), Jalalabad (#3238), Kabul (#3239-3239A), Khanabad (#3242), Pesawwar (#3253), Qandahar (#3254-3254A), Tashqurgan (#3260), and the mintless types (#3273W).

3215 Abarquh  RR

785 The reference is not to counterfeiting, but to the nefarious practice of “changing” the coinage, by which is meant the recalling of an old type at a ferocious discount, typically 50%. Though officially proscribed, this blatant abuse was widespread. One governor of Astarabad was charged in the inscription carved on his tomb (d. AH939) for never having “changed” the coinage during his governorship.

786 Types were occasionally changed even more often than annually, as at Rasht, where as many as half a dozen or more types are known for a single year during the 1230s.
3216 Abushahr (= Bushire)
Active from the early 1200s onward. A particularly interesting issue bears a European-style bale mark on the obverse. The only relatively available type is the lion-obverse dated 1270.

3217 Ahmadshahi**† (an epithetival name for Qandahar)
Qandahar was known as Ahmadshahi from 1170/1757 until 1279/1862, sometimes with the epithet ashraf al-bilad, “most noble of cities” Names as the founder of the Durrani dynasty, Ahmad Shah (see #3253 for more information).

3218 Ardabil†
A falus dated 1026, published in the ONS Newsletter 202, p.18, and assigned to the mint of Aresh may in fact be a falus of Ardabil. Further specimens needed to confirm the mint.

A3219 Ashraf
A small town in Mazandaran province, known only dated 1096 (onk on obverse).

3219A Balkh, under British authority & afterwards
Located in western Afghanistan, south of Herat. Known only from a few rare coins normally dated 1295, with the rhyming epithet dar al-rifah, “the abode of prosperity”, which it never was.

3220 Badakhshan*
Probably active only in the 13th/19th century, normally undated.

3221 Badkuba (= Baku)
Late 18th or early 19th century, always undated, presumably issued under the authority of the local khanate.

3221G Baghdad
Lion & sun right / mint, inscribed as falus zarb-e baghdad, undated. The term falus does not occur on Ottoman issues, whence this type was likely struck during Iranian occupation during the reigns of Abbas I and Safi I, 1033-1048.

3221S Bahawalpur*
In operation only briefly under the Barakzays, circa 1300-1302. Some heavier undated issues may be earlier.

3222A Balkh, under British authority & afterwards
Anonymous, dated 1295, bearing a lion in the obverse or reverse field, probably struck for many years with frozen date.

3223 Bibibian

3224 Burujird, time of Fath 'Ali Shah only

3225 Damghan

D3226 Daylam
Just zarb-e daylam on obverse, blank reverse.

3226 Dizful

3227 Doulatabad
Founded by Fat 'Ali Shah, Doulatabad (also transcribed as Dawlatabad) is now known as Arak. Its mint operated only during the time of Fat 'Ali Shah. These coins should not be confused with the Doulatabad coins of the Hyderabad state in south-central India.

A3228 Farah
Located in western Afghanistan, south of Herat. Known only from a few rare coins normally dated 1295, with the rhyming epithet dar al-rifah, “the abode of prosperity”, which it never was.

3228 Farahabad
A 17th century palace compound near Isfahan, founded by Shah 'Abbas I. Coinage circa 1040s-1050s, also in silver.

3229 Fuman
Located a short distance southwest of Rasht.

3230 Ganja
Later issues after about 1168 were struck under the independent khans, but without the name of the khan, thus regarded as civic.

3231 Ghaznayn* (= Ghazni), active circa 1260-1300s
Very crude coins, frequently overstruck on earlier versions.

3232 Gilan
A province in northern Iran, whose capital was first at Lahijan, later at Rashit. It is not known where the coins signed gilan were actually struck. Probably 19th century only.

3233 Golpaygan, known dated 1243 only
A small city in the northwest corner of Isfahan province.

3234 Hamadan†

3235 Herat††
Herat was the last mint to produce traditional copper fulus, in 1348 (1929/30). The final series, dated 1347-1348, comprises three denominations, 1, 10, and 20 paisa and bears the name of the Barakzay ruler, Habibullah Ghazi (see SCWC for details). All earlier coppers of Herat are anonymous.

A few varieties of this type dated in the 1240s and 1250s were recently marketed in two hoards of at least 400 pieces each.

3235A Herat, similar, but overstruck on machine-struck coins, most commonly the 50 dinars of Iran struck 1294-1305

3235B Herat, crudely struck type bearing a rat in an oval on both obverse & reverse, known dated 1101-1108 but usually undated

This unusual type is one of the very few types that have been found in large hoards more than once, each containing hundreds of pieces, if not 1000 or more.

3236 Huwayza
Much rarer for copper than silver. Known dated 1231, but the date range of activity has not been established. Located in Khuzestan province near Susangerd, now abandoned.

B3236 “Iran”, without denomination, many types
The mint name is given just as Iran (dated 1250s to 1270s) or as mamalek-e mahrosse-ye Iran, “the protected kingdoms of Iran”, possibly struck exclusively at Tehran. These coins represented a series of only partially successful attempts to introduce a uniform copper coinage throughout the Qajar lands.

E3236 “Iran”, without denomination, lion & sun in wreath
Reverse inscription fulus-e rayej-e mamalek-e mahrosse-ye Iran, “current fulus of the protected kingdoms of Iran”, dated 1271-1286 (date below lion). This is the most common civic copper of all, presumably struck only at Tehran, perhaps a partially successful attempt to restrict the production of fulus to Tehran.

C3236 “Iran”, with denomination 50 dinars (panjah dinar) below the lion
Lion and sun within wreath on obverse, mint name & date on reverse, dated 1292-1294, replaced by machine-struck copper late in 1294. Struck mainly at Tehran, Isfahan, Qazvin and Tabriz, of which Tehran is by far the most common.

D3236 “Iran”, with denomination 25 dinars (bist o pani dinar), similar to #3236

3236 Irvan† (Yerevan in Armenia)

3237 Isfahan†, normal strike

3237A Isfahan, prestige strike
From the 1080s to the 1130s, some Isfahan fulus were struck on specially prepared broad flans, usually round but occasionally hexagonal or octagonal. They bore the same designs as the normal strikes, but were much more carefully struck on much broader and usually heavier planchet. They are commonly found holed, as they were intended for decorative purposes.

3238 Jalalabad* (in Afghanistan)
Late 19th century only, one type dated 1287, some with bungled dates, the rest undated. It was here that the British army was almost completely annihilated in 1258/1842, ending the disastrous First Anglo-Afghan War.

3239 Kabul†† One of the most common mints for copper coinage. From the 1230s onwards, Kabul coppers are often found overstruck on earlier types of the same or other mints, often multiply so. The overstrikes command no premium, even when legible. Machine-struck coinage was introduced in 1308.
3239A Kabul, countermarked ‘adl kabul on various earlier coppers (mostly Mughal or Delhi sultanate), late 16th to early 17th century

3240 Kangan
A rare 19th century mint on the Persian Gulf coast, whose coins are known principally from the Siraf excavations. Sometimes written kangan with waw instead of alf.

3241 Kashan†
Examples of Kashan of the late 17th to early 18th century are occasionally found countermarked with a sword (R).

3241A Kashan, prestige strikes (as at Isfahan)
RRR

3242 Khanabad* (northern Afghanistan)
Active only during the Barakzays, very briefly, circa 1300-1302.

A3243 Khurramabad
RRR
A very rare mint operating only during the latter part of the reign of Fath ‘Ali Shah.

3243 Khuy†

3244 Kirmanshahan
Active only from the 1240s to the 1280s. An interesting and only moderately scarce type dated 1244 shows the motif of St. George slaying the dragon, perhaps imitating the contemporary British sovereign reverse.

3245 Kirman†
An interesting type dated 1246 shows a lazy soldier leaning on his rifle.

3246 Lahijan
Dated issues during the reign of Fath ‘Ali Shah Qajar. Most if not all undated types were also struck during this period, except for the undated series with an average weight of about 1g, most likely struck during the 117th/17th century.

3247 Lanjeh (modern Bandar Lengeh)
In operation 1247 and 1259. All coins show a European-style bale mark on the obverse, and were either struck or cast.

A3247 Lar
RR
Lar produced thick hexagonal coppers in the 1250s-1260s, as well as normal round fulus in 1135.

3248 Maragha
RR
A3249 Marw (now Mary in Turkmenistan)
Marw struck a few coppers in the 19th century.

3249 Mashhad†
A particularly interesting and moderately scarce type dated 1246 bears the image of an elephant-rider on the obverse. Most fulus of this mint bear the epithet moqaddas, “holy”, referring to the tomb of the 8th Shi’ite Imam, ‘Ali b. Musa al-Rida.

3250 Mazandaran
The mint bearing the provincial name Mazandaran was located at the city of Sari, perhaps occasionally at another location in the province such as Amul or Barfurushid, and was renamed Tabaristan in 1236/1821. The most common type, often dated 1167, has a lovely peacock on the obverse.

3251 Nakhijawan
Active only in the 1240s and 1250s.

A3252 Nishavan
Active only in the 1240s and 1250s. (For the mint of Nakhki, see #2953-2954.)

3253 Peshawar*
Most coppers of this mint, struck during the Afsharid and Durrani period, bear the name or regnal years of the ruler, and are listed under the appropriate rulers. Truly anonymous types are relatively rare. The Durrani issues are only scarce.

3253A Qandahar*, similar, but overstruck on machine-strike 50 shahi of Iran, ¼ anna of Muscat & Oman and British India, dated AH1322/1904
Some are dated 1333, possibly an engraver’s error for either 1322 or 1323.

C 3254 Qazwin†, normal strike
S

3254A Qazwin, prestige strikes (as #3237A of Isfahan)
RRR

3255 Qumm†
S

3256 Ra‘nash (in Khuzestan)
Active only during the 1030s. Only copper coinage was struck at this rather unimportant town.

R3258 Rikab
RRR
Just zarb-e rikab on obverse, blank reverse.

3258 Sa‘ujbulag (modern Mahabad in Eastern Azerbaijan in Iran)
RR
Active only during the 1230s, with the rare undated specimens perhaps struck at other times.

R 3259 Sabzawar
RR
A3260 Sanandaj
RR
A rare Kurdish mint, probably in operation only during the reign of Fath ‘Ali Shah, though dated examples are unknown. The workmanship is extremely ineffective.

R 3260 Sari
Active under this name only during the 1250s and 1260s. At other times, the mint was known under the provincial name, either Mazandaran (before 1236) or Tabaristan (thereafter).

RR 3261 Shamakhi (Shemakha)†
R
Later issues after about 1168 were actually struck under the independent khans, but without the name of the khan, and are therefore reckoned as municipal issues.

A3261 Sheki
RRR

C 3262 Shiraz†
S

3262A Shiraz, prestige strike (as #3237A of Isfahan)
RRR

3263 Shushtar
R
3264 Simnan
R
3265 Sultanabad (modern Malayer in western Iran)
RRR
Normally undated, but presumably struck only during the reign of Fath ‘Ali Shah Qajar.

3266 Tabaristan (see also Mazandaran)
R

3267.1 Tabriz†, normal strike
C
3267.2 Tabriz, normal strike on rectangular flan (1130s)
R
3267A Tabriz, prestige strike (as #3237A of Isfahan)
RRR

3268 Tashqurghan* (northern Afghanistan)
RR
Operated only under the Barakzays, very briefly circa 1300.

3269 Tehran†
C
Scarcely before about 1200. Most anonymous issues bearing the mint name Iran were probably struck here (see #3326).

3269A Tehran, prestige strike (as #3237A of Isfahan)
RRR

3270 Tiflis (Thilisi in Georgia)
S
For Georgian issues with name or initials of the local Bagratid ruler, see #2965 ff.

A3271 Tuysertkan
RRR
Probably active only in the 1240s, simultaneously with its silver coinage.

787 Private collection in Florida.
From about 818 onwards, all this coinage is anonymous and best regarded as civic coinage. Earlier coins bearing the name of a ruler are listed as under the appropriate ruler. Timurid from the 780s onward, other dynasties for earlier dates. From 818 until 905, all Central Asian mints were under Timurid control, and all came under Shaybanid authority during the following years. Undated issues cannot be readily classified as Timurid or Shaybanid, though some collectors prefer to make such distinctions, at least for dated examples. In any case, research carried out largely by Davidovich has established that the anonymous copper coin types should not be assigned to specific rulers, but regarded as a generic regional currency. For this reason, it has been hypothesized that new designs or countermarks were used strictly for financial reasons, equivalent to a form of taxation. This would explain the frequent use of new types (usually dated) and countermarks (almost never dated) during the politically troublesome period between the death of the Timurid Sultan Ahmad in 899 and the 920s, during the reign of the second Shaybanid sultan, Kuchkunji, by which time the region was more or less unified under Shaybanid rule.

Most Central Asian mints were somewhat carelessly struck, often with considerable areas of flatness. They circulated extensively, and are often found heavily worn or corroded. Unlike their Iranian counterparts, which appear to have been valid only in the city of issue and its dependencies (and are found as individual finds, almost never in hoards), Central Asian coppers were used as a regional, rather than local currency, and have often been found in large hoards. As a result, they are rather well-known, though new types and countermarks continue to be discovered. Unfortunately, no thorough reference catalog of the series has yet been undertaken.

Types listed here by mint include both the regular and countermarked issues bearing that mint name, the latter for the latest countermarked type to be discovered. Mintless coin types are consolidated as type #3285, which itself comprises innumerable varieties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Period (circa 818-930s / 1415-1530)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Several mints continued producing copper coins after 1530. These are now assigned to the Second Period (types #3286-3291).</td>
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**Central Asia Civic Copper**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Mint</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Akhshi</td>
<td>RR</td>
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<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Andigan</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Bukhara</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Farkat</td>
<td>RR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Hisar</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Karmin</td>
<td>RR</td>
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<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Kashghar</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Khuttalan (usually dated 852)</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Khwarizm (known dated 914 and 933)</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Kish</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Kufin</td>
<td>RRR</td>
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<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Marghilan</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Miyan-Kal</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Otrar, dated 818</td>
<td>RRR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most dangis weigh 4 to 6 grams, but specimens of a single type can range from less than 2 to more than 8 grams. The greatest weight range is observed for the common Bukhara 832 series, struck over many decades with frozen date. Hoards tend to contain a single type or group of related types, their weight clustered quite closely to the theoretical standard.

Using overstrikes, countermarks and hoard evidence, Davidovich has been able to sequence virtually all the undated issues, and has shown that type changes do not coincide with changes of ruler or dynasty.
3278P  Parak RRR
3279  Qarshi S
Q3280  Qunduz RR
Issues dated 907, classified as #3009, are common.
S3280  Sabran RRR
See Zeno-58447 for further reference.
3280  Samarqand C
One remarkable type, dated 914, is inscribed “one mithqal, half dangi” (RR), thus querying the dangi denomination as applicable to all of these coins.
The earliest confirmed anonymous civic issues of this mint are dated 818 (813 may also exist), with the denominational name ‘adliya, and 819, inscribed mubarak bad in the obverse center.
3281  Shahrukhiya RRR
T3282  Taliquan RRR
Undated only, non-inscriptional reverse, probably 17th century or slightly later (thanks to Greg Cole for this information).
3282  Tashkand (Tashkent) R
An unusual example is clearly dated 818 (Zeno-16186), same design as Samarqand 818.
3283  Tirmidh (Termes) R
Issues dated 907, classified as #3009, are only scarce.
3284  Urdu (the military or camp mint) R
A3285 other mints, not specified here, similar styles at least RR
B3285  without mention of mint, sometimes with floral patterns only on obverse & reverse S
3285  countermarked, without mint name C
There is a great variety of countermarks. Most varieties contain the mint name, often with a denominational term as well, and therefore classified here together with regular coins of the appropriate mint. Some just bear an indication of revalidation, such as khub (“good”) (#B3285). Countermarks were rarely dated. Davidovich has shown that they were employed mainly from the 890s/1480s to the late 920s/early 1520s. They are frequently only partially legible, either because the countermark was carelessly applied or was stamped with a worn or broken punch.

Second Period (circa 930s-1190s / 1520s-1770s)

For references, see Central Asian copper, first period.
Coarsely made copper coins (puls) continued to be issued in Central Asia for more than 250 years after circa 935/1530, though it is conceivable that a lengthy gap extended from about 1530 until close to the end of the Shaybanid dynasty in 1007/1599. Almost all copper coins of this period were very poorly manufactured. Most lack a mint name, or are so egregiously produced that only a small fraction of the inscription is visible, and they are almost always undated.
It is probable that this series continued until the 1190s/1770s, when they were replaced by more carefully struck puls, usually dated, beginning just after 1200. Even though usually anonymous, they are listed here under their respective kingdoms, Bukhara for Bukhara, Khoqand for Khoqand and Ferghana, Khiva for Khwarizm (aka Khivaq), as they are customarily categorized in that fashion by numismatists.
Countermarked examples exist and are included with items #3287-3291, according to their mint name and legibility. Most examples are struck on round or more-or-less round flans. Others are struck either on small thick rectangular flans or on chunks chopped from a thick wire, known as bar coins (#3286), extremely primitive.
The term pul is the generic denomination assigned here to all copper coins of the second period. Alternative denominational names may occasionally have been locally applied.
3286  normally without mint, bar-shaped flan, probably late 11th-12th / 17th-18th century R
Some show the mint name Bukhara or Samarqand, perhaps others as well, but most are mintless. Some were produced on very thick rectangular or cut-wire flans. Types 3287-3291 are normally struck on flans that are either more-or-less round or squarish.
3286A  Andigan, dated 995 RR
Carefully struck, unlike the usual primitive coppers of this period.
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COVER COIN - Umayyad Caliphate: `Abd al-Malik, 65-86/685-705, AV dinar, (4.33g), no mint (Damascus), AH80, Album-125, superb strike, perfectly centered, about uncirculated.

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