

COINS OF INDIA: MUGHAL GOLD FROM THE SKANDA COLLECTION
ACSAA COLOR SLIDE PROJECT
Walter M. Spink, Director
John Listopad, Project Coordinator

Identification by Stephen Album
Final Selection by Dr. Marie H. Martin
Commentary and photographs by John Listopad

The Skanda Collection of Indian Coins is among the finest in the world. It has a particularly fine selection of Mughal gold coins which are surveyed in this set. The coins in the Skanda collection were identified by Stephen Album, Specialist in Islamic and Indian Coins; P.O. Box 7386, Santa Rosa, CA 945407. Final selection was done by Dr. Marie H. Martin, Associate Editor of The American Numismatic Society, Broadway and 155 St., New York, N.Y. 10032-7598. They were chosen to present as broad a range as possible in both style and calligraphy; a few were included due to their uniqueness or rarity.

The obverse is usually identified as the side of the coin with the Kalima, usually the Muslim profession of faith; "Bism Allah, la ilah illa Allah" (In the name of God, There is no god but God," or by a conventional statement set by the ruler. Mughal coins provide a valuable insight into many different aspects of the diverse society in which they were produced. Primary to traditional Islamic coinage is the profession of faith, the Kalima, on one side of the coin. The attempt by Akbar (1556-1605) to synthesize a new religion, the Din-i-Ihali, out of a variety of religions including Islam, Hinduism and Zoroastrianism can be seen in the changes in the coinage of this period. He adopted a new era, which was known as the Ihali era, based on a solar cycle to facilitate the collection of taxes from agriculturalists. Persian solar month names were used instead of the Arabic Hijra months. He discontinued the Kalima formula on coinage and state documents, replacing it with "Allahu Akbar Jalla Jalalhu." Some scholars have suggested that this statement can be read two ways. The first is in proper accordance with traditional Islamic practice "God is most great, Glorified by his glory": or, what troubled many contemporary and later Muslims, "Akbar is God, Let his glory shine forth." Akbar's son Jahangir (1605-27) issued coins with Persian verses on them, in addition to coins depicting the zodiac and portraits of himself holding a wine cup.

Shahjahan's (1628-58) coins display refined calligraphy and a return to the Kalima formula. When Aurangzeb came to the throne, he replaced the Kalima formula with royal titles so as not to defile the Islamic profession through its association with the monetary transactions of infidels. He introduced the "Jalus" formula "Zarb...sanah...jalus maimant manus" "Struck...in the year...of his reign of tranquilprosperity." A particularly fine nizarana, (a coin minted for distribution to the crowd on important occasions) is reproduced in this slide set. Later Mughal emperors returned to the Kalima formula.

In addition to the religious policy of the rulers, the coins reflect the artistic, political and economic health of the empire at a given point in time. The calligraphy of Mughal coins mirrors the artistic milieu of each succeeding reign. Producing pure coinage with high quality calligraphy is expensive and required close government regulation and quality control. Akbar, Jahangir and Shahjahan each took a personal interest in the quality of their coinage. The Ain-i-Akbari, the official biography of Akbar's reign, records that Akbar appointed one of his great court painters who had been trained at the Safavid court in Iran to be in charge of the imperial mint at Fathpur Sikri. It also records that the engraver Maulana Ali Ahmad was the equal of the most skillful calligrapher and held the royally granted military rank of Yuzbashi and the accompanying income and privileges. Jahangir personally designed his zodiac and portrait coins. Aurangzeb's military campaigns weakened the empire financially

and politically. His successors gradually lost the empire. As can be seen in this ACSAA slide set, a decline in the quality of die engraving followed, perhaps accompanied by varying degrees of debasement in the quality of the gold used in the coinage.

When the Mughals assumed control of India by defeating the last of the Lodi Sultans in 1526, they inherited a mixture of monetary systems. Little was done in the first years of their rule. The credit for the establishment of a systematic numismatic system must go to the Afghan Sher Shah Sur (r. 1540-45) who defeated Humayun (r. 1530-40, 1555). Sher Shah introduced a coinage reform that was expanded and elaborated by Akbar. During the years of rapid Mughal expansion in South Asia under Akbar's rule, this was a trimetallic system of mohurs in gold, rupees in silver and dams in copper with set standards for purity in each metal.

All dates followed by AH are given according to Hijra era. Regnal dates that are associated with an AH date are designated by /#. A coin such as 7735, a Mohur of Shah Jahan I, with a date of 1061/24 AH, should be read as being struck in 1061 of the Hijra era, the 24th year of the reign of Shah Jahan I. The coins with a Hijra date on one side and a regnal year on the other which have both sides illustrated will be listed in the slide label list with only the particular date appropriate to the specific side of the coin illustrated in the slide listed. Some coins have no date or are simply dated with a regnal year. Akbar introduced a different era, the Ilahi era, in 991 AH or 1583 AD, containing the following Persian solar months: 1. Farwardin; 2. Ardibehisht; 3. Khurdad; 4. Tir; 5. Amardad; 6. Sharewar; 7. Mihr; 8. Aban; 9. Azar; 10. Di; 11. Bahman; and 12. Isfandarmuz. The Ilahi months have been included in the labels where relevant. For a more detailed discussion of the conversion of AH to AD, the Ilahi era and dates in general, please refer to H. Nelson Wright below.

K #'s are references are to Colin R. Bruce et al., eds., *The Standard Guide to South Asian Coins and Paper Money since 1556 AD*, 1982, Krause Publications, Iola, WI, 54990. Other reference works referred to are: "Lahore" = R. B. Whitehead, *Catalogue of the Coins in the Punjab Museum, Lahore, London, 1908*; "Calcutta" = H. Nelson Wright, *Catalogue of the Coins in the Indian Museum Calcutta, Vol III, Mughal Emperors of India, Oxford, 1908*; and "B. M." = Stanley Lane-Poole, *The Coins of the Mughal Emperors of Hindustan in the British Museum, London, 1892*.

Sc India 7701
Mughal 1/4 Ashrafi
Humayun (955) A.H.
Obverse
Calcutta 13 & 14
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7702
Mughal 1/4 Ashrafi
Humayun (955) A.H.
Reverse
Calcutta 13 & 14
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7703
Mughal 1/4 Ashrafi
Humayun No Date
Obverse
Calcutta 13 & 14
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7704
Mughal 1/4 Ashrafi
Humayun
Reverse
Calcutta 13 & 14
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7705
Mughal 1/4 Ashrafi
Akbar No Date
Obverse
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7706
Mughal 1/4 Ashrafi
Akbar No Date
Reverse
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7707
Mughal 1/4 Mohur
Akbar No Date
Obverse K-102
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7708
Mughal 1/4 Mohur
Akbar No Date
Reverse
Lahore-41: month of
Ardibihisht
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7709
Mughal Mohur
Akbar

Obverse

Agra mint K-114.1
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM
Sc India 7710
Mughal Mohur
Akbar

Farwardin 49th year

Reverse

Agra mint K-114.1
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7711
Mughal 1/2 square Mohur
Akbar 1000 AH
Obverse K-118
Urdu Zafor Qarin mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7712
Mughal 1/2 square Mohur
Akbar 1000 AH
Reverse K-118
Urdu Zafor Qarin mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7713
Mughal square Mohur
Akbar 987 AH
Obverse K-111?
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7714
Mughal square Mohur
Akbar
Reverse K-111?
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7715
Mughal square Mohur
Akbar 1000 AH
Obverse K-119.4
Urdu Zafor Qarin mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7716
Mughal square Mohur
Akbar 1000 AH
Reverse K-119.4
Urdu Zafor Qarin mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7717
Mughal Mohur
Akbar
Obverse K-105.3/4
Jaunpur mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7718
Mughal Mohur
Akbar 973 AH
Reverse K-105.3/4
Jaunpur mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7719
Mughal Mohur
Akbar 982 AH
Obverse K-108.2
Ahmadabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7720
Mughal Mohur
Akbar
Reverse K-108.2
Ahmadabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7721
Mughal Portrait Mohur
Jahangir
King seated left
Obverse
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7722
Mughal Portrait Mohur
Jahangir
Lion lying right
Reverse
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7723
Mughal Portrait Mohur
Jahangir 6th year
Bust of king left
Obverse K-179.2
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7724
Mughal Portrait Mohur
Jahangir 1020 AH
Lion leaping right
Head double-struck
Reverse K-179.2
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7725
Mughal Zodiac Mohur
Jahangir Obverse
Pisces Date on Rev.
Agra K-180 1028/13 AH
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7726
Mughal Zodiac Mohur
Jahangir Capricorn
Obverse Date on Rev.
K-180 1033/18 AH
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7727
Mughal Zodiac Mohur
Jahangir 14th year
Obverse Leo
K-180
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7728
Mughal Zodiac Mohur
Jahangir 1028 AH
Reverse of Leo
K-180
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7729
Mughal square Mohur
Jahangir 1015 AH
Obverse 13 grams
Lahore mint
K-184/BM-292
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7730
Mughal square Mohur
Jahangir 2nd year
Reverse 13 grams
Lahore mint
K-184/BM-292
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7731
Mughal heavy Mohur
Jahangir 4th year
Obverse
Agra mint K-185.1
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7732
Mughal heavy Mohur
Jahangir 1017 AH
Reverse
Agra mint K-185.1
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7733
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I
Obverse K-256.1 var.

Akbarabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7734
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 1041 AH
Reverse K-256.1 var.
Akbarabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7735
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 1061 AH
Obverse K-258.3
Daulatabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7736
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 24th year
Reverse K-258.3
Daulatabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7737
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 1046 AH
Obverse K-260.3
Allahabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7738
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 10th year
Reverse K-260.3
Allahabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7739
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 1063 AH
Obverse K-260.6
Burhanpur mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7740
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 26th year
Reverse K-260.6
Burhanpur mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7741
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 1052 AH
Obverse

Lahore mint K-260.11
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7742
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 16th year
Reverse
Lahore mint K-260.11
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7743
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 1043 AH
Obverse
Multan mint K-260.13
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7744
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 6th year
Reverse
Multan mint K-260.13
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7745
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I Stet
Obverse K-260.1
Ahmadabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7746
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I Stet
Reverse K-260.1
Ahmadabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7747
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 1040 AH
Obverse K-256.2
Burhanpur mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7748
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan I 3rd year
Reverse K-260.1
Ahmadabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7749
Mughal Nazarana Mohur
Aurangzeb 1069 AH
Obverse K-315

Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7750
Mughal Nazarana Mohur
Aurangzeb 1st year
Reverse
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7751
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb 1117 AH
Obverse K-315.12
Azimabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7752
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb 50th year
Reverse K-315.12
Azimabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7753
Mughal Mohur 1115 AH
Aurangzeb Obverse
Dar al-Jihad K-315.20
Hyderabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7754
Mughal Mohur 48th yr.
Aurangzeb Reverse
Dar al-Jihad K-315.20
Hyderabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7755
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb 1107 AH
Obverse K-315.22
Hawa mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7756
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb 39th year
Reverse K-315.22
Hawa mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7757
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb
Obverse K-315.24

Kabul mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7758
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb 26th year
Reverse K-315.24
Kabul mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7759
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb
Obverse K-315.35
Multan mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7760
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb 3rd year
Reverse K-315.35
Multan mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7761
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb 1072 AH
Obverse K-315.42
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7762
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb 4th year
Reverse K-315.42
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7763
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb
Obverse K-315.49
Zafarabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7764
Mughal Mohur
Aurangzeb 6th year
Reverse K-315.49
Zafarabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7765
Mughal Mohur
Azam Shah 1119 AH
Obverse K-334.6

Surat mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7766
Mughal Mohur
Azam Shah 1st year
Reverse K-334.6
Surat mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7767
Mughal Mohur
Shah Alam I 1124 AH
Obverse K-356.7
Khujisto Bunyad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7768
Mughal Mohur
Shah Alam I 6th year
Reverse K-356.7
Khujisto Bunyad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7769
Mughal Mohur
Shah Alam I 1120 AH
Obverse K-356
Arcat mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7770
Mughal Mohur
Shah Alam I 2nd year
Reverse K-356
Arcat mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7771
Mughal Mohur
Jahandar Shah 112(4) AH
Obverse K-368.6
Lahore-2099
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7772
Mughal Mohur
Jahandar Shah
Reverse K-368.6
Lahore-2099
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7773
Mughal Mohur
Jahandar Shah 112(4) AH

Obverse Lahore-2097
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7774
Mughal Mohur
Jahandar Shah
Reverse Lahore-2097
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7775
Mughal Mohur
Farrukhsiyar (11)29 AH
Obverse K390.19
Khujisto Bunyad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7776
Mughal Mohur
Farrukhsiyar 6th year
Reverse K390.19
Khujisto Bunyad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7777
Mughal Mohur
Farrukhsiyar
Obverse K390.30
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7778
Mughal Mohur
Farrukhsiyar 2nd year
Reverse K390.30
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7779
Mughal Mohur
Muhammad Shah 1151 AH
Obverse K438.9
Islamabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7780
Mughal Mohur
Muhammad Shah 23rd year
Reverse K438.9
Islamabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7781
Mughal Mohur
Muhammad Shah 1156 AH
Obverse K438.10

Hawa mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7782
Mughal Mohur
Muhammad Shah 26th year
Reverse K438.10
Hawa mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7783
Mughal Mohur
Muhammad Shah
Obverse K438.10
Hawa mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7784
Mughal Mohur
Muhammad Shah 18th year
Reverse K438.10
Hawa mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7785
Mughal Mohur
Muhammad Shah 1152 AH
Obverse K439.4a
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7786
Mughal Mohur
Muhammad Shah 22nd year
Obverse K439.4a
Calcutta-1850
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7787
Mughal Mohur
Alamgir II
Obverse K465.1
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7788
Mughal Mohur
Alamgir II 3rd year
Reverse K465.1
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7789
Mughal Mohur
Alamgir II 1167 AH
Obverse K467.10

Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7790
Mughal Mohur
Alamgir II 1st year
Reverse K467.10
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7791
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan III 1174 AH
Obverse Lahore-2850
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7792
Mughal Mohur
Shah Jahan III
Reverse Lahore-2850
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7793
Mughal Mohur
Shah Alam II
Obverse
Murshidabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7794
Mughal Mohur
Shah Alam II 3rd year
Reverse
Murshidabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7795
Mughal Mohur
Shah Alam II 1178 AH
Obverse Calcutta-2275
Najibgarh mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7796
Mughal Mohur
Shah Alam II 6th year
Reverse Calcutta-2275
Najibgarh mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7797
Mughal Mohur
Shah Alam II 1206 AH
Obverse K-719, BM-1094

Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7798
Mughal Mohur
Shah Alam II 33rd year
Reverse K-719, BM-1094
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7799
Mughal Mohur 1223 AH
Muhammad Akbar II
Obverse BM-1210
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM

Sc India 7800
Mughal Mohur 3rd year
Muhammad Akbar II
Reverse BM-1210
Shahjahanabad mint
ACSAA Slide (c) AAAUM