

ONS



Journal of the Oriental Numismatic Society

No.220
Summer 2014

ISSN 1818-1252

Editor: Stan Goron, Croydon, Surrey, UK

e-mail: s.goron@blueyonder.co.uk

Assistant Editor: Robert Bracey, Dept. of Coins & Medals, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG, UK gandhara.geo@yahoo.com

ONS NEWS

Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will take place at the Department of Coins and Medals British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG at 11.00 am on Saturday 4 October 2014. The Annual General Meeting will be followed by talks on numismatic topics. Details of the AGM agenda and speakers will be available on the Society's website and Facebook page and circulated by email before the meeting to UK members nearer to the date of the meeting.

Oxford

On 17 May the Ashmolean Museum hosted the ONS for a seminar on Metallurgical Analysis of coins. The event was a very well attended by members and Shailendra Bhandare organised the speakers and venue. Most of these talks related to work that had been done at the Ashmolean using X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) machines supplied by Bruker UK Ltd.

The first talk was by Mike Dobby of Bruker UK Ltd who spoke about "The Use of X-Rays in the Examination of Coins". He gave an overview of the physics that underpin XRF and the types of machines that are available, the possibilities and limitations of the technique. This was then followed by a demonstration for the members present of a machine using a sample of coins.

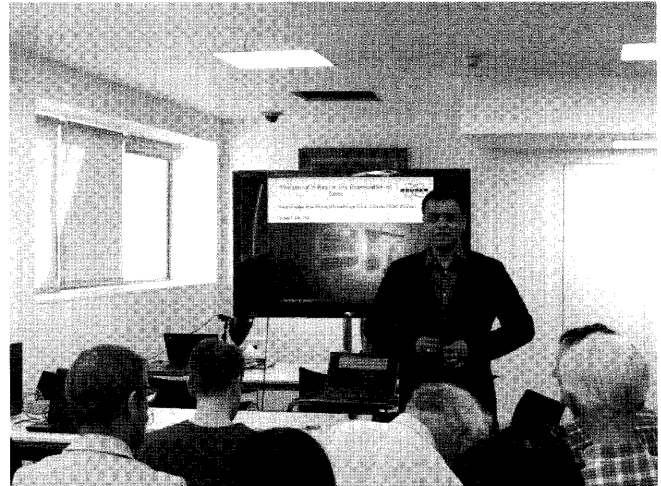
The second and fourth talks by Paul Stevens and Simon Glenn respectively were about tests they had carried out at the Ashmolean. Paul explained the procedure he had followed and looked particularly at tests he had carried out on East India Company coins and the coins of the Tughluqs and Durrani. One of the uses found for the technique was the ability to detect thinly plated forgeries. Simon Glenn showed similar examples where the metal composition of forgeries differed by a very wide margin from authentic coins. Paul's talk showed that the silver content of the 'Bombay rupee' was very consistent and that the change in standard to equalise the issues of Surat and Bombay in 1800 was detectable in the coins themselves.

Paul then showed that not all official productions were consistent in their silver content. Coins made by melting down Spanish Mexican dollars at Madras showed a wide range of silver content (85% to 95%) and the 'tin' coins of Bombay were not in fact tin after 1717 but zinc. Finally Paul mentioned that he had analysed a range of Durrani and Barakzai rupees issued from Kabul to see whether there had been a reduction in silver content over the years. For most of the period the silver content turned out to be quite constant, only in the latter years was some reduction noted.

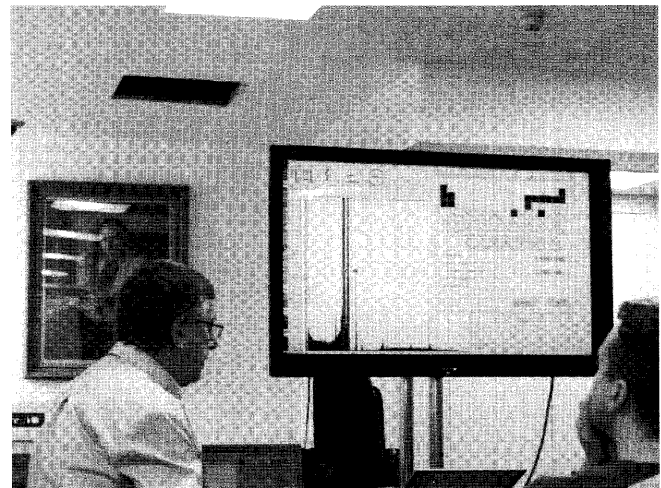
Simon Glenn's talk 'XRF Analysis of the Ashmolean Collection of Graeco-Bactrian Coins' looked at the content of Bactrian Greek coins. This was part of his work on a die study of the coins which he had previously presented at ONS meetings. Simon's talk included an over-view of the difficulties for a

historian in interpreting the results from scientific analysis and some of the various problems that analysis has raised in the study of Bactrian Greek coins. Particularly he spoke about the use of nickel in the coins and the possibility that traces of bismuth might be associated with the working of the Panjhir mines in antiquity.

The third talk was given by Robert Bracey on the problems of interpreting analytic data and focused on the so-called Alexander Medallion, the authenticity of which is disputed. During the day there were a series of lively question and answer sessions with the different speakers.



Shailendra Bhandare introducing the seminar



Mike Dobby of Bruker UK Ltd (left) seeing the results of one of the scans

*Private Collection, Cambridge (3.08g)
 Vasmer 52 (3 examples cited); ICA10, lot 259 (2.95g); Limbada (3.35g); Tübingen 97-6-14 (3.10g)

Jannaba 283h

For another coin published as being of this mint and date but with 'Amr's name on the reverse, see Ösarve 21 (published here as An286).



Jn284

Jannaba 284h

Obv. margin: Qur'an xxx, 4-5 (outer); mint and date (inner)
 Obv. field: لا اله الا الله وحده لا شريك له | عمرو بن الليث
 Rev. margin: Qur'an ix, 33
 Rev. field: لله | محمد | رسول | الله | المعتضد بالله

*Tübingen 97-11-66 (3.83g)



Jn286

Jannaba 286h

Obv. margin: Qur'an xxx, 4-5 (outer); mint and date (inner)
 Obv. field: لا اله الا الله وحده لا شريك له | عمرو بن الليث
 Rev. margin: Qur'an ix, 33
 Rev. field: لله | محمد | رسول | الله | المعتضد بالله

*Limbada (3.19g)
 Vasmer 59 (1 example cited); Tübingen 2000-11-26 (2.44g)

TWO RUSTAMID FULUS STRUCK IN TĪHARAT AND TILIMSĪN

By Ludovic Liétard

This article is devoted to two particular medieval Islamic copper coins struck in Tīharat and Tilimsīn (Tiaret and Tlemcen in Algeria). They were assigned to the 'Abbasids by Eustache [8, 9] but I think this attribution is debatable. This article proposes an attribution to the Rustamid dynasty and to the ruler 'Abd al-Wahhāb (AH 168 – 208 / AD 784 – 824).

Section 1 introduces these two fulus²². Their attribution to the 'Abbasids is challenged in section 2. An attribution to the Rustamid ruler 'Abd al-Wahhāb is proposed in section 3.

1. The coins under consideration

The two coins under consideration are described hereafter.

1.1 A fals struck by 'Abd al-Wahhāb in Tīharat

The existence of this coin is only cited by Eustache in [8, 9] and he provides no pictures or drawings. The obverse bears the name of 'Abd al-Wahhāb. It can be translated by "Ordered by 'Abd al-Wahhāb":

مما امر
 به عبد
 الوهاب

The reverse bears the mint name and can be translated by "This fals was struck in Tīharat":

ضرب
 هذا الفل
 بتيهرت

The legends on this fals can be illustrated by the following drawing:

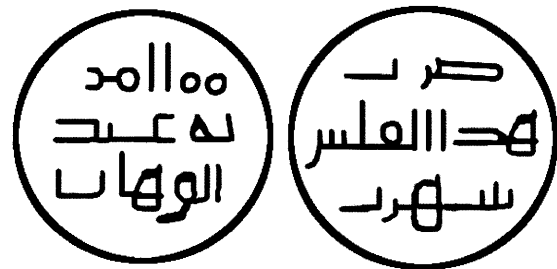


Fig. 1: A fals struck by 'Abd al-Wahhāb in Tīharat

Three examples (A, B and C) of this coin are introduced in this article. Coin A (2.09 g and 16 mm) is shown hereafter (Fig. 2), coins B and C are shown at the end of this article (Figs. 7 and 8).

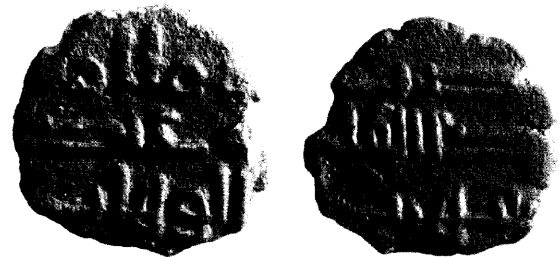


Fig. 2: Obverse of coin A Reverse of coin A

1.2 A fals struck by 'Abd al-Wahhāb in Tilimsīn

This coin was presented by Eustache in [9] and three examples can be found in the literature:

- in the article [9] by Eustache (plate I),
- in the book [5] describing some coins of the Bank al-Maghrib collection (page 92),
- in this article (see Fig. 5 and Fig. 6).

The reading of the mint name is not very easy on these coins and it could be written *تلمسين* (Tilimsīn) as well as *تلمسان* (Tilimsān)²³. However, a close inspection of the coin shown in this article (which seems to be the best of the three above-mentioned examples in this aspect) makes the spelling *تلمسين* (Tilimsīn) more probable. It is the spelling I have chosen for this article and it was also Eustache's choice [9].

The obverse bears the name of 'Abd al-Wahhāb. It can be translated by "Ordered by 'Abd al-Wahhāb":

²² Fulus is the plural of fals, a fals being a copper or bronze coin in the early centuries of the Islamic era.

²³ I would like to thank Dr. Lutz Ilisch, curator of the collection of Oriental coins of the University of Tübingen, for having alerted me to these two possibilities.

مما امر
به عبد
الوهاب

The reverse bears the mint name and can be translated by “This fals was struck in Tilimsīn”:

ضرب
هذا الفلس
بتلمسين

The legends on this fals can be illustrated by the following drawing:

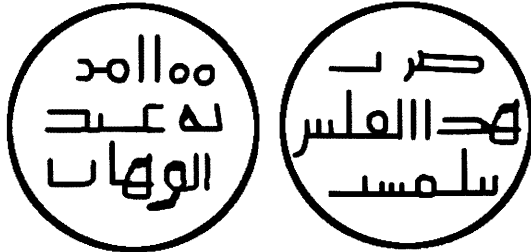


Fig. 3: A fals struck by ‘Abd al-Wahhāb in Tilimsīn

A single example shown in this article (3.81 g and 17 x 16 mm; Fig. 4):

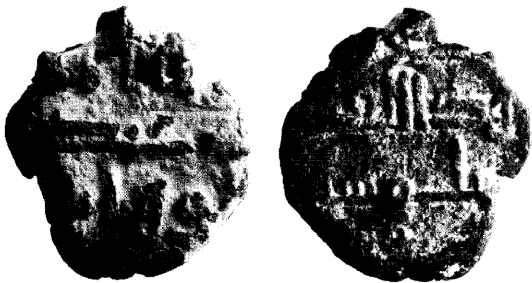


Fig. 4: Obverse and reverse of a fals struck by ‘Abd al-Wahhāb in Tilimsīn

2. A debatable attribution to the ‘Abbasids

According to Eustache [9], these coins were struck by the ‘Abbasids in the period AH 155 – 172 (AD 772 – 778) because:

- AH 155 (AD 772) is the year of the death of the military chief of the Ibādīte community, Abū Ḥātim, and the beginning of the ‘Abbasid occupation of Ifriqiya by Yazīd ibn Ḥātim,
- AH 172 (AD 778) is the date when Idrīs I entered Volubilis (Wāḥila).

Eustache writes²⁴ that, between these two dates, the ‘Abbasids had garrisons in Tīharat and Tilimsīn. It seems to be a well-established historical fact for him for which he does not adduce any justification. One may remark that Tīharat and Tilimsīn were not involved in the events reported in AH 155 (AD 772). They took place in a more eastern part of the Maghrib²⁵.

I think that the attribution of these two coins to the ‘Abbasids can be debated because it seems that Tīharat and Tilimsīn were never occupied by the ‘Abbasids. The occupation of Tīharat or Tilimsīn by the ‘Abbasids is not reported or mentioned by Abu Zakariya [2], Ibn al-Athir [11], the Bayan [12], Ibn Khaldun [13] and many others.

More generally, the most westerly ‘Abbasid positions were in the eastern part of Algeria, which does not include Tīharat and Tilimsīn (see Fig. 5). According to Abun-Nasr²⁶: “...The army commanded by Ibn al-Ash’ath, which invaded the Maghrib in 761,

brought the political domination of the Ibadites in Tunisia, eastern Algeria, and Tripolitania to an end and established ‘Abbasid authority there... The mountainous territory of the Zab in eastern Algeria constituted the western limit of the area held by the ‘Abbasid governors. There the ‘Abbasids had an important military base at Tubna...”.

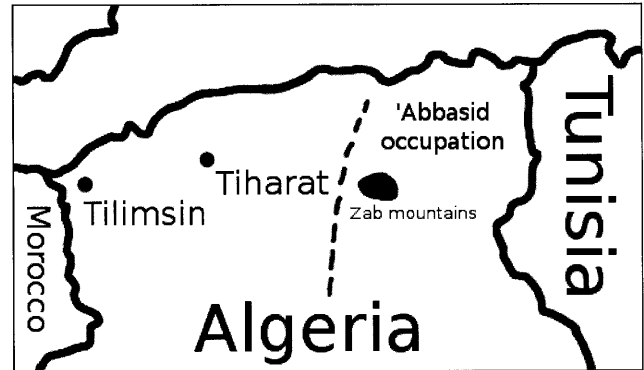


Fig. 5: A simplified map of Algeria showing the most westerly ‘Abbasid occupation: Tilimsīn and Tīharat are situated outside the area controlled by the ‘Abbasids

A western frontier of the ‘Abbasid authority situated in the Zab region is also mentioned in the book by Chikh Békri (he cites Al-Ya’qubi’s *Kitab al Buldan* in [6] page 53).

Thus, the attribution of these two fulus to the ‘Abbasids can be challenged and the next section shows that an attribution to the Rustamids is credible and highly probable.

3. An attribution to the Rustamid, ‘Abd al-Wahhāb

The Rustamid Imamate (AH 160 – 296 / AD 777 – 909)²⁷ was founded in AH 160 (AD 777) by ‘Abd ar-Rahmān ibn Rustam (AH 160 – 168 / AD 777 – 784)²⁸ who was a convert to the Ibādī movement (a branch of Kharijism). The capital was Tīharat (the new Tīharat²⁹) in Algeria. In AH 296 (AD 909), the capital, Tīharat, was conquered³⁰ by the Berber tribe of the Kutamas (allies of the propagandist, Abū ‘Abd Allah, who had installed the Fatimid dynasty³¹). Its inhabitants were killed or exiled. The refugees went to the Algerian Mzab and it was the end of the Rustamid dynasty. According to Ibn Khaldun³², Tīharat was definitely destroyed in AH 620 (AD 1223) or around AH 630 (AD 1232).

The Rustamids attained their peak under the reign of ‘Abd al-Wahhāb (AH 168 – 208 / AD 784 – 824)³³ and, according to Ibn Saghir [14], under his reign, the Rustamid Imamate extended from Tilimsīn to the limit of Tripoli.

It is possible to claim that the two fulus under consideration in this article were struck by the Rustamid, ‘Abd al-Wahhāb, in Tīharat and Tilimsīn because:

- both coins bear the name of ‘Abd al-Wahhāb,

²⁷ Abun-Nasr gives the year AH 160 (AD 776 – 777) for the proclamation of ‘Abd ar-Rahmān ibn Rustam as Imam ([1] page 43). Zerouki ([17] page 22) gives the year AH 161 for this proclamation and Bosworth ([7] page 27) gives also the year AH 161 (AD 778) for the beginning of the Rustamid Imamate. Depending on the event chosen to date the beginning of the Rustamid dynasty, the date AH 144 (AD 761) has also been proposed. However, all historians and sources give the year AH 296 (AD 909) for the fall of this dynasty.

²⁸ Abun-Nasr [1] page 43 and page 45, the Bayan [12] page 283, Zerouki [17] page 151.

²⁹ More precisely (Bosworth [7] pages 27-28, Ibn Khaldun [13] page 183, Zerouki [17] pages 23-24), a new Tīharat was founded in AH 144 (AD 761) a few kilometers away from an already existing Tīharat (Old Tīharat). The modern town of Tiaret is situated on Old Tīharat; New Tīharat is now in ruins.

³⁰ Abun-Nasr [1] page 48, Ibn Khaldun [13] page 183, Julien [15] page 393.

³¹ Bosworth [7] pages 27-28, Julien [15] pages 389-393.

³² Ibn Khaldun [13] page 184 and page 864.

³³ The Bayan [12] page 283, Békri [6] page 29, Zerouki [17] page 129 and page 151.

²⁴ Eustache [9] page 349.

²⁵ A summary of these events can be found in Julien [15] pages 364-366.

²⁶ Abun-Nasr [1] page 41.

- under ‘Abd al-Wahhāb, Tilimsīn was the western frontier of the Rustamid Imamate,
- the capital of the Rustamids was Tiharat,
- Zerouki has shown³⁴ that the spelling of the name “Tiharat” varied with times and sources. He shows that Ibn Saghīr, who lived in Rustamid Tiharat³⁵, exclusively wrote تيهرت for Tiharat. This spelling is the one which can be found on the coins.

Furthermore, the style of these two fulus is similar to that of an unpublished fals (see Fig. 6) which can be attributed to Idrīs bin Idrīs in Wālīla (Volubilis, Morocco). Idrīs bin Idrīs was the second Idrisid ruler and the capital of the Idrisids was Wālīla. There is no contradiction in this similarity because Idrīs bin Idrīs and the Rustamid, ‘Abd al-Wahhāb, ruled in the same period of time (AH 187 – 213 / AD 803 – 828) and (AH 168 – 208 / AD 784 – 824) respectively).

This fals is shown in Fig. 6 (2.28 g and 14 mm). Its obverse bears the name of Idrīs bin Idrīs. It can be translated by “Ordered by Idrīs bin Idrīs”:

مما امر
به ادريس
بن ادريس

The reverse bears the mint name and can be translated by “This fals has been struck in Wālīla”:

ضرب
هذا الفل
بوليلة

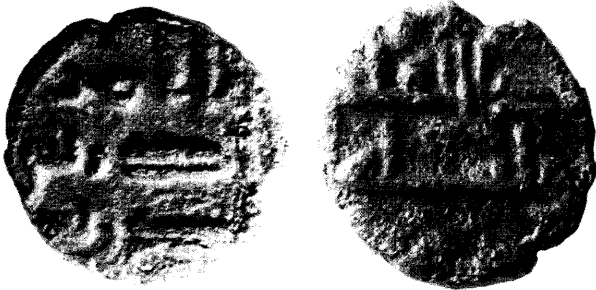


Fig. 6: Obverse and reverse of a fals struck by Idrīs bin Idrīs in Wālīla

4. Conclusion

This article has shown two different fulus struck by the Rustamid, ‘Abd al-Wahhāb (AH 168 – 208 / AD 784 – 824), in Tiharat and Tilimsīn (Tiaret and Tlemcen in Algeria).

The fals from Tilimsīn can be dated the period AH 168 – 198 because this town was controlled by the Idrisids from AH 199³⁶.

It has also been written³⁷ that Tilimsīn was conquered earlier by the first Idrisid ruler (Idrīs) in AH 174 (AD 790). According to Eustache³⁸, this taking of Tilimsīn by Idrīs in the year AH 174 (AD 790) can be challenged (it seems to him to have been reported to embellish the history of his reign). This important remark is based on the existence³⁹ of rare dirhams which are *non-Idrisid* struck in Tilimsīn in the years AH 180, AH 191 and the year AH 198. The attribution of these dirhams to a particular ruler or a particular tribe is still a problem to be solved (they could have been struck by the Rustamids but it is simply an assumption). The history of Tilimsīn in these years is far from being entirely known.

³⁴ Zerouki [17] page 27.

³⁵ Abun-Nasr [1] page 45.

³⁶ Eustache [10] page 136, Ibn Khaldun [13] page 867.

³⁷ For example, see Ibn Khaldun [13] page 785.

³⁸ Eustache [10] page 136.

³⁹ Album [3] T434 page 76, Eustache [10] page 136, Al-Maskukat Journal [4] and Nakshabandi [16].

References

- [1] Abun-Nasr, Jamil M. *A History of the Maghrib in the Islamic Period*, Cambridge University Press (United Kingdom), 1987.
- [2] Abu Zakariya al-Wargalani. *Chronique*, traduction par E. Masqueray (Chronique d’Abu Zakaria), Alger (Algeria), 1878.
- [3] Album, Stephen. *Checklist of Islamic Coins*, third edition, 2011.
- [4] Al-Maskukat, *The Journal of Numismatics in Iraq*, n° 12-13, pp. 159-165, 1981-1982.
- [5] Bank al-Maghrib. *Les trésors du musée de la monnaie, histoire et patrimoine du Maroc*, Rabat (Morocco), 2006.
- [6] Békri, Chikh. *L’Algérie aux II^e – III^e siècles (VIII^e / IX^e) quelques aspects méconnus du royaume Rostémide (144 – 296) (761/62 – 908/09) l’exemple d’un Islam tolérant*, Publisud (France), 2004.
- [7] Bosworth, Clifford Edmund. *The New Islamic Dynasties: A Chronological and Genealogical Manual*, Edinburgh University Press (United Kingdom), 2004.
- [8] Eustache, Daniel. Les monnaies de Tahert aux VIII^e et XIX^e siècles (note de numismatique) in *Le département de Tiaret*, pp. 75, Edition J. Delmas (France), 1962.
- [9] Eustache, Daniel. Monnaies musulmanes trouvées dans la Maison au Compas (Volubilis), *Bulletin d’archéologie marocaine*, vol. 6, pp. 349-364, 1966.
- [10] Eustache, Daniel. *Corpus des dirhams idrisites et contemporains, collection de la Banque du Maroc et autres collections mondiales, publiques et privées*, Banque du Maroc, Rabat (Morocco), 1970-1971.
- [11] Ibn al-Athir. *Annales du Maghreb et de l’Espagne*, traduction par E. Fagnan, Alger (Algeria), 1901.
- [12] Ibn Idhari al-Marrakushi. *Kitab al-Bayan al-Maghreb*, traduction par E. Fagnan (Histoire de l’Afrique et de l’Espagne intitulée Al-Bayano’l-Mogrib), Alger (Algeria), 1901.
- [13] Ibn Khaldun. *Le Livre des Exemples (Tome 2, Histoire des Arabes et des Berbères du Maghreb)*, texte traduit, présenté et annoté par Abdesselam Cheddadi, Bibliothèque de la Pléiade, Gallimard (France), 2012.
- [14] Ibn Saghīr. Chronique d’Ibn Saghīr sur les Imams Rostémides de Tahert (trad. A de C. Motylinski), *Actes du XIV^e congrès international des orientalistes (Alger 1905), troisième partie*, pp. 3-132, Ernest Leroux Editeur, Paris (France), 1908.
- [15] Julien, Charles-André. *Histoire de l’Afrique du Nord : des origines à 1830*, Grande Bibliothèque Payot (France), 1994.
- [16] Nakshabandi, N. Rare Islamic Coins in the Iraq Museum, *Sumer. A journal of Archaeology in Iraq*, vol. 5 (V), n° 2, pp. 199-202, 1949.
- [17] Zerouki, Brahim. *L’Imamat de Tahart, premier état musulman du Maghreb, Tome 1*, Histoire et Perspectives Méditerranéennes, L’Harmattan (France), 1987.

Example B (1.96 g and 15 x 16 mm):



Fig. 7: Obverse and reverse of example B

Example C (2.29 g and 16 mm):

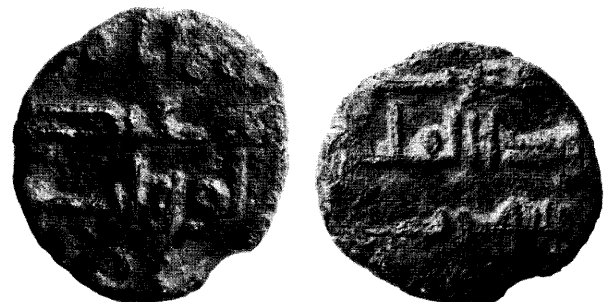


Fig. 8: Obverse and reverse of example C

fraction of a dirham. Precisely which fraction is uncertain. The weight of 0.69 g could be either a 1/3 dirham or possibly a worn half dirham of the 2.20 standard (*vide supra*). More specimens are required to draw more precise conclusions.

Acknowledgment:

We would like to express our gratitude to Messrs Severiane Turkia and Goga Gabashvili for their support.

Bibliography:

1. Lang David. *Studies in the Numismatic History of Georgia in Transcaucasia*. New York, 1955.

2. Paghava Irakli, Gvindjilia Zurabi, Kudin Sergey. "Star in Lieu of Cross: Notes on the Early Georgian-Hulagid Christian Dirhams". *Journal of Oriental Numismatic Society* 196 (2008): 7-15.
3. Пахомов Евгений. *Монеты Грузии*. [*The Coins of Georgia*]. Тбилиси: Мецниереба, 1970.
4. Джалаганиа И. *Из истории монетного дела в Грузии XIII века*. [From the Monetary History of 13th century Georgia]. Тбилиси: Мецниереба, 1958.

CONTENTS OF JOURNAL 220

	Page
ONS news and meetings: AGM, Oxford, Mumbai, Bremen; new members	1
New and recent publications	3
Book review: <i>Kalighat Hoard: The First Gupta Coin Hoard from India</i> (SB Majumdar), by R. Bracey	4
Book review: <i>Sekkeh Shenasi Akharin Shahan-e Sasani (Numismatic of the Latest Sasanian Kings)</i> (A. Amini) by H M Malek	5
Book review: <i>Handbook of Coins of Baktria and Ancient India (O. Hoover)</i> by R. Bracey	6
Book review: <i>The Coins of India. The Mughal Emperors, Part VII. The Silver Coins in the Name of Shah Alam I Bahadur Including the Pre-Accession and Rebellion Coinage of Azam Shah, Kam Bakhsh and Muazzam Shah</i> (A. Needham & M Tariq) by P. Stevens	6
The chronological framework of the Aksumite coinage in its first hundred years (after 295 to c. AD 400): II The metrological and typological evolution under King Aphilas, by W. Hahn	8
A dangerous forgery of the Qumm dinar of AH 308 by R. Dauwe	10
The mint of Fuman (Iran): new data, by R. Dauwe	11
The coinage of the Saffarids of Sijistan and related dynasties 247h-332h: part 2, by S. Lloyd	12
Two Rustamid fulus struck in Tiharat and Tilimsin, by L. Liétard	20
The identity of Eucratides and the fall of Ai Khanoum, by J. Jakobsson	23
Two Indo-Scythian coins, by R. Senior	26
Ardashir I Kushanshah and Vasudeva the Kushan: numismatic evidence for the date of the Kushan King, Kanishka I, by N. Schindel	27
A new early series of ancient Indian punchmarked coins from the 'Whorl' <i>Janapada</i> , by T. Hardaker	31
Classification of Ratna Deva's silver coins, by K. Singh	35
Shams al-Din Ahmad Shah's coins, by S M I Alam	38
Siraj al-Din 'Sikandar' (?) Shah – a new ruler of the Bengal Sultanate, by N. Nasir & M S Islam	39
The heavy rupees of Shah 'Alam II Bahadur, by A S DeShazo	40
A Mughal-style copper dam from the Bombay mint, by P. Stevens	41
How to read the legends on coins of the Western Kshatrapas: a beginner's guide, by P. Tandon	43
Georgian-Hulagid Christian coinage: a new denomination in the name of Abagha?, by I. Paghava & I. Myasnikov	47

Officers of the Society

Secretary General: Joe Cribb, joecribb@btinternet.com

Regional Secretaries:

General: Mr. R. Senior, Butleigh Court Tower, Butleigh, Glastonbury, BA6 8SA, UK
rcsenior@yahoo.com

Europe: Mr. J. Lingen, lingen@wxs.nl

U.K. & Eire: Mr. P. Smith, pnsmith755@aol.com

America: Pankaj Tandon, ptandon@bu.edu

South Asia: Mahesh Kalra, drkalra1@gmail.com

Pakistan Chapter: Mr. S. M. Mirza, shafqatmirza@hotmail.com

Annual Subscription: UK: £25; rest of Europe €30; American continent \$35; for other areas please consult the appropriate Regional Secretary

Website: www.orientalnumismaticssociety.org

Printed by Pardy & Son (Printers), Ringwood, UK.