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# गुल्लक Gullak



Your Complete Monthly Newspaper for Coins, Paper Money, Antiques, Collectibles & Stamps

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Dr. Dilip Rajgor's

## Reesha Coin Services

Collection, Cataloguing, Conservation, Valuation & Investment Services

...Money attracts Money...




### Reesha Group

The Reesha Group (established 1999) consists of **Reesha Books International** and **Reesha Coin Services**. The Group is spearheaded by **Dr. Dilip Rajgor** who is a Ph. D. in Numismatics.

Reesha, vertically as well as horizontally, has expanded into various aspects of numismatics: It is **Publishers, Distributors & Printers** of Numismatic and related **books & periodicals**; besides, it also covers all the Numismatic Services relating to **Collection** of coins/notes; **Cataloguing** them in proper order; **Cleaning & Conservation** of coins; **Valuation**; and importantly, **Investment** in coins and banknotes.

### What are our Achievements?

We have published dozens of numismatic books and have been publishing the pioneering Hobby Newspaper, called **Gullak** (Piggy Bank) for Coins, Paper Money, Antiques, Collectibles and Stamps.

We have edited around **60 Auction Catalogues** and have also edited a number of research books, journals, and souvenirs.

Moreover, Reesha is the **pioneering consultants** to corporate entities, collectors, dealers and investors in order to develop, build and expand collections and investments. Apart from these, Reesha is also instrumental in the promotion of the numismatic hobby throughout India by way of exhibitions and seminars.

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With **High Confidentiality**, we tailor our services to fit your needs, and

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- Write/edit and publish **books on your collections**;
- **Counsel** collectors, dealers and corporate on any aspect of the **numismatic business or hobby**;
- **Appraise (evaluate) collections** or individual coins/banknotes;
- **Decipher collections** or individual coins/ banknotes;
- Assist in the **Orderly disposition** off of your collections at current values;
- **Clean & preserve coins** that need urgent attention of **conservation**;
- Maintain an **Internet Gate Way** that will be a Portal to Indian Numismatics representing academic, hobby and commercial aspects of numismatics; and
- Most importantly, build a **Portfolio of Coins & Banknotes** for the **systemic Investment** in numismatic items.

Turn overleaf for more info ...

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Continued from page 1 ...

## Reesha Coin Services

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In order to cater to various strata of collectors, dealers, investors and corporate, we have devised a **Three-Tier Membership Plan**. It is Silver Member, Gold Member and Platinum Member:

### 1 Silver Member

The Silver Membership is designed for Collectors of coins, tokens, medals and banknotes who are interested in building a good collection.

#### A Silver Member gets following services:

- Assistance in building your collection of any specific dynasty/area/time;
- Occasional decipherment and valuation of some of your coins (up to 15 coins a week);
- Frequent advice to you in buying coins/notes, etc from Auctions as well as from Open Market; and
- Investment Advice for making a long-term Investment in coins and notes;

We will be in your constant touch about all the aspects of your concern. We call, SMS or email you continuously about the market updates and good deals on your collection/investments. However, a Silver Member can contact us **2-3 times a week** for any inquiries of decipherment & valuation.

**Membership Fee:** Rs. 2,500/- per year

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- Assistance in building your collection of any specific dynasty/area/time;
- Decipherment and valuation of some of your coins, notes, etc (40-50 coins a week);
- Frequent advice to you in buying coins/notes, etc from Auctions as well as from Open Market;
- **Investment Advice** for making a sizeable Investment in coins and notes; and
- Maintain a **Portfolio** of your **Investment**.

We will be in your constant touch about all the aspects of your concern. We call, SMS or email you continuously about the market updates and good deals on your collection/investments. However, a Gold Member can contact us **8-10 times a week** for any inquiries of decipherment & valuation.

**Membership Fee:** Rs. 10,000/- per year

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#### A Platinum Member gets following services:

- Special Advice in building your collections/short-term holdings;
- Assistance in building your collection of any specific dynasty/area/time;
- Counsel you on any aspect of the numismatic business/hobby;

- Decipherment and valuation of your coins, etc (90-100 coins a week);
- Frequent advice in buying coins/notes, etc from Auctions as well as from Open Market;
- Keep you informed on **modern Fakes** appearing in the market;
- Investment Advice for making Investment in coins and notes;
- Maintain a **Portfolio** of your valuable **Numismatic Investment**.

We will be in your constant touch about all the aspects of your concern. We call, SMS or email you continuously about the market updates and good deals on your collection/investments. However, a Platinum Member can contact us **12-15 times a week** for any inquiries of decipherment & valuation.

**Membership Fee:** Rs. 25,000/- per year

### Decipherment & Valuation:

We undertake decipherment and valuation for any sizes of collections. This includes single as well as lots and collections for identification and/or valuation at the current market price. Charges for the same varies on case to case basis.

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## Coins of George Thomas: The Raja of Haryana

By Zubayr Khan

### A Biographical Sketch

George Thomas (1756-1802), born in Tipperary (Ireland) in 1756, he joined the British Navy at a young age. By the age of twenty-five, he had achieved the rank of Quarter-Master. In 1782, while the ship on which he was serving was at Madras, he jumped the ship and joined the private armies of one of the poligars of the Carnatic coast. He relocated not long afterward to Dehli, to take up an offer of an officership in the Begum's army. About the same time Begum appointed one Levassault, a French mercenary, as the commander of her force. There must have been some rivalry and differences between Thomas and Levassault. Thomas was probably a better soldier and leader than Levassault. In order to secure his position the latter proposed marriage to the Begum, which was accepted by her. Given this turn of events in 1792, Thomas left the Begum's service.



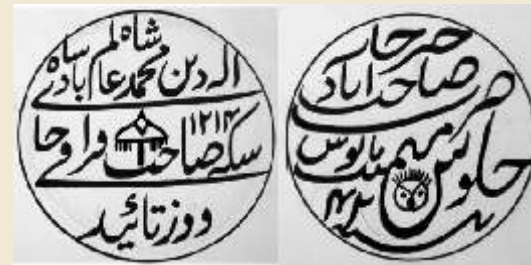
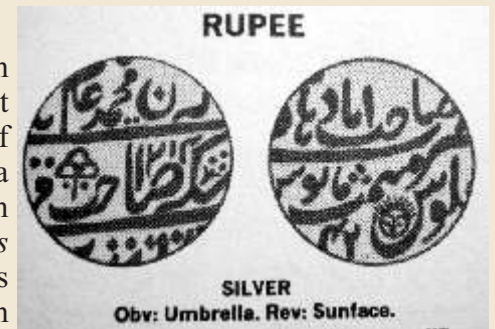
He then set about establishing his own miniature army and an independent state in his own *jagir* under his adoptive father, Appa Khande Rao. George raised troops for the Marathas and instructed them in the European system of drill. He was rewarded with the grant of a *jagir* comprising the district of Jhajjar. Here he built a fort which he named **Georgegarh**. In 1797, Appa Khande Rao committed suicide by drowning himself and leaving behind Thomas masterless again. Finding himself hard pressed financially and unable to pay the troops, he began to plunder and ravage the environs of Delhi.

In 1798, George proclaimed himself Raja of the province of Haryana, after taking Hansi, its capital. With his base of operations in Hansi, his influence grew until he ruled over Hansi, Hisar, Sirsa and Rohtak. Eventually, came a break with the Marathas. Thomas' repeated successes in Haryana eventually aroused the Begum's jealousy. He forfeited a sizeable portion of her *Jagir*. George then found it necessary to threaten the Sikhs and the Rajput kings of Bikaner and Jaipur. He conducted particularly frequent and devastating raids on the Sikhs in their territories. Impressed by his gallantry, Daulat Rao Sindhia, the Maratha Chief offered him a prestigious position in his army but he declined which ultimately caused his ruin. Declining this offer, he consequently found Sindhia had joined his enemies. General Perron, Sindhia's General for Doab, had managed to turn a number of groups against Thomas. Eventually these forces conspired with Sindhia to put an end to his rule. Perron appointed Louis Bourquien, a French officer in the service of the Marathas to lead the action.

In 1801, a force of 12,000 strong warriors under Bourquien, joined by the Sikh contingents of Jind and Kaithal, drove Thomas to Hansi which was laid under siege. Bourquien asked Thomas to surrender, offering him again a position in Daulat Rao Scindia's army. Thomas refused, vacated Hansi and marched off to Georgegarh. The whole of Bourquien's army, now reinforced to 30,000 souls, came in pursuit of him. Outnumbered by the Maratha forces, Thomas surrendered to Louis Bourquien on 1 January 1802, but was allowed to retire to British territory. En route to Calcutta, he died of a fever on board his pinnace at Berhampore, West Bengal, on 22 August 1802.

### Coinage:

Thomas coined his own Rupees at a mint he built in Hansi. The Rupee of this mint has an umbrella on the obverse and a Sun mark in the *Seen of julus* on reverse. These coins were widely accepted in his army and the surrounding territory. Thomas was famed as *Sahib Bahadur*, Thomas' coins are inscribed with the mint name *Sahibabad Hansi*. A line-drawing rather than a photograph of this extremely rare coin appears in KM catalogue. Alongside you will see a copy of this line-drawing which I copied from the KM as it is the most important symbol of Thomas's rule.



I have been shown pencil rubbings of an as yet unpublished Rupee of George Thomas, a line-drawing of that coin is also given here with.

According to me it has the mint name *Sahibabad Harhana* as it has the word 'Har' which is clearly written above *Sahibabad* while 'Hana/Jana' is restored by me. Though this restoration can be wrong yet it is the best possible under the circumstances. It seems completely plausible that this is 'Harhana/harijana', which is older spelling of *Haryana/Haryana*.

There was a different type of Rupee mentioned by H G Keene which also seems to indicate Thomas. It has the pseudo mint name *Shahjahanabad* and the title of the Emperor Shah Alam II appears in Persian with a Latin capital "T" character. It seems obvious this "T" stands for Thomas. Although cited by Keene, I have not personally encountered any specimens of this remarkable type of Rupee.

...Cont. on page 5



# Zubayr Khan

## Specialist in Islamic Coins of India



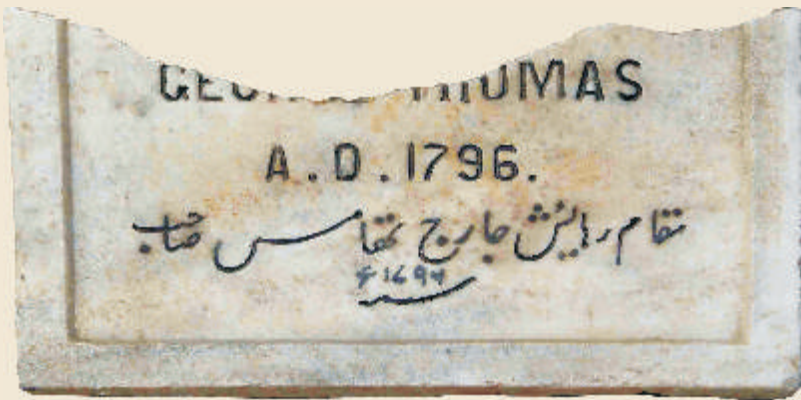
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Coins of George Thomas - Cont. from page 4

I have observed and recorded in an acquaintance's collection another piece I consider important. It is a copper Paisa bearing the mint name *Jarjabad* (for *Georgeabad*) and Regnal year 42 of Shah Alam II. I believe this belongs to Thomas as well. Unfortunately, I was unable to photograph or otherwise adequately record the features of this coin.



### Conclusion:

Regardless of caste, creed or color, I admire and regard George Thomas for his bravery and valor at par with Jalal-al-din Mangbarni and Sher Shah Suri. Once I encountered an old man from Hansi while in Delhi. I asked if he knew anything about George Thomas. He recalled that he had heard from his ancestors that there was a gallant *Angrez* (Englishman) *Rajah of Haryana*. Please see also the attached image of a marble nameplate. This name plate was installed above the main entrance of Thomas' residence (*Jahaz Kothi*).

### References:

1. G H Keene, *Hindustan under Free Lances*.
2. Dr. Bhup Singh, *History of Hansi*.
3. William Franklin, *Military Memoirs of Mr. George Thomas*.
4. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*.



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## Down the Memory Lane ...

## Memoirs of Jagdish Agarwal - Part 2

## Monthly Coin Exhibition

I was much impressed to meet Mumbai collectors at the house of **Shuklaji**. I decided to follow him and started inviting collectors, dealers and scholars at my office (which was very spacious) on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of a month. Soon we decided to conduct monthly coin exhibitions on any one subject followed by discussion and lecture on the subject. However, there were exceptions due to holiday or festivals. On 10<sup>th</sup> May 1972 we organized an exhibition on Indian Native State Coins. Luckily, **Mr. Jan Lingen** (from the Netherlands and an expert on state coins) was in Calcutta, and we invited him at the exhibition, and he gave a wonderful talk on Coins of Kishangarh State.

## Coin Hunting

Since 1967, Indore and Ujjain were my favorite hunting grounds. **Sharmaji** was the oldest coin dealer of Indore. He used to visit whole MP, Rajsthan on his bike for continuously for 10 to 15 days. I got many unique and rare coins from him. **Indermal Khabia**, another coin dealer from Indore came in 1975. He was also a very gentle and honest dealer. In 1983, I received one hoard from him of about 180 pieces of Mughal coins (of Akbar and Jahangir all different and in UNC. condition). It seems to me, that someone during the period of Jahangir had collected these coins. I always used to visit Ujjain, as I used to get many ancient coins from the **Kshipra river-bed** through local people. At that time, the flow of coin was very high - Ancient, Roman and Greek coins were the main items to be found in the river. Even I got some Nisar coins also from the river-bed. Unfortunately, now the flow is stopped but even now I always visit Ujjain, go to river, and keep watching people trying to recover something from the river-bed.

## Third Generation of Numismatists

**Mr. K.C. Jain** was the first coin dealer of Delhi. His three sons, *Rakesh, Rajesh* and *Rajneesh* are the second generation of coin dealers. The sons of Rakesh and Rajesh; *Kapil* and *Aditya*, respectively, are now the third generation of coin professionals in India.

After the retirement of **Mr. C.M. Desai**, his son *Suren C. Desai* has also joined his father business after a long gap. Similarly, the sons of **Mr. Babulal Jain** and **N.D. Agarwal**; *Sandip Jain* and *Manish Agarwal* have joined their father business. The second generation of **Mr. Farokh Todywalla** is already in the field: *Kaizad Todywalla* is specializing in antiques and paintings, whereas *Mr. Malcolm Todywalla* is successfully managing the famous house of Todywalla Auctions.

Unfortunately, I do not see this trend among coin collectors. But we have an exception with **Dr. Dilip Rajgor** who has four generations in coins: His grand-father, *Mr. Morarji Rajgor* was a coin collector in 1950s-60s in Mumbai; his father *Mr. Javerilal Rajgor* is collecting coins and bank notes for over 30 years, while seven year son of Dilip, *Siddhesh* is already in coins and attends all coin fairs in Mumbai. This trend of generations of coin collecting should be spread among all collectors as most of the family members of the collectors do not like coins and consider coin collecting as a wasteful expenditure!

We should popularize coin collection as a hobby and investment, and in this regards I had advertised a slogan:

*Take care of your Coins;  
One Day they will take care of You...*

- Jagdish Agarwal (jagarwalin@yahoo.co.in)

*To be continued ...*

## Coimbatore Coin Exhibition

1<sup>st</sup> , 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010  
Information

The Dealers for booking stalls are requested to send D.D towards stall rent of Rs. 4000.00 immediately or pay cash directly in Central Bank Of India in the name of Coimbatore Coin Society

Central Bank Of India A/C NO:3060502055

Kindly call us or send SMS to 09443325960 ,the amount remitted

## SELLING

East India Madras Presidency Coins, British India & French India Coins, ½ Dou Dou, 1 Dou Dou Coins, Fanam Coins, Sangam Age Tamil Coins ( Chera , Chola and Pandya) 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC and Pallava Coins , State Coins.

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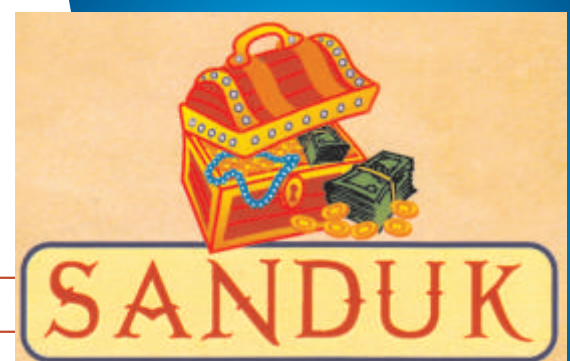
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## Coins of Platinum Jubilee of the Reserve Bank of India

By Ravi Shankar Sharma

Denomination of the coin	Shape and outside diameter	Number of Serrations	Metal Composition
1	2	3	4
Seventy Five Rupees	Circular 44 millimeters	200	Quaternary Alloy Silver – 50% Copper – 40% Nickel – 5% Zinc – 5%
Ten Rupees	Circular 27 millimeters (Bi-metallic)	-	Outer Ring Copper – 92% Aluminum – 6% Nickel – 2% Center Piece (Cupro Nickel) Copper – 75% Nickel – 25%
Five Rupees	Circular 23 millimeters	100	Nickel Brass Copper – 75% Zinc – 20% Nickel – 5%
Two Rupees	Circular 27 millimeters (mono metallic)	-	Ferritic Stainless Steel containing Iron – 83% Chromium – 17%
One Rupee	Circular 25 millimeters (mono metallic)	-	Ferritic Stainless Steel containing Iron – 83% Chromium – 17%



On 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India, released a commemorative coin set to mark the occasion of Platinum Jubilee of the Reserve Bank of India.

The set consists of five denominations: Re. 1, Rs. 2, 5, 10 and 75. The first four denominations will also be issued as circulation coins.

**Obv:** All coins will bear the Lion Capitol of Ashoka Pillar in the center with the legend *Satyameva Jayate* in Hindi inscribed below. The upper peripheries will have the words *Bharat* in Hindi and *INDIA* in English. The denomination value will appear below the Lion Capitol, flanked by *Rupiye* in Hindi and *RUPEES* in English.

**Rev:** Reverse of the coins will bear the RBI emblem with inscriptions *RESERVE BANK OF INDIA* in Hindi and in English. *PLATINUM JUBILEE* in Hindi and in English along with years *1935-2010* shall also be inscribed below the emblem.

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Errors in the UNC Coin sets of Bhagat Singh

By Ravi Shankar Sharma



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## Calendar of Events 2010

Month	Date	Place	Event	Venue
April	3	Mumbai	Museum Coin Show	Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum, University Kalina Campus, Santacruz (E), Mumbai 400098
April	22	Mumbai	Oswal Coin Fair	Oswal Auctions, Tejpal Galleries, Gowalia Tank, Grant Road, Mumbai
April	23-25	Mumbai	19th Shukla Day Coin Fair	Todywalla Auctions, Tejpal Galleries, Gowalia Tank, Grant Road, Mumbai
May	1	Mumbai	Museum Coin Show	Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum
May	1-3	Coimbatore	Coimbatore Coin Exhibition 2010	Shri Coimbatore Gujarati Samaj, 500 Mettupalayam Road, Coimbatore 641002
May	8-10	Pune	Annual Coin Exhibition	Numismatic Society of Maharashtra, Sanskrutic Bhavan, Chaturshrungi Temple, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune 16
May	14-15	London	Joint Seminar of ONS & NSI	Oriental Numismatic Society & Numismatic Society of India, British Museum, London
July	9-11	Nagercoil	Kumaripex 2010	Kanyakumari District Philatelic & Numismatic Association, Valanar Thirumana Mandapam, Assisi Campus, Nagercoil (cell: 9843154344)
August	20-22	Ahmedabd	Ahmedabad Coins & Currency Fair	Twins Stamps & Coins at Hotel Comfort Inn President
December	16-19	Mumbai	2nd Museum Coin Fair	2nd All-India Numismatic Conference and Museum Coin Fair, Dinesh Mody Numismatic Museum

Ramesh K. Velunde

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