

गुल्लक Gullak



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Governor Issue of Shah Shuja, the Mughal Monarch

Shah Jahan Rupee of Akbarnagar mint with Shah Shuja's initials

By Manoranjan Mahapatra

Shah Shuja, the second son of emperor Shah Jahan and his wife Mumtaz Mahal was born on 23rd June 1616. He participated in various campaigns of the emperor and gathered experience both as a military general and an administrator. Even at an early age of 10 he was offered as a hostage on behalf of his father. Gradually his *mansab* (rank) was increased until he was raised to the high rank of 20,000 troops.

Shah Jahan recalled Islam Khan Mashhadi and appointed Shah Shuja subahdar of Bengal in 1639. In 1642 Shuja was also given the charge of the province of Orissa. He ruled the provinces for 8 years and was recalled to accompany Shah Jahan in the campaign against the rebels in Afghanistan in 1647. The campaign was short and he was re-appointed the Governor of Bengal upon his return from Afghanistan in 1648. He was again recalled a second time in 1652, when he was at Kabul for about four months from April to July.



Fig 1



Fig 2

Two coins of Shah Jahan of Akbarnagar mint, dated RY20/AH 1057 and RY26/ AH1063, with additional letter *è* (Persian *Ain* or *Ghain* to emphasize a syllable as found in Shuja's later coins in his own name from this mint) at the lower right corner on reverse Kalima side.

Obv: Within a Square "Shah Jahan Badshah Ghazi" surrounded on four sides "Muhammed Sahibuddin Sahib Qiran Shani, Zarb Akbarnagar". Rev: Within a square Kalima surrounded by the names of four Caliphs.

Apart from the aforesaid dates, the author is aware of another date RY 24/1060 and are sure other intervening dates bearing the *è* symbol must be there.

On appointment Shuja was posted to Dhaka (Jehangirnagar), the capital of Bengal during his predecessors's times. However, he later (the date is unknown) transferred the capital to Rajmahal (Akbarnagar). The coins in the name of Shah Jahan from Akbarnagar mint prior to the RY20/AH1057 date bear symbols like bow and arrow, flywhisk etc. or no symbols. Starting RY20/1057 which coincides with circa 1748, the *è* symbol was put on the coins. This year is significant for the fact that Shuja was recalled from Bengal to accompany his father in Afghanistan and upon his return after a short time, he resumed his Governorship at Rajmahal in the same year. At this point of time, a triumphant Shuja in his bid to establish his suzerainty in

Bengal put his own initials on the coins emanating from his capital. And he continued this tradition till he issued coins in his own name with an additional ʿ (fig 3 and fig 4)



Fig3: Coin of Shuja from Akbarnagar mint in his own name dated RY Ahd/ AH 1067 with additional ʿ to the left of his name on obv. , may be to emphasize the last syllable in his name.



Fig 4. Similar to above, but Obv. without the Square .

Shuja's History

Shah Shuja is not known to have made extensive conquests, though he appears to have sent campaigns against Hijli and Tippera. Bahadur Khan, a habitual rebel, ruled Hijli (Medinipur district of West Bengal) in the southwestern corner of Bengal. In Shuja's time he delayed payment of revenues; Shuja took prompt action. Bahadur Khan was defeated, but he purchased a pardon by promising to pay more revenues than before. Shuja's war with Tippera is mentioned in the Rajmala, the traditional history of the kings of Tippera. The Raja was defeated, but he purchased peace by ceding a slice of his territory bordering on modern Comilla. Shuja commemorated his victory by building a mosque, which is still extant in good condition and bears his name, on the bank of the river Gumti near Comilla town.

During Shuja's administration, the provinces of Bengal and Orissa were more or less calm. The zamindars, and miscreants were overawed by the

presence of a prince holding the office of subahdar. Moreover, Shuja was not only invested with the subahdari of two provinces (Bengal and Orissa), but the conquered kingdom of Kamrupa and the vassal kingdom of Kuch Bihar, which were equal to a third province, were also placed under his control. In fact, Shuja was made the viceroy of Eastern India.

Shah Shuja, a typical Mughal prince, was learned, cultured and polished. He patronised Persian poets and scholars who adorned his court. These people were mostly from Iran and belonged to the Shia sect. His important nobles were Shias, and even in the subordinate posts the Shias were predominant. His mother was a Shia lady, his two wives, married one after the other, were also Shia. There is a tradition prevalent at Dhaka that Shuja brought with him to Bengal three hundred Shias whom he got settled in different parts of the country. At Delhi, rumour spread that Shah Shuja had turned a Shia, and the supporters of his brother Aurangzeb fanned the rumour. But the accusation was not true; like his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he appreciated the cultured intellectual society of Persian scholars, sufis and administrators (ref: J.N.Sarkar).

Shuja also carried out building activities in Dhaka; the earliest Mughal buildings that have survived at Dhaka date from his time. They are the Bara Katra, the Idgha, the Husaini dalan and the Churihatta mosque. The Bara Katra was built on the bank of the river Buriganga, a little to the south of Chaukbazar. A grand building, a large and imposing structure, it was originally built for the residence of Shuja, but since he preferred to live at Rajmahal, the Bara Katra was given for the residence of travelling merchants and caravans , ie it was used as a Katra or Sarai. The Idgah is a raised platform, enclosed on all sides, meant for congregational prayers on the two Id days. The Husaini Dalan, built by Sayyid Murad in 1642-43, was used for the congregation of the Shias and the Churihatta mosque was built in 1650. At Rajmahal, Shuja built a palace named Sang-i-dalan (stone palace) and a mosque of marble stone. A big tank called Anand Sarovar also bears

the memory of Shah Shuja. Round the tank were built the diwan-i-am, diwan-i-khas, hammams (baths), hauz (water reservoirs) and fuara (fountain of water).

Shah Shuja, conscious of the importance of trade and commerce in the economic development of the country and the welfare of the people, welcomed foreign traders and the European companies and granted them privileges for carrying trade without let or hindrance. He granted a Nishan (letter patent granted by a Governor) to the Portuguese confirming their privilege of trade granted to them by a Firman of the emperor. The Portuguese were allowed to trade in Bengal from their seat at Chittagaon. Shuja also granted privileges to the English East India Company and the Dutch East India Company. Shuja is known to have indulged in private trade, either through other traders, particularly the Persians or by chartering ships himself. The private trade of the princes and imperial officers were, however, detrimental to the interest of the country. Shah Shuja also took interest in a fresh settlement of revenues of the provinces under his control, by which revenues were increased by 15% over the settlement of Todar Mal in Akbar's time.

Shah Jahan fell ill on 6 September 1657 and rumours spread all over the empire that the emperor was dead but his eldest son Dara Shikoh kept it secret to secure his position on the throne. The three other princes at once began preparation to march on the imperial capital. At Rajmahal, Shuja immediately crowned himself king and took imperial titles. He marched with a large army, backed by a good number of war-boats in the river Ganga. Beaten in a hotly contested battle at Bahadurpur (in modern Uttar Pradesh, India), at the hands of Dara's army, Shuja turned back to Rajmahal to make further preparations. In the meantime, Aurangzeb defeated Dara twice (at Dharmat and Samugarh), caught him, put him to death and sat on the throne. Shuja marched again to the capital, this time against Aurangzeb. A battle took place on 5 January 1658 at Khajwa

(Fatehpur district, Uttar Pradesh, India) where Shuja was defeated. He retreated towards Bengal. Though hotly pursued by the imperial army under Mir Jumla, Shuja opposed them at every point. He, however, was finally defeated in the last battle that took place in April 1660. After each defeat he had to face desertions in his own army, but he did not lose heart. He, rather, reorganised the army with renewed vigour. But when he was going to be surrounded at Tanda, and when he found that re-organisation of the army was no longer possible, he decided to leave Bengal (and India) for good and take shelter in Arakan. He left Tanda with his family and retinue in the afternoon of 6 April 1660 and reached Dhaka on 12 April. He left Dhaka on 6 May and boarded the Arakanese ships on 12 May at Bhulua

Shuja made contacts with Arakan before his departure from Bengal. His plan was to go to Mecca and thence to Persia or Turkey. But as the sea was rough in May and the rainy season was in full force, he asked for asylum in Arakan for a few months and help in procuring ships.

On his arrival at Mrohaung (Mrauk-U), the capital of Arakan, the king warmly received him through his ministers. A house was allowed for Shuja's stay in the outskirts of the city. But as time passed, the king's attitude to his guest changed; either for getting hold of rich treasures Shuja carried with him, or to get one of the pretty and cultured daughters of Shuja as his spouse, the king picked up a quarrel with Shuja. Shuja, his family and his retinue were tortured to death. A few of his retinue, fleeing to the countryside, could escape the gruesome murder, but none of the Mughal princes or princesses survived.

Bibliography

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Highlights of Rajgor's Auction 19

28 June 2014

at Rajgor's Sale Room, Mumbai

Lot 31



Estimate: ₹ 3,500-5,000

Harikelas of Bengal (8th century AD), Silver, 5.37 g, Lighter Unit, a bull seated with folded legs to left and legend at top reading, *Harikela*, without a crescent on the tail of the bull, and everything enclosed within circular borders on obv,

Lot 88



Estimate: ₹ 3,500-4,000

Shah Jahan, Silver, ½ Rupee, Surat mint, square area type, complete mint name on left on rev (KM# 218.8). About Extremely Fine, Scarce.

Lot 163



Estimate: ₹ 4,500-5,000

Silver (4), Rupee, Shah Alam I, Itawa mint; Farrukhsiyar, Ahmedabad mint; Muhammad Shah (2), Gwalior and Shahjahanabad mint. Very Fine to About UNC, Scarce. 4 coins

Lot 286



Estimate: ₹ 65,000-75,000

Ahilya Bai Holkar (1765-1795), Silver, Rupee, Collection of 55 all-different coins: Malharnagar mint, issued in the name of Shah Alam II, Sun Face as mint mark on rev (KM# 76). The Dates are: AH 1185, 1186, 1189, 1190,

Lot 295



Estimate: ₹ 9,000-10,000

Khengarji III, Set of Edward VIII: Silver (3), 5 Koris, 1993-1936; 2 ½ Koris, 1992-1936; 1 Kori, 1992-1936; Copper, 3 Dokda, 1993-1936, with the name of Edward VIII, Bhuj mint. Very Fine+ to UNC.

Lot 305



Estimate: ₹ 5,000-7,000

Rama Varma III (AD 1829-1847), Copper, 0.55 g, Cash, Goddess Lakshmi seated on a lotus, facing front and holding lotus stalks in both the hands in a circular border on obv, a divine symbol in a circular border on rev,

मैं एक सिक्का हूँ ।

मैं एक सिक्का हूँ , मैं हँमेशा हँसता हूँ , हँसाता हूँ
वेदना में भी खिलखिलाता हूँ ,

क्यूं कि सिक्के को वेदना का एहसास नहीं होता ।

मैं उछलता हूँ, पिटता हूँ, फेंका जाता हूँ पर रोता नहीं,
मैं भूतकाल में याद किया जाता हूँ वर्तमान में जीता हूँ,
भविष्य में बढ़ता हूँ सब आगे बढ़ते जाते हैं,

और मैं वहीं स्थिर रहकर बढ़ता हूँ क्यूं कि मैं एक सिक्का हूँ ।

सिक्के के पहिये नहीं होते आगे बढ़ने की लालसा नहीं होती,
सिक्के को स्वप्न देखने का अधिकार नहीं होता,

पर मानव मुझे स्वप्न में देखता है, क्यूं कि मैं एक सिक्का हूँ ।
सब गाते हैं, गुनगुनाते हैं, रोते हैं,

मिलते हैं, बिछुडते हैं झगडते हैं,
पर मैं भावनाओं से परे सिर्फ हँसता हूँ हँसाता हूँ,

मेरा निवास सोने में है, चाँदी व अन्य धातुओं में है,
मैं बिना पैर के चलता हूँ , बिना हाथ के कई काम करता हूँ,

बिना कान के सब कुछ सुनता हूँ, बिना आंख के देखता हूँ।
अधिकांश पैसे की तुलना भगवान से करते हैं,

मैं जितना पुराना उतना कीमती, मेरी प्रगति में सब की प्रगति,
ना मैं सिक्ख हूँ, ना ही ईसाई, ना हिन्दू हूँ ओर ना ही मुसलमान,
ना कोई जाति ना कोई धर्म, मैं तो हूँ इतिहास की पहचान ।

कहते हैं लोग कि पैसा है भगवान्

मैं तो हूँ सब की मुस्कान ।

क्यूं कि मैं एक सिक्का हूँ ।



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मों नं. 09414202521



Highlights of Rajgor's Auction 20 29 June 2014 at Rajgor's Sale Room, Mumbai

Lot 346



Estimate: ₹ 1,800-2,000

William IV, Silver, Rupee, Calcutta mint, 1835, dug out F, A / III / 19 berries, bud leaves (**Unlisted in Pridmore**). Very Fine.

Lot 434



Estimate: ₹ 3,000-5,000

Somalia Republic, Silver (6), 1 Dollar, Set of 6 curio coins in the shape of Flags of various countries with colourful enamels on obv. 2013, coloured pictures of the animals on obv, arms of the country and value with year on rev.

Lot 389



Estimate: ₹ 18,000-20,000

Collector's Pack of 1996 Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary 1996, Cupr-Nickel, Kolkata mint, 2 Rupees (2). Packed in the original plastic pouch of the Kolkata mint with official data sheet. Mint State.

Lot 467



Estimate: ₹ 1,000-2,000

Token of William IV, Bronze, Fantasy of William's Crown, with the bust of the king to right on obv, a lion against a backdrop of a palm tree facing front in the centre and EAST INDIA COMPANY at top and ANNO DOMINI / 1830 at bottom of the lion on rev, Plain edge.

Lot 404



Estimate: ₹ 3,000-5,000

20 Paise OMS, Cupro-Nickel, 4.97 g, 1988, Bombay mint, Diamond Dot mint mark (cf. KM# 44). The metal analysis by laser technology reveals that the coin has the contents of 75.75% copper, 24.50% Nickel and 0.009% Gold among other impurities.

Lot 565



Estimate: ₹ 2,000-2,500

Rupees Twins Error (2), Signed by Raghuram Rajan, Mahatma Gandhi Series, 2014, Inset L, Serial Numbers 05L-039492 and 039294 over the upper-right corner but the second serial numbers over the lower-left corner are missing and were not printed and came into circulation.

Calendar of Events 2014

Month	Date	Place	Event	Venue
June	20-22	Pondicherry	NuPhilex 2014	Rosamma Kalyana Mandapam, LBS Marg (09345411747)
June	28	Mumbai	Rajgor's Auction 19	605, Majestic Shopping Center, 144 J.S.S. Road, Mumbai 400004
June	29	Mumbai	Rajgor's Auction 20	605, Majestic Shopping Center, 144 J.S.S. Road, Mumbai 400004
July	18	Kolkata	Rajgor's Auction 21	7:00 pm, Haldiram's Banquet Hall, Ballygunj, Kolkata
July	19	Kolkata	Rajgor's Auction 22	7:00 pm, Haldiram's Banquet Hall, Ballygunj, Kolkata
July	18-20	Kolkata	Kolkata Coin Show	Haldiram's Banquet Hall, Ballygunj, Kolkata
August	8-10	Mumbai	12th Annual Coin Fair	Mumbai Coin Society, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade
August	15	Ahmedabad	Rajgor's Auction 23	7.00 pm, Hotel Comfort Inn President, C G Road, Navarangpura, Ahmedabad (with 6th Ahmedabad Coin & Currency Fair)
August	15-17	Ahmedabad	6th Ahmedabad Coin & Currency Fair	Hotel Comfort Inn President, C G Road, Navarangpura, Ahmedabad
September		Mumbai	Rajgor's Auction 24	605, Majestic Shopping Center, 144 J.S.S. Road, Mumbai 400004
September	12-14	Coimbatore	4th All India National Numismatic & Philatelic Exhibition 2014	Kamalam Doeaisamy Hall, 225, Sastri Rd, Ramnagar, Near Central Bus stand, Coimbatore- 641 009
October		Mumbai	Rajgor's Auction 25	605, Majestic Shopping Center, 144 J.S.S. Road, Mumbai 400004
November	7-9	Mumbai	Coinex 2014	Sunderbai Hall, Churchgate, Mumbai
November	14-16	Pune	Phila-Coinex-Pune 2014	Sonal Hall, Karve Road, Pune.
December	5-7	Jabalpur	Puratatva Mudra Utsav-2014	Jalsa Banquet Hall, Hotel Grand Samdareeya, Samdareeya Mall, civic Center, Jabalpur 482001(0997733336)



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Friday 18th July 2014, at 7.00 pm
(Kolkata)

Rajgor's Auction 22
Friday 19th July 2014, at 7.00 pm
(Kolkata)

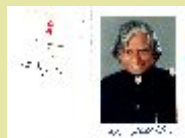
Highlights of i-Auction 18



Lot 43
Estimate: ₹ 6,000-8,000
Sold for Rs. 18,000



Lot 108
Estimate: ₹ 3,000-6,000
Sold for Rs. 27,500



Lot 219
Estimate: ₹ 1,500-3,000
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Lot 223
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