

## III.

## NOTICES OF THE ORIENTAL COINS IN THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTIONS.

BY W. H. SCOTT, Esq., ASSISTANT CURATOR S.A. SCOT.

Having been for some time engaged in an examination of the Oriental coins preserved in the Society's Museum, it occurred to me that, pending the preparation of a detailed catalogue, a short sketch of what we possess in this department might be acceptable to the Society.

Of the first dynasty, the Arabian khalifs of the race of Ommiah, one coin only is in the Museum. It is in copper. Although the precise date is not certain, one hundred alone remaining, it is certain from the exact resemblance to the coin xiii. in Marsden's *Numismata Orientalia*, that it belongs to the same period, that is, the reign of the eleventh khalif of the Ommiah race, Hesham, son of Abd-al-Malek, who reigned between 105-125 Hejira, 724-743 A.D.

Of the successors to the Ommiah dynasty, the Abbaside khalifs, two coins only come under our notice, one of which is of the famous Harun-al-Rashid. This coin has been unfortunately clipped to the inner circle, and is not in very good preservation, but the attribution is certain. The other is of Al Motawakkel ala'llah, and is mentioned in the *Proceedings*, 8th March 1852.

The next dynasty whose coins are to be found here, is the Fatimite, reigning in Africa and Egypt. Its founder, Abn Mohammed Obeidallah, claimed descent from Fatima, the daughter of Mahomet, whence the name of the dynasty. There are three coins, all in silver. The first is of Moazz-Edinillah, the fourth in order, but the first who reigned in Egypt. The second is of his son and successor, Al Aziz billah, and the third of his son, Al Hakam beamrillah, known to astronomers by the Hakamite tables, which were drawn up during his reign.

Of the dynasties reigning in Spain but few coins are to be found here. A small square silver coin of Grenada is among these, without the name of any chief. There are two of the Morabites, one of Aly, and one uncertain; struck, however, at Telemsan, an African town in the province of Fez. Four copper coins, which are also preserved here, are Spanish, and probably belong to the Ommiah dynasty in Spain. One, with a tunny on obverse, is remarkable, from its resemblance to the more ancient coins of Spain; of this there are two specimens.

The next dynasty is that of Turkoman Ortokites of Diarbekr. Two coins only are to be here mentioned,—the first of Husameddin Yuluk Arslan, 580-597? H., 1184-1211 A.D., exactly similar to that engraved by Castiglioni, Plate xviii. 2. The second is of his successor, Nassereddin Ortok Arslan, and has a head turned to the right. This will be found engraved by Pietraszewski, No. 269, Plate vii.

Both these coins are copper, and of large size, with long inscriptions in Cufic letters.

A short-lived dynasty, the Atabegs of Arbil, is here represented by one copper coin, similar to that in Marsden, No. cxxxiii., of Modhaffereddin Kukburi.

The Aynbites, or successors of Saladin, contribute two coins,—only one of Al Malek ed Dhaher, sovereign of Aleppo, which is similar to Marsden cxxlviii., and another uncertain.

Batn, a grandson of Djengis Khan, founded on the shores of the Caspian an empire which long held supreme power in Russia. This empire, Kapchak, contributes to the Museum 52 coins, of which three are copper, the rest are silver. Of these, however, 31 belong to one sovereign, Nassereddin Toktamisch Khan, who reigned towards the end of the 14th century. The rest of the silver coins are uncertain. One of the copper coins is anonymous, the other two are of Khidher, or, as Castiglioni writes it, Hedser Khan. He engraves a similar coin, Plate xviii. 6.

The Turkish or Ottoman coins are numerous, but offer little interest. There are two in gold, one of Mahmoud I., 1143–1168 H., 1730–1754 A.D., the other of Selim III., 1203–1222 H., 1789–1807 A.D. The silver and billon number 44, and offer nothing worthy of remark. The copper coins number 17.

Only two Persian coins exist here,—the first a fine rupee of Nadir Shah, struck at Meschehed the Holy, similar to one described by O. G. Tychsen, p. 196 of his *Introductio*; the second a badly-preserved copper fels, with the lion and sun.

One gold and three silver coins of Morocco occur, but there is nothing worthy of notice to be observed upon them.

The coins of India are much more numerous than of any of the preceding classes. I mention here the few Bactrian coins in the Museum, although they find their place in the general Greek series.

Two silver coins only occur,—one of Menander, the other, square, of Apollodotus. There are also eight copper coins, very ill preserved, of the Indo-Scythian dynasty.

There are three copper coins with legends in the Allahabad or Gupta character, one of which has a peacock and tree.

I may here mention a small copper coin, with the humped bull, reverse the Chaitya, or Buddhistic emblem; and another, having on obverse the monkey-god Hanuman. There are various small copper coins with no legend, some of which appear early.

Next come the Patan sultans of Delhi, of whom a great number are found in the Museum, 43 in all.

Most of these are described in a treatise by Mr Thomas, which appeared in the Numismatic Chronicle, but one or two are not included in his catalogue. The sultans of Juanpur also contribute 20 coins to the Museum. There are various other copper coins belonging to Mahometan dynasties in India, some apparently of Bengal, but which are not as yet decipherable, from the want of sufficient specimens.

Of the Moguls of India, numerous coins in silver and copper, two in gold, occur, all bearing the name of the last prince, Shah Alem. Most of these, however, are struck by the East India Company.

There are several of the copper coins with the elephant, struck by Tippoo Saib, sovereign of Mysore.

There is also a copper coin of Ghazieddin Heider, king of Oude, with his arms on obverse, as on the rupee given by Marsden.

Many coins in gold and silver, a few copper, of small size, and without legends, exist in the Museum. These fanams, &c., it would be impossible to describe.

The later coins struck by the East India Company need not be enumerated. A few coins of Pondicherry, Tranquebar, &c., are found, which are well known.

Of Nepaul there are some coins. There is a rupee of Sri Jaya Prakasa Malla. There are  $\frac{3}{8}$ th of a rupee,  $\frac{1}{4}$ th,  $12 \frac{1}{2}$ th, and  $34 \frac{1}{8}$ th parts of a rupee. The last are very small and thin square bits of silver, with an illegible stamp on one side.

There is a Siamese tical, or bullet-shaped coin, with two stamps.

The Society is rich in coins of Assam, possessing five gold and 29 silver. Two of these have native legends, in the character in use before the introduction of the Hindu religion and character into Assam.

There are two, one gold, one silver, of Rajah Narsingha of Rangpur, with Persian legends.

There are twelve coins of the ancient kings of Ceylon, in copper, with old Nagari legends, and of exceedingly rude execution.

The Chinese coins are numerous, and some curious, but I cannot at present advert more particularly to them. I may mention, however, a coin of Japan, with Chinese legend Kwan-yung. According to Marsden, this coin, of which there are two specimens, is of the Japanese Empress Nio-ji.

The total number of Oriental coins in the Museum is 553, of which 21 are gold, 219 silver, and 313 copper. Under the last are included the Chinese coins, which are of a sort of brass, and many coins of the Delhi sovereigns, which are mixed silver and copper, as well as a few Bombay coins apparently of lead, five in number.