

*The Rupees of the Months of the Iláhi Years of Akbar.*—By CH. J.  
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(With two Plates.)

The work of Marsden made known the coins of Jahángír on which are struck the signs of the zodiac. These coins were in gold and silver. If I remember right Marsden gives a complete set of the signs for one year. And these were all struck at one place. But the zodiacal coins were struck at more mints than one. Ahmadábád and Ágra were, however, the chief. Asírgarh and Ágra had struck coins on which was an image of a hawk, in the time of Akbar. Ajmír struck the bacchanalian coin of Jahángír. All these coins are now so exceedingly rare that they command fabulous prices, and these prices have tempted unscrupulous men to imitate them so that the market is full of imitations of several degrees of degeneracy.

The custom of striking the month as well as the year on the coin seems to have been an old one in the East. Mr. Thomas in J. R. A. S. Vol. IX, p. 345, gives Coin No. 79 with رمضان on it, and on p. 346, No. 80 has the same month. No. 84 has محرم, No. 85 رجب, No. 86 شوال. In the British Museum Coin Catalogue, Vol. II, Oriental Coins, p. 148, coin 503 has محرم on it. This is one of Mahmúd's. My own small collection of Gazní coins has one of Mas'aúd's with the same month on it, and two coins of Maudúd, varying in other particulars of inscriptions, agree in having this same month. One of the same king has رمضان. One of Farrukhzád's coins has محرم. Dr. Stulpnagel in this Journal, Vol. XLIX, part I, 1880 edited a coin of Gyásuddín and Muizzuddín struck at Ghazní in the month ذي الحجة of the year 596 A. H. It was a common thing to say that the coin was struck في شهر during the months of such and such a year. The coins of Firwán and Ghazní and of the Sultáns of Kashmír indulge in this expression.

In my paper on the "Copper Coins of Akbar," I drew attention to the fact that the 28 coins therein figured gave the names of no less than six months of Akbar's Iláhi years. In the present paper I propose giving rupees of each month of the same years. I was in hopes that I should be able to get the whole of the months of one year struck in one place. As yet I have not succeeded in this. I have seven months of one year of Jahángír (for Jahángír struck also in the same manner as his father Akbar and used the same names of the months); six of these were struck at Láhore and one at Qandahár. Of Akbar's 49th Iláhi year I have seven rupees all of different months, but of these, two were struck at Tatta, three at Láhore, one at Ahmadábád and one at Burhánpúr. I have also one other rupee of this 49th year, but its mint I can't make out يتلور (Sítápúr?). Of the years 46 and 48 I have rupees of five months. The whole of my collection of Akbar's rupees (I have rupees of each year of his reign except 965) enables me to give each month, and the fact that these coins were



struck at different mints in different years, will take away from the monotonous nature of a series issued from the same place. The styles of the coins issued from the Lahore mint differed very considerably as we shall see, but Ahmadábád and Tatta were rigidly monotonous in their issues.\*

Up to the year 992 A. H. the coins of Akbar had been strictly orthodox in their inscriptions. The name and titles of the Emperor had occupied the obverse, the margins containing the mint &c. being in nearly all cases illegible. The reverse had gloried in the Kalimah, and its fragmentary margins were embellished with portions of the names of the four companions of Muhammad. The first rupees were round and of the size of those of Sher Sháh and his successors. My first square rupee of Akbar is dated 984. Láhore and Fathpúr Sikrí seem to have begun coining square rupees in 985. After 986 for several years I have no round rupees in my cabinet. They are all square. The coins in my cabinet with Iláhi years on them begin from the 30th year. On these coins, instead of the Kalimah, we have الله اكبر جل جلاله "God is the greatest, may his brightness shine forth." The year and month and mint complete the inscriptions. The Kalimah rupees, however, did not cease being struck. I have them of 993, 994, 995, الف 1000 and 1001.

The use of the Persian months by Akbar leads us to consider what the Persian year was. Prinsep in his "Useful Tables, an appendix to the Journal of the Asiatic Society" published in 1836, gives at p. 12 a short account of "The Era of Yezdegird III or the Persian Era," and at p. 37 "The Táríkh Iláhy or Era of Akbar." In "Historia Religionis veterum Persarum eorumque Magorum" by Thos. Hyde, S. T. D. Regius Professor of Hebrew and Laudianus Professor of Arabic in the University of Oxford, published at Oxford in 1700 A. D., there is a full account of the various Persian epochs and years in Chap. XIV. In Chap. XV he gives the months in Pahlaví and Persian together with the Greek corruptions of the names. He also gives the names of the 30 days of the month in both Pahlaví and Persian. In Chap. XVI he gives the months and days of the year of Yezdegird with the names of the appended five days. In Chap. XVII he treats of "Years and Epochs in general and of the Persian year in particular." In the XIXth Chap. he shows the origin of the names of the Persian months. In the عجائب المخلوقات (a short account of the contents of which book was printed in this Journal many years ago, and which has lately been lithographed and published in India) amongst wonders many, is given a sober account of the Persian months. And again in the كازنامه نوآیین or تقويم مؤيد المورخين, a most useful little book of 70 pages by

\* Mr. Grant has let me have a coin of Ahmadábád which is similar to the later Láhore coins of Akbar. It is of the 47th year and of the month Tír and of same type as No. 2, plate I.



Munshí Deví Pershád published by Nawal Kishore, Lakhnau, 1878 A. D (the result of five years of labour as the author tells us), in Chap. II Sect. I, p. 52 &c., we have a short but clear account of the Persian, Jalál and Iláhi years. Much more may have been written on these subjects.\* I shall here give as plain and brief a notice as will suffice us for our present purpose, and I refer those who have time and opportunity to the works already mentioned and to others, for fuller and more particular information.

The Persian year was instituted by Yezdegird III eight days after the death of Muhammad. The year was divided into 365 days. There were twelve months each of which had 30 days, except the twelfth which had 35 days. The fractions of the days in 120 years made another month, so that every 120 years there were 13 months in the year. The first month was duplicated, for the first time this occurred, the second month for the second time, &c. The names of the months were :

Farwardín  
Ardibihisht  
Khúrdád  
Tír  
Amardád or Mardád  
Shahríyar  
Mihr  
Abán  
Azar  
Dí  
Bahman  
Isfandármuz.

There were no weeks. But each day of the month was named separately. Hyde gives these names both in Persian and Pahlaví.

Malik Sháh Sultán of Khorásán improved somewhat on the above. Making his year commence on the entrance of the sun in Aries, he ordered that the year should receive an additional day whenever it was required. This was mostly as with us every fourth year. But after the day had been added seven or eight times, the addition was postponed for a year. The days were added at the end of Abán, not at the end of Isfandármuz. These days were called *روز كبیسه*. The five days added to the Persian year were termed *خمسه مستورقه*. First of all the months were called—

Máh Nau  
Nau Bahár  
Garmá Fazá

\* In the History of Gujrát is a translation of the proclamation of Akbar in his 30th year about the Iláhi year.



Roz Afzún  
 Jahán Táb  
 Jahán Áráí  
 Mihr Kán  
 Khazán  
 Surmá Fazá  
 Shab Afzún  
 Átish Afzún  
 Sál Afzún.

But after awhile the old Persian names were again used.

In the 30th year of Akbar, *i. e.*, in 992 A. H. Hakím Fathullah Shírází got out a new era and year for India. The object in view was to create a uniform year throughout the vast empire Akbar had conquered. The era began with the reign of Akbar, *i. e.*, on 19th February 1556. The months and days were similar to those of the Persian year. There were no intercalary days. Hence the days of this year never corresponded with the days of the Jalálí years of Malik Sháh's era. This year was termed *Iláhi*.

The Iláhi years of Akbar's coins begin with the 30th year. He as I have already stated after a few years left off the use of the Kalimah on his coins and also the names of the four companions. To make his departure from established usage more marked, he made all his *early* Iláhi rupees *square*.

Jahángír commenced his coinage by reverting to the year of the Hejirah and by putting the year of his reign without the use of the word *Iláhi*. It was simply *سنه* or *سنه* &c. In his 6th year (according to coins in my cabinet) or perhaps before, the Lahore mint commenced a series of coins inferior to none of Jehángír's in beauty and finish, on which were the year and month of the Iláhi year (commencing, however, from the 1st year of Jahángír) on one side, and the names of Jahángír and Akbar on the other. This series was copied at the mints of Akbarnagar, Qandahár, Jahángírnagar, Tatta, and Kashmir.

In two large square heavy rupees I have, the Iláhi month was woven into a couplet thus:—

به اردی بهشت این سکه در لاهور زد بر زر  
 شهنشاه زمان شاه جهان گیر ابن شاه اکبر

and again

به ماه تیر در لاهور زد این سکه را بر زر  
 \*مملک دین پناه شاه جهان گیر ابن شاه اکبر

\* In the Cabinet of Alexander Grant, Esq., C. E. is a large *round* coin weighing 217·3 grains on which is this couplet with "Bahman" month in it.

در ماه بهمن چون ماه انور شد زر لاهور  
 بدور نور الدین جهان گیر ابن شاه اکبر



There may be a series of couplets of this kind. Mr. Delmerick edited one with the month Isfandármuz on it, the couplet running thus:—

دراسفندار مو این سکه در لاهور زد بر زر  
شهنشاه \* اسم شاه جهان گیر ابن شاه اکبر

My coins weigh 217 and 216 grs. Mr. Delmerick puts his down at 219 grs. Dr. Stulpnagel had some coins of this square heavy series stolen. General Cunningham in 1880 had one also. The whole of the months may, I have not the slightest doubt, be obtained in time. The twelve months of the zodiacal coins, and the twelve months of the Iláhí years of Jahángír I have already noticed would of themselves form a trio of most interesting series.†

When Jahángír died and Sháhjahán ascended the throne, the Kalimah which had been absent so many years of the reign of Jahángír from the coinage at once took its place again on the issues from all the mints. I have three rupees of Sháhjahán's first year. The one struck at Súrat has on it سنه ۱۰۳۸ هجری. In another place it has سنه احد. Of his second year I have two rupees, one struck at Patna in Amardád Máh of the Iláhí year 2. It has on it the Kalimah in full, also the date 1038. The other one was struck at Multán in Abán Máh of the same year. It also has on it the Kalimah and date 1038. The series of Sháhjahán's rupees, on which the square lozenge comes, as a rule ignores the Iláhí years. One, however, which I have was struck at Bhakkhur in Abán Iláhí.

After the death of Sháhjahán no Emperor put the Iláhí months on his coin. Each rupee was dated with the year of the Hejirah, and with the year of the reign in which it was struck. The Iláhí system may be said to have died out, therefore in the early part of the reign of Sháhjahán, so far as the coinage was concerned. In the Akbar series of Iláhí rupees there is one portion on which the names of the months do not come. Only the year is there without any mint. Some of the earliest of the series are in this fashion. I have one gold one of this type and several silver ones. From their scarcity I judge them to have been proof coins. Some of them are in a beautiful state of preservation, fresh as from the mint.

Gold coins of the Iláhí years are also procurable. They are scarcer than the silver ones, but still I have no doubt that were an exhaustive, scientific and systematic search to be made, the whole of the months might

\* In the B. M. there is a coin which has زمان instead of اسم

† I find in my small cabinet one of Jahangir's gold coins of exquisite beauty and finish has فروردین worked up into a couplet, thus.

بفروردین زر آگوه فروزان است چون اختر  
زنور سکه شاه جهان گیر ابن شاه اکبر

This coin weighs 219 grains but it has a small loop on it.



be eventually recovered. Of course it is late in the day now to commence. In my previous papers I have stated that old coins were getting scarcer and scarcer. In the *Calcutta Review* for April 1881 I showed how "Portable Indian Antiquities" were quickly and quietly disappearing from the country. Native ladies like their ornaments of pure gold and silver such as are in mohurs and rupees. English educated officers (and what officer is not now thoroughly educated) are constantly on the look out for these memorials of past glories. Hence search as we will, coins really good and old are seldom met with. One cannot help hoping that the coins in the India Office in England may be ultimately restored to India. These would form a nucleus for an Imperial collection. They are now in the British Museum for the purpose of being arranged. There are no doubt many duplicates. These should be distributed to Madras, Bombay, Kurrachee and Lahore where there are gentlemen in charge of the Museums who take a pride in their work and in the Institutions committed to their care. Beyond and above all present collections is the one belonging to General Cunningham which contains coins of greater beauty and rarity than any other. Whatever else the Government of India does, the reversion of this collection to India should be secured.

I am not so sanguine about a copper series of Akbar's Iláhi months. I have eight months now. But copper coins disappear relentlessly. Every manufacturer of copper vessels, and their number in India is legion, regards an old copper *fulús* or *sikka* of Akbar, with its 315 or so grains of good copper, as a god-send, and he melts it down or beats it out ruthlessly. As Akbar was the only Mogul who tried to rule India, and as mementoes of his reign are not so very numerous, we ought to have a complete collection of his coins in gold, silver, and copper. The editor of the *Aín-i-Akbarí* gives a few gold, silver and copper coins in the latest Lucknow edition of that work. The author of the *مختصر سیر گلشن هند* gives a list of ten coins at the end of Akbar's reign. One of these is the gold coin with figures of Rám and Sítá on it, and on the other side the month and Iláhi year, ۵۰ فروردین.\* This is the coin from which all the sapient money changers of the bazaars name all coins with figures on them "*Sítá Rámí*." It is also noticed by the editor of the *Aín-i-Akbarí*.

Akbar went on coining until his death; hence the list of mints given in the *Aín* is not complete or correct. There were several active mints not noticed in that work, *e. g.*, Asírgarh, Burhánpúr, Srínagar, Gobindpúr, Tatta, Fathpúr and Lahrí Bandar. I have coins of Akbar struck in all these mints except Asírgarh. But there are many mints given in the *Aín* from which I have not as yet seen a coin of any kind.

\* On the gold coin in the British Museum there are the two figures but without any inscription in Hindí.



Besides rupees there are parts or divisions of rupees of Akbar's mints obtainable. Three coins in my cabinet average 17·2 grains.

Five coins average 42·75 grains. Five average 75·9. I have a gold Iláhi coin weighing over 186 grains. The first Iláhi rupees average about 175 grains.

Now what I should consider an exhaustive, scientific and systematic collection of Akbar's coins would include a specimen of every type struck at all his mints in different metals, weights, shapes, sizes, months and years. The possible coins to be obtained should be tabulated, and as specimens of each are obtained, each should be marked off. The collector would thus see what his *wants* were.

It seems strange that about 100 years after the time of Akbar, James II should strike coins with the names of the months on them. His gun money has months on it. I should think there are collections in England in which each month is represented. Knowing next to nothing of English coins I cannot say.

Without further prelude I will at once proceed to examine the rupees drawn in the accompanying plates. The first twelve are round ones. They all agree in the matter of reverse. It is *كبر الله جل جلاله*

The obverses are as follows, in order of the months

(1)	۴۴	فروردین الهی ضرب آگره	Farwardín.
(2)	۴۹	اردی بهشت الهی ضرب لاهور	Ardíbihisht.
(3)	۴۳	خورداد الهی ضرب احمدآباد	Khúrdád.
(4)	۴۰	تیر الهی ضرب احمد آباد	Tír.
(5)	۵۰	امرداد الهی ضرب آگره	Amardád.
(6)	۳۹	شهریور الهی ضرب لاهور	Shahrewar.
(7)	۴۹	مهر الهی ضرب سیتاپور	Mihr
(8)	۴۹	مهر ابان الهی ضرب برهان پور	Abán.
(9)		اذر الهی ضرب لهری بندر	Azar.
(10)	۳۸	دی الهی ضرب لاهور	Dí.
(11)	۴۱	بهمن الهی ضرب احمدآباد	Bahman.
(12)	۴۵	اسفندارمز الهی ضرب برهان پور	Isfandármuz.

It will be noticed that only No. 8 has anything beyond the name of the month. This rupee has the word for month *ماه* on it. The ornamentation on each rupee varies according to the mint. Ágra and Lahore have by far the most graceful writing on them. The inscriptions on the Ahmad-ábád rupees are particularly stiff and formal and ugly. I am not quite sure whether No. 7 was struck at Sítápúr or not. The mint is new to me. I have a second one of the same mint and month, but of another year. No. 9 is of a new mint—*Lahribandar*, a port of Sind now no longer known



by the people of Sind. These two mints are not in the *Aín-i-Akbarí*. Neither is that of Nos. 8 and 12, Burhánpúr.

It will be noticed also that none of these *round* rupees are of Akbar's early Iláhi years. The earliest I have is the 38th year (No. 10.) From the 30th year all my rupees of Akbar are square. Perhaps more fortunate collectors may possess earlier *round* Iláhi rupees.

The inscriptions on the square rupees are as follow :—

	Obverse.	Reverse.
(13)	الله اكبر	جل جلاله ٣٠ الهى
(14)	الله اكبر جل جلاله	اردي بهشت ٣٧ الهى
(15)	Do.	خورداد الهى ٤٩ ضرب قنده
(16)	Do.	قيصر الهى ٤٩ ضرب قنده
(17)	Do.	امرداد ٣٥ الهى
(18)	ضرب دهلي	ماده شهر يور ٣٧ الهى
(19)	Do.	ماده مهر ٤٣ الهى
(20)	Do.	ماده ابان ٣٠ الهى
(21)	Do.	اذر الهى ٤٠ ضرب ملتان
(22)	الله اكبر جل جلاله	دي الهى ٣٦ ضرب لاهور
(23)	ضرب دهلي	ماده بهمن ٣٠ الهى
(24)	الله اكبر	جل جلاله ٣٩

I have not square rupees with the months Farwardín\* and Isfandármuz on them. Hence I put in their places Nos. 13 and 24, two novelties of the Iláhi series. They are destitute of both mint and month. They have only the Iláhi years. Three of the rupees Nos. 13, 20 and 23 are of the first Iláhi year.† *Tatta*‡ is a new mint town not in the *Aín-i-Akbarí*. It and *Lahrí Bandar* seem to have been Akbar's only mints in Sind. Bhakkhar is in the *Aín* as a mint.

Nos. 13, 14, 17, and 24 are without mints on them. I have several more mintless square rupees all of great beauty.

I almost dare to indulge the hope that some day or other I shall get a complete series of square rupees of each mint. I dare not hope that I shall get one of each month of each year, for I do not think that every

\* There is a Tatta one of this month in the British Museum, and since drawing the plate, I have myself obtained one, through the generosity of my friend W. Theobald, Esq., struck at Dehli in 37 Iláhi.

† I have since obtained a fourth of the month Dí struck at Dehli. This gives me three Dehli rupees all struck in the first Iláhi year of Akbar, *i. e.*, the 30th of his reign.

‡ There is a possibility that this mint may be Patna. The coins are, however, so rough that they do not in any way resemble some remarkably fine coins I have, struck undoubtedly at Patna.



mint was always so busy as to issue rupees monthly for a series of years. Many mints of Akbar's are as yet unrepresented in my cabinet. My means are small: my opportunities few. I cannot afford to purchase all I see. Those I have given will, however, convince my co-workers in numismatics that the coinage of Akbar offers a field worthy of being searched in. The results give us variety in inscriptions, in mints and in execution.

The weights are given to each rupee, the figures underneath the bar indicating the No. of grains in each case.

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*Notes on the remains of portions of Old Fort William discovered during the erection of the East Indian Railway Company's Offices.—By R. ROSKELL BAYNE.*

I presume that I may take it for granted that most of my readers know from "Orme's History of the Military Transactions of the British Nation in Indostan" published in 1778, something of the locality and the form of the first Fort William. To those who do not, Vol. II, Book VI, headed "the war in Bengal", of the above work will give a very good general idea of it, and the Map of "Calcutta in 1756" contains much interesting information that has been of considerable use and guidance to me. In p. 62, from Orme's account of Old Fort William we read as follows:

"The fort of Calcutta, called Fort William, was situated near the river, and nearly half way between the northern and southern extremities of the Company's territory. Its sides to the east and west extended 210 yards; the southern side 130, and the northern 100: it had four bastions, mounting each 10 guns: the curtains were only four feet thick, and, like the factory of Cossimbazar, terraces, which were the roofs of chambers, formed the top of the ramparts; and windows belonging to these chambers were in several places opened in the curtains: the gateway on the eastern side projected, and mounted five guns, three in front, and one on each flank towards the bastions: under the western face and on the brink of the river, was a line of heavy cannon, mounted in embrasures of solid masonry; and this work was joined to the two western bastions by two slender walls, in each of which was a gate of palisadoes. In the year 1747 warehouses had been built contiguous to the southern curtain, and projecting on the outside, between the two bastions, rendered them useless to one another; however, the terraces of these warehouses were strong enough to bear the firing of three-pounders which were mounted in barbette over a slight parapet."





Rodgers, Charles J. 1883. "The Rupees of the Months of the Háhi Years of Akbar." *The journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* 52(II), 97–105.

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