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Part- I & II



*Chief Editor*  
*Professor Paras Nath Singh*

*Editors*  
*Dr. D. Raja Reddy*  
*Prof. Manmohan Kumar*  
*Dr. Amit Kumar Upadhyay*

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# MINTS AND COINAGE OF AKBAR FROM RAJASTHAN

DANISH MOIN

Inscribing mint name on the coins is one of the important features of medieval Indian coinage and it has been noticed on the coins of Delhi sultanate and provincial sultanates. During Mughal period mint name finds prominent space on the coins and large number of Mughal mints are known, representing most parts of India and these are known to have produced coins in gold (*muhar*), silver (*rupiya*) and copper (*dam* or *falus*).

Although the Mughal coinage was introduced by Babar, founder of the empire and his son and successor Humayun too is represented in good number of coins but Mughal coinage took its final shape during the time of Akbar. Coins of Akbar are reported in all the three metals covering large part of India.

Various aspects including mints of Mughal coinage in general and Akbar in particular has been studied in the past but the mints and coinage of Akbar in regional perspective has not received proper attention of the scholars. The present paper aims to understand the mints and coinage of Akbar in the region of Rajasthan. The study primarily discusses the number of mints operated

from Rajasthan and its metal wise representation along with the coin typology.

Mint name on the coins is one of the important evidences for historical interpretation. It helps us to understand coinage in a particular region with definite proof. The mint name on the coins generally reveals the possession of a particular place by a ruler on the one hand and extent of the empire on the other. The abundance and paucity of the coins from a particular mint are generally understood as the importance of the mint.

It is necessary to mention here that Rajasthan in the present study covers modern state of Rajasthan not of Mughal period. Rajasthan with the present geographical boundaries has not been a *suba* of Mughal Empire. Rajasthan in Mughal period may generally been understood as *suba* Ajmer, which includes present Ajmer, Chittor, Ranthambhore, Jodhpur, Sironi, Nagaur and Bikaner (Irfan Habib, 1982), while other important places such as Alwar, Bairat of present Rajasthan were part of *suba* Agra of Mughal (Irfan Habib, 1982). Since the present study covers modern

state of Rajasthan Alwar and Bairat are also included in this study.

The study is primarily based on numismatic evidence mainly Museum catalogues on Mughal coins and the list of Mughal mints (R.D. Bhatt and Sheetal Bhatt, 1997). Besides, articles on new mint and type of Akbar published in numismatic journals and Auction catalogues have also been consulted. A study on the Mughal coin hoards of UP (Strnad, Jaroslav. *Monetary History of Mughal India as Reflected in Silver Coin Hoards*, New- Delhi, 2001) is also referred for the listing of the mints.

Coins of Akbar are known in gold, silver and copper in various weight standards. These were more or less issued on uniform pattern maintaining the weight standards and coin legends through out his Empire. His gold and silver coins till 29<sup>th</sup> R.Y generally bear *Kalima* and name of four great Caliphs

on the one side and his name and title along with mint and date on the other. After the introduction of *Ilahi* coins in 29<sup>th</sup> R.Y the legend is written as *Jalalahu Allah- u- Akbar* on the one side and *Ilahi* month, *Ilahi* year and mint on the other. Some of the *Ilahi* type coins were issued without even mentioning the mint name.

Most of his copper coins are anonymous, bearing *hijri* date (both in numerals and Persian words) and mint name. Like gold and silver, his copper coins have been issued on *Ilahi* pattern with the *Ilahi* date, month and mint name. Some of his *Ilahi* type copper coins were issued with the name of Akbar inscribed as *tanka-i- Akbar shahi*.

The coinage of Akbar from Rajasthan is reported from Udaipur, Ajmer, Bairat, Chittor, Amer, Alwar, Qila Alwar etc. metal wise representation can be seen in the table below:

Table

Gold	Silver	Copper
	Alwar	Alwar
Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer
	Bairat	Bairat
	Chittor	Chittor
		Salimabad Ajmer
Udaipur	Udaipur	Udaipur

### Alwar

Alwar was the chief town of *Sarkar* Alwar in *Suba* Agra during the reign of Akbar. It is one of the important mints of

Akbar, primarily represented in copper. It weighed about 20 gms., bearing one side *Fulus Zarb Alwar* and date in Persian words (such as *Nahsad hashtad wa hashtad*

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988) as well as in numeral on the other.

AH 967 is the earliest and AH 977 is the latest known date of Alwar mint. No mint of Rajasthan in our studies is known to have issued coin in or before AH 967 (Collin Bruce, John Deyall (et.al), p. 26). Thus Alwar may be regarded as the first Mughals mint in Rajasthan. All the listed copper coins from Alwar are known in the weight standard of *dam* (20gm.).

Alwar mint of Akbar in silver is rare and it was not known till very recently. The mint, however, finds mention in the list of Bhatt. Since it is not illustrated, we are not able to explain the type.

#### Ajmer

It has been a principal copper mint of Akbar. Copper apart, a few gold and silver coins are also listed.

Copper (*dam*): Ajmer mint probably started minting coins some time in 970 *hijri* as this is the earliest known date. However from AH 971 to AH 978 no coin of Akbar from Ajmer is reported, while from AH 979 it has been regularly reported till 997, even coin bearing date 1000, 1002, 1009 are also listed. (Collin Bruce, John Deyall (et.al.), p26)

*Dams* issued from Ajmer are anonymous, bearing *zarbAjmer sikka-i-falus* on the one side and *Hijri* date (both in Persian word) and numeral on the other. Ajmer is one of the few mints

which had not issued coins in *Ilahi* pattern.

Gold (*muhar*): The gold coin from Ajmer mint is very interesting and extremely rare. It is issued in square shape with *Ilahi* legend *Allah -u- Akbar* on the one side and *Ya Moin* with the date 981 on the other (in the collection of British Museum, London). The coin is attributed to the great sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti of Ajmer. The type was probably issued on a particular occasion and suggests the importance of great sufi Moinuddin Chishti in the life of Akbar.

Silver (*rupiya*): The silver coins from Ajmer are extremely rare, not listed in earlier catalogues. It is, however, reported in a coin hoard from UP, listed by Strnad (Strnad, Jaroslav, 2001). But the typology of this coin is not described.

#### Salimabad Ajmer

Salimabad is an epithet of Ajmer, and interestingly Salimabad mint is represented in copper only. *Salimabad Ajmer* is first noticed in AH 982. It bears *Salimabad zarbAjmer sikka-i-falus* on the one side and *Hijri* date (both in Persian word) and numeral on the other.

#### Chittor

Chittor was a *Sarkar* of *Suba* Ajmer. It is primarily a copper mint of Akbar. AH 977 is the earliest and AH 1007 is latest known date. These were also issued in the weight of anonymous *dam*,



bearing one side *zarb Chittor Sikka Falus* and date on the other.

Chittor is rare silver mint, not published in earlier works but listed by Bhatt and Strnad.

#### Bairat

Bairat was the part of *Sarkar Alwar* of *Suba Agra* during the time of Akbar. It is the only mint of Akbar in Rajasthan, which represents good number of silver and copper coins.

**Silver:** All the silver coins from Bairat have been issued in *Ilahi* type bearing one side *Jalle jalalahu Allah -u- Akbar* and *Ilahi* date, month and mint name on the other. The earliest dated silver coin bears the 43 Khurdad *Ilahi* while latest date represents 50 *Shahrevar*.

**Copper:** The copper coins from Bairat are known both in *hijri* and *Ilahi* types. 971 *hijri* is the earliest dated copper coin of Akbar from Bairat mint, while dated 1010 *hijri* is latest known date for Bairat. Both the types are reported in the weight of about 20 gms.

The *Hijri* type copper coins from Bairat are further classified into two types:

- (1) Falus type; bearing *Bairat Falus Zarb* one side and date in Persian words and numerals on the other. (Collin Bruce, John Deyall (et.al.), p26)
- (2) Rawani type: bearing one side date *Sanah Bairat* and *Rawani* on the other. It is listed in dated 1010 *hijri*.

(Collin Bruce, John Deyall (et.al.), p26)

Like *hijri* type, the *Ilahi* type copper coins from Bairat mint is also divided into two types. These are as under:

- (1) Falus type: bearing one side *zarb Fulus Bairat* on the one side and *Ilahi* date and month on the other. (Collin Bruce, John Deyall (et.al.), p27)
- (2) Tanka type: It bears the legend *tanka- i- Akbar Shahi zarb Bairat* on the one side and *Ilahi* date with mint name on the other. 42 *Ardehahisht* is the earliest known *Ilahi* date of Bairat mint, while 49 *Ilahi* is the latest date (Collin Bruce, John Deyall (et.al.), p27). Akbar in his 40<sup>th</sup> RY issued heavy copper coins of about 40 gms., and he termed as *tanka*. Therefore, with the introduction of his *tanka*, the *dam* became half *tanka* and half *dam* is 1/4 *tanka*.

It is interesting to note that *tanka* series of copper coins of Akbar is only type wherein he inscribed his name, while other copper coin types are anonymous. Secondly, *tanka* series of copper coins also inscribe the denomination on coins mention as *neem* (half) *tanka*, *Chahar* (one fourth) *hissa*, *Hashtam hissa* etc. (R.B. Whitehead, 1920)

#### Udaipur

It is a rare mint but represents gold, silver and copper coins.

**Gold:** Udaipur is the only mint of Akbar from Rajasthan which had issued his gold coins with regular legend, bearing Kalims and the name of four great Caliphs with their epithet on the one side and *Badrulahi Ghazi Jalaluddin Muhammad Akbarzadeh Muhammadabad urf Udaipur* on the other. From coin it also appears that Udaipur was given another

name Muhammadabad. The type is rare, issued in the weight of about 11gms, known in 986 hijri. (Collin Bruce, John Deyall (et.al.), p.31)

**Silver and Copper:** The mint is not published in earlier catalogues but these coins are listed both in silver and copper by Bhatt and Sirmad.

#### Notes & References:

1. Habib, Irfan., *An Atlas of Mughal Empire; Political and Economic Map with Detailed Notes, Bibliography and Index*. Delhi, 1962.
2. Bhatt, R.D, and Bhatt, Sheetal, " Mint Place of the Mughals and the others in the Name of the Mughals" *Numismatic Studies* vol. V, New-Delhi, 1997.
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