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NUMISMATIC SERIES

No. 1

BARAMATI

A New Mughal Mint

BY

KHWAJA MUHAMMAD AHMAD, M.A., etc.,
*Curator, Hyderabad Museum and Archaeological
Department, Survey and Excavation Branch,
Hyderabad-Deccan.*



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**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF
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New Mughal Mint

This article was originally published in the Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. X, Part I, pp. 61-63. I am grateful to Dr. A. S. Altekar, Editor of the Journal for permission to reproduce it along with the Coins Nos. 5 and 6, Plate XII from Vol. VIII of the Journal. Rao Bahadur Prayag Dayal's and the Editor's notes together with my reply as published in the Journal have also been reproduced in this brochure.

KHWAJA MUHAMMAD AHMAD.

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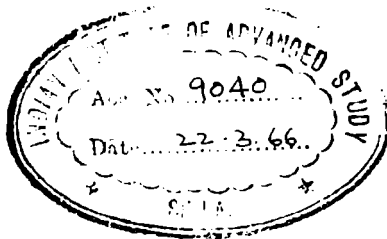
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BARAMATI, A NEW MUGHAL MINT.

AN interesting find of Mughal coins, consisting of 80 silver pieces, was recently received from Aurangabad District as a Treasure Trove. They were discovered while excavating the foundations for the construction of a hospital at Pachod in Shahgadh Jagir. The find was first reported to me by Dr. Gladys I. Jeffree of the Mission Hospital, Pachod.

The coins were secured for the Hyderabad Museum through the kind offices of Mr. Mohd. Abdullah, H.C.S., First Taluqdar, Aurangabad. The Mughal Emperors, Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb, Jahandar Shah, Shah Alam, Shah Jahan II, Farrukhsiyar and Muhammad Shah are represented in the hoard. The coins of the hoard display a considerable variety of mints which are well known to numismatists. However, one of the coins belonging to Muhammad Shah (1131-1161 A.H. = 1719-1748 A.D.) represents a new Mughal mint (Pl. II a). Two similar coins have been noticed by Dr. Pannalal, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., in the Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. VIII, Part II, on pages 175-6, Plate XII, Nos. 5 and 6. The mint has been read by him as Taramati, which has not been identified and could not be traced in the Imperial Gazetteer of India. The letter c or t is however doubtful on Dr. Pannalal's coins (Pl. II b). The coin, which is being published by me, does not bear dots of c and the mint name has been read by Mr. Abdul Wali Khan, Keeper of the Coins, Hyderabad Museum, as Baramati, which has been identified by him as a town situated $18^{\circ}/9' \text{ N}^{\circ}$, $74^{\circ}/34'$, (Pl. I) bearing the same name in Bhimthadi Taluq of Poona District, about fifty miles south-east of Poona City. The reading of the mint name of the coins published by Dr. Pannalal has obviously to be corrected. The reading of the name and its identifi-

cation are further corroborated by nearness to the mint of the places of the find of the coins. The two coins published by Dr. Pannalal were discovered at Brahmapuri near Kolhapur, about 120 miles south of Baramati ; while the coin which is being published by me was discovered at Pachod, in Shahgadh Jagir, Pattan Taluq, Aurangabad District, about 200 miles north-east of Baramati. The coins do not seem to have travelled long from their mint. Thus a new name to the list of the Mughal mints is definitely added.

The Imperial Gazetteer of India unfortunately does not contain much information regarding Baramati. In order to secure further information regarding this place I had requested the Collector of Poona to help me in this respect. He had kindly enquired from the offices of the Superintendent of Archæology and the Historical Society of Poona, and sent the following note to me :—

“ In the town of Baramati (District Poona) there is an old dilapidated land fortress, known as the “ Kot ” of Babuji Naik. It was built by Babuji Naik (Joshi), the reputed money-lender of the Peshwas, in 1743. He had very close matrimonial ties with the Peshwas. He died in 1780.”

From this description it is evident that during the time when the coins were struck at Baramati in the name of Muhammad Shah this place enjoyed a unique fiscal position in western part of the Deccan and that there is no wonder if coins were minted there.

The description of the coin is as follows :—

Size	..	.95”
Weight	..	176.5 grains.
Shape	..	Slightly oval.
Date	..	Between 1131 & 1149 A.H. (1719 & 1737 A.D.)

READING.

Obverse

۱۱۴۹ محمد شاه
 بادشاه غازی
 حکه مبارک

Reverse

مانوس
 میمنت
 سنه جلوس
 ب [ضر]
 بارامتی

Pl. II a.

The first two figures of the date beginning from the left are ۱۱ and the last two figures are doubtful. Only the lower portion of the vertical stroke of the third figure is visible, and it must be either ۳ or ۴. The fourth figure is completely cut. Thus the date has to be conjectured anything between ۱۱۳۱ and ۱۱۴۹.

Rao Bahadur Prayag Dayal has sent the following note on the above paper for publication.

The letter ت or *te* is quite distinct on Dr. Pannalal's coins, whereas the letter ب or *ba* is most doubtful on Khwaja Muhammad's coin, because of the absence of a dot below the stroke for ب, therefore the assumption that the mint name is Baramati and not Taramati is not convincing. The existence of a town of the name of Baramati in Poona District is a poor argument for the mint name to be taken as Baramati.

Besides it is possible that Taramati was the original name which underwent a change and is now called Baramati.

(Dr. Pannalal agrees with the above view. During the ۱۸th century, when the coin under discussion was issued the town is not known to have changed its name from Taramati to Baramati. A.S.A.).

MR. KHWAJA MUHAMMAD AHMAD'S REPLY.

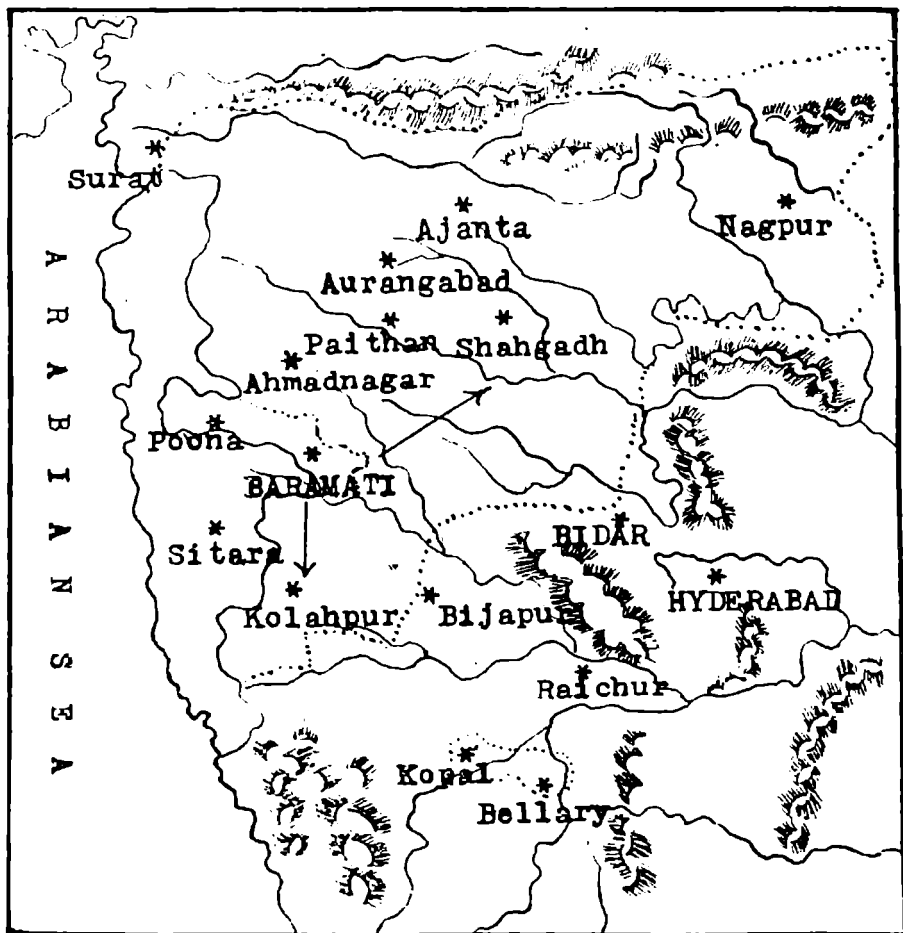
In Muslim numismatics and epigraphy weight cannot be attached to the presence or absence of dots. Sometimes they are only ornamental, sometimes they may belong to a letter placed at a distance and sometimes they are absolutely meaningless. The words have to be read and interpreted in an intelligible manner. The dots which have been presumed to belong to the letter ت on Dr. Pannalal's coins are not to be found on the similar coin which is being published by me. It is likely that one of them may be of ض and the other of ب in the word ضرب. Their attribution, therefore, to the letter ت is not correct. The coins were definitely minted in the western part of the Deccan, and the fiscal and political importance of Baramati at the time when the coins were struck cannot be ignored. It rests with Dr. Pannalal and Mr. Prayag Dayal to prove that the original name of Baramati was Taramati. Even if that is proved, it does not alter the identification made by Mr. Abdul Wali Khan. Personally, I am convinced about the correctness of the reading and also of the identification made by Mr. Abdul Wali Khan. I am sure it does not allow of any doubt.



Map of Western Deccan showing Barmati.

MR. KHWAJA MUHAMMAD AHMAD'S REPLY.

In Muslim numismatics and epigraphy weight cannot be attached to the presence or absence of dots. Sometimes they are only ornamental, sometimes they may belong to a letter placed at a distance and sometimes they are absolutely meaningless. The words have to be read and interpreted in an intelligible manner. The dots which have been presumed to belong to the letter ت on Dr. Pannalal's coins are not to be found on the similar coin which is being published by me. It is likely that one of them may be of ض and the other of ب in the word ضرب. Their attribution, therefore, to the letter ت is not correct. The coins were definitely minted in the western part of the Deccan, and the fiscal and political importance of Baramati at the time when the coins were struck cannot be ignored. It runs with Dr. Faouriel and Mr. Prayag Dayal to prove that the original name of the town was Taramati. Even if that is proved, it does not affect the identification made by Mr. Abdul Wah Khan. Personally, I am convinced about the correctness of the reading and also of the identification made by Mr. Abdul Wah Khan. I am sure it does not allow of any doubt.

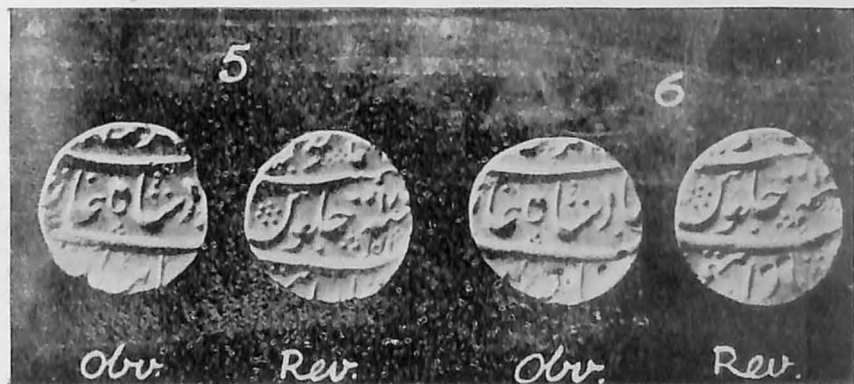


Map of Western Deccan showing Baramati.





(a) Baramati Coin, Hyderabad Museum.



(b) Baramati Coins published by Dr. Pannalal.