RULERS AND THEIR COINAGE

In the following account of the coinage of the various rulers of Iran, I have taken the regnal years either from Professor E. G. Browne's *Literary History of Persia*, vol. iv, or from R. S. Poole's admirable preface to his *Catalogue of the Coins of the Sultans of Persia in the British Museum*, pp. xxi-xii. The official date of the beginning of the reign of a sovereign of Iran is that of his jahān, or enthronement, but although the privilege of the Khatūba (mention of the ruler's name in the Friday prayers) and the sīkhs (coinage) should be concomitants of the jahān, these were often exercised before the actual enthronement.

I

ŞAFAVĪS

IŞMA'ILI

Shaikh Isma'il Şafavi, the son of Shaykh Ḥājar, traced his descent back to the seventh Imām, Mūsā al-Kazim, and through him to the third Imām, Ja'far. It is owing to this descent that he occasionally adopts on his coins the *Imām-Nābūt al-Ḥusayn* in addition to that of as-Şafavi which he derives from an ancestor of the name of Şafii.

The date of his jahān, or enthronement, at Tabriz, is given as 2 Ramadān 907/11th–12th March, 1502, but he had already proclaimed himself the preceding year. He died on 19 Rajab 910/25th May, 1514.

We have gold and silver coins of this Shī'ah. The obverse invariably bears the sīkhs formula and the names or attributives of the twelve Imāms, sometimes both names and attributes being mentioned, arranged in a variety of designs.

The reverse gives the Shaikh's titles of which we have various readings.

1 M. Bammagatsi (247) who was in the East in 1507 and 1508, says, "An Italian merchant from the city of Aleppo, delivered to us (on the 2nd February, 1508) a piece of money, being silver, and very large, inscribed, and in value worth a shapla, on which there was this inscription in Arabic: 'Sultān Musa edd-din mollah shaikh saul, sultan, I am the true Sultan, Prince Sulayman, sent by God for the benediction of his country.'

Richard ran the Arab as 'Sulayman', but there is little doubt that the correct form is Sulayman. It is in part of the sīkhs formula, whilst the rest is an unsuccessful attempt at deciphering the usual inscription. "The Hājī Muhammad, the KC, the illiterate, his name not yet heard, Sulayman, a ruler, an unknown one," is probably the best interpretation of what is written on the other side.

2 One or more of the words in brackets are sometimes omitted.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE V. RULERS OF IRAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Safavids and II. Maternal Safavids (the latter marked with an asterisk)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Isma'il I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Tahmasp I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Muhammad I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Housan</td>
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<td>6. Abbas I</td>
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<td>7. Safi</td>
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<td>8. Abbas II</td>
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<td>9.Soft II</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Housan II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Tahmasp II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Housan II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muhammad Daud = Shahvand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muhammad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1778-1788</td>
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<td>1778-1788</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VII. PARLAVI</th>
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<tr>
<td>'Abbas 'Ali Khan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Housan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Muhammad</td>
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**V. ZANDS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Zipak Khan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Karim Khan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Shah Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Alib Mustak Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Muhammad Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Muhammad Khan</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**III. AFGHANS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Babur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Ahmad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IV. AFGHANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Din Mohammad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Najib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ghulam Mohammad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Shah</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Muhammad</td>
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<td>6. Muhammad</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Muhammad</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Muhammad</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Muhammad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Muhammad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some rare coins have the dgha formula in a square and others in a lozenge, formed by the tails of four fleurs. In the former the square is enclosed in a lozenge and in the latter the lozenge is enclosed in a square. The names of the remaining Imamat are in groups of two in the triangles thus formed, whilst in the outer segments are the following verse:

The name of the coins of Imama I can be said to be invariably $\text{m}$. A silver coin struck at Turbat bears the date 1229.

The names of mints are preceded by the word $\text{m}$. These coins are probably struck by Abd al-Qasim Khan and not by Biqur Chaghtay. He informs me that one of the coins described in the same paper (loc. cit., p. 181) over-struck by Shah Ismail Qaum Qasim in 1809 was probably one of these coins and not a coin of Bhurunah. Bhurunah was not born until 1888 a.d.
The seal of Isma'il I bears the inscription:

أهتم سل من محمد مقتيء وفِئنِي من حسن رُضي الله عنه وبرکال على
زین الملائک خدیر جَمیر سادات مَمْوَى كفانت على ميرى رضا محمد علي
عُلی حسن عَظَم ومحمد همدى المُسْمَع بِعِيدِ مُطْفِيق

**TAHMAPI**

Tahmapi I, son of Isma'il, was enthroned on 19 Rajab, 596/23 May, 1596, and he died on 10 Jumah, 598/14 May, 1598. His coins are very similar in design to those of his predecessor. On the reverse of one of them the names of the *Tahmash* are in groups of three in the area, the name of the mint is in a medallion in the centre, whilst the *shah*’s formula is in four sections in the margin. Another coin has the *shah*’s formula in the centre and in the margin—

على الرقبي: حسن عظمة محمد همدى المسمى بِعِيد مطْفِيق

The royal titles assumed by Tahmapi I on his coins are:

- **شَهَابُ الأَمْوَى هَمَدَى عَلِيًا**
- **أُبي المَمْوَى شَهَابُ الأَمْوَى هَمَدَى عَلِيًا**
- **شَهَابُ الأَمْوَى هَمَدَى عَلِيًا**
- **شَهَابُ الأَمْوَى هَمَدَى عَلِيًا**

On some coins Tahmapi I lays emphasis on his religious tenets by calling himself—

شَهَابُ العُلَمَاء هَمَدَى عَلِيًا فَيْنا لِلَّاتِين وَايَنَّا

The names of the mints are preceded by the word *شَرْبَة* but we find a *Tabriz* coin with *شَرْبَة* instead of *شَرْبَة* and a coin issued by the Army Mint with ١٠٠ غُدُوع أَمْوَى ذو الغَدُوع ١٠٠ غُدُوع أَمْوَى. A gold coin has *شَرْبَة* in a medallion in the centre but this seems to be a surcharge on an older coin. The mints are given no distinguishing epigraphs but Mashhad is called *شَهَابُ العُلَمَاء* and *شَهَابُ البَلَد*.

**WRITERS OF COINS IN GRAINS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>72</td>
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<td>71-6</td>
<td>71-4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>35</td>
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<td>36</td>
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<td>13-5</td>
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Silver

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
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<th>Average</th>
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<td>144-1</td>
<td>144-1</td>
<td>144-1</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Noting that a hoard of coins had been discovered in the mountain village of Bajgiran, in Gilan, I hastened three only to learn that the gold had been sold to a silversmith of Khimkar for its weight in silver, and the silver for its weight in copper. 21 silver coins had been preserved. They all bear the name of Isma'il I and four mint were represented: Tabriz, Isfahan, Karaj, and Tabriz, the last three being unknown as mint towns. What a mine of information on early Khwarizm coinage was lost in this way!

2 There are 19 coins of *Gold* (Tabriz, Karaj, and Isfahan) weighing on average 20 grams, highest 20-4, lowest 19-7, and six others (Tabriz, Karaj, Isfahan, and Mashhad) weighing on average 25-1 grams, highest 41, lowest 30-9, which I have not taken into account owing to their defective condition.

3 All prior to 916, except a Khalaj coin dated 916.

4 Only two coins of this series are previous to 916, a Tabriz coin dated 916, and a Saf coin dated 918 (incomplete).

5 Two of these coins are dated respectively 916 and 918. These are dated respectively 916, 928, and 928, and the rest are unclassified.

1 R.M. MEI, OR., 4/994, iii. The usual atypical of the *Tabriz* *Qasim* in *Maghālā*.
Gold coins were struck at Astarabad, Baghshah, Harrât, Iraâvân, Isfahân, Kâshân, Kûshân, Mashhad, Nakhchivan, Qârvin, Qum, Shânakhâh, Shîrâz, Tâbârî, and all silver coins at Astarabad, Baghshah, Karbâli, Kûshân, Mashhad, Nakhchivan, Nîmâz, Nishâbûr, Qandahâr, Qârvin, Qum, Rastâb, Shânakhâh, Shîrâz, Shîhâb, Sultânâbâd, Tâbârî, Tûn, Turbat, Urdû, and Yâsîd.

Arthur Edwards (p. 235), in 1566, mentions the alâhî and the bâlî at current costs, and d'Alésandrini (p. 291 and 388), in 1571, states that gold of which he does not give the name.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
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<th>Average</th>
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<tr>
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<td>110</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>96-5</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96-5</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14-4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have seen two seals of Shâh Tâhirî I, the first has the words "الله عليكم مبروك الذي يجل تعاونكم" engraved on it and the second has in the area of the seal the name "شیعه" and in the margin "محمد工作室 على التفاح من سرحان" and the words "حنين بران" have been added to the seal. Jaffar, official of the vizier, is captured. The seal to the left was also engraved on the seal of the vizier. Five of the coins engraved on the seal are of the same type.

Isma'il II

Isma'il II, son of Tâhirî I, was enthroned on 27 Jumâda I, 984/22nd August, 1576, and he died on 13 Ramadân, 986/26th November, 1577.

This digested and bloodthirsty tyrant was avers to coins bearing the sacred formula falling into the hands of unbelievers, and therefore he devised

1 A coin dated 905 weighs 88 grains. If this is short weight for 96 grains the coin is defective. A Shâhâb coin, dôr defaced, weights 76 grains, a Nimrûd coin dated 967 weighs 96 grains and another dated 971 weighs 79 grains. A Shâhâb coin, no date, weights 76 grains.
2 A coin struck at Iraâvân weighs 16 grains.
3 A coin struck at Tâbârî weighs 16 grains.
4 Behzad, son of Tâhirî I, attempted to wrest the throne from his brother Muhammad Khudâbânda but was murdered by the parsâmâ of his younger brother Isma'il who was proclaimed king at Qârvin, nine days after his father's death, i.e., on 29 Saffar 984/23rd May, 1576.

**MUHAMMAD KHUDâBANDA**

The jâhâl of Shâh Sultan Muhammad Khudâbânda took place at Qârvin on 3 Dhul-hijja, 985/10th February, 1576. He was deposed in 994/1586 and formally abdicated in 995/1587, October, 1587.

On the obverse of his coins there is usually the shâh's formula accompanied by the names of the twelve Imâms. But some Sâfî coins have a medallion in the centre with the name of the mint and around it the shâh's formula.

**RULERS AND THEIR COINAGE**

The name and titles of the king and the mint and date are shown on the reverse.

The titles Isma'il II assumed on his coins are:

The name and titles of the king and the mint and date are shown on the reverse.

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The names of the king and the mint and date are shown on the reverse.
**Table: Weights of Coins in Grades**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal</td>
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<td>25</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>11-2</td>
<td>27-2</td>
<td>31-9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The seal of Muhammad Khudhidbanah has in the centre — غلام دام سلطان محمد بن طهرب and in the margin a four-line verse:

المحمد بن طهرب عالم دام سلطان 

*Translation: Muhammad bin Teherab, the World-King.*

**Sultan Hamza**

Hamza, eldest son of Muhammad Khudhidbanah, assumed the administration of the country a year before the formal abdication of his father and was assassinated by his barber on the 22nd of Hijira, 994/4th December, 586. It is not known whether he struck coins. The keepers (custodians) of the shrines of Khuja, in the Kuhlu sub-district of Mawdah, in Gillan, possess two farmada dated respectively Ramadân and Džihiba 'qad, 994/16th August-14th September and 14th October-10th November, 586. In one of these the sovereign is given the titles of sultan of the world and the limit of his authority was extended to the mountains and seas.

The seal bears the words:

**Abbas I**

Abbas I, son of Muhammad Khudhidbanah, was twice enthroned, first, as sultân of Khuja, in his camp before Nishâbûr, in 989/1581 n.s. The second jâli is believed to have taken place in the last part of Džihiba 'qad 990/1587, but the words سلطان who form the chronogram of his accession give the year as 990/1587-8. He died on 24 Jumâdâ I 1059/19th January, 1629.

On the reverse of his coins, Abbas I usually has the shâ'ī formula with the name of the twelve Imâms. Sometimes there is instead of حضرۃ بالله upon it.

1 Two coins of Sârû, weighing respectively 28 and 27-3 grains, are probably imperfect.
2 B.M. Ms. Or. 4,305, iv.
pieces (gold); abādās, mahakads, shakers and sister (silver); and cebulps (brass); the coined gold is of one value and very seldom passing; in this country's language, it is called an āvers, which is English "a thousand", i.e. a thousand dowers, which is 200 cebulps or 500 dowers or 20 abādās, or 10 mahakads, or 5 abādās; the abādās being 100 dowers, the mahakads 100, the abādās 50, the sister 20, and the cebulps 10. The people do not make their account by naming so many abādās or shakers, but by denominations (the greatest denomination) and thousands, hundreds, fifths, etc., decimally."

## Weights of Coins in Ghams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1120-8</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>140-7</td>
<td>140-7</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140-4</td>
<td>141-4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>110-6-8</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>111-4</td>
<td>111-4</td>
<td>111-4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>29-5</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>20-6</td>
<td>20-6</td>
<td>20-6</td>
<td>20-6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13-5</td>
<td>13-5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The seal of 'Abbas I has in the centre "دَعَامَةَ اللهَ وَلَاتِي غِيْبَ" and in the margin—"الفَلَمَ سَلَوَّنَهُ وَلَوَّسَنَهُ وَلَوَسَنَهُ" and "وَلاَمَّا أَكَالَهُ وَلَمْ يَكُلَهُ وَلَكِنْهُ المُهْدَى".

Small seal used as a counter seal in conjunction with the above:

"بَضَامَةَ اللهَ وَلَاتِي غِيْبَ".

### 1

The jādār of Saif I, son of Saif Mirāḥ and grandson of 'Abbas I, took place at Isfahān on 23 Jumādā II, 1058/June 17, 1643, and he died on 12 Šafar, 1062/May 5, 1652. On the obverse of his coins he has the shiva formula and there is often instead of سَوَّ، the Names of the twelve Ismāda are nearly always off the flan. On the reverse he has "قَتَّلَ النَّارَ مَنْ آتَاهُ عَلَى نَارَ السَّلَمَانِ."

We have no gold coins of this sovereign. Silver coins were struck at Ardabīl, Baghchī, Gharjī, Hamadān, Hūzawāz, Iṣfahān, Kānpār, Kāšan, Kūshān, Lāhīj, Māzār, Qarānīn, Raftāb, Shamsābīl, Shirāz, Shāhūr, Taft, Tūzāl, and Urdul. Mints are not given distinguishing epithets.

1. Thus Iran took the lead in adopting a decimal system for its currency and accounts, a thing we have not yet had the courage to do in this country.

2. H.M. M., Or. 4,505, v.


### Weights of Coins in Ghams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>1120</td>
<td>110-4</td>
<td>111-4</td>
<td>111-4</td>
<td>111-4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>29-5</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13-5</td>
<td>13-5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The seal of Saif I bears the following words: 1. Another seal has in the centre "قَتَّلَ النَّارَ مَنْ آتَاهُ عَلَى نَارَ السَّلَمَانِ and in the margin "هَبَهَهُ إِلَى نَكَحَّةِ قَوَامَ وَلَأَنَّهُ مَدُوسَتَ عَلَى نَازِعَةِ سَلَمَانِ."

### Aḥmad II

'Abbas II, son of Saif I, was enthroned at Qarānīn on 16 Šafar, 1062/16th May, 1642, and he died at Khurāshāb, in the district of Dāngūshā, on 26 Bahšī I, 1077/13th September, 1666. The shiva formula appears on the obverse of his coins. Very occasionally the names of the Ismāda are omitted. On some coins they are mentioned with their attributes or by their attributes only:

"الفَلَمَ سَلَوَّنَهُ وَلَوَّسَنَهُ وَلَوَسَنَهُ وَلَوَسَنَهُ" and "وَلاَمَّا أَكَالَهُ وَلَمْ يَكُلَهُ وَلَكِنْهُ المُهْدَى".

1 H.M. M., Or. 4,505, v.

2 Public Record Office, K.P., 102, bundle 46.
Seals of the Safavids

On some Husayn coins 'Abbas II is given the title of 'Imam, otherwise this monarch uses two distichs. The first was adopted the day after the Shah had been proclaimed and the motto 'god be on his throne, God be on his throne' was decided upon for his seal. Part of this motto was incorporated later in his second distich.

1. کبیر سکه ضاحیان
   رز ات توقف قد عباس دلی

2. کبیر آک آکون سکه ضاحیان
   رز توقف قد حمایت عباس دلی

Mints are not given distinguishing epithets. Gold coins were struck at Arslab, and Isfahan, and silver coins at Arslab, Astarabad, Daraq, Ganja, Hamadan, Husayn, Isfahan, Isfahan, Kermanshah, Mashhad, Nakhchivan, Qazvin, Rasht, Shamakhi, Shush, Tabriz, Tiflis, and Urmi.

We find پ راز as a countermark.

Tavernier (1664-7) gives reproductions of silver coins of 5 'ahdabs. 24 'ahdabs, 1 'ahdab, 1 ma'hdab (ma'hdabat), 1 adhib and 1 jofi and a copper 3Adzab, the sizes of these coins according to the 1670 edition of his Travels being 1° 8, 1° 4, 1° 0, 0° 6, 0° 5, 0° 35 and 0° 9. Thévenot (p. 305) says that large 5 'ahdabs weighing 5 minshells were struck in Isfahan and that they were the most current coins in Bavary.

Weights of Coins in Grains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>40-9</td>
<td>40-9</td>
<td>40-9</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26-3</td>
<td>26-3</td>
<td>26-3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
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<td>124-7</td>
<td>127-7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>112-2</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>57-5</td>
<td>57-5</td>
<td>57-5</td>
<td></td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>27-4</td>
<td>27-4</td>
<td>27-4</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>11-1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1064-3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>280</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>282</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>114</td>
<td>114-2</td>
<td>113-3</td>
<td>113-3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Mr. P. Thorburn has a silver coin (pierced): weight 26 grains, mint Qazvin, date 1062 a.H., with the legend 'مرصاد علی ولادت عسی' there are also a few silver coins (weight unknown) of the same type struck at Tabarin, 1062, 1063 A.H.
Chardin (1937 ed., pp. 284-5) writes that the silver ought to be according to the standard of Spanish silver, and that the āshī, which was the lowest silver coin, was worth fourpence halfpenny of French money. A āshī, money of account, was 10 dirhams and a fābān 10,000 dirhams. There were also double five āshī silver pieces. Gold coins had no special name and were commonly called āṭā or āṭāf. Gold āṭāfšī were also coined.

Two barbarous coins, mint uncertain, weighing 71.5 grains have not been taken into account nor have some much worn ḳhwāyū coins weighing between 38.9 and 48.9 grains.

A seal of Shāh 'Abbās II bears the words 1

حسى الله — بُنْدَة شاء ولايت عاش 1054

and in the margin

الإقم على الله ورسوله والمسلمين والمجاهدين والمؤمنين السادة والكاظمين في الأمة والمصطفى ومحمد على الله السلام.

Sa'īd II or Sulaymān I

Sa'īd II, son of 'Abbās II, was enthroned a first time at Isfahān on 3 Rabi' II, 1077/2nd October, 1667, but, in consequence of his ill health and the misfortunes of the kingdom, it was decided to enthroned him a second time under the name of Sulaymān I. This event took place on the 19 Shawwāl, 1079/20th March, 1669, the day being the feast of the Naurūz. He died on 2/3 Jumādā II, 1108/29th January, 1696.

He struck coins with the formula بُنْدَة شاء ولايت صني or with the following dīstichs—

1. زعتر هني عباس ثان

صني زكاة ساحقراً

ان يرى مصرف ورثام بإس وحيان

ثارة إن مه صني شك ساحقراً

2. After his second jūtā Sulaymān I used on the reverse of his coins either the titles بُنْدَة شاء ولايت صني or the dīstichs—

1. أن يرى مصرف ورثام بإس وحيان

سكة خيام برزرة ود ساليان جيام

2. بُنْدَة شاء ولايت صني

سكة دادرس ساحقراً

3. جيام

سكة مهر على را 3 زرما بعد جيام

كت أن فضل خدا صحكو فرماء جيام

1 R.M. MS., Or. 4,096, viii.
2 R.M. MS., Or. 4,096, ii.
On the obverse of his coins are the shah's formulas and the names of the twelve 
Indians.
Mints are not given distinguishing epithets.
Mints for silver coins in the name of Šafi II are Isfahan, Ispahan, Tabriz, and Tiflis. Mints for coins in the name of Shahyin are for gold Ganja and Isfahan and for silver Arzavan, Dizak, Ganja, Hamadan, Housaya, Ispahan, Ispahan, Mashhad, Nakhchivan, Qazvin, Rasht, Tabriz, and Tiflis. Čardjin (1655-1677) writes that on the death of Shah Abbas II orders were given:—
"to coin with all speed against the next day six score to a hundred and forty 
tomans which amount to between five to six hundred pounds sterling of money 
(quemque six a septis millis livres). This was done with such speed that the 
sun was ready the next day in great pieces, as usual, to the value of eight 
seventeen pieces, for the King to bestow as he pleased himself. The same day one 
of these pieces came to my hands and the person from whom I had it assured me 
that there had been some of the same bigness in gold."
Fryer (pp. 152-3) gives in 1677 the following account of the currency:—
"The money which passes is a golden Venetian, equivalent to our Angel 
and a Turkish Abansmus (Abanilus) of inferior value, the one esteemed at 29 
shakes and is called Shahrees, the other however at 27 and is called Maccro (Mint).
Money coined by Shah Abbas in silver has Persian characters impressed, 
the highest worth Five Abansmus, which is half'd, and then it is worth Two 
and a Half, which is Two peaces more than our Half-Crown or 2s. 6d. A single 
Abansmus is 1s. 4d. which amounts to sixteen of our Pennies, the Tenth value, 
while Abansmus makes two Maccrodus 6s. 8d. or two Eightpence pieces 6s. 8d. A 
Maccrodus is two Shakes 6d. A Shake is Four peises, or equal to our 
Great 6s. 8d. Fifty Abansmus make a Thousand Ls. 10s. which is only 
imaginary, but not than such Coin, be it to them to Recon by, as Pennies 
are to us, which we suppose to be Twenty Shillings: and their Thousand is 
valued at Three Pounds and a Noble, or Six and Eight pence in English 
Account. Brass Money with characters are a Groat, ten whereof compose a 
Shake, a Groat, five of which go to a Shake, Four Groat make one Noble (8d) and 100 deniers one Maccrodus and 20 Pies one Shakeh, both which are 
nominal, not real."
Tavener (1667) (pp. 316 and 348) states that Iranian coins are of purer 
metal than French ones but the only gold coins that are seen are ducats which 
come from Europe. The reason for this being that the Kings of Iran only 
coined gold for distribution amongst the people when they ascended the throne. 
These coins are not current amongst the merchants and their price is 
not fixed as they are worth sometimes more and sometimes less. 
He also shows in his book reproductions of the coins in circulation. 
Thévenot (p. 304) and Čardjin (1927 ed., pp. 284-7) also give accounts of the 
currency during this reign, whilst Sarpia (pp. 111-12), in 1661, mentions 
as current the "ony" in gold — 1/2 of a tomel and the big and small medals in silver 
worth respectively 2s. 6d and 2 maquams (maquams) respectively.
In November, 1865 (Kiesemper, fasc. v. p. 53), the old money was suddenly 
abrogated but in its stead the master of the mint introduced new debased 
money, for which no deed he was blinded by the King's order.

Père Sannen {1683-1687, pp. 114-115) writes:—
"The Hollandores are not the only people who do not wish to see their 
traders profit from the money being in circulation. This corruption in 
money proceeds from their own greed to find out the false coiners, and, 
when they have found any, from their contending with themselves only 
concerning their goods, and so leaving their hands at liberty to return to the 
same trade. More than ten years a reformation of this has been labourd. 
This king has stamp'd pieces of very good alloy at Ispahan, Erivan, Dadan, Tavarak, 
Arasvilia, Hamadan and Avisan: but scarce have they come out of the mint, 
but they have been immediately spirited away to the Indies, notwithstanding 
the many vigorous Edicts the King has made against them. They got the ten 
Baners of Bashadar Aoua on their side, and so the more money is coined in Persia, 
the less is to be seen in the Kingdom. They might remedy this inconvenience 
by raising the value of those pieces that were good, for then the Indians 
would not be so ready to carry' em away.
According to the Chronicle of the Carmelites in Persia (ii, p. 776), the 
currency in 1665 was in a great confusion:—
"Now since a new coinage has been struck... there have been three sorts of 
currency current here—that of the highest, medium, and lowest valuation—the 
old coinage being partly prohibited, partly allowed."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Šafi II</td>
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<td>577-4</td>
<td>567-4</td>
<td>567-4</td>
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<td>711</td>
<td>711</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp;</td>
<td></td>
<td>34</td>
<td>55-4</td>
<td>55-4</td>
<td>55-4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
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<td>564-5</td>
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<td>284-5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>11-4</td>
<td>10-8</td>
<td>11-3</td>
<td>11-3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are many scales of Shahyin. 
1. Area: 1/4 manjeh = 1/4 manjeh margin margin above all to the mile. 
2. Area: 1/4 manjeh = 1/4 manjeh margin margin above all to the mile. 

\[ \text{Public Record Office, S.P. 102, bundle 49.} \]
Mint towns are not given distinguishing epithets. Gold was struck at Isfahān, Mashhad, Qazvin, and Tabriz, and silver at Darabzand, Gorgan, Isfahān, Kāshān, Mashhad, Nakhchivan, Qazvin, Rasht, Shāhriāb, Shiraz, Tabriz, Tiflis, and Yezd. We find two countermarks: ١٨٠٧ and ١٨٠٨.

As to the Persian money, the greater part of their silver coin is that which they call تختی (takhti), that is to say a piece of the value of ten مسین (masin), that is to say of eight pence German money. They have likewise a coin called مسلاک (masalak), or a piece of the value of only five of their مسین. Another called مسلاک (masalak), of half the value of the former. They have still smaller pieces called عربی (arabi), the value whereof is no more than that of two مسلاک, and others again of one, whereas these are two sorts, which were coined by his present Majesty’s predecessors, and these they call مسلاک (masalak). There is great plenty of this last mentioned coin all over the country, because there are no merchants who think it worth their while either to carry away or send it into foreign parts. It is current in short over all his Majesty’s dominions for foreign commodities as well as their own manufactures, nor is any other indeed made use of. They have moreover a coin which they call their مسلاک (masalak), that is one moiety or half part of a مسلاک. His Majesty causes but very few, if any, to be coined of the two first kinds above mentioned and then only for the service of the poor, and that only at certain times of the year. These last are likewise so very scarce that they are seldom to be seen anywhere but in the hands of the curios; because there is some trivial difference in their value and weight from the مسلاک and the مسلاک, which are coined at present. The true reason whereof is this, namely that these three last coins were reduced to a just standard in the years 1681 and 1685. The officers of the mint, however, have diminished the value of them because of their insatiable thirst after riches, to which the indolence and neglect of the government contributed not a little. Nor had the grievances been ever remedied at all if the people, who were oppressed at it, had not made their complaints to the Ministers at court, who, in order to make them easy and prevent any public tumult, broke several of these officers, and substituted others in their places who redressed (did not rectify) what had been done amiss by their predecessors; nor can this step be wondered at since they were discharged without any punishment assigned for their misdemeanor. These coins are not current at all in the way of trade, of which nothing will pass but their مسلاک haves (Masayya); a coin that was stamped under the ancient kings. As this is the case, the merchants look out for them as diligently as possible, and will sometimes give one, two, or three, nay sometimes even six per cent for them beyond their intrinsic value, in so much that they carry on a prodigious trade with this coin, which is hoarded up by the traders as soon as ever it appears in public, who send it away directly to Surat, where they find it turns to a much better account than if they purchased ducats."

De Bruyn adds that there are two sorts of copper coin, the largest worth a tenth of a مسلاک (masalak) is round, and the other only worth ١٤٠ of a مسلاک is oblong. Gold coin in Irān is seldom seen. According to Lockyer (p. 241) in 1711 in the East India Company’s accounts the مسلاک was reckoned to be worth 6s. English. A sequest equalled 31 to 32 مسلاک. The coins he mentions are the مسلاک equal to 50 مسلاک or 100 مسلاک or 200 مسلاک or 2,000 مسلاک or 5 مسلاک whilst a مسلاک is the equivalent of ١٤ مسلاک (masalak).
COINS, MEDALS, AND SEALS OF THE SHAHES OF IRAN

The following report on the currency of Iran was sent by Monseigneur Gardana, French Consul at Isfahan, to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Paris, in 1718:

"There are in Persia six coins or sequins coined in the name of the King, approximately of the weight of Venetian sequins and of very good gold, worth 3 piastres or 3 French crowns. The silver coins struck in the same name are of very low fineness and false coins have been introduced in the kingdom, debased coins to the extent of a large third of the whole currency in circulation.

There is no whole crown, the largest silver coin being the half: half a crown or half a piastre. The 'obol' comes next, of which two and a half make a crown. The half 'obol' is called 'obol d'obole ou moitié (madjmal-nahad) and five of these make a piastre. The smallest silver coin is half of the aforesaid 'obol d'obole ou moitié and is called 'obol' of which ten make a piastre.

'10 piastres or 2 piastres make a 'obol.' This is a copper coin weighing 2 French livres. 1,000 'obol' make a piastre. There are also coins of 2 piastres or 2 piastres.

'The mohar is money of account equal to 50 'obol' or 20 piastres. Half 'obol' or half a 'obol' is 2 'obol' or 2 piastres. A 'mohar' means 4 piastres or 8 piastres or 4 piastres.

Foreign coins. Piastres imported from Europe into Iran give a profit of fifty per cent. The Servan, weighing a French crown, is worth 4 'obol'. The Mecelés are at the same price but valued 2 per cent more. The Cullen is worth 4 'obol' or 4 livres 8 sols. The Mexican is at the same price, but valued 2 per cent more. The Crown or Lion of Holland is worth 3 'obol' or 4 livres 4 sols. The Dutch crown is at the same price as the Servan. Venetian sequins are worth 3 piastres in some provinces, in others one loses a few 'obol' on them, but in Isfahan they are worth 3 piastres, and a 'obol' or 9 livres 6 sols. The reason for this is that the Indians, who do exchange and coin the, collect these coins to sell them to merchants who are proceeding to Mecca or India. Dregos are worth 7 'obol' or 8 livres 8 sols, sometimes pay more, sometimes less according to circumstances. The same applies to sequins of Sweden, Poland, Transylvania, and other countries.

'Prices of gold and silver in ingots. Gold is usually sold 34 or 35 'obol' the mohar which is the sixth of a French crown. To-day, 4 September (1718), it is worth 30 'obol' or 16 livres 10 sols. Silver is sold 5 'obol' the mohar. Piastres and Dutch crowns are weighed by 100 mohar. Sixteen ounces of it or a pound make 99 mohar and the weight of piastres or crowns is increased by 5 or 4 per cent in favour of the seller."

Gold and silver were being constantly drained out of the country. The same Monseigneur Gardana writes from Isfahan on 20th January, 1722:

"The English and the Dutch remove all their (the Iranian) gold and silver out of the kingdom in baubles or in coins. They buy underhand their gold bubble bubbles, the bridles of their horses, their plate, which they turn into ingots for shipment to India."

In another letter he writes (Arch. Aff. Brus., Paris, Pess. T. 64, f. 206): "Piastres are to-day good merchandise in Iran owing to the scarcity of gold and silver coins."

We learn from the Tadhkierat al-Muluk (p. 60) that in 1129/1717 the weight of an 'obol' was fixed at 84 grains and that in 1135/1721 it was reduced to 72 grains."

"In the year when the former Shah (i.e. Hassam 1) was starting for Qarin (in 1179/1767), he left Isfahan on 27 Rabi, 1129/7th July, 1717, and after arriving in Qarin on 27 Shaban (5th August) the weight of an 'obol' was fixed at 7 dena (1/10 mohar). After his return from that journey (29 Rabi' 1, 1135/28th January, 1721) and before the siege of Isfahan, the 'Mulqip'anni Mandali,"

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**Tables and Their Coins**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td></td>
<td>94</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>1121</td>
<td>5,709</td>
<td>2,318</td>
<td>2,318</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1120-1121</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>114</td>
<td>143-8</td>
<td>143-8</td>
<td>143-8</td>
<td>143-8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>147</td>
<td>55-5</td>
<td>55-5</td>
<td>55-5</td>
<td>55-5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>114</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1181</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>288-4</td>
<td>288-4</td>
<td>288-4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1120-1121</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1120-1121</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weights of Coins in Grains**

Many royal seals of this sovereign are known to us.

1. Area: 54x39mm
2. Margins on the top of all the 4 lines: 54x49mm
3. Margins on the top of all the 4 lines: 54x49mm
4. Margins on the top of all the 4 lines: 54x49mm
5. Area: 54x39mm
6. Margins on the top of all the 4 lines: 54x49mm

---

1. Public Record Office, India, etc.
2. B.M. MS., Or. 450b. xiv.
3. A letter which I saw in Delhi.
4. M. A. N., Or. 450b. xiv.
6. B.M. MS., Or. 450b. xiv.
7. B.M. MS., Or. 450b. xiv.
**Tahmasp II**

Tahmasp II, son of Shah Sulaymán I, was enthroned at Qazvin in the end of the month of Muharram, 1135, i.e. December, 1722, but he seems to have struck coinage before this event as we have coins of his struck at Qazvin, Meshhad, and Tabriz bearing the date 1134.

Tahmasp is said to have had a second judge, probably at Isfahan, after the defeat of Asaf at the battle of Mereh-Khur, 23-24 Rabi'i II, 1142/13th November, 1739. He was deposed on 14 Rabi'i I, 1144/14th-15th September, 1731.

He uses on the obverse of his coins the shahā formula with the names of the Imāms. Occasionally we find this instead of یرسرود. On the reverse he has گزیننکه ساحیران or one of the following distinctions:

1. گزیننکه ساحیران
2. گزیننکه ساحیران

During the last two years before his deposition, the coinage of this sovereign bears the name of Allāh Mihāl Rāshid, the eighth Imām, whose venerated shrine is at Meshhad. The inscription reads:

ام حسن سکن زر زد تویقق خدا
نصرتم وامداد شاه على عفو رضا

Mint towns have no epithets but we find گزیننکه کرباس. Mints for gold are Astarābād, Ganja, Isfahān, Meshhad, Qazvin, and Tabriz, and for silver Astarābād, Ganja, Iranān, Isfahān, Meshhad, Mazandarān, Nakhchivan, Qazvin, Qum, Rašt, Samān, Shīrāz, Tabriz, Taḥrīr, and Yazd.

**Weights of Coins in Grams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Hīghest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>191-3</td>
<td>191-3</td>
<td>191-3</td>
<td>191-3</td>
<td>191-3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>191-3</td>
<td>191-3</td>
<td>191-3</td>
<td>191-3</td>
<td>191-3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A silver coin struck at Kirmān in 1135 weighs 72-5 grains.

The royal seal bore the words 1399.jpg

**Sulaymán Husayn II**

Sulaymán Husayn II, son of Tahmasp II, was proclaimed by Allā Mihāl Khān in the early part of the year 1166/1753. His reign did not last a year. The district on his seal is given in a marginal note in the Fard al-dīn-i-jawfār as:

دارد زماحدران فرامرز
فرورد شمس سلسله دان بخت

**Sām**

Sām claimed to be a son of Shah Sulaymán I. He was proclaimed by the people of Tabriz between Naṣrābād and the 11th Jumādī I, 1160/21st March and the 18th June, 1747, the latter date being that of the death of Nūdīr.
On the obverse of his coins he has the shī'a formula with or without the names of the Imāms. On the reverse he has either

* سکه زرد بر زر گیری چون طاووس پریبین

وارث ملک سلیمان دوم مکه حسین

The coins with the name of Sāliḥ are oblong, those with the distich round.

The only mint known is Teybāsh.

### Women of Coins in Omayyad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>72-4</td>
<td>86-4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Pierced.

### Safavi Pretenders

A person, who called himself a son of Sultan Ḥusayn I and was also named Sāliḥ, revolted in Aḥdrūšāyjn before 1159/1743. He was captured by Qābūn, King of Georgia, on 24 Dāh-va’d, 1157/29th December, 1744, and blinded by order of Nādir.

There were many pretenders after the fall of Sultan Ḥusayn I. ʻAlī Mardān, who claimed to be a son of this sovereign, was proclaimed in the Bahkhtiyārī mountains. A man claiming to be ʻAbbās Mirzā, brother of the late king, gathered around him a large number of warriors to the east of Iṣfahān. In Gilān, an individual assumed the name of Ismāʻīl Mirzā, son of Sultan Ḥusayn I, and became all the more reobtensible that he was supported by the whole clergy of the province. A certain Mūhammad Mirzā, said to be a son of the late king, placed himself at the head of some Arabs and Baluch and seized certain castles in the Iranian Gulf. In Fars, a former governor of Mashhad, Sayyid Ahmad, after a first defeat at the hands of Mḥmād al-Afghānī, reappeared in Kirmān where he was proclaimed king and where he resisted for some time all the attacks of the Afghānīs. Finally Malik Mḥmād, governor of Tūn, who already during the reign of Sultan Ḥusayn had raised the standard of rebellion, seized Harāt and the whole of Khurāsān.

It is likely that some of these pretenders struck coins although none has reached us.

### Sultan Mūhammad II

Sultan Mūhammad II, son of Sultan Ḥusayn II, was proclaimed by Aq̣ā Mūhammad Khan Qājār in 1200/1786 but he did not actually reign. Aq̣ā struck at Tēhrān in his name by Aq̣ā Mūhammad Khan, probably as patterns, here the distich:

* زر گیری سکه از طاووس سرمه

و همگان سلیمان خدای 1


### Rulers and Their Coins

#### Maternal Šafavis

**Aḥmad I**

Aḥmad Shāh was a son of Mīrzā Ḥabīb Qāsīn, eldest son of Mīrzā Mūhammad Dādī ibn ʻAbbāsī. His paternal grandfather had married Shahrābūrūs, a daughter of Suhaylūn I, and was himself descended by a female succession from Zuṣayyān, a daughter of ʻAbbās I. Aḥmad was enthroned probably on 14 Rabī’ I, 1139/8-9th November, 1729, at Kirmān. He was captured by the Afghānīs and executed probably in Dāh-va’d, 1140/July-August, 1730.

We have none of them but the author of the Taqābūn-ī-ʻAlī-Dād 1 informs us that Aḥmad used the following distich on his coins:

* سکه زرد بر زر گیری چون طاووس پریبین

وارث ملک سلیمان دوم مکه حسین

The obverse bears the shī’a formula with the names of the Imāms.

He used on his coins the following distich:

**Suhaylūn II**

Suhaylūn II was the paternal uncle of Aḥmad. He was enthroned on 8 Muharram, 1163/17-18th December, 1749, and was deposed forty days later, i.e. in Şafar, 1165/January, 1750.

He used on his coins the following distich:

* زر گیری حق سکه کریمی

و علی کریم از هلی

The reverse bears the shī’a formula with the names of the Imāms.

Fruech mentions a coin of this pretender which bore the inscription

* السطان سلیمان خلیفه الله مکه حسین ضرب ماردندان 1163*

Gold coins were struck in the name of Suhaylūn II at Mashhad and silver ones at Iṣfahān and Māzandarān.

### Weights and Coins in Omayyad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>65-3</td>
<td>65-3</td>
<td>65-3</td>
<td>1 pierced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Ismā‘īl III

Ismā‘īl III, son of Sayyid Mustafa and of a daughter of Sultan Ḥusayn I Šafavi, was enthroned by ʻAli Māsūm Khan at Iṣfahān in 1163/1750 and the chronology of his reign as given by R. S. Poole is:

Enthronement by ʻAli Māsūm Khan and reign under his tutelage, spring or summer of 1163/1750.

2) *Asamål einiger Schriftsteller, etc.*, p. 131.
Gold coins were struck at Khusān and silver ones at Iṣfahān, Māshhād, Mānṣūrān, Qoṭbān, Ḥādi, Shāmshāb, and Taḥrīr.

### Weights of Coins in Ghāns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>172-8</td>
<td>170-0</td>
<td>171-4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17-7</td>
<td>17-0</td>
<td>17-4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### III

#### Afghan

Mahmūd the Afghan, son of Mīr Wāsi, was enthroned as Shāh of Iran on 11 Muharram, 1335/23rd October, 1722, and he was assassinated in Shāhān, 1337/16 April, 1755.

On the obverse of his coins, Mahmūd has the kālima with or without the names of the four caliphs:

1. بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
2. ماه ايران واكيل محمد علي
3. دلل حق را سکه ر برد گرد از حکم الله
4. سکه در سبک ایران مدل عرص آفاق

On the reverse we find the following distichs, two of which play on the words

1. سکه دار حسن نابود شه یا ایران علیه محمد دهد
2. دلیل حق را سکه ر برد گرد از حکم الله
3. سکه در مدل ایران مدل عرص آفاق
4. فردو سکه مدل عرص آفاق

### Aṣḥāb

The proclamation of Aṣḥāb, son of 'Abdu'll-ʿAzīz and cousin of Mahmūd, took place in Shāhān, 1337/16 April, 1755, and was followed shortly afterwards by his jihād. Aṣḥāb fled after his defeat at Murehā-Khart on 20 Rabī’ II, 1141/13th November, 1729.

Like his cousin Mahmūd, he had the kālima engraved on the obverse of his coins whilst for the reverse he used one or other of the following distichs:

1. بسق از نام ایام سرد شرف را سکه امرورد ر افام سرد
2. دست زر بفرگند یاود کناد داد هی هر سکه امرورد
3. علیه سکه امرورد قهر شمر ز طاف امرورد سکه
4. خوئر ومچون من اذ نیر از درخش مونار شرف را آفس از نام امرورد سکه ر برد شه
It is noteworthy that on the coins of both Mahmud and Ashraf one finds the date of the jahid on one face of the coin and that of the coinage on the other. Ashraf has on the reverse of some of his coins جواهر مینت مواس and the mint. Isfahan is occasionally given the distinguishing epithet of دار السلام.

Gold coins of Ashraf were struck at Isfahan and silver ones at Isfahan and Qazvin.

Ashraf first issued silver 5 shahi pieces weighing 114 grains and gold azerguhs of 54 grains. He then reverted to the 'obedi of 72 grains; —

"As present the coins of His Majesty are: five shahis weighing 99 doppes, as at the time of Shih Mahmud, and gold azerguhs struck according to the ancient norm of 44 doppes, and God be praised, they enjoy great popularity and prestige in Isfahan and in all the outlying provinces of the God-protected kingdom." (Ta'rikh al-Mu'adda, p. 60-1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wights of Coins in Grains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Haraway (iii, p. 236) gives the following translation of the inscription on the seal of Ashraf: "The faithful observer of the commandments of the Most High, the dust of the feet of the Four Friends (لکا که پای چار یار), Abulahar, 'Umar, Uthman, 'Ali, is Ashraf, by the divine permission become the most illustrious of the sovereign of the earth."

We have a French version of the same seal: "Bekreff a été fait par le commandement de Dieu le plus grand des Roys du monde (سلاطین خانان). Il est serviteur du Créateur aux ordres duquel il obéit et la poussière des pieds des quatre amis (لکا که پای چار یار)."

Äzîd Khân

Äzîd Khân set himself up as sovereign in Isfahan in 1166/1753. He was defeated and overthrown by Muhammad 'Abbas Khân in 1189/1776.

His coins bear the kalâmas on the obverse and on the reverse the distich: ترخ خاکرد در حیان یادن

This combination of the kalâma with a tawhid 'obâdeh is very unusual. It is explained, however, by Äzîd Khân's desire to conciliate the feelings of his shi'a subjects. In a letter from Monseur Simon to Monseur du Saint-Contest, French Ambassador at Constantinople, dated Juif, 5th January, 1757, we read that if Äzîd Khân took possession of Astarabad there would be but few obstacles to his enthronement as he had removed the greatest by striking coins bearing the following inscription: "There is but one God, Muhammad is his prophet, and 'Ali is the lieutenant of God."

We have gold coins of Äzîd Khân struck at Isfahan and Tabrizi, and silver ones struck at Isfahan, Khâhân, and Tabrizi.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wights of Coins in Grains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV

Asfâhâns

Nidîr, the son of Imam Qâlin, was enthroned in the plains of Mughân on 24 Shavvâl, 1148/8th March, 1736, and he was assassinated on 11 Junûdî H, 1160/18th June, 1747.

He avoided using the shi'a formula or the kalâmas and had either a distich or his name on the obverse of his coins and the mint and date on the reverse. The following are the distichs he used:

1. سکه رز کرده مسلمان را در حیان تا راز این بیه وارد گریزی کرده

2. هست سلطان بر سلسله حیان شاه سلاطین حیان داده شاهان حرم شاهان

3. داده رز تازه کرده مهربان بسیار

After the reform of the currency he had on the obverse or the reverse خاندان زرگر and the date and mint. He also adopted earlier coins for his 'obâdeh with the year "1148 or its abbreviated form 1148 خاندان زرگر" which indicates the date of his

2 We read in a Monseur our Spanish Koldi Kow written in 1238: "Il se fait appeler Schub Nodir, et on voit sur les monnoies qu'il a fait frapper à son nom l'inscription suivante: - Schub Nodir Akhdar"

Châtrichâlo

qui signifie Le Roy incompurcable souverain des quatre parties du monde."
COINS, MEDALS, AND SEALs OF THE SHAHS OF IRAN

The British Agent at Astara reported in 1910 that he had just been shown a document with a seal of Nádir bearing the distich:

\[ \text{مظهر للطيف} \quad \text{مظهر للام} \]

On another seal of this kind are engraved the words:

\[ \text{مظهر للام} \quad \text{مظهر للام} \]

Worths of Coins in Ghirshs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>155-8</td>
<td>153-3</td>
<td>154-9</td>
<td>154-9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54</td>
<td>53-3</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>36-6</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18</td>
<td>17-1</td>
<td>17-1</td>
<td>17-1</td>
<td>17-1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>105</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A.D. 1648

*All Qull Khán, son of Ibráhím and nephew of Nádir, was enthroned at Mashhad on 27 Jumádá II, 1160/4–5th July, 1747, under the name of ‘All Sháh. He was deposed not long before 1 Shávval, 1161/3rd September, 1748.*

He adopted the sáh’s formula for the obverse of his coins and used the following distichs on the reverse:

1.  

\[ \text{مظهر للام} \quad \text{مظهر للام} \]

2.  

\[ \text{مظهر للام} \quad \text{مظهر للام} \]

Lane Poole (Pasti Arabí, p. 138) attributes to ‘All Sháh a gold coin struck at Isfahán in 1161 with the sáh’s formula on the obverse and the reverse, but this coin might equally well be attributed to Ibráhím.

Worths of Coins in Ghirshs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
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<td>155-8</td>
<td>153-3</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>186-7</td>
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<td>36-6</td>
<td>36-6</td>
<td>1 ghirsh</td>
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<td>17-2</td>
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<td>17-2</td>
<td>17-2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>79-8</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>285</td>
<td>290-8</td>
<td>301-4</td>
<td>301-4</td>
<td>301-4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td>180-1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>70-8</td>
<td>64-2</td>
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</tr>
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<td>18</td>
<td>17-1</td>
<td>17-1</td>
<td>17-1</td>
<td>17-1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>105</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A.D. 1648

*All Qull Khán, son of Ibráhím and nephew of Nádir, was enthroned at Mashhad on 27 Jumádá II, 1160/4–5th July, 1747, under the name of ‘All Sháh. He was deposed not long before 1 Shávval, 1161/3rd September, 1748.*

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1.  

\[ \text{مظهر للام} \quad \text{مظهر للام} \]

2.  

\[ \text{مظهر للام} \quad \text{مظهر للام} \]

Lane Poole (Pasti Arabí, p. 138) attributes to ‘All Sháh a gold coin struck at Isfahán in 1161 with the sáh’s formula on the obverse and the reverse, but this coin might equally well be attributed to Ibráhím.
Mints are not given distinguishing epithets. We have gold coins of ʿĀdil struck at Iṣfahān, and silver ones struck at Hāreṣ, Iṣfahān, Kirmān, Māshhad, Ḍirāz, Qazvīn, Shīrāz and Tahbīl. The royal seal bore the legend: "1. "münte maʿalla al-ʿāliyyah."" (Hunayn, p. 291) gives the translation of a seal legend: "... Wherein stands the Kingdom of God (الملك للله), Ṣāḥib and Sovereign of this Empire a servant of 'All (عليه السلام). A mandate which the whole world obeys.""

**Ibrahīm**

Ibrahīm, brother of ʿĀdil Shāh, was enthroned at Tahbīl on 16-17 Dhūl-hijjah 1167/7-8th December, 1748, and was deposed about two months previous to January, 1750/Muharram-Safar, 1165.

Many types of his coins have reached us. The first is an imitation of an issue of Nādir. It has on the obverse the Sultan Nādir and on the reverse Shāhī and the mint and date. The second type has the mint and date on the reverse and one of the following distinctions on the obverse:

1. سلطان مأمون حکم
2. شاهی

Finally Ibrahīm also issued a coin of the so-called Ṣāḥībī series, the distich being:

زوج حفرت این و سرویت تفا

A shāhī bearing the inscription سلطان شاهی and the date 1167, may belong to the intermediate of three months between the depositions of ʿĀdil Shāh and the proclamation of Ibrahīm. Mints for gold are Ganja, Iṣfahān, Tabrīz, and Tūfīn, and for silver Astarābād, Ganja, Māshhad, Qazvīn, Raḥīt, Shīrāz, Tabrīz, and Tūfīn. Some mints are given distinguishing epithets.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>216-2</td>
<td>216-2</td>
<td>216-2</td>
<td>216-2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>1748</td>
<td>106-2</td>
<td>106-2</td>
<td>106-2</td>
<td>106-2</td>
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<td>1750</td>
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<td>17-3</td>
<td>17-3</td>
<td>18-3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The royal seal bore the legend: "1. "münte maʿalla al-ʿāliyyah.""
COINS, MEDALS, AND SEALS OF THE SHIAHS OF IRAN

And the date and mint on the reverse. He also has an obverse with the s/s formula and the names of the Indiae and the reverse with

نَذَرْنَا هَٰذُ الْخَيْرَةَ وَرَوْمَةٌ مَنْ مَّرَىٰ

Gold coins of Shahrukh were struck at Herat and Mashhadi, and silver ones at Astarâbâd, Ganja, Herat, Irâvân, Ispâhân, Kirman, Mashhâd, Mâsûrân-dâr, Qâvrân, Rasht, Shârâbâd, and Tîfîs.  

We find:

We should note that the name مَرَىٰ is not found among the names of the Indiae.  

Weights of Coins in Grams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of Coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
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<td>98.6</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>177</td>
<td>97.7</td>
<td>97.7</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>97.6</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>180-6</td>
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<td>99.6</td>
<td>99.6</td>
<td>99.6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>180-8</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>180</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>180</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We know of two royal seals of Shahrukh, the first has the legend: 

۱١١۱ับ الله - نظام ياف طاليف حائر مراعون

and the second:

یاف از الطاف عموم نام urn

Shâhârkh. [Note to page 112:]

Nâdir Mirzâ

Nâdir Mirzâ, son of Shahrukh, rebelled at Mashhad in 1214/1799 and it was only in 1818/1809 that he was captured and put to death. We have no coins of his.

V

ZANDS

KASHKÏKHAN

Karim Kâhan, son of Inâq-Kâhan, may be said to have made himself independent in 1172/1759. He died on 13 Safar, 1189/1st-2nd March, 1770. He uses on the obverse of his coins the dirhems:

۱١١٤١۱۱۰ ماه و رسوم در خان پان

که ساحب دامان پادشاه

or very seldom the اسیفه formula sometimes with یاف instead of ۱۱۰.

On the reverse he has the mint with its distinguishing epithet and the date and the usual invocation یاف کریم. We find also the invocations یاف کریم and the words ۱١۱Ab الله. The words are often found in the midst of the dirhem on the obverse of the coin. A Tîfîs coin has on the reverse ۱١۰ ساحب دامان and whilst a Ganja coin has ۱١۱Ab الله on the obverse and on the reverse ۱١۱Ab الله ساحب دامان struck at Astarâbâd in 1173 and weighing 100 grains; very probably the invocation یاف کریم is off the flan.

Most mints are given distinguishing epithets and the practice was continued until 1878.

Most for gold are Bagh, Irâvân, Ispâhân, Jâh, Khashân, Khûr, Kirkman, Mâsûrân-dâr, Kâvrân, Rasht, Rîkîb, Shamâkhî, Shâhârkh, Tabriz, Tîfîs, and Yâzd, and for silver Astarâbâd, Bagh, Ganja, Irâvân, Ispâhân, Kirkman, Kûrâshât, Mashhâd, Mâsûrân-dâr, Nakshchavan, Kâvrân, Rasht, Rîkîb, Shamâkhî, Shâhârkh, Tabriz, Tîfîs, Tîfîs, and Yâzd.

We find the countermark دیده.

The currency towards the end of the eighteenth century was in a state of great confusion. Gmelin (Hist. dévocelees, ii, pp. 274–5), who was in Iran in 1770, writes that the Iranians have gold, silver, and copper coins, both old and new. The different coins are known by the same denominations but vary in value as the rulers of the country are never in agreement and can, therefore, come to no agreement concerning the currency. Each Kâhan strikes his own coin and fixes its value according to his own inclination so that things change for the traveller every time he passes from the territory of a Kâhan to that of another. One is much more to be prized at Shamâkhî, at Darabz and, at Rîkîb, where only false coin is to be found. The silver coins struck in Iran have a small diameter but are very thick so that it is easy to cover a piece of brass on either side with a coating of silver.

Gmelin (Theri, iii, p. 138) mentions the same denominations as had Hanway thirty years before but omits the یاف. The value of the silver coins in roubles had advanced by 25 per cent, thus the 'asâfûj, which was worth 30 copecks in Hanway's time, was quoted 37 copecks. As for gold coins, the rise in value was much greater. The یاف which was formerly worth 180 copecks was worth 2 Rubles and 2 Roubles 50.

1 It should be borne in mind, when dealing with these Tîfîs coins, that Georgia was subject to Russia since 1812 and that Tîfîs was then out of the hands of the rulers of Iran. These Tîfîs coins were really coins of Iâfrîkh (II, 1179-12th/1752-1753; 1799). They are all copies of Karim Kâhan's coins with the inscription یاف کریم. The dates range from 1100 to 1212/1772 to 1779-8, whilst copper coins with the Russian crown were struck as early as 1779/1766-6 so that three coins can hardly be considered as Iranian.

2 It is possible to count 1215 or 1216, in which case the date would be 1216/1799-1800.
### RULES AND THEIR COINAGE

He used on the obverse the diastich

وَمَا وَمَا زَمَمْتُ وَمَا زَمَمْتُ

 anda on the reverse he had the mint, date, and invocation Ͽυ. On

other coins he has the σις formula on the obverse and the date, the mint, and

the invocation Ͽυ on the reverse.

Gold coins of صقق Khan were struck at Isfahan, Khâsh, Khîy, Kirman, Qarvân, Shirz, and Yazd and silver coins at Iravan, Khâsh, Khîy, Kirman, Mâdardarâk, Qum, Rashî, Shamshâkh, Shirz, Tabriz, Tîfîs, and Yazd.

### WEIGHTS OF COINS IN GRAINS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>170-5</td>
<td>169-5</td>
<td>168-4</td>
<td>169-4</td>
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<td>172</td>
<td>170-4</td>
<td>169-4</td>
<td>168-4</td>
<td>169-4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>173</td>
<td>170-4</td>
<td>169-4</td>
<td>168-4</td>
<td>169-4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>174</td>
<td>170-4</td>
<td>169-4</td>
<td>168-4</td>
<td>169-4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>174-3</td>
<td>173-3</td>
<td>172-3</td>
<td>173-3</td>
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<td>177-3</td>
<td>176-3</td>
<td>175-3</td>
<td>176-3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is probable that Gunja, Shamsâkh, and Tîfîs had a special currency at this
time. The Khân of Gunja issued silver coins in the name of Nâdir the

The seal of Karân Khân bore the legend:

اَلْحَدِيدُ نَبَّأَ رَبِّيِّ حَدَّي

### **Abûl-Fazr Khan and Muhammad 'Ali Khan**

Abûl-Fazr Khan, son of Karân Khân, was proclaimed, together with his
younger brother, Muhammad 'Ali Khân, shortly after the death of Karân Khân.
After a month or two, Abûl-Fazr Khân was cast into confinement by
his uncle Zaki Khân, and Muhammad 'Ali Khân was proclaimed early in
1185/1779 sole ruler but was assassinated on 27 Jumâdâ I, 1185/11th-12th
June, 1779. Abûl-Fazr Khân was again proclaimed on 3 Jumâdâ II,
1185/17th-18th June, 1779, and was deposed by Shâdîq Khân on 9 Shaban,
1185/22nd-23rd August, 1779.

We have no coins of Muhammad 'Ali Khân. Of Abûl-Fazr Khân we have
gold coins struck at Isfahan, Shirz, and Yazd, and silver ones struck at Shirz
and Yazd. The gold Yazd coin weighs 42-3 grains.

Abûl-Fazr Khân uses on the obverse the diastich

وَمَا وَمَا زَمَمْتُ وَمَا زَمَمْتُ

### **Shâdîq Khan**

Shâdîq Khân, brother of Karân Khân, reigned from 9 Shaban, 1185/21st-
22nd August, 1779, to 18 Rahêd I, 1186/2nd March, 1780.

*RM, MS, Or, 4,933, xx and xxii.*
JA‘FAR KHĀN

Ja‘far Khān, son of Shīq Khān, was proclaimed on 6 Bagdat 1190/17th January, 1755, and assassinated on 23 Bagdat 1193/22nd January, 1759.

He stamped on the obverse of his coins نَبَأ مِن حَقَّ الْحَقْ ولا on the reverse the date and mint.

We have gold and silver coins of his struck at Iṣfahān and Shīrāz.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td></td>
<td>171-7</td>
<td>186-7</td>
<td>162-5</td>
<td>172-7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td></td>
<td>177-7</td>
<td>172-4</td>
<td>165-5</td>
<td>167-5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One of his seals bears the legend

لا أَنَّ إِلَى اللَّهِ الْمَكْتُولُ الْحَقَّ إِبْنُ عِبَادُ محمدٍ جَعْفَر

another has a distich which cannot be correctly read:

(1) فَقَلْ قَبْتُ حَيْضَرَ وَشَفَثْ عَلَى نَامٍ

(1) أَرْطَحَ عَلَى وَانْحِسَرْ يَوْهَةٌ كَمْ

LUFT ‘ALÍ KHĀN

Luft ‘Alī Khān, son of Ja‘far Khān, established his rule on 11 Sha‘bān, 1203/9th-7th May, 1790. It ended at the fall of Kirmān on 29 Bagdat 1193/24th October, 1794.

On the obverse of this ruler’s coins is the legend

سَكَّرَ ريزَ گشتَ دن حَيْضَرَ إِلَامْلِي

and on the reverse the date with the mint and the name أَفْقُلمُ.

We have gold and silver coins of Luft ‘Alī Khān struck at Iṣfahān and Shīrāz.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td></td>
<td>171-7</td>
<td>170-9</td>
<td>164-5</td>
<td>169-4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td></td>
<td>136-8</td>
<td>129-8</td>
<td>122-5</td>
<td>127-9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MUHAMMAD KHĀN

Muhammad Khān, son of Zahir Khān and nephew of Karim Khān, rebelled in Iṣfahān in 1212/1797. He was driven out of the town by Faraz ‘Ali Shah, captured and blinded. It is not known whether he struck coin.

1 B.M., Ms. Or. 4385, 7.
weight, some weighed more and some less than a décime. They bore on one side the date and name of the town where they were minted and on the other a lion with rising sun above its back, a pomegranate surmounted by a pelican, sometimes a peacock or a pelican with its wings erected, or two fishes. The 'abûdsdi and other gold and silver coins of the country were extra rare.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Averages</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
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<td>7,200</td>
<td>7,488</td>
<td>7,488</td>
<td>7,488</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,833</td>
<td>6,063</td>
<td>6,063</td>
<td>6,063</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,422</td>
<td>2,556</td>
<td>2,556</td>
<td>2,556</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,068</td>
<td>1,245</td>
<td>1,009</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>252</td>
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<td>231-3</td>
<td>251-5</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1196-1202</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>62-3</td>
<td>63-6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1201-1206</td>
<td>314</td>
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<td>421</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td></td>
<td>189</td>
<td>178-178</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>174-5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>72</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1196</td>
<td>136-5</td>
<td>136-5</td>
<td>136-5</td>
<td>136-5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1201-1211</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>185-2</td>
<td>185-2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The seal of Aqâ Muhammad Khan bore the words:

**HUSAYN QÂLÎ KHÂN**

Husayn Qâlî Khan, brother of Aqâ Muhammad Khan and governor of Kâshân, rebelled at the death of his brother, obtained possession of Isfahân, and then came to terms with Fâth `Ali Shah. It is not known whether he struck coins.

**FĀTH `ALI SHAH**

Fâth `Ali Shah, son of Husayn Qâlî Khan and nephew of Aqâ Muhammad Khan, immediately after the death of his uncle, struck money as Bâh Khân. His judâa took place on 24 Rabi' I, 1212/155-16th September, 1797, in the name of Fâth `Ali Shah. He died on 19 Jumâdî II, 1250/22nd October, 1834.

(a) Period before Proclamation, 1211-2/1797-8.

During this period coins are struck with the name of the sultan or the name `Abûdsdi or ulla and the intaglio of the reverse. We have silver coins of this period struck at Astarâbâd, Isfahân, Kâshân, Marâgha, Shirâz, Tabriz, and Tâhirân.

(b) Period after Proclamation, 1212-1250/1797-1834.
We find four inscriptions on the obverse of Fath 'Ali Shah's coins which mark each of the distinct periods of his currency. They are:

from 1232 to 1249 AD, inscribed: "Fath 'Ali Shah, the invocator, the invoker of the nation, of the army, the invoker of the people, the invoker of the empire."

from 1249 to 1253 AD, inscribed: "Fath 'Ali Shah, the invocator of the people, the invoker of the army, the invoker of the nation, the invoker of the empire."

from 1253 to 1256 AD, inscribed: "Fath 'Ali Shah, the invocator of the army, the invoker of the people, the invoker of the nation, the invoker of the empire."

from 1256 to 1261 AD, inscribed: "Fath 'Ali Shah, the invocator of the nation, the invoker of the army, the invoker of the people, the invoker of the empire."

There is, however, some overlapping owing to the use of obsolete dies by careless mint officials. The same dies are used both for silver and for gold.

Unusual coins are:

- Tahrir 1212, with, on the obverse, a hand holding a sword, and on the reverse, an eagle. This coin is rare.
- Zanjan, 1236, obverse: Shah, crowned and armed with lance and sabre, on horse at full gallop; behind in arabesque border; obverse: Shah, crowned and armed with sabre, seated on throne, facing to left. This coin is rare.
- Isfahan, 1249, obverse: Shah, crowned and armed with sabre, seated on throne, facing to left; to l., in arabesque border and reverse: Shah, crowned and armed with sabre, seated on throne, facing to left. This coin is rare.

There are many other coins of this type, with varied dates ranging from 1241 to 1249. Coins struck at Panahabad have the date and mint on the reverse.

Both the gold and the silver currencies were repeatedly changed during this reign. The gold currency was:

from 1233 to 1234 Unit iquds of 99 grains.
from 1240 to 1244 Unit iquds of 99 grains.
from 1244 to 1247 Unit iquds of 99 grains.
from 1247 to 1250 Unit iquds of 99 grains.

The silver currency was:

from 1211 to 1212 Unit rigd of 100 grains.
from 1211 to 1212 Unit rigd of 100 grains.
from 1212 to 1213 Unit rigd of 100 grains.
from 1222 to 1225 Unit rigd of 100 grains.
from 1222 to 1225 Unit rigd of 100 grains.

Some heavy gold coins were struck at Isfahan, Kha'dan, Tabriz, and Tahir. A heavy gold coin struck at Tabriz is no doubt commemorates one of the most famous of the trachetae of 'Abbas Mirza over the Russians. It has in the centre of the obverse a hand holding a sword, and on the reverse a hand holding a sword. There are examples of these coins in the British Museum.

The British Museum possesses patterns of a gold coin of which were engraved by Boin. The obverse has a shield, arms of Iran; lion rampant; supporters; lion rampant and wyvern; crest; and the reverse a shield, arms of Iran; lion rampant and wyvern; collar; crowned; on ribbon beneath, motto: "God is great; beneath B (Boin).

Mints are given their distinguishing epithets. The mints for gold are Arak, Tabriz, Kur, and the reverse a shield, arms of Iran; lion rampant; supporters; lion rampant and wyvern; collar; crowned; on ribbon beneath, motto: "God is great; beneath B (Boin)."
COINS, MEDALS, AND SEALS OF THE SHI'AS OF IRAN

Gold: the 25 'ashâd piece (gold) = 11 fr. 40 and the tãnds = 22 fr. 40 to 22 fr. 80. 5 'ashâds (20 shâks) and 2 shâks were represented by Turkish coins.

From Dupâl (1807-9, ii, pp. 473-8) we learn that the rigjil weighed 2 sukhâls and 6 sukhâls of pure silver, and the fineness was the same in all the kingdoms. 8 rigjils were equal to a gold tânds. There were also half rigjils, ten shâks, and 1 and 1/2 rigjils but only in small quantity. The shâk consisted of 2 copper coins each of the weight of a 5 centime piece. The hazar-dinâr was represented by a foreign coin, the gurâsh 'ayn, issued in 1157 under the reign of Sulaymân 'Abdullâh 'Arslân.

The tânds was of pure gold without alloy. It weighed 22 sukhâls but had previously weighed 39 and 32 sukhâls. The gold shâk weighed 7 sukhâls and was worth two rigjils. The silver shâk was worth 3½ shâks. The copper currency was only current in the district where it was coined.

The same author mentions the following coins as being in circulation in Iran at the time of his visit. The gurâsh 'ayn, 1203, was accepted in Ashkâl-bagâd at 13½ to 1 sukhâl, and elsewhere in Iran where it was rare at 12 shâks. The gurâsh 'ayn, 1187, was current at 20 shâks. The yûlşîq 100 paras of 1208 fetched 34, 34½, 35, and even 33½ shâks at Tabriz and 33 shâks in Tâhirân. At 34 shâks the tânds was worth 14 piastres 29½ paras of Constantinople; at 34½ 14 piastres 19½ paras; 35 14 piastres 1½ paras; 33½ 15 piastres. Many of these yûlşîqs were melted at the Tabriz mint, purified of all alloy and coined as Persian money. The Venetian soquim (du buk) was not esteemed and went for 3 rigjils and 8 to 10 shâks. The Dutch ducat (bejgîlî) came from Russia and was common in Iran in 1806 and 7 or 8 were accepted for 4 rigjils and 20 shâks (6,000 dinars = 12 francs). Few were to be found in 1809 as their exportation had been forbidden. This ducat was then worth 5 rigjils and 4 shâks or 6,450 dinars = 12 fr. 90. The rate for this coin fluctuated considerably. All other foreign coins were only accepted as merchandise according to their weight and fineness. They were usually melted to purify them and coin them in the name of the ruling prince.

Morier (1808-9, 1st Journey, p. 233) writes:

"Since the times of Karim Khan, the value of billon has increased greatly; the mixed of gold was then five piastres, it is now eight and a half; that of silver was three hundred diners, it is now five hundred; and every year the price increases in some small degree. There is no prohibition against the melting, or the exportation of the precious metals. If he wishes to have his gold coined, he can send it to the mint to be struck into any piece of money; paying the value of a pea's weight of gold for every toman. . . . Most of the gold is clipped, as every few pence a little off. The shopkeepers also continue to rub the coin on a black stone to try the purity of the metal; by this operation small particles remain on the stone, which are extracted with ease, and preserved till a sufficient quantity for a coin is collected."

Ouseley (1811-12, ii, pp. 496-3) says:

"A few tomans struck with particular attention for annual distribution as presents at the Nasrâr, are very handsome coins, but those in common

PLATE 4

SEALS OF THE QAJARS
(PRESERVED IN THE GULUSTAN MUSEUM, TEHERAN)

circulation, though from the same mint, exhibit marks of considerable carelessness. . . . The roubles were thinner and lighter than the British guineas and generally less in diameter; but some (especially of Karvin) were so flattened as to cover a greater size. . . .

The gold roubles according to the same author were sufficiently numerous but half and quarter roubles were seldom seen in circulation.

From assays made at Bombay and Philadelphia, the value of the rouble of 75 grains of Fath 'Ali Shah was 15-95 francs and that of 72 grains 14-95 francs, whilst the rouble of 18눌 화糀, according to assays made by Herr Pochan, weighed 3-466 grams, was 989 fine and worth 11-81 francs.

The smaller pieces of silver were not common in circulation under Fath 'Ali Shah.

Sir John Malcolm (p. 369) mentions that:—

"It is remarkable that among a people, whose sovereign decrees the right of coining the highest privilege, foreign coins should form a considerable part of the currency."  

Fraser (Travels and Adventures, p. 372) gives an interesting account of the currency in 1822:—

"We see a variety of coins current in Persia; French and German crowns and Spanish dollars are brought in large quantities from Bagdad, but seldom pass into circulation, being for the most part transmitted by sea to India. Golden ducats and silver manitas (roubles), which form the medium of traffic on the frontiers with Turkey and Georgia, are poured in from those quarters as well as from Astrachan. It is stated that the Georgian merchants trading between Tiflis and Tabriz alone bring annually 300,000 ducats in gold in the latter city. The remittances made to the Russian mission there are in the same coin. Nor is there a small addition made to the aggregate by the rich ecclesiastical establishment at Buch-Ecclesia, the seat of the Armenian church, which receives large revenues, both obligatory and voluntary, from Russia, Turkey, Persia, and India, all of which are paid in foreign gold.

"Thus a large current of the precious metals flows annually into Persia, and though the greater proportion passes on to the eastward, there still remains a sufficient quantity to form the currency of the country, the treasury of the king, and the hoards of a few rich individuals in the kingdom. Much of the gold remains current under the original form of ducats; the rest is coined into roubles; the silver is all coined into roubles; the manitas being only current in the western parts of the kingdom bordering on Turkey and the Russian territories."

The seal of Bābā Khān bore the words: ۱۱۱۱۱۱

The royal seal bore the following legend

"Another seal has

۱ B.M. MS., Or., 4356, xxv and xxvi.
۲ H. L. Babins, Une lettre familliére, ctc.
**COINS, MEDALS, AND SEALS OF THE SHAHS OF IRAN**

**Weights of Coins in Grains**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>1220-14</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>100-5</td>
<td>94-7</td>
<td>1 Vostmer.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1220-4</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>443-8</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 Vostmer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>250</td>
<td>295-5</td>
<td>296-3</td>
<td>295-6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 Vostmer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21-7</td>
<td>21-7</td>
<td>21-7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 Vostmer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>224-7</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>420-7</td>
<td>414-3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 Vostmer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 Vostmer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1227-9</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>337-5</td>
<td>336-3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 Vostmer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>299-1</td>
<td>292-2</td>
<td>282-5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 Vostmer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>292-1</td>
<td>292-1</td>
<td>292-1</td>
<td>292-1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 Vostmer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>234-1</td>
<td>156-8</td>
<td>156-8</td>
<td>156-8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 Vostmer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Silver**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Number of coins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1220-12</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>170-7</td>
<td>172-7</td>
<td>2 in a type of 1 Bahlo Khins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1222-12</td>
<td>177-8</td>
<td>166-2</td>
<td>159-3</td>
<td>158-5</td>
<td>1 Bahlo Khins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1224-12</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>224-4</td>
<td>224-4</td>
<td>224-4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1226-12</td>
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<td>185</td>
<td>185</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
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<td>154</td>
<td>154</td>
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<td>87</td>
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<td>52-9</td>
<td>52-9</td>
<td>52-9</td>
<td>52-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Husayn 'Ali Shah**

Husayn 'Ali Mirzâ, Farmâna Famâ, son of Fath 'Ali Shâh, was enthroned under the name of Ihsanu 'Ali Shâh, at Shirkâ, on 5 Sha'ban, 1250/3rd-4th December, 1834. He is said to have reigned six months.

We have gold coins of his struck at Shirkâ and silver ones struck at Kirmân, Shirkâ, and Yazd.

**Sultân 'Ali Shâh**

Sultan 'Ali Mirzâ, Zillu’s-Sultân, son of Fath 'Ali Shâh, was enthroned at Tihân on 14 Rajab 1250/15th-16th November, 1834, and de enthroned on 11 Sha'ban, 1259/19th-20th December, 1834.

A gold ûfina and a silver coin were struck in Tirkân with the legend:

```
1141
```

The seal of the Zillu’s-Sultân bore the words

```
السلطان.png
```

At the death of Muhammad Shâh on 6 Shawâl, 1254/4th September, 1848, Sayfûl-Mulk Mirzâ, son of the Zillu’s-Sultân, tried to dispute the throne with Nasir’d-Din, but, after spending twenty-four hours on the highway between Qazvin and Tihân, he was taken and brought prisoner to Tihân.

**Muhammad Shâh**

Muhammad Shâh, son of 'Abdâl Mirzâ, was enthroned first at Tihân on 7 Rajab, 1259/6th November, 1834, and then at Tihân on 1 Shawâl, 1290/31st January, 1835. He died on 6 Shawâl, 1294/4th September, 1838. He was succeeded by his living son, the warrior.

The seal of Muhammad Mirzâ when heir apparent bore the words:

```
1240
```

Muhammad Shâh issued the ûfina of 56 grains gold which, according to assays made in Vienna weighed 3-45 grains, was 990 fine and equivalent to 11-086 francs. Here Pechan found some assayfoil of this period weighing 3-45 grains and equivalent to 11-507 francs. Muhammad Shâh also struck 100, 50, 20, and 15 smiths (gold pieces, the highest weights being respectively 7,104, 3,528, 1,416, and 1,068-5 grains.

1 A Tibetan coin is dated 1232.
2 There is also a coin of Tabriz dated 1220 and weighing 36-9 grains.

---

Russo-Iranian war he issued a medal for military valour with the lion and the sun and the legend:

```
1240
```

and on the obverse and on the reverse the distich:

```
1240
```

and on the obverse:

```
1240
```

---

**'Abdâl Mirzâ**

'Abdâl Mirzâ, son and heir apparent of Fath 'Ali Shâh, predeceased his father. His seal bore the legend:

```
1240
```

During the Russo-Iranian war he issued a medal for military valour with the lion and the sun and the legend:

```
1240
```

and on the obverse and on the reverse the distich:

```
1240
```

and on the reverse:

```
1240
```

---

**Mohammad Shâh**

Mohammad Shâh, son of 'Abdâl Mirzâ, was enthroned first at Tabriz on 7 Rajab, 1250/6th November, 1834, and then at Tihân on 1 Shawâl, 1259/31st January, 1835. He died on 6 Shawâl, 1294/4th September, 1838. He was succeeded by his living son, the warrior.

The seal of Mohammad Mirzâ when heir apparent bore the words:

```
1240
```

Muhammad Shâh issued the ûfina of 56 grains gold which, according to assays made in Vienna weighed 3-45 grains, was 990 fine and equivalent to 11-086 francs. Here Pechan found some assayfoil of this period weighing 3-45 grains and equivalent to 11-507 francs. Muhammad Shâh also struck 100, 50, 20, and 15 smiths (gold pieces, the highest weights being respectively 7,104, 3,528, 1,416, and 1,068-5 grains.

The silver currency was based on the following standards:

- from 1250 to 1301: 108 grains
- from 1332 to 1525: 90 grains
- from 1355 to 1526: 84 grains

Muhammad Shah has on the obverse of his coins the legend "شاپات اباد گرام" and on the reverse the mint and date. He introduced the lion and sun on his coinage and this became a notable feature of the coins of his successors.

A gold coin struck at Isfahan bears on the obverse the Shah seated on his throne and on the reverse the legend "اک این شاهنشاه "ای این اباد گرام".

The mints are for gold Hamadan, Isfahan, Mashhad, Rayy, Shahr, Tabriz, Tund and for silver Astara, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kirman, Kirmanshah, Mashhad, Rasht, Shiraz, Tabaristan, Tabriz, Tund, and Yazd.

The following is an account of the currency in 1837 (Renseignements Commerciaux):

- Gold: The nominal Iman is or Iman used in trade, is worth 10 Iman or 13-16 francs. The old Iman of Fath 'Ali Shah = 11 Iman or 14-80 francs. The new Iman of Muhammad Shah = 10 Iman or 14-80 francs. The Iman is divided into 10 Iman or 14-80 francs. The Iman is divided into 10 Iman or 14-80 francs.
- Silver: The Iman is divided into 10 Iman or 14-80 francs. The Iman is divided into 10 Iman or 14-80 francs.
- Copper: The Dinar is divided into 10 Qimos and is equal to 7 centimes.

Moneys of account: The Iman contains 5 Qimos and is worth 3-57 francs. The Dinar is equal to 10 Qimos or 13 centimes.

In 1250 Muhammad Shah, on the occasion of his entry into the capital, struck a medal with a lion and sun, on the obverse, and the following legend on the reverse: "اک این شاهنشاه "ای این اباد گرام". A medal dated 1250 has on the obverse the area "ای این اباد گرام" and in the margin "ای این اباد گرام".

The royal seal bore the distich: "تکه ساحب اباد اسم"، "که حق آک اک در حیان بیست". A medal dated 1250 has on the obverse the words "ای این اباد گرام" and on the reverse the distich: "که حق آک اک در حیان بیست".

Finally, a military medal with a lion and sun, on the obverse and a date is also issued during his reign.

The royal seal bore the distich: "ای این اباد گرام".

Another seal has the words "ای این اباد گرام" whilst a third one has a lion and sun, and on the lion's body the words "ای این اباد گرام".

1 See page 48.
2 R.M. MS. Or., 4,006, xxvii a, b, n.
3 Ibid.
The last legend was used on a gold coin of 20-9 grains in weight and on a silver two ānā pieces that were to have been issued on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the accession of the Shah to the throne but his assassination stopped the distribution.

On the obverse of both silver and gold coins there is usually the lion and sun and on the reverse the titles of the Shah. On some gold coins the bust of the Shah occupies the obverse. It is occasionally accompanied by the dates of the jubile and of the coinage, thus 1314 and 174, 1315 and 1744.

Such Iran 1315 and 1744

A silver ānā was struck in 1301. Obverse bust of Shah, three-quarter face, wearing cap with aigrette, within laurel wreath. Reverse: Pahlavi inscriptions around, l. laurel branch and r. oak branch; above, crown; below, lion and sun in each side of the lion and sun between l. 2.2.2.

We find the same titles of the sovereign on a ten ēmān gold coin, whilst another ten ēmān gold coin has the same inscription with the words added between 25 and 25:

A gold coin weighing 10-3 grains has on the obverse within laurel and oak wreath beneath all of the text: chamber of the Shah, the same text on the reverse.

There is also a gold coin of the same weight with the same obverse but with the lion and sun on the reverse.

The copper coinage from the new mint has a rayed sun and the date on the obverse and on the reverse, the words the Shah and on the reverse, both obverse and reverse being within a wreath.

The following values are found on the coinage of Najirud-Din Shah and/or his successors:

Gold: DIn - 100, - 50, - 25, - 10, - 5, - 2, - 1, - 1/2, Copper: DIn - 100, - 50, - 25, - 10, - 5, - 2, - 1, - 1/2, Nickel: DIn - 100, - 50, - 25, - 10, - 5, - 2, - 1, - 1/2.

The mints for the old coinage gold are: Astahlah, Hamadán, Hāraz, Isfahān, Kāshān, Khāy, Kirmānshah, Mashhad, Qazvīn, Rasht, Samsān, Shirāz, Tabaristan, Tabris, and Tībr. Gold is also used for silver and Astahlah, Hamadán, Hāraz, Isfahān, Kāshān, Khāy, Kirmānshah, Mashhad, Qazvīn, Rasht, Shirāz, Shāhsar, Tabaristan, Tabris, Tībr, and Yazd.

On the New Coinage the Shah adopts the following titles:

The figures in the last line are not very clear.

On the New Coinage the Shah adopts the following titles:

The figures in the last line are not very clear.

On the New Coinage the Shah adopts the following titles:
The last legend was used on a gold coin of 26.9 grains in weight and on a silver two qirān piece that were to have been issued on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the accession of the Shāh to the throne but his assassination stopped the distribution.

On the obverse of both silver and gold coins there is usually the lion and sun and on the reverse the titles of the Shāh. On some gold coins the bust of the Shāh occupies the obverse. It is occasionally accompanied by the dates of the jahān and of the coinage, thus 1315 Jāhān and 1312 jahān.

A silver tāmūn was struck in 1301. Obverse bust of Shāh, three-quarter face l., wearing cap with aigrette, within laurel wreath. Reverse Illegible.

The tāmūn is the sovereign on a ten tāmūn gold coin, whilst another ten tāmūn gold coin has the same inscription with the words Illegible added between the titles.

A gold coin weighing 10.3 grains has on the obverse within laurel and oak wreath the inscription: Illegible beneath Illegible and on the reverse the titles of the Shāh. There is also a gold coin of the same weight with the same obverse but with the lion and sun on the reverse.

The copper coinage from the new mint has a rayed sun and the date on the obverse and reverse linked to the value on the reverse, both obverse and reverse being within a wreath.

The following values are found on the coinage of Nāṣiru’d-Dīn Shāh and/or his successors:

- Silver:
  - 1 dinar = 26.9 grains
  - 2 dinars = 53.8 grains
  - 3 dinars = 80.7 grains
  - 4 dinars = 107.6 grains
  - 5 dinars = 134.5 grains
  - 10 dinars = 269 grains

- Copper:
  - 1 dinar = 122.4 grains

The mint for the old coinage gold are: Nishapur, Hamadān, Harāt, Isfahān, Kāshān, Khūy, Kirmānshāh, Mashhad, Qazvin, Rasht, Sarakhs, Shirāz, Tabaristan, Tabriz and Tīhrān, and for silver: Nishapur, Hamadān, Harāt, Isfahān, Kāshān, Khūy, Kirmān, Kirmānshāh, Mashhad, Qazvin, Rasht, Shirāz, Shīškhtar, Tabaristan, Tabriz, Tīhrān, and Yazd.
COINS, MEDALS, AND SEALS OF THE SHAHIS OF IRAN

After the fall of Mahnudabad in 1232/1816–17, Piruzu’d-Din, prince of Harat, submitted to Hasan ‘Ali Mirza, son of Fatih ‘Ali Shah, and, on paying a fine of fifty thousand tānân, he was permitted to continue to be governor of the city on condition that the khālaq and the coinage should be in the name of the Shah of Iran. No coin struck at Harat in the name of Fatih ‘Ali Shah has reached us. It was after the siege of Harat by the Iranians that coin was struck in that city in the name of Nasiru’d-Din Shah. We have coins of Harat dated 1277, 1278 and 1279. A coin of Harat in the name of Nasiru’d-Din has the date 1278 which is a mistake for 1276. Mr. Thorburn informs me that there is in Berlin a gold tānân in the name of Nasiru’d-Din struck at Harat in 1273, and that he has also seen somewhere, probably in a sale lot many years ago, a gold dated 1274 also struck at Harat.

The following table shows the coins in circulation from 1879 to 1936, with their legal and average weights in grains and their fineness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coinage</th>
<th>Legal weight in grains</th>
<th>Legal fineness</th>
<th>Average weight in grains</th>
<th>Average fineness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Old Coinage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tānān of 18 sabāh</td>
<td>53-29</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>53-35</td>
<td>998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ Tānān of 9 sabāh</td>
<td>26-64</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>26-71</td>
<td>998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Qirshes</td>
<td>10-65</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>9-7</td>
<td>998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qirshes, 1857 to 1878</td>
<td>76-98</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>76-10</td>
<td>830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qirshes, 1877 to 1878</td>
<td>38-48</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>37-47</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qirshes, 1877 to 1878</td>
<td>19-24</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>19-10</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Coinage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tānān, 1879</td>
<td>100-04</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>88-1</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ Tānān, 1879</td>
<td>50-32</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>49-6</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tānān, 1880 to 1886</td>
<td>44-49</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>43-15</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tānān, after 1886</td>
<td>44-48</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>43-11</td>
<td>885-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tānān, after 1886</td>
<td>22-20</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>22-2</td>
<td>890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ Tānān, after 1886</td>
<td>8-88</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qirshes, 1879</td>
<td>142-08</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>140-8</td>
<td>890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qirshes, 1880</td>
<td>142-08</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>141-31</td>
<td>882-88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qirshes, 1886</td>
<td>142-08</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>142-13</td>
<td>887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qirshes, 1879</td>
<td>71-04</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>70-08</td>
<td>890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qirshes, all dates mixed</td>
<td>71-04</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>70-06</td>
<td>891-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Shahid, 1879–1900</td>
<td>207-84</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Shahids, 1879–1900</td>
<td>133-92</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>124-8</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Shahid, 1879–1900</td>
<td>76-66</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>77-3</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Shahid, 1879–1900</td>
<td>38-48</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Shahid, 1879–1900</td>
<td>19-24</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Shahid, 1901 to 1920</td>
<td>68-45</td>
<td>(25% nickel)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>(75% copper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Shahid, 1901 to 1920</td>
<td>46-30</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following medals were struck under the reign of Nasiru’d-Din:


4. 1294. Medal to commemorate the visit of the Shah to the New Mint. Obverse as (3). Reverse within laurel wreath: "A" and "A" and date 1294. R 1-4.


6. 1295. Medal struck on the occasion of the reported discovery of gold in Khurishan. Obverse within wreath of laurel and oak; above, plumed crown; beneath all the date 1295. R 1-4.


The earlier medals have as obverses B.M. Coin 562 and the later ones B.M.Medal 3.

1 The earlier medals have as obverses B.M. Coin 562 and the later ones B.M.Medal 3.

2 See page 40.

COINS, MEDALS, AND SEALS OF THE SHAHS OF IRAN

of the Shah from Europe. Obverse bust of Shah, three-quarter l., wearing cap with agi...e crown : A -85. Wt. 86. Similar coins were struck in silver, but with the lion and sun on the obverse.

(11) 1308. Two tondas gold piece struck on the occasion of the visit of the Chief Manager (Mr. J. Rubino) and a Director (Mr. Hotz) of the Imperial Bank of Persia to the Royal Mint, Tiran. Obverse bust of Shah, three-quarter l., wearing cap with agi...e crown : A -86. Wt. 86.

(12) 1297. Artillery Medal. Obverse trophy and in the lion and sun. Reverse within wreath of laurel and oak. Beneath wreath: 

(13) 1301. Medal struck on the occasion of Nâsrîd-Din Shah's visit to the Arsenal in Tiran. Obverse bust of Shah, three-quarter l., wearing cap with agi...e crown of the Shah with the name of the Shah inscribed around it : A -14.


1 The Shah was assassinated the day before that appointed for the beginning of the festivities on the occasion of his jubilee. Some of these medals had already been distributed and could not be recalled.
The currency remains unchanged. Immediately after his accession Muhammad 'Ali Sháh issued silver and gold coins with the lion and sun on the obverse and the Sháh’s name and theسلطان الامام الشاهانشاح محمد علی قاجار on the reverse.

Dies with the Sháh’s effigy similar to those used for silver by his father, but with the legend السلطان محمد علی قاجار شاهنشاه ایران were obtained later from Belgium.

Muhammad 'Ali Sháh struck the following medals:

(1) 1324. Reward for valour. Similar to that of his predecessor but with محمد علی instead of محمد علی خسرو.

(2) 1326. Medal struck on the occasion of the bombardment of the National Assembly for distribution amongst the Iranian Cossacks and the men of the Sílkhotí Regiment. Obverse lion and sun, date 1327 within wreath of laurel and oak, and in the margin نام یشیعه سلطان محمد علی قاجار شاهنشاه ایران. Reverse bust of Sháh I., within trophy of guns and flags and in the margin السلطان محمد علی قاجار شاهنشاه ایران.

The royal seal bears the distich:

یک ثومک زرد به من بیو محمد علی خامد ماما سلطان

Sultan Ahmad Sháh

Sultán Ahmad Sháh, son of Muhammad ‘Ali Sháh, succeeded his father on 27 Jumádá II, 1327/6th July, 1909, and was deposed on 14 Rabí’ II, 1344/0 Alám, 1304/31st October, 1925.

His coinage is similar to that of his father with the substitution of سلطان احمد for سلطان احمد محمد علی محمد علی on the obverse and of his effigy for that of the deposed ruler. His titles are the same as his father’s: سلطان احمد علی قاجار of the سلطان احمد علی قاجار شاهنشاه ایران.

We have five and ten tömba gold coins of his with the lion and sun on the obverse and the legend السلطان الامام الشاهانشاح محمد علی قاجار on the reverse, and similar coins dated 1331. There is also a ten tömba gold coin with the bust of the Sháh on the obverse and the legend السلطان محمد علی قاجار شاهنشاه ایران on the reverse and the lion and sun. A two ashráfí coin has the Sháh’s effigy and the date 1337 on the obverse and the lion and sun within a wreath of laurel and oak, and beneath the lion دو هزار و یک هزار و یک هزار و یک هزار و یک هزار و یک هزار و یک هزار و یک هزار و یک هزار and پکومن.
A shahi-safid has on the obverse of a coin of Sultan Ahmad Shah was struck in Berlin in 1334/1395 for circulation in Iran (48th Annual Report of the Royal Mint, 1918, p. 15).

Sultan Ahmad Shah issued the following medals:

1. Reward for Valor. Obverse lion and sun and reverse, area: سلطان عالم وسلطان سلطان احمد دا شاه داه اختاب وصداقت

2. 1337. Medal with the effigy of the Shah and the date 1337 on the obverse and the lion and sun on the reverse with the words غریب عزت اختمت عصرت in the margin. N 1-2.

3. Civil Medal. Obverse portrait of the Shah being from the die made in Brussels for the five qirsh silver coin. Reverse same inscription as in area of (1). N 1-4.

The royal seal bears the following distich:

الملك له-خواتم يزدان نا توش آباد مکت ار عدل ودادر خانم شاهي سلطان احمد دا شاه داه اختاب 1337

Another seal has the inscription:

الملك له-سلطان این سلطان احمد دا شاه داه اختاب 1337

VII

PAHLAVI

RIDÁ SHÁH

Ridá Shah Pahlavi, son of Abáš Ali Khán, of Alasht, in the district of Savádkhán, ascended to the throne on 2 Ādir 1304/12th December, 1925, was crowned on 15 Ūrdihásh 1305/26th April, 1926, and abdicated in favour of his son Muhammad Ridá on 25 Shahrívar 1320/16th September, 1941. He continued the currency of his predecessor but by a law dated 18th March, 1936, the gold riyal containing 0-3661919 grams of pure gold was fixed as the standard for the currency. Gold coins of 20 riyals called pahláïed and of 10 riyals or half pahláïed were to be struck as well as silver coins which were to contain 4-5 grams of fine silver per riyal. The riyal adopted was the standard of the gold shilling. When Great Britain went off the gold standard, a new

law dated 13th March, 1932, reduced the weight of the gold riyal to 0-0732383 grams of fine gold, divided the pahláïed into 100 riyals instead of 20 and fixed the standard of the silver riyal at 4-14 grams of pure silver.

The titles of the Shah on the older coins are رضا خان or رضا شاه پهلوی and on the later ones رضا شاه پهلوی دانشگاه ایران and the lion and sun was used on the obverse and replaced subsequently by the bust of the Shah. The date of the julius جاوه ذکر 1340 3170 جوزی and جاوه ذکر 1340 جوزی appears on certain coins both gold and silver.

The values which are first given in támán and qiráns are changed later to pahláïed, riyals, and dirhams.

A gold coin bears the inscription:

پهلوی 1340

The following table gives particulars of the coins of this sovereign:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Fineness</th>
<th>Weight in Grams</th>
<th>Diameter in Millimetres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>1 pahláïed</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>8-1569</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(100 riyals)</td>
<td>1 pahláïed</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>7-32382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 pahláïed</td>
<td>2 pahláïed</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(50 riyals)</td>
<td>2 pahláïed</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>20-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 riyals</td>
<td>2 pahláïed</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>5 riyals</td>
<td>5 riyals</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 riyals</td>
<td>10 riyals</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>2-305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 riyals</td>
<td>20 riyals</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel</td>
<td>25 dirhams</td>
<td>25% nickel</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2-7135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 dirhams</td>
<td>25% nickel</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 dirhams</td>
<td>25% nickel</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>10 dirhams</td>
<td>75% copper</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 dirhams</td>
<td>75% copper</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 dirhams</td>
<td>75% copper</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminium</td>
<td>1 dirhams</td>
<td>10% copper</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1-0666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 dirhams</td>
<td>10% copper</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 dirhams</td>
<td>10% copper</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 See p. 68.
2 My information on the coins and medals of this reign is incomplete.
3 A law introducing a new era of solar years as from 1 Farvardín, 1304/21st March, 1926, was dated 11 Farvardín, 1944.
The following medals were struck by Rīdž Shāh:


2. Civil Medal. *Middā-i-Humayūn*. In gold, in silver, or in bronze. Obverse lion and sun; around, branches of laurel. Obverse within a circle: شاهنشاه شیخ علی اردی بختیاری and in the margin ۱۳۰۴.


There is in the British Museum a bronze medal of Rīdž Shāh with the bust of the Shāhī, on the obverse and rising sun within two crossed curved swords; around, wreath, on the reverse, which would appear to be the *Middā-i-Şīpāh* but it has no inscription.

The royal seal bears an oval shield with the words پهلوی شاهنشاه شیخ علی اردی بختیاری. Supports, two lions with sun rising on back. Crown, Iranian diadem. It is a dry seal.

VIII

REBELS AND PRETENDERS

SHĀH ḤĀṬĪM

Under Tāhmasp I, Amir Ḥājtīm, chief of Kuhcham, in Gilān, seized in 942/1533–6 Rasht, the capital of Biyapās, assumed the title of Shāh Ḥāṭīm, had the *khāṣba* said in his name and struck coin. The distich on his seal was—

伊朗 کو وفتوم و مدَّت هزار فربست، است

به پیش جهان، به تمام، شاهنشاه است

‘Abdu’l-Fattāḥ Fūmāni, in whose *History of Gilān* (p. 113) I found the above distich, says nothing of a coin inscription.

SHĀH ŠĀTĪ

On 21st January, 1747, Tāhmasp Qul Shāh (later Nāṣīr Shāh) left Isfahān with his army for Sīstān the governor of which province, Fatḥ ‘All Shāh, had rebelled and was already coming money with his own mark and superscription and assumed the title of King of Iran, having himself called Shāh Šātī.

BĀĞR KHĀN

In 1786 Ja‘far Khān Šānzd took Isfahān and put to death Bāğr Khān who had taken the title of King, or "Sofih" (*Précis des Révolutions*). We are not informed whether he had struck coins.

RULERS AND THEIR COINAGE

ṢĀDĪQ KHĀN

Ṣādīq Khān Shākākī was defeated near Qazvin by Fatḥ ‘Ali Shāh against whom he had rebelled at the death of Āqī Bahāmād Khān.

ḤASAN KHĀN ŠĀLĀR

Ḥasan Khān Šālar, eldest son of Allāh-Ārān, Āsafū’d-Daulā (maternal uncle of Muhammad Shāh), made himself independent in Khurāsān after the death of Muhammad Shāh. Although never enthroned, he is said to have issued coin bearing the distich:

سکو رزرت ساکر دین

بوزش پادشاه آیان محمد

The gold coin struck at Mashhad in the formula of Muhammad Shāh which was attributed by R. S. Poole to Ḥasan Khān Šālar is a coin of the year 1260, the figure which was read as 5 giving the date 1255 being simply part of the scroll.

SHAYKH MAṢḴŪR

A certain Shaykh Maṣḵūr rebelled in South Iran during the reign of Nāṣīrū’d-Dīn Shāh and struck coin in his own name. He was hanged by order of Farāhā Mīrza, Mu’tamadū’d-Daulā, after having been made to swallow one of his own coins.

NĀṢĪR-ū-DĪVĀN

Christopher Sykes (p. 168) writes: “Nasir Diwan is justly considered the hero of South Persia. In the December of 1916 it revolted against the South Persia Rifles, a small detachment of which had been sent to Kazerun. He minted his own coins and perhaps his name will always be held in honour by collectors of rare specimens of money.”

IX

MUSHA’SHA’

MAḤDI Ḭ[I]N MULŠIN

We have little information concerning the dynasty of the Musha’sha. Sayyid 2 who reigned over Khūzestān during the fifteenth and at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Sayyid Muḥammad ibn Fadlāl seized part of Jazīrā

Khurāsān ‘Abdu’l-Muṭṭaḥ, Nasır-ū-Dīvān, hereditary ruler of Khurāsān, whose family emigrated three generations ago from the Khurāsān family of the Rāysh branch of the Bakkāshīs, organized a revolt against the South Persia Rifles in December, 1916, and captured 100 men and one gun. Removed from Khurāsān for six months, he had assumed control of that district on September, 1917. Banished to Lār in 1918, he was allowed to return to Khurāsān in 1921.

2 Mr. A. H. King, H.B.M. Consul at Shiraz, wrote to me on 2nd February, 1929: “Nobody seems to know that he (Nasir-ū-Dīvān) struck any coins at Khurāsān. I have asked all the people who have been suggested to me as likely to know and they all state positively that he issued no coins.”

2 Mr. H. S. Trenchard, writes: As to the coins of Khurāsān they do not doubt belong to the Musha’sha’s realm of Khurāsān. W. Cusack, in his article on this dynasty in *Islamica*, 3, 1929, pp. 49–50, thinks it should be read as "Khurāsān is a Muhājir and Munchska by the Encyclopaedia
in 844/1440 and of Huwazzay in the following year. He extended his rule over Shushart but about 854/1450 he had to surrender the power to his son Maulā 'All who was killed in 861/1456-7. Sayyid Muhammad re-entered in possession of his dominions and died in 865/1461 or 870/1465 (or according to other authors in 872/1467). His son Durāhim ibn Muhammad succeeded to the throne and was followed by his brother Sultan Muḥsin ibn Muhammad, whose power extended over the whole of Khūziston. Sultan Muḥsin had three sons, Sultan 'All who took his place in 895/1499-1500, Ayūb, and Fayyādād. In 914/1508-9 Shāh 'Isā' in 916/1509-10 Shāfī (Shāh 916-10) proceeded to Tidq 'Ajamān. Sultan 'All and his brother Ayūb came to the royal camp to make their submission but, after the siege of Baghshāh, the Shāh put them to death. The third brother, Fayyādād, fell in opposing the Shāh's advance on Huwazzay. Isma'īl entered Shushart in the same year and appointed his own governor.

Mahdi ibn Muḥsin is possibly a fourth son of Sultan Muḥsin and he must have reigned for a very short time in 914/1508-9 over part of Khūziston. The dynasty continued as governors of Huwazzay and only disappeared at the end of the twentieth century. All coinage subsequent to 914/1508-9 was in the name of the Shāhs of Iran.

We have coins of Mahdi ibn Muḥsin struck at Shushart and at Dīfālād.1 The Shushart coinage have on the reverse area the inscription *٢١٤* ٧٣٢٩ مَحْمُودُ عَلِيُّ وَأَبُو الْإِلْهَ مَحَسُونٌ مَحَمْدُ حُمَدَلَ اللَّهُ مَضَارِعٌ نَبَتْ ١٠٣٨ مَهْدُوُّ الْإِلْهَ مَحَسُونٌ شَمْشَرٌ.*

The Dīfālā coin is similar but on the reverse the marginal inscription differs:

The weights are 72 grains and 36 grains or 1 *mīrāghī* and 1/2 *mīrāghī*.

X

**AUTONOMOUS COPPER COINAGE**

The copper coinage which formed the greater part of the currency under the Safavī monarchs and until the time of the reform of the currency in 1878 were uniform neither in size, weight, nor design.

On the reverse we find the following animals, figures, or designs:

- **Amphorae**
- **Antelope**
- **Antelope, running**
- **Ape**
- **Apes, two, confronted**
- **Bird, l.**
- **Bird, r.**
- **Goat**
- **Goose**
- **Hare, l.**
- **Hare, r.**
- **Head, man's, turbaned.**
- **Horse, l.**
- **Horse, galloping, r. and sun.**
- **Horse, above a wheel.**
- **Horseman, r.**
- **Horseman with uplifted sword.**
- **Horseman holding spear, below boar, and above bird flying.**
- **Ibex**
- **Ibex, running, r.**
- **Lamb, on reverse; ewe on reverse.**
- **Lion, l.**
- **Lion, r.**
- **Lion, couchant, r.**
- **Lion, rampant, l.**
- **Lion, r., with its head turned l.**
- **Lion and boar.**
- **Lion and fox.**
- **Lion and sun, l.**
- **Lion, couchant, and sun, l.**
- **Lion, couchant, and sun, r.**
- **Lion seizing bull.**
- **Lion seizing horse.**
- **Lion seizing stag, l.**
- **Lion and below stag, r.**
- **Lioness and cub.**
- **Lions, two, rampant, confronted.**
- **Lions, two, rampant, each holding a sword, confronted.**
- **Mouse.**
- **Ornamented label.**
- **Parrot.**
- **Partridge, r.**
- **Partridge, eagle devouring.**
- **Peacock, l.**
- **Peacock, r.**
- **Peacock, r., with its head turned l.**
- **Peacocks, two, back to back.**

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1. *Ministère de la Mission Archéologique de Perse.*
of laurel, and beneath the lion the value, and on the obverse سَمْب دَار إِلْخَلَاى and the date. The values were 50 dinars and 25 dinars.¹

Mints for copper are Abšâhār, Āqšāy,² Arbâb, Astârâbâd, Bâldûb, Baghelâd, Balûk, Bandar, Bandar ‘Abbâs, Bihbich, Bihbich, Bâjër, Burûjîr, Dâmavând, Dârband, Dâshâlâbâd,³ Dîrûf, Fargâhânî, 7, Ganja, Gâlân, Hamadân, Hârân, Hûzâyra, Irân, Irân, Isfâhân, Jâfârâbâd, Kâshân, Khalajistân, Khûy, Kîrman, Kîrmânshâhân, Lâhijân, Mâshhad, Mâzandarân, Nakhchivan, Nîâyâvân, Nihûrûs, Nukhût, Panâbâhâd, Pâshâvar, Qânabdâr, Qârin, Qân, Ra’înâs, Ra’sht, Rîkûb, Sabzavâr, Sârî, Sâjûbulghâ, Sâva, Shâh, Shamâlî, Shâhr, Shûshtar, Sinandûr, Sînd, Tâbaristân, Tabriz, Tîbîl, Tîbîn, Tûn, Urûmî, Yâzid, and Zânanj.

When I was in Gâlân I was informed that a copper coin had been found on which could be read

\[ \text{چیکم گرفته به کوچک گرام} \]

\[ \text{علی مقام} \]

Chaulâm and Kâyâkh being the names of two villages on the lagoon of Anzâl.

**XI**

**LARGESSE AND SHRINE COINS**

It may be of interest to say a few words on the subject of largesse and shrine coins.

From time immemorial it has been the custom for sovereigns of Iran, on the occasion of their accession to the throne, on the Naurûz or Vernal equinox, and on certain other feast days, to distribute amongst their courtiers and the persons who attended their levees small bags of gold and silver coins. Under the Safavi monarchs heavy as well as light coins were distributed but under the Qâjâr only very light coins were usually distributed. Nâşir’ud-Dîn and his two predecessors issued for this purpose gold and silver coins with a smooth reverse. With the introduction of the new coinage in 1878, these were replaced by the 2 gîrân gold piece and the silver abâšîn-fâ’d.

Great dignitaries of state and hereditary chiefs distributed among their retainers small coins struck at the local mint or by silversmiths. Those coins consisted of a thin sheet of silver or gold embossed with the inscription مارک باند and the date. Two of these were usually struck together to make a two-faced coin.

¹ Mr. Thorburn has coins of similar type of Isfâhân (50 and 25 dinars) and Qârin 30 dinars all of AN 1293. The late Mr. W. H. Valentine published a 50 dinar piece of Tabriz date incommensurate with the lion facing to the right, on all these three mints the title دار السلام is used.

² Frasch, Relazioni, p. 311. Frasch gives the inscription as which is perhaps a misreading for مارک باند.

Iranian vassals had to be careful not to infringe the royal prerogative of the ašāsa or right of coinage. In 1874 the chief of Fūman, in Gilân, incurred the Shāh's displeasure mainly on account of his having caused a large number of silver coins to be struck on the occasion of the circumcision of his son. These coins had on the obverse Ḥasan ʿAlī Ṣadāqah, the former being his, the latter his son's name. He realized his mistake and had the coins reminted with the inscription ʿAlī Ṣadāqah but some of the original coins had been shown to the Shāh who was so incensed that he issued orders for the chief's execution. The Khān, however, who was also accused of extortion, was released after having been severely beaten on the soles of his feet in front of the Government House at Rašt, kept in prison for a few days, and made to pay a fine of 2,000 tāmūnas.

The Mashhad-issued coins are now seldom seen and their distribution on feast days seems to have been discontinued. Similar coins were also thrown on children when circumcised or on the bride at a wedding. Mūllās and Sāyyidās (descendants of the Prophet) also gave these coins to their friends for luck.

It is the custom also on the occasion of the Naurūz for the clergy attached to the shrine of Imām Rīdā in the city of Mashhad to distribute silver coins to the faithful assembled in the shrine on that day. A similar practice existed at Karbalā.

The following is a description of some of these coins:


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1 Mr. S. H. Taqizadeh wrote to me on 7th November, 1938: “The coins of the shrine of Mashhad struck in that city are well known in Persia and were struck in great quantity. Everybody could buy them and the pilgrims usually acquired one or more for talâr or (beneficent effect). These coins were specially used in Naurūz and, even to-day (at any rate until 5 or 6 years ago), some hundreds of them are presented to the Sháh on the New Year’s Day. They are also much used in Mashhad on the occasion of the anniversary of Imám ʿAlí’s birthday (20th Šahvâl and according to some authorities 11th Elīs}) they are struck on the birthday of the Imám (16th Šahvâl). So far as I know the last of these coins must have been struck sometimes about 1928 or a little before.”