



## ON THE SMALL GOLD COINS ISSUED BY MUGHALS IN BADAKHSHAN REGION

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Badakhshan is a historical region comprising parts of modern-day north-eastern Afghanistan. Badakhshan Province is one of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Much of historic Badakhshan lies within Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, in the southeastern part of the country. The music of Badakhshan is an important part of the region's cultural heritage.

The region was ruled over by the mirzas of Badakhshan. Sultan Muhammad of Badakhshan was the last of a series of kings who traced their descent to Alexander the Great. He was killed by Abu Said Mirza, the ruler of Timurid Empire, who took possession of Badakhshan, which after his death fell to his son, Sultan Mahmud Mirza, who had three sons, Baysinghar Mirza, Ali Mirza, and Khan Mirza. When Mahmud died, Amir Khusroe Khan, one of his nobles, blinded Baysinghar Mirza, killed the second prince, and ruled as a usurper. He submitted to Mughal Emperor Babur in 1504 CE. When Babur took Kandahar in 1506 CE, from Shah Beg Arghun, he sent Khan Mirza as governor to Badakhshan. A son was born to Khan Mirza by the name of Mirza Sulaiman in 1514 CE. After the death of Khan Mirza, Badakhshan was governed for Babur by Prince Humayun, Sultan Wais Khan (Mirza Sulaiman's father-in-law), Prince Hindal, and lastly, by Mirza Sulaiman, who held Badakhshan till October 8, 1541, when he had to surrender himself and his son, Mirza Ibrahim, to Prince Kamran Mirza. They were released by Emperor Humayun in 1545, and took again possession of Badakhshan. When Humayun had taken Kabul, he made war upon and defeated Mirza Sulaiman who once in possession of his country, had refused to submit; but when the return of Prince Kamran Mirza from Sindh obliged Emperor Humayun to go to Kabul, he reinstated Mirza Sulaiman, who held Badakhshan till 1575. Bent on making conquests, he invaded Balkh in 1560, but had to return. His son, Mirza Ibrahim, was killed in battle.

When Akbar became Mughal Emperor, his stepbrother Mirza Muhammad Hakim's mother had been killed by Shah Abul Ma'ali. Mirza Sulaiman went to Kabul, and had Abul Ma'ali hanged; he then had his own daughter married to Mirza Muhammad Hakim, and appointed Umed Ali, a Badakhshan noble, as Mirza Muhammad Hakim's agent in 1563. But Mirza Muhammad Hakim did not go on well with Mirza Sulaiman, who returned next year to Kabul with hostile intentions; but Mirza Muhammad Hakim fled and asked Akbar for assistance, so that Mirza Sulaiman, though he had taken Jalalabad, had to



return to Badakhshan. He returned to Kabul in 1566, when Akbar's troops had left that country, but retreated on being promised tribute.

Mirza Sulaiman's wife was Khurram Begum, of the Kipchak tribe. She was clever, and had her husband so much in her power that he did nothing without her advice. Her enemy was Muhtarim Khanum, the widow of Prince Kamran Mirza. Mirza Sulaiman wanted to marry her; but Khurram Begum got her married, against her will, to Mirza Ibrahim, by whom she had a son, Mirza Shahrukh. When Mirza Ibrahim fell in the war with Balkh, Khurram Begum wanted to send the Khanum to her father, Shah Muhammad of Kashgar; but she refused to go. As soon as Shahrukh had grown up, his mother and some Badakhshi nobles excited him to rebel against his grandfather Mirza Sulaiman. This he did, alternately rebelling and again making peace. Khurram Begum then died. Shahrukh took away those parts of Badakhshan which his father had held, and found so many adherents, that Mirza Sulaiman, pretending to go on a pilgrimage to Makkah, left Badakhshan for Kabul, and crossing the Indus went to India in 1575 CE. Khan Jahan, governor of the Punjab, received orders from Emperor Akbar to invade Badakhshan, but was suddenly ordered to go to Bengal instead, as Mun'im Khan had died and Mirza Sulaiman did not care for the governorship of Bengal, which Akbar had offered him. When the death of that monarch deprived him of the assistance which he had just received, he went to Muzaffar Husain Mirza at Kandahar, and then to Mirza Muhammad Hakim at Kabul. Not succeeding in raising disturbances in Kabul, he made for the frontier of Badakhshan, and luckily finding some adherents, he managed to get from his grandson the territory between Taiqan and the Hindu Kush. Soon after Muhtarim Khanum died. Being again pressed by Shahrukh, Mirza Sulaiman applied for help to Abdullah Khan Uzbek, king of Turan, who had long wished to annex Badakhshan. He invaded and took the country in 1584; Shahrukh fled to the Mughal Empire, and Mirza Sulaiman to Kabul. As he could not recover Badakhshan for himself, and rendered destitute by the death of Mirza Muhammad Hakim, he followed the example of his grandson, and repaired to the court of Akbar who made him a Commander of six thousand. He lived out his life at Akbar's court in Lahore where he died in 1589 CE.

Like neighboring Balkh Subah, Badakhshan was shortly conquered in 1641 by Mughal padshah (emperor) Shah Jahan, who turned it also into a short-lived subah (imperial top-level province), only to be lost again in 1647.

**Detail of few selected coins with photograph is given under below.**

1. Mughal Sulayman Mirza AH 936 - 992 / AD 1529-1584

Mintless type but attributed to Badakhshan area Gold 1/12 Indian Mohur

**Metal Composition**

Gold

**Lot Grade/Condition**

very fine+  
**Diameter**  
12.21 mm  
**Weight**  
00.97 gms  
**Denomination**  
1/12 Indian Mohur  
**Calendar/Year**  
AH 936-992, 1529-1584 AD



**Mughal, Sulayman Mirza** (AH 936-992, 1529-1584 AD), **Gold 1/12 Indian Mohur**, 00.97 gms, 12.21 mm, **Mintless type but attributed to Badakhshan area**, with the Title 'khadim-e-Haramain-e-Sharifain', kalima on obverse, names and titles of the Emperor on reverse, Badakhshan was governed for Babur by Prince Humayun, Sultan Wais Khan (Mirza Sulaiman's father-in-law), Prince Hindal and by Sulayman Mirza himself.

2. Mughal Sulayman Mirza AH 936 - 992 / AD 1529-1584  
Mintless type but attributed to Badakhshan area Gold 1/12 Indian Mohur

**Metal Composition**  
Gold  
**Lot Grade/Condition**  
very fine+  
**Diameter**  
12.21 mm  
**Weight**  
00.97 gms

**Denomination**

1/12 Indian Mohur

**Calendar/Year**

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**3. Mughal Humayun**

AH 937- 947 AH 962 – 963 / AD 1530- 1540 AD 1555-1556

Post First Reign Mintless type but attributed to Badakhshan area Gold 1/10 Mohur

**Metal Composition**

Gold

**Lot Grade/Condition**

very fine+

**Diameter**

11.91 mm

**Weight**

00.78 gms

**Denomination**

1/10 Mohur

**Calendar/Year**

AH 937-947, 1530-1540 AD



**Mughal, Humayun, Post First Reign (AH 937-947, 1530-1540 AD), Gold 1/10 Mohur, 00.78 gms, 11.91 mm, Mintless type but attributed to Badakhshan area, Kalima on obverse, muhammad humayun badshah ghazi mulkahu AH 955 on reverse**

4.Mughal Humayun

AH 937- 947 AH 962 – 963 / AD 1530- 1540 AD 1555-1556

First Reign Mintless type but attributed to Badakhshan area Gold 1/12 Mohur

**Metal Composition**

Gold

**Lot Grade/Condition**

very fine

**Diameter**

11.76 mm

**Weight**

00.92 gms

**Denomination**

1/12 Mohur

**Calendar/Year**

AH 937-947, 1530-1540 AD





**Mughal, Humayun, First Reign** (AH 937-947, 1530-1540 AD), **Gold 1/12 Mohur**, 00.92 gms, 11.76 mm, **Mintless type but attributed to Badakhshan area**, Kalima on obverse, kunya abu'l-muzaffar mohammad humayun badshah ghazi on reverse, **A-3007H**

5. Mughal Jalaluddin Mohammad Akbar Padshah Gazi  
AH 963 – 1014 / AD 1556 – 1605  
Mintless type but attributed to Badakhshan area Gold 1/4 Mithqal

**Metal Composition**

Gold

**Lot Grade/Condition**

very fine

**Diameter**

10.66 mm

**Weight**

00.93 gms

**Denomination**

1/4 Mithqal

**Calendar/Year**

AH 963-1014, 1556-1605 AD



**Mughal, Akbar** (AH 963-1014, 1556-1605 AD), **Gold 1/4 Mithqal**, 00.93 gms, 10.66 mm, **Mintless type but attributed to Badakhshan area**, Kalima on obverse, names and titles of the Emperor on reverse

#### References

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4. Ludwig W. Adamec (1972). Historical and political gazetteer of Afghanistan Vol. 1. Badakhshan Province and northeastern Afghanistan, p. 26.