



TO STUDY THE COINAGE OF THE GUPTAS EMPIRE

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ABSTRACT

A coin is a piece of valuable metal (gold, silver, copper, and so forth) that has been engraved in a way that shows that it has been given by some power. The expression "coin" comes from the French word "coigner," and that signifies "to hit with a wedge or cogne." The investigation of coins, tokens, decorations, paper cash, and anything intently mirroring them in shape or reason, including standard mechanism of trade and ornamentation, as per the American Webster Word reference. It tends to be considered a logical investigation of money overall. Numismatics is a multi-disciplinary subject as in it requires information on paleography, paleontology, engravings, and history, notwithstanding the way that it is one of the essential hotspots for verifiable reproduction. Numismatics, obviously, is one of the most dependable hotspots for uncovering and projecting world history, and it is presently a significant component of the old history educational plan. The student of history is most keen on money in light of the fact that, to lay it out plainly, it is essential for the proof. He might get already obscure things about the past from it, and he will much of the time find that it supplements or amends his different wellsprings of data. The mint pieces offer an unmatched assortment of verifiable archives. They infer the lives and accounts of people who gave them. They don't just outline history; they mesh it into their own pith. Researchers who consider coins to be archeological things to be analyzed all by them, or who are keen on coins exclusively as masterpieces, will be ready to represent changed levels of awards, tokens, jettons, and coin loads.

KEY WORDS: Gold, Silver, Copper, Awards, Tokens, Jettons, and Coin Loads

INTRODUCTION

The flourishing state of economy was ascertained by the large number of gold coins circulated by different Gupta rulers. Famous for their gold coins, the Gupta numismatic art has abundance of coins in variety of designs. They also issued silver coins. However, coins made of copper, bronze or any other alloy metals are scarce. This abundance of gold coins from the Gupta era has led some scholars to regard their reign as the ‘rain of gold’.

Let's explore this **Gupta Numismatic Art** through their noteworthy accomplishments and downfall.

GENERAL COIN SPECIFICATIONS:

The Gupta gold coins are known as Dinars and they are the most extraordinary examples of numismatic and artistic excellence. The coins in general depicted the ruling monarch on the obverse and carried legends while the reverse depicted the figure of a goddess. Gupta coinage started out imitating that of the mighty Kushans, but very soon had their own identify which in turn became a forerunner for the dynasties and kingdoms to come thereafter!

Gupta coinage reached the height of metallurgy and iconography. After Indo-Greek and Kushan coins, Gupta coinage made a huge come back with a true Indian taste in it. Being indigenous, they portrayed the king, queen, and deities with Indian attire and with lots of grace. Now let's see the famous Gupta kings and their contribution to the acclaimed **Gupta numismatic art**.



SAMUDRA GUPTA:

Samudragupta, an incredible lord by the excellence of his tactical ability and managerial effectiveness, was a significant leader of the Gupta Realm. His skilled decision delivered some top notch of gold coins and established the underpinning of the Brilliant Period of India. He is credited to have given just gold coins (Dinar) during his reign in seven distinct sorts ('Lichhaviya' type included). The coins of Samudragupta provide us with a great deal of data on the beginning of the strong domain of Gupta, and its economy.

Samudragupta's coins as per their plan and assortment are referred to in numismatic terms as:

- Standard sorts are various and normal. This kind of coins show the ruler conveying a Garuda Dhvaja in his left hand and is shown wearing a cap. The converse side of the coin depicts the goddess Laxmi.
- The Toxophilite types, presented without precedent for the Indian Numismatic, are intriguing and they depict Samudra Gupta holding the bow.
- Fight Hatchet type, Samudragupta's coins included weapons, for example, fight hatchet, bow, bolt and swords. His fight hatchet type has the legend "Kritantparashuh" on them.
- Lichchavi type: The Licchaviya issue bears the picture of Ruler Chandragupta-I with his

sovereign Kumaradevi of Lichchavi family. However the legend is well defined for Chandragupta I, it was given by Samudragupta in memory of his dad.

- Kacha type coin bears the legend "Kacha, having vanquished the earth, wins paradise by the most elevated works", while the opposite shown the legend "Exterminator of the multitude of lords".
- The tiger type coins of the lord show him stomping on a tiger as while shooting it with a bow. The front-side legend peruses "Vyagraparakramah".
- The Lyrist type has the lord in a high upheld sofa, playing Veena which lays kneeling down. The legend "Maharajadhiraja - Sri Samudragupta" finishes the front-side.
- Asvamedha types are exceptional, we find a pony remaining before a yupa or a conciliatory post with legend around that enriches the Ruler as the winner of paradise, earth, and the seas.

All of his coin plans with their renowned legends are characteristic of the victories of Samudragupta and his fulfillment of foremost power. Samudragupta's money includes an unmistakable Indian touch to it regarding the portrayal of the dresses, weapons, goddesses, and so forth when contrasted with the prior Kushan money.



CHANDRAGUPTA-II

Chandragupta-II acquired the Gupta high position at its pinnacle. He added to the limitlessness of the domain by adding the couple of regions left off by his dad Samudragupta. He stretched out incredible help to human expression and his rule saw the Brilliant Time of India creating and adding to different fields under his illustrious support. He is known to have given a sum of eight sorts of gold coins (Dinars). Referred to through his coins as "Vikramaditya", Chandragupta II likewise given silver (Denaree) and copper (Daler) coins, presumably to be coursed in the district that was vanquished from the Western Kshatrapas. We should examine his coin types:

- Bowman Type: Curiously, where his dad gave a great deal of Standard Kind coins, Chandragupta II gave Toxophilite type in overflow. The toxophilite type contains the legend "Deva Sri Maharajadhiraja Sri Chandraguptah".
- Lounge chair Type, are the most uncommon of Chandragupta's coins with just two known assortments in the gallery. The two of them contrast in many subtleties however have the legends "roopkrti" and "Vikrama".

- The Chhatra type conveyed the picture of a chaperon holding a regal parasol over Chandragupta.
- Lion Slayer type which show the lord standing and shooting a lion with the bow contained the legend "Simhavikrama"
- Horse Man Type coin configuration was presented by Chandragupta II and portrays the Lord riding a pony.
- The Standard Sort, are comparative in plan with that of Samudragupta.
- Chakarvikrama Type, this very uncommon assortment includes a Chakra or the wheel on front with the legend "Chakravikramah".
- Kalasha Type, one more incredibly interesting assortment of Chandragupta II which portrays a Kalasha or a water pot.

It is expressed that in the later piece of his rule, Chandragupta II began giving silver and copper cash to be coursed in the areas of Gujarat and Kathiawar. In any case, how much gold coins he gave was immense and the majestic mints were dynamic all through his rule.



KUMARAGUPTA-I

Kumaragupta-I, frequently recorded on coins as "Mahendraditya", gave a decent 14 distinct kinds of gold (Dinar) and silver (Denaree) coins. His money itself is sufficient to talk about the limitlessness and thriving of his domain. His long rule saw both, the embodiment and the decay of the realm as the Hun attacks during the later time of his standard shook the Gupta Domain. The monetary crunch drove Kumaragupta to give silver-plated copper coins (Daler). For the most part proceeding with the coin sorts of his ancestors', he presented a couple of new assortments. We should examine his coins:

- Toxophilite type portrays the Ruler remaining in left, holding bolt in right hand and bow in left.
- Fighter, Ruler is seen with a sword in left hand with Bramhi legend "Gama - vajitya - sucharitaihi - kumaragupto - Divam - jayati"
- Asvamedha Type was given to celebrate the presentation of Pony Penance. The legend on the front-side peruses "Jayati Divam Kumarah" and the opposite peruses "Sri Asvamedha Mahendrah".
- Horseman, Ruler on horse with legends around that embellishes his solidarity and triumph on front and "Ajitamahendraha" legend on the opposite.
- Lion Slayer, portrays the ruler killing a lion with the legend "shrimahendrasimha" or simhamahendrarah" on invert.
- Tiger Slayer, like the lion slayer type, this coin theatrical presentations the ruler killing the tiger with the legend "'Srimam vyaghrabalaparakramah" on the front-side.
- Peacock or the Kartikeya type: Is presumably the loveliest of his coins which shows the Lord offering a lot of grapes to a Peacock with his right hand.
- Pratapa Type is an incredibly uncommon assortment which portrays the ruler with two specialists holding the Garuda Standard on both of his sides. The converse peruses the legend "Shri Pratapah".
- Elephant Rider Type is just known from one exceptional example. However the engravings are messy, this assortment is ascribed to Kumargupta I for its closeness in coin plan and make. The coin include Ruler with an attendant riding an elephant.
- Ashavamedha Kinds of Kumargupta are like that of Samudragupta and portray the pony

attached to a Yupa or the conciliatory post on the front. The converse has the Brahma Legend "Shri - Asvamedha - Mahendra".

- Kumargupta restored the Lyrist Type and Lord Sovereign Sort coins of the past rulers.
- His Elephant-Rider-and-Lion-Killing Sort features his playful and hunting limits.
- His Rhino-Slayer Type assortment is exceptional and highlights a rhino without precedent for Indian numismatic workmanship!

Kumargupta I gave silver and copper coins for course in West of India however they were of a spoiled sort. They by and large portrayed the bust of the ruler to the front and a peacock or a garuda (falcon) on the converse. However he gave a tremendous assortment of coins, his money missing the mark on imaginative greatness and consistency.



SKANDA GUPTA

The gold coins of this ruler miss the mark on assortment of type. The famous Gupta Period started to decline during the rule of Skandagupta. Recorded on coins as "Kramaditya", Skandagupta gave four sorts of gold dinars and three kinds of silver denarees. The Gupta gold coins, when an extreme illustration of numismatic workmanship, presently started to lose their

brilliance and the political strain became apparent in coin plans and its execution. We should examine his coin types:

- The customary Toxophilite type which portrays the Ruler with a bow, bolt and a legend in brahmi "kramadityah"
- Ruler and Lakshmi Type: This type portrays the Lord with the goddess on the front and Brahmi Legend 'Sri Skandaguptah' in the opposite.
- Horse Man type has the ruler riding the pony.
- Chattra Type has the Ruler with a chaperon presenting at a fire special stepped area
- His silver coins have three assortments with the Ruler's bust on the front-side with Bull or Fire Special stepped area or a Peacock on the opposite.

His replacements Purugupta, Kumaragupta-II gave just a single kind of gold coins to be specific Bowman type. Budha Gupta's coins followed his ancestor's sort yet the imaginative degree declined significantly. Absence of consistency in a similar coin configuration shows side effects of a consistent downfall of the once powerful realm.

CONCLUSION

History, doesn't typically rehash the same thing. This aphorism is earnestly demonstrated with the story two of the best lines of Indian history: The Mauryas and the Guptas. A Chandragupta established the Maurya tradition in 320 B.C.; precisely 600 years after the fact another Chandra Gupta established the Gupta line, in 320 A.D. An occurrence that can't be disregarded. The Gupta administration rule over India for around 200 years. "The Gupta time frame", composes Dr. Barnett, "is in the records of traditional India nearly what the Periclean age is throughout the entire existence of Greece". This line liberated India from unfamiliar shackles of Kushana-Sassnian and broke the Huns who were strong all through Asia and Europe. This is presumably the administration which gave Vikramaditya, an eternal incredible leader of India. Like some other lines of India, the historical backdrop of the Royal Gupta tradition is a foreboding shadow. However we could know the main leader of this line anyway their starting point and ascend to ruler hood is darkened in secret. Anyway investigation of the Guptas has stood firm on an

extremely prime foothold in Indian history and accurately brought up by V A Smith, who states, "With the promotion of the Guptas, light again sunrises, the cover of blankness is lifted and the historical backdrop of India recovers solidarity and premium". This section will check out at the political history of the supreme Guptas from the times of Chandragupt I to that of Skanda Gupta.

The Gupta administration climbed the lofty position around 320 A.D. furthermore, proceeded upto 550 A.D., with superbness and quality. They combined the whole Northern India by enslaving the neighborhood and common powers that became free after the ruin of the Kushanas. The period during the Gupta Realm is alluded as the Brilliant Age in all fields, embracing workmanship, engineering, writing, figure and schooling. Anyway the beginning of the Guptas is as yet covered in lack of definition. This is so on the grounds that the wellsprings of Gupta History, which have been uncovered till date, don't illuminate the family of the Guptas and furthermore their unique country.

The Shunga and the Sattavahana alluded to numerous authorities bearing the family name Gupta. In any case, their relationship with the Majestic Guptas still up in the air. Moreover it isn't yet found whether the term Gupta demonstrated any last name of a family or alluded to any group. Anyway the Gupta records itself and the Chinese records given by I-Tsing, outfitted the names of the initial three leaders of the Gupta Line, viz. Maharaja Sri Gupta, Maharaja Sri Ghatotkacha and Maharajadhiraja Sri Chandragupta. K.P. Jaiswal has recommended that the Guptas had a place with the Jat clan of Punjab.

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