

## ANCIENT TURKISH COINS OF THE SUGD OASIS

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## ANNOTATION

In the Sughd oasis, it is noticeable that by the beginning of the Middle Ages, the minting of each ruler's own coin began to spread widely. During this period, unlike the coins of the previous phase, the types of coins increased, and almost every ruler began to express their dynastic seals, the image of the head of the ruler, the title, the name of the suppressed place (rulership) (for example, Kesh, Panch) on the coins. Also, the changes in the management of the oasis during the period of the Turkish khanate were reflected in the coins, which prompted changes in the minting traditions.

## Keywords

Sughd, Western Turkic Khanate, Samarkand, Kesh, Naqshab, Panch, stamp, title, Turko-Sughd coins, khagan, tudun, tutuk, khatun, bilga Turko-rune and Sughd script

In the early Middle Ages, especially during the Turkic Khaganate, the Sughd oasis had its own coin-money system, which was reflected in the fact that almost all of the large and small principalities in the oasis had their own mints. In particular, it is known that the dominions of Samarkand, Kesh, Nakhlahz and Panch minted their own coins, and a large part of them are coins related to the Khaganate to one degree or another.

In the Sughd oasis, which had its own coin-money system already in the last centuries before Christ, it can be seen that by the early Middle Ages, minting of each ruler's own coin began to spread widely. During this period, unlike the coins of the previous stage, the types of coins increased, and almost every ruler began to express their dynastic seals, the image of the head of the ruler, the title, the name of the suppressed place (rulership) (for example, Kesh, Panch) on the coins. Also, the changes in the management of the oasis during the period of the Turkish khanate were reflected in the coins, which prompted changes in the minting tradition. The introduction of Turkic traditions into the ranks of the coins traditionally minted by the Sugdian rulers of the oasis has its influence on the coin-monetary system. Because of this, researchers use the term "Old Turkic coin group" for a significant part of Central Asian coins of this period.

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the expressions "Turkic-Sugdian coins" and "ancient Turkish coins with Sugdian writing" were used in world historiography, and the first researchers who conducted research in this regard mainly relied on the iconography and stamps of the coins and used such an expression [1]. Later, when the Sogdian inscription on some coins found between Amudarya and Syrdarya and Ettisuv was read as "khaqan", the concept of "Ancient Turkish coins" began to be expressed more clearly. In the 1940s, pharmacologist O.I. Smirnova, archeological scientists, M.E. Masson, A.N. When Bernshtam found

out that the iconography and titles of a group of coins from Samarkand, Choch, Fergana, Ettisuv regions are characteristic of the ancient Turks, the scope of this concept was further expanded [2].

O.I. Smirnova, who discovered that ancient Turkish coins with the title "khaqan" were minted in some of the mentioned historical regions, read the title "tudun" in a group of Choch coins and introduced them to the world of science [3]. Also, the researcher found that the title "tutuq" is found on a coin minted in O'tror or Ferghana. It was also a big news that this researcher found among the coins of Sughd, a symbol (stamp or letter) reminiscent of the title "Khotun" and the Turkic runic writing on the coins with the image of a ruler and a queen typical of the ancient Turks [4].

Later V.A. Livshits, reading the title "bilga" on one of the Panch coins, found that the type of coins included in the "Old Turkic coin group" was quite wide[5]. For many years, B. has been engaged in the history of the early Middle Ages. Kochnev included these coins in this group based on the iconography of the coins commonly found in the Kashkadarya oasis[6].

### Samarkand coins

Today, as a result of the development of a number of young numismatists in Central Asian numismatics and the careful study of the region's Sugdian coins, the "Group of Ancient Turkic Coins" has expanded, and the concepts in this regard have become clearer. In particular, G'. Boboyorov, A. As a result of joining the ranks of numismatists such as Kubatin, a historian and Turkologist, it was found that many Turkish coins were minted in Choch, Ferghana, O'tror, Tokharistan, as well as in Sugd oasis [7]. These researchers proved that the Sughd coins are related to the Turkic Khanate not only by their iconography (image, stamp), but also by their titles.

In particular, it was determined that a significant part of the group of coins with the image of a long-haired ruler on one side and the traditional Samarkand mark (𐰉) was minted with the title of "khaqan", and that they were minted either by the rulers of Samarkand on behalf of the Turkish khagans or as a result of the khagans' own initiative. they emphasized. Thus, after Choch and Fergana, Sughd was recognized as a coin minting area in connection with the Turkic Khanate. On a group of Choch coins, the names of Western Turkish khans such as "Tardu Khagan", "Tun Jabgu-Khakan", "Ishbara Jabghu-Khakan" and titles and epithets such as "Jabghu", "Jabghu-Khakan", "Tun Khagan", "Khakan" At the same time, the identification of a series of coins in which the phrase "Turk-khaqan" appears in the adjective of the ethno-political name indicates that the khaqans minted their own coins in this oasis [8].

A similar situation can be seen in the Fergana Valley, where titles such as "Khokan", "Jabgu..." are found in a group of coins of the valley, and their stamp form is the same as that of Choch. Therefore, the researchers include Ferghana in the area where the coins typical of the Western Turkic Khanate were minted[9]. The coins of Samarkand differ from them only in the dissimilarity of the shape of the stamp. In contrast to the coins of the Khaqan in Choch and Fergana, the Samarkand coins with the title "khaqan" have a mark belonging to this land: 𐰉 (Choch, Fergana) - 𐰉 (Samarkand). In addition, the technique and iconography of Samarkand coins are slightly different from those of Choch and Fergana. At the same time, in the images of the ruler on the coins of all

three regions, a common anthropological similarity is noticeable, reminding the image typical of the ancient Turks.


The difference in the stamp suggests that these coins of Samarkand are not directly related to the khanate, but indirectly. That is, representatives of the local dynasty of Samarkand issued coins in the name of their masters as a sign of subordination. However, the occurrence of the phrase "Ruler Khagan of Turan" on Samarkand coins is controversial.

The fact that the word "Ruler of Turan" appears here strengthens the assumption that Samarkand coins may also be directly related to the Khagans. At that time, calling oneself "Ruler of Turan" was characteristic only of Turkish khagans. G'. According to Boboyorov, if the terms "Turon" and "Turkestan" were used almost synonymously in the early Middle Ages, and Turkistan is derived from the ethno-political name of the Turkic Khaganate, it is clear that the word "Turon" was used as one of the terms representing the Khaganate in that period[10]. Moreover, if we take into account the official meaning of the terms found on the coins, the probability that the khagans called their state "Turon" increases.

A number of researchers claim that the terms Turan-Turkistan were used in the same sense not only in the Middle Ages, but much earlier, perhaps even on the eve of Islam[11]. At this point, it should be taken into account that in the works of some researchers Abu Abdullah al-Khorazmi (10th century) and Abu Rayhan Beruni, the region of Marzi Turan or Mazduran in Khorasan was mentioned, and these scholars emphasized that it means "border of the Turks"[12].

In addition to the coins of this group, there are many types of coins minted in Samarkand during the Khaganate period. They are Chinese imitation coins minted by Samarkand ikhshids from the second half of the 7th century to the middle of the 8th century. On the coins of this group, in the Sugdian script, Shishpir (640-yy.), Avarkhuman (650-yy.), Tukaspadak (690-yy.), Tarhun (700-710), Gurak (710-738), Turghar (738-750) the names of the rulers are included[13], information about them is found mainly in Chinese and Arabic sources, and partly in Sugdian documents.

However, it is not known whether the names of the rulers of Samarkand who ruled before these rulers from the middle of the 6th century to the 40s of the 7th century appeared on coins or vice versa. Although the names of Shifubi (590th century) and Kyumuchji (610th century) appear in Chinese chronicles, it is not clear which coins belong to them.

Only the aforementioned Samarkand coins,  whose full-fledged "owner" has not yet been identified, in some respects suggest that they do not belong to these rulers, or at least to one of the rulers who ruled Samarkand before Shishpir.

At the time, O.I. Smirnova read the coins of this group as twr'k gwb "powerful ruler" or "Ruler of Species" [14], and G. Boboyorov's correction of the reading as twrnyn gwb "Ruler of Turan" requires reconsideration of this issue. does [15]. In particular, the identification of the sentence x'g'n gwb twrnyn "Ruler of Turan" on one type of these coins (Fig. I, 13) attracts attention as it has information that sheds light on this issue. This coin was read by O.I. Smirnova as gwb

mwrnyn gnš'n "The noble sign (owner) ruler Muk/rmin" [16] , but most researchers did not agree with this interpretation.

Another assumption related to this group of coins is that they probably belonged to the ruler of Samarkand, who was the son-in-law of the Turkish khagans. According to Chinese annals, the rulers of Khan (Samarkand) established good relations with the khagans in the late 6th - early 7th centuries, and thus gained a superior position among the surrounding rulers. For example, Tardu Khagan (576-603) gave his daughter Shifubi, and Tun Yabgu-Khagan (618-630) gave his daughter to the ruler of Samarkand named Kyumuchji[17]. Perhaps these rulers issued these coins on behalf of the Khagans as a recognition of their marriage relationship[18].

It is assumed that these periods belong to the coins of the form (ᠬᠣᠲᠤᠨ) with the image of a ruler and a queen in the shape of a Turk, with the title of "Khotun" [19], according to some researchers, these coins may have been minted by the rulers of Samarkand due to marriage ties [20] ]. It is noteworthy that these coins have a close iconographic similarity with the coins of the Western Turkic khanate with double portraits (ruler and queen) with jabgu, jabgu-khagan and khagan titles.

After these coins, coins with the image of the ruler minted in Samarkand are replaced by Chinese imitation coins with a square hole in the middle. This is related to the historical realities of that time, in 630 the eastern (central) part of the Turkic khanate centered in Orhun/Otukan (Mongolia) was invaded by China's Tang Empire, and in the same years, it was a period of increasing Chinese influence over the western Turkic khanate centered in Ettisuv.

So, when the Khaganate's control over its vassals weakened somewhat, the rulers of Samarkand began minting their coins under the influence of China. Nevertheless, it is known that the influence of the Khaganate in Samarkand remained until the first half of the 8th century[21]. For example, on coins with the names of rulers such as Tukaspadak (690-yy.), Tarhun (700-710), Gurak (710-738), Turghar (738-750) [22] together with the traditional Samarkand stamp (ᠬᠣᠲᠤᠨ) a different stamp (ᠬᠣᠲᠤᠨ) According to some researchers, this stamp is somewhat similar to the stamps on the coins of the Western Turkic Khanate: ᠬᠣᠲᠤᠨ (Choch) – ᠬᠣᠲᠤᠨ (Samarkand)[23].

It is known from Chinese chronicles that during the period from the second half of the 7th century to the end of this century, there were several changes of dynasty in the power of Samarkand [24], these facts correspond to the period when Tukaspadak, Tarhun, Guraks were in the control of Samarkand.

Among them, especially during the years of Ghurak's rule, relations between Samarkand and the Khaganate strengthened, and he named two of his sons as rulers belonging to the Ashina family. The eldest son Turghar with the name Turki sat on the throne of Samarkand between 738-750, and the second son Bek-chor (Bogu-chor) who was appointed to the administration of Maymurg came to sleep with the name of Eastern Turk Khagan Kapghan Bek-chor Khagan (691-716)[25]. According to the researchers, the meaning of the name Turghar is ancient Turkish, based on the verb tur [26].

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