Latest Contributions to the Numismatic History of Central Asia (late 18 – 19th Century) **Vladimir NASTICH** 

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### 1. Autonomous Coinage of the "Tashkand Republic" (1784–1808)

In 1784 the town and region of *Tāshkand* (Tashkent) seceded from the Kazakh khanate and fell under the joint rule of four local *ḥākims*, one of which, hakim of the Shaykhantaur section of the town Muhammad Yunus Khwaja 'Umari (ca 1756–1805), soon became the sole ruler of Tashkand.

First delivered to the 14th All-Russian Numismatic Conference (St. Petersburg, April 2007). As the post of hakim (circuit justice administrator) was primarily elective, we can state that the Tashkand hakimate should be considered a kind of republic. 2 **During** the «republican» period of its long history, Tashkand issued its own coins — tanga and pul (or *fulūs*).

NUI

Tashkand

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The tangas are produced in debased silver (about 3.8q, 22 to 27mm) and resemble the Janid silver money but for the name of the hakim محمد يونس خواجه عمري on one side; the other side bears the traditional Kalima (Sunnite creed formula). Unless undated, these coins show the only fixed year of issue 17. (1789-90 AD).

**The copper** coins are of two different sizes: smaller pieces are 14–17mm in diameter, bigger ones — 20–24mm. They also bear Yunus Khwaja's name, sometimes without his «family» nisba *'Umarī*.

The other side of the coppers can bear the invocation in Persian عاقبت خير باد *may the future life be good* (or *blessed be the future life*), the mint name ضرب تاشکند *coinage of Tāškand*, or else remains blank.

Shahrisabz

agar-NSha



According to some data requiring further verification, Yunus Khwaja's sons went on striking copper coins with different mintname versions -فاخر و تاشكند ,Tāškand تاشكند Fāhira-yi Tāškand, شاش Šāš (ancient name of the Tashkent oasis), or without legends, just with various images feline beast, bird, one to four fish, fabulous creature, etc. The only reported date is 1220 (1805 AD).

**Lack** of reliable information prevents the indisputable attribution of these coins to Yunus Khwaja's sons, Sultan Khwaja or Hamid Khwaja, inclining us to admit that they could equally be issued before the establishment of the Tashkand hakimate, viz. under the Janid or Kazakh khans. 5

### Suggested chronology

- Joint rule of 4 hakims, 1199/1784–1204/1789 (no coins known)
- Muhammad Yunus Khwaja 'Umari, sole ruler, 1204/1789–1215/1801 (died in 1219 or 1220/1805; silver tanga dated 1204 AH and undated copper coins)
- Muhammad Khwaja, 1215/1801–1218/1804 (governed in his father's name; no coins known)
- Sultan Khwaja Ishan, 1218/1803–1223/1808 (anonymous copper dated 1220 AH; several undated coin types also surmised)
- Hamid Khwaja, 1223/1808–...? (appointed by 'Alim Khan of Khoqand; no coins known)

### 2. Copper Coinage of the Shahrisabz Bekdom (after 1747–1870)

After the fall of the Janid khanate, Shahrisabz (formerly Kesh, the birth-place of Timur), town and region south of Samarqand was an autonomous domain ruled by local beks holding out against the Manghit amirs of Bukhara who always regarded it as their own appanage.

A distinctive copper coinage of Kesh and Shahrisabz, singled out recently from the late Central Asian coin range (6 types with 4 mint name varieties), proves the autonomous status of the Shahrisabz bekdom.

## Bilad-i Kesh

Earliest coin type (3 pieces known, weight up to 4g), all dated 1225 (1810 AD):

<b>Side 1</b> –	فلوس ۱۲۲۵
	fulūs 1225
<b>Side 2</b> –	بلاد کیش ۱۲۲۵
	Bilād-i Kīš 1225

**The term** *bilād* can be interpreted as «region, country, province», or just as the Arabic plural of *balad* — «towns», which may point to the regional character of the mintname *Kīš*.



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# Kesh-i Dilkash

**Cast specimen**, virtually unique (private collection, Moscow), dated 1246 (1830-31 AD) or, less probably, 1264 (resp. 1849-50 AD).

Weight 6.16g, diameter 13–14mm, thickness up to 5mm.

#### **Side 2** – **Side 1** – کیش / دلکش فلوس <...> Kīš-i Dilkaš copper [coinage] +date

Zeno #69830

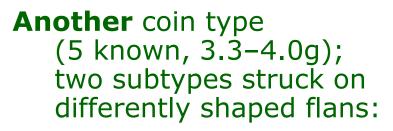
+date(?)

**NB:** *Kish* upturned upside-down over *Dilkaš*.

**Dilkaš** (literally «charming, heart-attracting») is an historical epithet to the name «Kesh», like Buhārā-yi Šarīf «Bukhara the Noble» or *Hugand-i Latif* «Khogand the Pleasant».

# Kesh-i Dilkash





**1) round** - *1246* (1830-31 AD);

**2) almond-shaped** – *1250* (1834–35 AD)

ضرب کیش دلکش – Side 1 – نمرب کیش دلکش – struck [at] Kīš-i Dilkaš +date

**Side 2** — عاقبت خير باد blessed be the future life +date

## Shahrisabz

**Two** different types with similar legends (3.3–4.3g): 1) dated *1254* (1838–39 AD); 2) discernible dates – *1257* and probably *1256*, *1258* & *1259* (all within 1840-1843 AD):

**Type 1** – ۱۲۵۴ ضرب شهر سبز ۲۵۴ *struck [at] Šahrisabz* +date



Zeno #32824





**Type 2** – ۱۲۵۷ جیر باد ۱۲۵۷ – **2** *blessed be the future life* +date

# Balda-yi Kesh-i Dilkash



Large coin (7.4–7.6g), seemingly of higher denomination, the only date known — *1268* (1851–52 AD):

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**Side 1** — فلوس ۱۲٦ بلده *copper [coinage] of the town (baldah)* +date **Side 2** — ۱۲٦٨ کیش سنه؟ ۸۶۲۸ *Kīš-i Dilkaš [in] year? 1268* 

### Suggested chronology (tentative for the moment)

- •Imam Quli Biy (seceded from the Janid khanate in or after 1160/1747)
- •<...> (a few names omitted as irrelevant to the topic) Shahrisabz conquered by the Manghits in 1199/1785
- •Niyaz 'Ali Bek, after 1785 1800(?) (no coins known)
- •Daniyal mir-akhur ataliq, c.1225/1810–1252/1836 (anonymous copper coins of *Bilad-i Kesh* and *Kesh-i Dilkash*)
- Baba Biy dadkhwah, c. 1252/1836–1256/1840(?) (anonymous coins of *Shahrisabz*, type 1)
- •Khwaja Qul[i] parwanachi, c.1256/1840–1262/1846 (anonymous coins of *Shahrisabz*, type 2)
- •Iskandar, 1262/1846-1272/1856

(anonymous large coins of Balda-yi Kesh-i Dilkash) Shahrisabz reconquered by Bukhara in 1272/1856; autonomy regained in 1278/1861

• Ashur Bek Biy; Hakim Bek Biy; Baba Bek Biy (successively from 1272/1856 to 1287/1870) (no coins known)

Shahrisabz occupied by Russian troops in 1868 and finally incorporated into the Bukhara emirate in 1287/1870

3. Malla Khan's "Posthumous" Issues of Khoqand (1288–1290 AH) a Regular Coinage of Ya'qub Bek at Kashghar

> One of the most enigmatic issues in the numismatic history of Central Asia is a coinage in the name of Malla Khan of Khoqand, dated 1288 to 1290 AH and thus often taken either for an evidence of his putative second reign or else a «commemorative» series under his brother Khudayar Khan, actually ruling over Khoqand at the time.

First inspected at the 9th All-Russian Numismatic Conference (Veliky Novgorod, April 2001). Kashghar

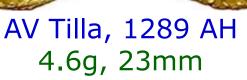
#### AR Tanga, 1289 AH 2.85g, 20-21mm





#### AV Tilla, 1288 AH 4.51g, 23mm





#### AR Tanga, 1289/1290 AH 2.96g, 15mm



Meanwhile, the same dates are encountered in the regular gold and silver coinage of Khudayar Khan. Moreover, it is known that Malla was assassinated in 1278 AH (exactly on 24 Feb. 1862) not without Khudayar's tacit approval. Likewise, no Malla II ever existed as well. So neither of these versions stands up to criticism.

The cited arguments cast heavy doubt on the very reliability of the mint name خوقند لطيف *Hūqand-i Lațīf*, and the real question is —

who actually struck these coins, and where did it take place in reality?

A sudden clue is found in the chronicle *Ta'rīḫ-i Amaniya* written by Mūsā Sayramī, a court annalist of the governor of Kashghar, Ya`qub Bek.

#### Musa Sayrami wrote:

«Ya'qub Bek brought from the Khoqand Khanate a group of exquisite craftsmen — seal-carvers and coin-stampers. They undertook the fabrication of gold coins **in the name of Malla Khan** (reporter's highlighting.— V.N.) and, on the other hand, started with preparations for coining copper money».

#### And here is a quotation from

Svat Soucek, **A History of Inner Asia** (Cambridge 2000), p. 265:

**«The coins** struck in the mint of Kashgar between 1867 and 1873 still bore the legend "**Struck in the Mint of Khoqand**" (reporter's highlighting here and below.— V.N.) and the name of **Malla Khan** (1858–62), but then die legend was changed to "**Struck in the Mint of Kashgar, the Capital**" and bore the name of the Ottoman sultan **Abdulaziz**».

#### AV Tilla, 1290 AH *Maḥrūsa-yi Kāšġar*



#### AR Tanga, 1292 AH



### AE Pul, 1292 and 1293 AH

#### AV Tilla, 1290/1291 AH Dār al-Salṭana-yi Kāšġar





So, all coins of the mint *Kāšġar* struck in *1290–1295* AH bear the names of Ottoman sultans — mostly '*Abd al-'Azīz Khān*, in the very end also *Murād Khān* (Tukhtiev, 1989) and '*Abd* Khoqand *al-Ḥamīd Khān* (see below)



**but never** their real issuers – Ya'qub Bek and his son Bek Quli.

Yet until lately we had no idea what kinds of coins (if any) were issued by Ya'qub Bek prior to that period. From now on, a considerable part of this gap, viz. from 1871 to 1873, can be proven to be reliably filled with the coin series presented here :

The coins dated 1288–1290 AH and shown as struck at Khuqand-i Latif in the name of Sayyid Muhammad Malla Khan were in fact produced by Ya'qub Bek in Kashghar

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