

SILVER COINAGE OF THE CALIPHS

(A FULLY ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE)

By

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**Dedicated
to my son Behnam
and my daughter Sepideh**

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PREFACE

Upon publication of my work, *The Earliest Coinage of the Islamic Empire* in 1991, a useful reference tool received widely and looked upon as an authoritative source, I decided to conduct a broader study of the Islamic coins, a demanding work which took a long time to complete with the following new design:

Title, Silver Coinage of the Caliphs:

The book contains complete details of 1777 pieces issued by the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphs or their appointed governors, like those of the Arab Sāsānians. These coins have been selected from among thousands of others.

This book has a special design in eight pages devoted to explaining in detail the different aspects of each of the eight typical groups of the eastern caliphate dirhams, **bearing the enlarged picture of the related types**, dedicated to each type of coin. Any detail on each coin not matching the enlarged picture of the related type is explained individually.

Each of the coins published in this book is marked with a specific number and bears a different date (**one piece for each year with a different mint**). Only a few have the same date as those in the next, with a different legend or die. An instance is the double minting of Marw 201 h, one of which is the standard and the other which reads " ... *al-amīr al-Rida heir of Muslims*" (# 1157, 1158). The Arabic legend indicated on each of the coins, as well as that of Pahlavi inscription have all been translated in English.

Method of compilation:

Chronological, beginning with the first coinage of Islam in 31H/ 651-652 AD up to the end of rule of the Abbasid dynasty in 656H/ 1258 AD.

The mint alphabetized method conforms to the **English alphabet**.

Illustrations:

The book is **fully illustrated**, all with high-quality images. Most of the photos are a little larger than the actual size to show each and every detail. The weight and actual size of each of the coins (diameter) are also provided.

Sources:

The coins recorded in this book are generally the pieces that I managed to look at, feel and hold in my hand over the past forty years. My sources have been companies active in the field of Islamic coins, private collectors, coin dealers and auctioneers, as well as Islamic coin experts, and others, to some of whom I have served as adviser on Islamic coins.

The whole book is divided into three sections:

- 1- Drachms with the bust of the ruler, Arab Sāsānian, the east series (Arab-Sīstānian), and the Ispahbad type of Tabaristān.
- 2- Umayyad dirhams
- 3- 'Abbāsīd dirhams

These sections have colored backgrounds, with a different color for each part, making it easier for the reader to browse through the book.

I would appreciate and welcome receiving any comments on this work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over the past four years that I have been working seriously and regularly on this book, I have constructively benefited from the assistance, advice, scientific and technical comments, as well as the encouragement and sincere cooperation of a great many people, without whose assistance, I should honestly admit, this work would never have been accomplished.

I acknowledge the contributions of friends who willingly and patiently devoted their precious time sharing their coin collections and advice, helping me to prepare the coin images put together in this book. I also acknowledge the contributions of those who sincerely assisted me in every respect. I find myself deeply indebted to those who contributed most constructively to the compilation and publication of this book.

My greatest sincere acknowledgements go to 'Abd al-Hamīd Ākūchakiān, former Deputy Manager of Cultural Heritage Organization in Isfahan Province; Sāghar Hamīdī, Supervisor of the museums in Isfahan Province; Afī-Asghar Mīrkhalaf, former President of the museums in Isfahan and Kashan; Joe Cribb and Elizabeth Savage of British Museum in London. Hodge Mehdi Malek in London whose cooperation and encouragement were, as always, generous and impressive; Robert E. Darley-Doran in London who sincerely assisted me throughout the stages of work on this book. My greatest thanks go to Elisabeth Darley-Doran who did her best to edit patiently and responsibly the major portion of the book; also to André de Clermont for his advice and encouragement; to Philip Skingley at Spink, London for his kindly and useful guidance; to Dr. Malek Iraj Mochīrī for establishing communication between Isfahan and Paris and his unfailing valuable comments; to Bahrām Ala'edini in Tehran for his sincere cooperation; to Michel G. Klat who paved my way to success, to Sheikh Hamad Āl-Thāni in Doha for his earlier friendly assistance; to Gholamabbas Zavari in Isfahan to edit responsibly the primary pages of the book. I also value the memory of the late Samīr Shamma for proposing years ago in London the idea of publishing this book.

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I appreciate the advice and encouraging ideas of my son Behnam, and the technical and artistic assistance of my daughter Sepideh who helped me with the design of the book, the cover of the book in particular, which she personally undertook to design. Finally, I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness for the assistance of the collectors who wished to remain anonymous, as well as of those who due to lapse of time their names fail me.

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