

**EARLY MEDIEVAL COINS OF CENTRAL ASIA AND THE REGIONS  
WHERE THEY WERE FOUND**

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A significant number of pre-Islamic Central Asian coins have been found in ancient and early medieval urban remains of the region, with the majority being Sogdian inscribed coins. In particular, most of the numismatic materials related to the early Middle Ages, i.e. VI-VIII centuries, belong to the Amudarya-Syrdarya region and adjacent areas.

It is also known that part of the numismatic materials of this period consists of coins printed in the ancient Khorezm script, a part in Bactrian and Pahlavi scripts, and a small part in the ancient Turko-Runic script.

Among the pre-Islamic coins of Central Asia, Sogdian-language coins are found in almost all regions of the region, including historical Choch (Tashkent), Sogd (Samarkand and its surroundings, Panjikent, Kesh - Shakhrisabz, Nakhshab - Karshi, etc.), Bukhara oases and Ettisuv land occupy the main place. The regions of Fergana, Isfijab (Sayram), Otrar (South Kazakhstan), Ustrushona (Jizzakh-Oratepa), North Tokhoristan (Surkhandarya region) are also recognized as areas where coins with Sogd inscriptions were minted, but the amount of coins found in these regions is not as high as the coins of the regions mentioned above. Also, there are not many types of coins of Fergana, Ustrushona, Isifjab, Otrar and North Tokhoristan with Sogdian writing.

Many of these coins were identified by numismatists - O.I. Smirnova, E.V. Rtveladze, L.S. Baratova, A. Musakaeva, G. Babayarov, A. Kubatin, A.V. Kuznetsov, Controversies still persist about the readability and mintage of the Sogdian inscriptions on some groups of coins, which have been carefully studied by V.D.Shagalov and others. [search. Smirnova 1981; Rtveladze 2002; Baratova

1999; Musakaeva 1990; Kuznetsov, Shagalov 2006; Babayarov 2007; Babayarov, Kubatin 2005].

Let's get acquainted with the numismatic finds in a number of regions of the region in order to have a certain idea about the weight and types of coins with Sogdian inscriptions of the early Middle Ages. In this matter, if we compare the Tashkent oasis and its neighboring regions (Fergana, Ustrushona), we will witness the following scene:

Coins with Sogdian inscriptions found in the early medieval monuments of the Tashkent oasis, such as Khanqa, Shahruhiya, Khanabad, Kavardon, Suyurlitepa, consist of 6 groups, 2 groups in the Fergana Valley, 2 groups in Jizzakh-Oratepa, 2 groups in the vicinity of Sayram, and 2 groups in the vicinity of O'trortoba are encountered.

Tashkent oasis coins can be divided into the following groups:

Group 1. Coins of the Western Turkic Khaganate (568-740).

A significant part of the coins found in the Tashkent oasis were minted by the West Turkic Khaganate, and there are titles of the supreme rulers of the Khaganate, such as "jabgu", "jabgu-khaqan", "khaqan", and there are more than 20 types of them [Babayarov 2007: 9- 24].

Group 2. Choch Tegins Dynasty Coins.

Coins belonging to this group have the ancient Turkish title "tegin" (prince), most of them have the image of a bar (leopard) on the obverse, the words "hukmdor tegin" in Sogdian script on the reverse, and the important part is the image of a ruler with long hair on the obverse, and on the reverse " It consists of coins with the inscription "Choch Hakomdori Tegin" [Babayarov 2007: 40-44]. Also among the coins of this group there are coins with the title of "ruler Yenchu El-tegin" with a square hole in the middle, like Chinese coins. In addition, "Choch Hukmadori eltabar" coins printed with the same stamp as "Choch Hukmadori Tegin" coins can also be included in this group. It should be said that the coins of this group are distinguished by the fact that they were found in many cases.

Group 3. Coins of the Choch Tudun dynasty.

In this group, there are types of coins with the image of the ruler's head on the front surface and a stamp on the reverse side and an inscription around it or a stamp with a fork (panshakha) appearance on the front surface and three lines of inscriptions on the reverse surface. These coins with the words "Choch ruler Satachari tudun", "Choch ruler tudun" and "hukmdor tudun" are also distinguished by their widespread discovery [Babayarov 2007: 52-55].

Group 4. I. Coins with the title "Choch ruler".

The stamps on the coins of this group are the same as the stamps on the "tudun" coins above. Although the image of the ruler on the coins of this group alone is reminiscent of the ancient Turks, without any Turkic titles found on them, the Sogdian script reads "Ruler of Choch" or "Ruler of Satachar / Stuchak?" words like [Babayarov 2007: 64-70].

Group 5. II. Coins with the title "Choch ruler".

Coins of this group have completely different stamps from the coins of the above group. Words such as "Choch ruler" or "Ruler coin" appear in them in the Sogdian script, and the shape of the stamp, images of the ruler, etc. indicate that the coins of this group belonged to a separate ruling dynasty of the Choch oasis [Babayarov 2007: 73-80].

Group 6. III. Coins with the title "Choch Hukdmori".

There is only one type of coin in this group, the head of the ruler facing straight or slightly to the side on the obverse surface, and on the reverse surface there is a unique stamp and the words "Choch hakmadori..." in Sogdian language around it. It should be mentioned that the inscription of coins of this group has been read differently until now [search. Babayarov 2007: 22-23].

As mentioned above, there are not many groups and types of coins of the Ferghana Valley, which is close to the Choch oasis, and they can be divided into the following groups:

Group 1, round 1. Coins belonging to the network dynasty of the Western Turkic Khaganate.

On the obverse surface is the image of a ruler with a Turkic face facing

straight, as on the coins of the West Turkic Khaganate of Choch, and to his right and next to the word is an ancient Turkish inscription, and on the reverse side is the same stamp as on the coins of the Khaganate with the title "jabgu" and coins with Sogdian writing around it.

Group 1, round 2. Coins with the title "Khagan" with a square hole in the middle.

On the obverse side of the coins of this group, the title and stamp of "Khagan" can be found in Sogdian script, and on the reverse side the term "Fergana". In some types, there was no inscription [Boboyorov 2023: 97-104].

Group 2. Coins with a square hole in the middle with the title "Farn". Only the word "farn" (qut) appears on the obverse surface of the coins of this group.

If we compare the coins of Choch oasis with the coins of Ustrushona, it can be seen that Ustrushona coins are much smaller both in terms of weight and type. They are as follows:

Group 1. I. Traditional Ustrushona coins.

The obverse of the coins of this group shows the image of the ruler's head facing straight, and on the reverse there is a stamp typical of Ustrushona, and the words "ruler Satachari", "ruler Rahanch", "ruler Chirdmish" are written next to it in Sogdian script [Smirnova 1981: 32-34]. It should be noted that only one type of coins of this group has an image of an elephant on the front surface.

Group 2. II. coins with the title "eltabar".

Similar to the Ustrushona coins above, the image of the head of the ruler is on the obverse surface, and on the reverse surface there is a traditional stamp and the title "Ruler of Ustrushona eltabar" in Sogdian script around it [Boboyorov 2021: 95-103].

It can be seen that, in contrast to Choch, in neighboring Fergana and Ustrushona, the group to which the coins belonged and their types were not so numerous. Although it is not clear what historical factors are behind this, the fact that the Choch oasis is a region richer in economic and ethnocultural processes compared to them, that the northern branches of the Great Silk Road were accelerated in this

area, that the Western Turkic Khaganate moved one of its administrative centers to the Choch oasis, and as a result, this area is important becomes a political and economic center.

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