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## 17. Mints and Coinage of Jahangir from Rajasthan

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Inscribing mint name on the coin is one of the important features of medieval Indian coinage which has been noticed on the coins of Delhi sultanates and provincial sultanates. Mint name, however, became common and find prominent place on the coins of Mughals. More than five hundred Mughal mints are reported throughout the Empire, representing in three metals gold (muhar), silver (rupiya) and copper (dam or falus). Like other parts of the Empire, Mughals also established their mints in the region of Rajasthan. Akbar was the first Mughal king who established his mints in Rajasthan and his son and successor, Jahangir continued to issue his coins from Rajasthan which was followed by his successors.

Mint name on the coins is an important evidence for historical interpretation. It helps us to understand coinage in a particular region with definite proof. The mint name on the coins generally reveals the possession of a particular place by a ruler on the one hand and extent of the empire on the other. The abundance and paucity of the coins from a particular mint may be understood as the importance of the mint.

Various aspects of Mughal coinage in general and Jahangir in particular including its mints have been studied in the past but the mints and coinage of Jahangir in regional perspective has not received proper attention of the scholars. The present paper aims to understand the mints and coinage of Jahangir in the region of Rajasthan. It tries to analysis the continuity and change between the coinage of Jahangir from Rajasthan and his eoinage issued from other regions of the Empire. It also discusses the mints of Jahangir operated from Rajasthan with metal wise representation along with the coin typology.

It is necessary to mention here that the present study includes modern state of Rajasthan and not the Rajasthan of Mughal period, as Rajasthan with the present geographical boundaries has not been a suba of Mughal Empire. Rajasthan in the Mughal period may be understood as suba Ajmer, which includes present Ajmer, Chittor, Ranthambhore, Jodhpur, Sironi, Nagaur and Bikaner (Irfan Habib., An Atlas of Mughal Empire; Political and Economic Map with Detailed Notes, Bibliography and Index. Delhi, 1982), while other important places such as Alwar, Bairat of present Rajasthan were part of suba Agra of Mughal (Irfan Habib,1982). Since the present study covers modern state of Rajasthan Alwar and Bairat are also included in our study.

The study is primarily based on numismatic evidence mainly Museum catalogues