Original article

THE COINAGE OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES DURING THE ZIYĀRĪD PERIOD

Rostom, A.
Ass. Prof. Department of Islamic Archaeology, Faculty of Archaeology, Fayoum University, Egypt
E-mail: tony_ahmd@yahoo.com

Received 25/12/2013 Accepted 3/5/2013

Abstract
This search aims to study three dinars of the rebel against Ziyārid; the first dinār is minted in Tabaristan? 323 H., the second is minted in al-Karj? 323H. and these two dinars are in the name of Bakran b. Khurshid, and the third is dinār minted in Sāri 341H., in the name of Al-Hassan b Fīrūzan. These dinārs were never studied before.

Keywords: Dinars, Tabaristan, al-Karj, Bakran, Fīrūzan.

1. Introduction
This search presents the coinage of the revolutionaries against the Ziyarid, the first one is Bakran b. Khurshid, who was a general in the service of the Ziyarid ruler Mardawij b. Ziyar, there are two dinārs, in the name of Bakran b. Khurshid, the first minted in Tabaristan in 323 H., and the second minted in al-Karj in 323 H. As for as the second name is Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan, who refused Washmār’s obedience, and announced his obedience to the Sāmānid governor Nasr b. Ahmad. In 336 H. / 947 AD. Rukn al-Dawlah defeated Washmār, and then Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan announced his obedience to Rukn al-Dawlah, where the last appointed him in Jurjān in 341 H. / 952 AD. There is a dinār in the name of Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan, minted in Sāri in 341 H.

2. Bakran b. Khurshid

2.1. The relationship between Bakran b. Khurshid and Ziyārid dynasty
Bakran b. Khurshid was a general in the service of the Ziyārid ruler Mardawij b. Ziyar, and was involved in the conspiracy, which plotted Mardawij’s murder in 323 H. Miskawayh refers to events 322 H (933 \ 934 AD.), that Mardawij b. Ziyar sent Bakran with solders from al-Gæl and the Daylamite to seize al-A hwaz to block the way in the face of Ali b. Buyah [1]. There are two dinārs in the name of Bakran b. Khurshid were never studied before.

As mentioned in fig. (1-a, b), this Dinar was minted in Tabaristan? 323 H. [2], its inscription is as follows "Circle around Obv., and Rev.".
2.1.1.1. Obv. field

لا إله إلا 
الله وحده 
لا شريك له 
بكران بن خرشيد

Inner margin

بسم الله ضرب هذا الدير (بطبرس)ان سنة ثلاث وعشرين وثلاثية

Outer margin

لله الأمر من قله ومن بعد يومين يقرخ المؤمنون بصر الله ينصر

2.1.1.2. Rev. field within a circle

لا إله إلا 
الله محمد 
رسول 
الراضي بالله

Margin

محمد رسول الله أرسله بالهدي ودين الحق ليظهره على الذين كله ولو كره المشركون

The obverse field

This field includes لا إله إلا / الله وحده / لا شريك له and the name of Bakran b. Khurshid is in the last line.

Inner margin "includes mint and date formula" [3]

Outer margin "is inscribed a verse from Qur'anic quotation from Surat al-Rum (xxx, 4-5)".

On the Reverse field, above، الله and in the second محمد / رسول / الله and the name of Al- Radi Billah، الرامي بالله. This is honorific title of the Abbasid caliph Abū al-Abbas Mohamad b. al-Muqtader billah (322-329 H / 934-940 A.D.) [4]. It indicates the declaration of Bakran b. Khurshid submission to the Abbasid caliph the political and religious symbol for the Sunni in the Islamic world at this time. As for the reverse margin the usual Qur'anic verse (9:33), or the identical one (61:9) is applied.

It is noted that this dinār agrees in general form and the inscriptions texts accord with the contemporaneous Abbasid coins; where the obverse field is devoted to record لا إله إلا / الله وحده / لا شريك له and the name of the Abbasid caliph, but added to the dinār the name of the general Bakran b. Khurshid, and the obverse inner Margin dedicated for mint and the date, while the outer margin to the Qur’anic quotation from Surat al-Rum. As for the reverse field, it is devoted محمد / رسول / الله and the name of the Abbasid Caliph, while the reverse margin is dedicated to record the Qur’anic verse (9:33).

2.1.2. The 2nd Dinar

This Dinār minted in al-Karj [b] in 323 H., fig. (2-a) [5] [6]. As mentioned in fig. (1), it could be seen that the mint name "al-Karj" was written "instead of Tabaristān". From this point of view, it could be concluded that these two dinārs were minted by Bakran b. Khurshid after the death of Mardawij b. Ziyar. Furthermore, Bakran b. Khurshid inscribed the name of the Abbasid caliph Al- Radi Billah to give legitimacy to his ruler.
3. Al- Hassan b. Fīrūzan

3.1. The relationship between Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan and Ziyārid dynasty

Al-Hassan b Fīrūzan was mentioned in the historical sources after the death of his cousin Mākān b. Kāfī [4], and his threats of the Ziyārid dynasty [5] [7]. He was similar to Mākān in courage. When Mākān died, Washmīr b. Ziyār (323-357 H. / 935-968 AD.) sent to Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan to ask for his obedience, but Ibn Fīrūzan refused. Ibn Fīrūzan took hostile position where he thought that Washmīr leads Mākān to murder. So Ibn Fīrūzan was inciting the supporters of Mākān against Washmīr. Ibn Fīrūzan tried to support himself and his rebellion, so he announced his loyalty and obedience to the Sāmānīd prince Nasr b. Ahmad (301-331 H. / 913-943 AD.) [1]. In 330 H. / 941-2 AD., Washmīr marched out to Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan in Sārī [8] so Ibn Fīrūzan walked to the Sāmānīd ruler Abū‘Ali Ahmad b. Abi Bakr Muhammad b. Al-Muaffar b. Al-Muhtaj [4], to rescue him, and announced his obedience to Abū‘Ali, in order to help him against Washmīr, Abū‘Ali agreed, and marched with him to Rayy. Washmīr met them outside Sārī, the war continued between them for days, until Abū‘Ali knew that Sāmānīd prince Nasr b. Ahmad died, whereat Abū‘Ali reconciled Washmīr, and took Salar the son of Washmīr as hostages.
Abū‘Ali and Al-Hassan b. Fīruzān returned to Jurjān, but the later was not satisfied with what Abū‘Ali did. Ibn Fīruzān wanted him to complete the war, but Abu‘Ali refused. And when they arrived to limit between Jurjān and Khurāsān, Ibn Fīruzān attacked Abū‘Ali, and conquered him, and took his money, and took Salar b. Washmār, who was with Abū‘Ali. Then Ibn Fīruzān seized Jurjān, a province of Dāmīghār[9], Samnān[10], and the citadel which Abū‘Ali protected[1][4][10]. In the meantime Washmār marched from Tabaristān to Rayy, and seized it, whereas Al-Hassan b. Fīruzān wanted to appeal to Washmār against Abū‘Ali b. Al-Muhtaj. So Ibn Fīruzān sent to Washmār his son Salar, Ibn Fīruzān aimed to be strengthened against al-Khurāsān, if they rewayed war against him. Washmār sent his son, and did not authorize Ibn Fīruzān to invalidate conditions of accord with the Sāmānid[1][4][10]. Rukn al-Dawlah, the Buyid, marched to Rayy, and conquered Washmār, and seized Rayy, then he added to Rukn al-Dawlah many of Washmār’s men. The later marched to Tabaristān. Al-Hassan b. Fīruzān conquered him and returned to Khurāsān on the road of Shahraiar Mountain. After that Ibn Fīruzān sent to Rukn al-Dawlah, to contact him, the later agreed, an Alliance was accomplished between them, and Rukn al-Dawlah married the daughter of Ibn Fīruzān, the mother of the prince Fakhr al-Dawlah ‘Ali (366-387 H. / 976-997 AD.) b. Rukn al-Dawlah [1][4][10]. In 333 H. / 944-5 AD., Nuh b. Nasr (331-343 H. / 943-954 AD.) sent to Abū‘Ali b. Al-Muhtaj with Khurāsān troops to Rayy to rescue it from Rukn al-Dawlah, and when he came down Bistām [11], opposed by some who were with him, where they returned with Mansūr b. Qarātākīn, one of the great leaders of Nuh, and they marched to Al-Hassan b. Fīruzān in Jurjān, the later conquered them, and they returned to Nisābūr. Abū‘Ali walked to Rayy; Rukn al-Dawlah went out for war. They met in a battle three leagues (farsakhs) from Rayy, the Kurds who was with Abū‘Ali joined Rukn al-Dawlah and Abū‘Ali was conquered, and returned near Nisābūr. Washmār met Abū‘Ali, where the prince Nuh b. Nasr sent him with troops to help Washmār. Abū‘Ali marched to Ibn Fīruzān in Jurjān, the later was conquered, Washmār controlled Jurjān, and that was in Safar 333 H. / 945 AD. [4][10]. In Rabī‘a I 336 H. / September 947 AD. Rukn al-Dawlah and his leader Al-Hassan b. Fīruzān conquered Washmār. Rukn al-Dawlah seized Tabaristān, Jurjān, and appointed Ibn Fīruzān as a ruler on Jurjān. Then Rukn al-Dawlah returned to Rayy, while Washmār returned to Khurāsān asking the Sāmānid Nuh b. Nasr to retake his country [4][10]. Moreover, in 337 H. / 948-9 AD. Nuh b. Nasr ordered Mansūr b. Qarātākīn to help Washmār. Mansur marched with the troops of Khurasan in the company of Washmār to Al-Hassan b. Fīruzān in Jurjān. But Mansūr reconciliated Ibn Fīruzān, and came back to Nisābūr, Ibn Fīruzān stayed in Zawzan[6][8], while Washmār remained in Jurjān [4][10]. In 341 H. / 952-3 AD., Rukn al-Dawlah marched from Rayy to conquer Tabaristān and Jurjān. Washmār moved from Jurjān to Nisābūr. Then Rukn al-Dawlah marched to Nasa‘[5][8] and stayed there, and seized this country, and left Al-Hassan b. Fīruzān and ‘Ali b. Kamāh as his lieutenants in Jurjān. When Rukn al-Dawlah returned to Rayy, Washmār marched to them, and conquered them, and retook Jurjān [4][10]. In 342 H. / 953-4 AD. Nuh b. Nasr sent to Washmār and Al-Hassan b. Fīruzān for reconciliation, and ignored the dispute between them, and cooperated against those who divided the dynasty, they agreed on that Al-Hassan b. Fīruzān died in 356H. / 966 AD. [1][4].
3.1.1. The Dinar of Al-Hassan b. Fîrûzan

This dinar, fig. (3), was never studied before, it was published in Baldwin’s, Islamic coin Auction 14, 8 July 2008 [6]. Its inscription is as follows "Double circle around Obv., and Rev."

3.1.1.1. Obv. field

This dinar, fig. (3), was never studied before, it was published in Baldwin’s, Islamic coin Auction 14, 8 July 2008 [6]. Its inscription is as follows "Double circle around Obv., and Rev."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inner margin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outer margin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>اللهم إني لست شريكك</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>المطيع لله</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>الحسن فیروزان</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.1.2. Rev. field within a circle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Margin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>محمد رسول الله</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>رکن الدولة</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>أبو علي بويه</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The obverse field

Includes ΑϦͿ΍ϻ·Ϫϟ·ϻϪϟϚϳήηϻϩΙΣϭ, followed by the title of al- Mutî’ a lillâh,m unrestored. This is a honorific title of the Abbasid caliph Abû al-Qasim al-fadl b. al-Muqtader billah (334-363 H. / 946-974 AD.) [4]. It indicates the declaration of Al-Hassan b. Fîrûzan submission to the Abbasid caliph the political and religious symbol for the Sunni in the Islamic world at this time. In the first and the last lines is inscribed the name of "al-Hassan b. Fîrûzan" the descendant of the first Abbasid caliphs. Mint and date formula was inscribed in the inner margin. On the outer margin is inscribed a verse from the Qur’anic quotation from surat al-Rum (xxx. 4-5), followed by the name of the Abbasid caliph, and the name of the ruler Al-Hassan b. Fîrûzan, as a governor follower of the Buyid state, and the obverse inner Margin dedicated for mint and date formula, in the outer margin inscribed the Qur’anic quotation from surat al-Rum. As for the reverse field, it is devoted for the Kalima محمد رسول الله، and the name of the Buyid prince, while the reverse margin is dedicated to inscribe the Qur’anic verse (9:33).
4. Conclusion
This dirham was minted after Rukn Al-Dawlah seized Tabaristan and Jur-jan with helping Al-Hassan b. Firuzan, who was appointed the ruler on Jur-jan. This dirham is reflecting the political relationship between Rukn Al-Dawlah as presiding over, and Al-Hassan b. Firuzan, as a follower ruler to him. Moreover this dirham is a historical document which shows the relationship between Al-Hassan b. Firuzan and Buyids, before one year from the inside by the Samanid prince Nuh b. Nasr to appeal al-Hassan b. Firuzan beside him, when he sent to Al-Hassan and Washmagir to discard the dispute between them, and unify their ranks to face their enemies Buyids, and the alliance with the Samanid prince. But there is not any coins showing the following stage between al-Hassan b. Firuzan and the Samanid dynasty.

Endnotes
(a) Tabaristan: A mountainous region located in the north western section from Iran, and bordered to th east Jur-jan and Qumis, Azrebian province, and some of country's Rum, and part of the Caspian sea from the west, and from the south some Qumis, Al- Rayy, Qazvin, Iraq, and part of Azrebian, in the north is the Caspian sea.
(b) Al-Karj: A city between Hamadhan and Isbhan.
(c) Historical sources refer to him with the name of Al-Hsassan b. Al-Firuzan, but in this research we will refer to him with the name of al-Hassan b. Firuzan, according to this dirham.
(d) Makan b. Kalli: Daylamite general, was appointed by Abü al-Hussein b. ‘Ali Al-Utrushi Astrabad in 309 H. / 921 AD. Makan seized Jur-jan from Baghra, the Samanid ruling, but al-Hassan al-Utrushi defeated Makan and seized Jur-jan and, Tabaristan. After the death of al-Utrushi, Asfar b. Shirawayh dominated. Makan took advantage of that and expulsion Asfar of Tabaristan, who left to Jur-jan. Asfar could seize Rayy and forced Makan to leave it. After the death of Asfar, Mardawiy b. Ziyar was appointed, came to power, and greed in the annexation of Jur-jan and Tabaristan which were held by Makan. Mardawiy walked to Tabaristan and seized it. Makan was able to take Nisabur and Tabaristan in 324 H. / 935 AD. When Makan tried to seize Jur-jan; the deputy of Washmagir was repelled from it. So Makan sent Washmagir to give him ruling of Jur-jan, Washmagir agreed. Since that time raising the profile Makan, he took off obedience to the Samanid prince Ahmad b. Nasr, in
Ramadan 324 H. / 936 AD. And the Alliance with Washmgır, but Mâkân was defeated by the Sâmânîs and was killed in Ishaqâbad city in 329 H. / 941 AD.

(e) The real founder to the Ziyârîd state (316-470 H. / 928-1077 AD.) is Mardîwjî b. Ziyâr, who announced in year 316-319 H. / 928-931 AD., his independence in Jurjân, Tabaristân, and seized Isfahan, Hamadhan, and payments of its strength even Helwan on the board of island (Iraq), in order to seize Iraq form the state as a Sassanid, the caliph has entrusted him to rule the country under his possession, Mardîwjî was killed in 323. / 935 AD., and was succeeded by his brother Washmgır, who entrusted in obedience to the Sâmânîd. When the Buyid state emerged in 320 H. / 932 AD., the Ziyârîd influence did not exceed the limits of Jurjân and Tabaristân, so that Qabûs b. Washmgır was exiled from his country in 371 H. / 982 AD., by the Buyid Mu'ayyad al-Dawlâh (366-372 H. / 976-973 AD.), when he returned from his exile in 389 H. / 999 AD. He was able to retake the territory of Gilanând, but he was killed by his soldiers in 403 H. / 1012 AD. And he was succeeded by his son Manawchehr, who was obedient to the sultan Mahmud of Ghazni (389-421 H. / 999-1030 AD.), and engraved his name on the coins, and prayed for him in Friday sermon. The last Ziyârîd rulers Kilan Shah (462-470H. / 1069-1077 AD.), then the Ismaillia occupied the Ziyârîd country.

(f) He was appointed by the Sâmânîd prince Nasr b. Ahmad (301-331 H. / 913-943 AD.). In 327 H. / 938 AD., to Khurasan and their armies, instead of his father Abu Bakr. In Muḥrram of 328 H. / October 939 AD. Siezed Jurjân, and Rayy in 329 H. / 940 AD. In 330 H. / 941 AD. Abu ‘Ali captured the country of the mountain, and seized Zankan, Abhar, Qazvin, Qum, Karaj, Hamadhan, Nahawand and Dainwar to the limits of Helwan. His death was in 340 H. / 951 AD.

(g) Dâmîghân: A big country between the Rayy and Nisâbûr, and it is Qasabat Qumîs.
(h) Samnân: Country between Rayy and Dâmîghân, and some consider it in Qumîs.
(i) Zawzan: A wide Korah between Nisâbûr and Herât
(j) NASA: A city in Khurâsân

References