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(Iran)

A NEW COLLECTION OF SASANIAN COINS IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRAN

Keywords: Sasanians, coinage, Sayfi collection, Tehran's National Museum

The Sayfi Collection¹ is one of the most important collections in the National Museum of Iran, Tehran. It contains more than 80 thousand objects from pre-historic times to the modern period of Iran's artistic tradition. The Iran's National Museum started a comprehensive digital registration of all the objects in the Museum that concerns also the Sayfi Collection. After that it will be possible to provide an exact number of objects belonging to the Sayfi Collection. Part of it is an important collection of coins numbering about 500 specimens from the pre-Islamic period. The bulk of them date to the Sasanian period (300 to 350), and the rest comes from the Parthian period (100 to 150). Most of the Sasanian coins belong to the reign of Khusro II in the late sixth/early seventh century CE. This coin collection arrived at the National Museum in 1993 when the Police of Tehran arrested a smuggler who possessed many ancient objects. The Conservation Department kindly prepared the coin collection for photography after the objects were cleaned.

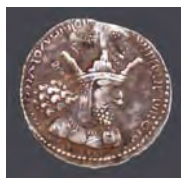
¹ I plan to study and publish the collection together with its curator, Mr. Sayfi. He kindly supported me and prepared the data concerning weight and diameters of coins. I would like to thank my colleague, Ms. M. Gorji for her kindness to prepare the collection's objects. I also thank Mrs. Fekri, who kindly photographed a number of objects. I appreciate my colleague, Mrs. S. Piran who took pictures of the rest of the collection.

Key to plates

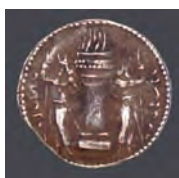
Number	Obvers	Revers (mint; year)		Diameter (mm)	Weight (gram)
		3	4		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	mzdysn bg šhpwhry Mlk'n MlkA 'yl'n MNW ctry MN yzd'n	NWRA ZY	Šhpwhry	2.3	4.2
2	hwslwb'	PL	pn-chl	3.3	4.6
3	hwslwb' 'pzw	YZ	chly	3.1	3.9
4	hwslwb' GDE 'pzw' 'pd	ŠY	hšt-wyst'	3.2	4.8
5	" " " "	DA	syh	3.2	3.7
6	" " " "	DA	hpt-syh	3.1	4.1
7	" " " "	GD	šš- syh	3.1	3.7
8	" " " "	GD	šš-wyst'	3	4.1
9	" " " "	WYH/WH?	nwc-wyst'	3.3	4.2
10	" " " "	AT	ch'l-dh	3.1	4.1
11	" " " "	GD	šš-syh	3.1	4.1
12	" " " "	AHM	hšt-wyst'	3.2	3.6
13	" " " "	BYŠ	ch'l-syh	3.1	3.6
14	" " " "	BYŠ	šš-syh	3.2	4.1
15	" " " "	BYŠ	pnc-wyst'	3.1	4
16	" " " "	ŠY	hpt-dh	3.1	4
17	hwslwb' GDE 'pzw'	AHM	hpt-syh	3.3	4
18	" " " "	GD	hpt-syh	3.1	3.5
19	" " " "	YZ	hpt-wyst'	3.2	4.1
20	" " " "	ŠY	pnc- syh	3.2	3.9
21	" " " "	LD	y'c-syh	3.1	4.1
22	" " " "	AY	hpt-syh	3.2	4
23	" " " "	LYW	pnc- syh	3.2	4
24	" " " "	GD	ASLA	3.1	4
25	" " " "	MY	syc-dh	3.3	3.9
26	" " " "	WYH	pnc- syh	3.3	4
27	" " " "	WYHC	pnc- syh	3.4	4
28	" " " "	WYHC	TŠA?	3.4	3.8
29	" " " "	YZ	y'c-syh	3.2	4
30	" " " "	ST	hpt-syh	3.2	4
31	" " " "	BYŠ	TWMNA	3.2	4
32	" " " "	AT	nwc-wyst'	3.2	4.1
33	" " " "	AY	hšt-syh	3.2	4
34	" " " "	AW	y'c-wyst	3.3	4
35	" " " "	MY	syh	3.2	4
36	" " " "	YZ	nwc-wyst'	3.1	4.4
37	" " " "	WYHC	syc-syh	3.2	4
38	" " " "	AHM	hšt-wyst'	3.1	3.6
39	" " " "	AY	hpt-syh	3.1	4.3
40	" " " "	MY	pnc-wyst'	3.2	4
41	" " " "	ART	TŠA?	3.2	4
42	" " " "	LAM	TLYN	3.1	4

1	2	3	4	5	6
43	'hlmzd'pzw'n	WYHC	ŠBA	3.1	3.9
44	" "	LYW	ASLA	3.3	4
45	" "	WH	dw'c-dh	3.4	3.9
46	AWML Y AWBYTALAH AL HMD LLH	B'CLA	šš- šst	2.9	4.3

Sayfi Collection



1A



1B



2A



2B



3A



3B



4A



4B



5A



5B



6A



6B



7A



7B



8A



8B



9A



9B



10A



10B



11A



11B



12A



12B



13A



13B



14A



14B



15A



15B



16A



16B



17A



17B



18A



18B



General Bibliography

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Abstract

The Sayfi Collection is one of the most important collections at the National Museum of Iran, Tehran, consisting of over 80 thousand Iranian traditional artistic objects from pre-historic times to the modern period. The collection includes about 500 coins from the pre-Islamic period; the bulk of them is datable to the Sasanian period (300 to 350) and the rest comes from the Parthian period (100 to 150). The Sasanian coins mostly belong to the rule of Khosrow II in the late sixth/early seventh century CE.

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