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« The Anonymous Coinage of the Barakzays and Their Rivals in Afghanistan : A Reappraisal ».

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- 1 Brilliant analysis of the complex numismatic history of an equally complex period in Afghan history, the rule of the Barakzay dynasty (a tribe in the Dorrani confederation) in 19th century Afghanistan, focusing on the anonymous silver coinage of the time. Examining the three existing mints, Kabul, Qandahar, and Herat, the article offers a wealth of information showing how the historical developments are mirrored in the coinage, and in the process suggests numerous topics for further numismatic and historical research. It is not clear who is better served here, the historian or the numismatist. The former is offered a detailed and well-presented narrative that disentangles the convoluted history of the dynasty in its numerous manifestations – a handy list of characters enables the reader to follow the dizzying array of warlords making their appearance. The latter is treated to, among other things, the author's learned musings on the nature and possible meaning of anonymous coinages. The study ends with a brief overview of other Dorrani mints, an analysis of J. P. Ferrier's report on metrology, and tabular summaries of the coins struck at the three mints.

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Thèmes : 4.3. Histoire de l'Iran moderne (à partir de 1905)

AUTEURS

RUDI MATTHEE

Université de Delaware (États-Unis)