

# *Johor Currency Heritage*

BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA

NASKAH PEMULIHARAAN  
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## *Foreword*

The publication of this book reflects the objective of the Bank Negara Money Museum, which is not only to serve as a permanent repository of the country's numismatic heritage, but also to disseminate information.

This is the second instalment in a series of books to be published by the Money Museum on Malay Sultanate currencies. The first was *The Legendary Kijang*, which featured the various issues of the Kelantan Kijang gold coins in the Museum's collection. Johor has long played an important commercial role in the Malay Peninsular. Seafarers plying the trade routes between the 16th and 18th centuries, stopped at its port and through it moved large amounts of goods. This book records chronologically the many coins issued in Johor during this period. Many of the coins denote the names of the rulers who authorized their issue.

I hope that this book will enable the numismatists and the general public to understand better Johor's glorious past.



( Ahmad Mohd Don )  
GOVERNOR

## *A Brief History of Johor*

**J**ohor, at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsular, was part of the Melaka empire. The Kingdom of Johor rose into prominence after the fall of Melaka. It inherited Melaka's traditions, style of government and its goals.

In 1511, the Portuguese stormed and captured Melaka forcing Sultan Mahmud to make a strategic withdrawal to Pahang, eventually to Kampar, Sumatera. He ended his days there in 1528. His elder son, Muzaffar Shah migrated to Perak to become the first Sultan there. The other son, Alauddin Riayat Shah, started the Johor sultanate.

Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah had not forgotten his father's former seat of power or goal to recapture Melaka. His efforts to do so proved futile. When he died, he was succeeded by his son, Sultan Muzaffar Shah (1564-1570).

Throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the growth of the Johor empire was impeded by wars with the Portuguese as well as Aceh.

Aceh, located across the Straits of Melaka in Sumatera, emerged as a power to be reckoned with during the reign of Sultan Ali Mughayat Shah (1514-1530). It soon became an important trading and Islamic centre in South-East Asia.

The winds of war did not favour Johor during that time and the capital at Batu Sawar was destroyed by the Portuguese and the Achinese. This was only a temporary setback for Johor.

In 1641, Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III (1623-1677) aided the Dutch in the capture of Melaka from the Portuguese.

The Johoreans were instrumental in supplying reinforcements when many of the Dutch forces had fallen ill during the four-month conquest of Melaka.

A month later, Sultan Iskandar Thani of Aceh passed away. Freed from the threats of the Portuguese and Aceh, Johor grew. Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III rebuilt the capital and encouraged trade. The Sultan arranged with the Dutch on matters like free ship passes based on their mutual respect for an old alliance. The Indian Muslims frequented Johor with cloth. Johor established direct trade with India in 1649, returning with ninety-five bales and fourteen chests of an assortment of cloths. Johor also established direct textile trade with China and spices with the East Indies.

Then, in 1661, war with Jambi forced Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III to retreat to Pahang where he died in 1677. When Sultan Ibrahim ascended the throne, the capital was transferred to Riau. From this new base, the Sultan's Laksamana, Tun Abdul Jamil, defeated Jambi to end the war in 1679. The victory placed Johor back on its feet and avenged the humiliations that it had suffered at the hands of Jambi.

Johor's prestige soared because of its trading and military successes. The arrival of a French ship *Vautour* in 1680 boosted its prestige further. It carried a letter from King Louis XIV of France to Sultan Ibrahim. The Sultan was so pleased that he instructed four Johor ships to accompany the French vessel safely to its final destination in Siam.

When Sultan Ibrahim died in 1685, he left behind an heir ten years of age, Sultan Mahmud Shah II. Sultan Mahmud ruled Johor for fourteen years until the *derhaka* committed against him by the Orang Kaya Megat Sri Rama.

According to the Siak Chronicles, Sultan Mahmud Shah II had an aversion for women because his fairy wife disliked any rivals. One day the pregnant wife of the Orang Kaya was passing by the palace when she saw a jackfruit in the palace grounds. She began to have an irresistible craving for the fruit and pleaded with a palace guard for a section of it. The guard told her that the fruit was to be served to the Sultan after he awoke from his midday nap. The guard finally gave in to her persistence. As soon as the Sultan awoke, he refreshed himself and asked for the jackfruit. After being told of what had happened to the missing section on the fruit, the Sultan laughed and summoned for the pregnant wife of Megat Sri Rama. Sultan Mahmud II had her stomach cut open so that he could see the child in her womb sucking the jackfruit.

Megat Sri Rama, outraged upon hearing the atrocity, swore vengeance on behalf of his wife and his unborn child. Before embarking on this very serious undertaking, Megat Sri Rama consulted his family, then the Bendahara and the Temenggong. He boldly suggested to the Bendahara it was time to take action if he wanted to be the ruler.

On the fateful morning of 3 September 1699, Sultan Mahmud Shah II was stabbed by the Orang Kaya, while riding through the market on the shoulders of his servants. He fell to the ground and was then descended upon by the others who stabbed the Sultan to death. Sultan Mahmud Shah II was still very young then and without an heir. Thus the Johor royal family that was directly descended from the rulers of Melaka ended. The Bendahara was then proclaimed the next ruler with the consensus of the assembled populace.

The Bendahara thus founded a new dynasty in Johor. He assumed the title of Sultan Abdul Jalil Riayat Shah IV and ruled from 1699 to 1718. He established his capital at Kota Lama.

In 1712, Raja Kechil, a prince from Siak in Sumatera, claiming that he was the posthumous son of the late Sultan Mahmud Shah II, made a bid for the throne. He succeeded in capturing Kota Lama in 1717. He then reverted Sultan Abdul Jalil Riayat Shah IV to his former position of Bendahara.

Raja Kechil proclaimed himself as the ruler of Johor and took the title of Sultan Abdul Jalil Rahmat Shah (1718-1722). The Bendahara retreated to Terengganu and later to Pahang. He was killed there on the instruction of Sultan Abdul Jalil Rahmat Shah.

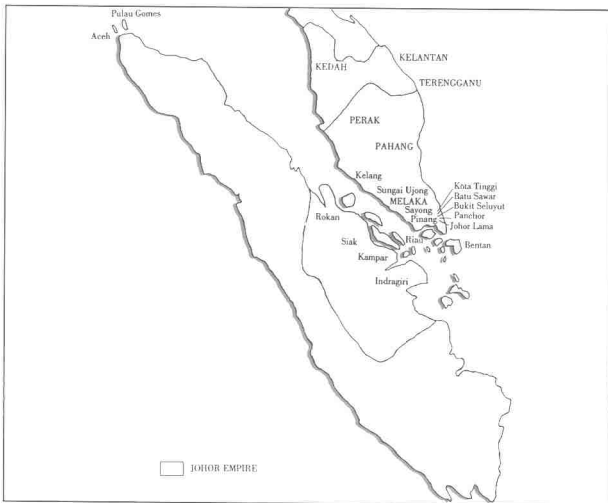
The Bendahara's son, Raja Sulaiman, sought the aid of the Bugis led by Daeng Parani. Their combined forces defeated Sultan Abdul Jalil Rahmat Shah. Raja Sulaiman was enthroned as the new ruler not only of Johor but Riau, Lingga and Pahang as well.

The Bugis were seafaring people from the islands of Sulawesi ( now is part of Indonesia). They were renowned for their fighting prowess and were formidable foes both on land and at sea.

The Bugis strengthened their influence in Johor through intermarriages between the Johor and Bugis royal families. The Bugis prince was appointed as Yamtuan Muda. Although Sultan Sulaiman was the ruler of Johor, it was the Yamtuan Muda and his family who wielded actual power in the Johor empire.

In the eighteenth century, the Bugis also played an important role in Selangor, Perak and Kedah. The Bugis power was brought to an end by the Dutch towards the end of the century. By that time, the Johor empire was only a pale shadow of its former glory and began to disintegrate. The end was hastened with the coming of the British.

The Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1824 split Johor into two. Peninsular Johor came under British influence whereas the Riau-Lingga Archipelago came under Dutch influence. The ancient Johor monarchy was finally allowed to lapse by the Dutch at the turn of the 20th century. By then the present kingdom of Johor had been founded when, in 1885, Abu Bakar (first a Temenggong, then Maharaja) was recognised by Britain as Sultan.



*Map of the Johor Empire in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries*

## History of Johor Coins

The first coins in the Malay Peninsular were issued in Melaka during its heyday. The coins, made from tin, were issued with authorization from the Sultan. After the fall of Melaka, Sultan Mahmud Shah (1511 - 1528) did not issue any coin in the places he resided. Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II (1528 - 1564) was the first Sultan to issue coins in Johor. The coins issued in Johor were different from those in Melaka. The Johor coins were made of gold as well as tin while the Melaka coins were made purely from tin.

It is possible that Johor was the first Malay state to issue gold coins. The other states that were known to have issued gold coins were Kelantan, Terengganu and Kedah. The coins from Terengganu and Kedah were positively dated later than the Johor coins. The coins from Kelantan cannot be dated accurately.

The Johor gold coins were of two types, based on their denomination namely the 'Mas' and the 'Kupang.' The value of the Mas was about four times that of the value of the Kupang. The Johor gold coins carried the name of the ruler on the obverse while the tin coins, known as 'Katun,' generally did not carry the name of the ruler, except for one issued by Sultan Alauddin. Some of the Katun were inscribed with titles such as *Malik Al Adil* (The Just King) or *Dar Al Johorah* (The City of Johor).

The Mas weighs between 2 and 2.6 grammes with a diameter ranging from 16 to 18 mm. The Kupang weighs between 0.5 to 0.7 grammes and the diameter ranged from 11 to 13.2 mm. Double Kupang gold coins were also issued. The double Kupang weighs approximately 1.0 gramme with a diameter of 15 mm and these coins were said to be issued by Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah II (1571 -1597).

While it was quite common then for the Malay States to issue coins made from gold and tin, it was not so in the case of silver coins. Only two Malay states, Johor and Kedah, were known to have issued coins made from silver. However the Johor silver coins were issued in very limited quantity. At present, they are considered unique.

The denomination of the Kedah silver coin was known as Real and in Johor it was called the Penjuru. It is believed that the silver coin of Johor was issued during the reign of Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III (1623 - 1677) and Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah (1722 - 1760). Two types of Penjuru coins were known to have been issued, i.e. the One Penjuru and Quarter Penjuru coins. The Money Museum has acquired a piece of the Quarter Penjuru coin issued during the reign of Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III and one piece of the Quarter and One Penjuru of Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Shah.

Since various types of coins were issued and circulated widely, there appeared to have existed proper exchange rates for the coins. In **The Encyclopaedia of the Coins of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei 1400 - 1986** by Saran Singh, the exchange rates for the Johor coins were given as follows:

25 Katun	=	1 Penjuru
2 Penjuru	=	1 Kupang
4 Kupang	=	1 Mas



Thus it would have taken 200 pieces of Katun coins to exchange for one piece of Mas in the 17th century!

Using references from **The Native Coinages of the Malay Peninsula** by Major (AP) F. Pridmore and **Coins of North Malaya** by William Shaw and Mohd Kassim Haji Ali, the approximate value of one Mas can, perhaps, be deduced to be as follows:

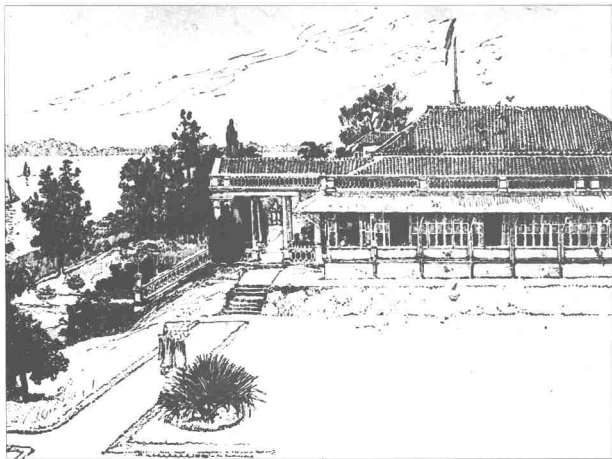
1 Mas = 1/2 Spanish dollar  
 3 Spanish dollars = 100 kampong fowls

Therefore, 1 Mas could buy about 16 kampong fowls making 1 Mas about the equivalent of RM 120 today.

The Johor coins were issued for almost three centuries, from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. During this period, a total of 15 Sultans had ruled the state including those who had descended from the Melaka royal family as well as those who came from the Bendahara lineage.

The Johor coins were minted with the permission of the rulers. However, not all the rulers of Johor issued coins. A summary of the Johor Sultanate and the coins issued are as follows:

THE EARLY JOHOR SULTANATE				
No.	Ruler	Reign	Remarks	Coins Issued
1	Sultan Mahmud Shah	1511-1528	Last Sultan of Melaka	
2	Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II	1528-1564		Mas & Kupang
3	Sultan Muzaffar Shah	1564-1570		Mas & Kupang
4	Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah I	1570-1571		
5	Sultan Abdul Jalil Riayat Shah II	1571-1597		Mas & Kupang
6	Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah III	1597-1615		Mas & Kupang
7	Sultan Abdullah Maayat Shah	1615-1623		Mas & Kupang
8	Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III	1623-1677		Mas, Kupang & Penjuru
9	Sultan Ibrahim Shah	1677-1685		
10	Sultan Mahmud Shah II	1685-1699	Last Sultan from the Melaka Royal family	Mas & Kupang
11	Sultan Abdul Jalil Riayat Shah IV	1700-1718	First Sultan from the Bendahara family	
12	Sultan Abdul Jalil Rahmat Shah	1718-1722	Raja Kecil from Siak	Mas
13	Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah	1722-1760	Last Sultan to issue coins	Mas, Kupang & Penjuru
14	Sultan Abdul Jalil Muazzam Shah	1760-1761		
15	Sultan Mahmud Riayat Shah III	1761-1812		
16	Sultan Ab. Rahman Muazzam Shah	1813-1830	Ruled from Riau / Lingga	
17	Sultan Husin Muhammad Shah	1819-1835	Ruled from mainland Johor	



*A sketch of an old Palace Hall, in Johor Bahru*

The usage of currency in Johor was closely related to commerce in the state. Currency with Arabic inscriptions and honorific titles showed the influence of Muslim currency, such as those brought in from India and the Middle East by Muslim traders. Muslim traders from India, Middle East, Aceh and its surrounding areas preferred to stop at the Johor port to trade because it was a Muslim kingdom. The Chinese traders also came to sell their goods and buy other local products that were in demand in China.

The presence of European traders such as the Spanish and English in Johor also increased the volume of goods traded. Besides that, proper facilities and well-organised procedures enabled trading to be conducted in an efficient manner.

Johor also offered an excellent market in terms of variety of goods such as gold, eaglewood, bird's nest, ivory, camphor, tin, copper, rattan, pepper, porcelain, cloth, Japanese gold thread and opium. All these goods were in demand by traders of all nationalities.

The various treaties between Johor and the Dutch helped Johor in its trade because Johor was granted trading privileges. As a result of this, Johor then became a more important trading centre than Melaka. Traders preferred to trade in Johor than in Melaka because they could sell their goods (especially tin) at better prices. The taxes imposed by the Johor authorities were more reasonable compared to the taxes imposed by the Dutch in Melaka.

Trading had certainly increased the wealth of Johor. Driven by the prospect of increasing his personal wealth, Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah II acquired a trading ship and traded directly with merchants from the Coromandel Coast and Bengal in India.

In view of the existence of international trading in Johor, the usage of currency then was not confined strictly to the Johor coins. Other types of currency such as the Spanish Real, Dutch Rijksdaalders, Patani and Aceh coins were also acceptable. Traders were required to pay taxes for the goods they traded in before they left the Johor port. They were allowed to pay their taxes either in local or foreign currency. During the seventeenth century, the Johor coins were also used in the other Malay States such as Perak, Kedah, Terengganu, Pahang and even Patani, which is now part of southern Thailand.

The most widely accepted foreign coins in Johor were the Achinese gold coins. This was mainly due to Achinese influence in Johor as the state was occupied by Aceh in 1564 during the reign of Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II. Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II was captured and taken to Aceh where he died in the same year. The ruler of Aceh at that time was Sultan Alauddin (Aladdin) Kahar who also issued gold coins with the Arabic inscription *Sultan Alauddin*.

However, the Achinese gold coins were different from the Johor gold coins issued by Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II. The Achinese gold coin was round in shape and the inscription on the reverse was *as-Sultan al-Adil* (The Just Ruler). The shapes of the Johor gold coins were octagonal and the reverse side carried the honorific title in Arabic inscription *Khalifatul Mu'minin* (Ruler of the Faithful).

There is a possibility that the Johor coins were minted in the octagonal shape rather than the usual round shape for the purpose of differentiating them from the gold coins from Aceh and the other Malay States.

## *Johor Gold and Silver Coins*

**B**ank Negara's Money Museum is proud to have in its collection of five pieces of unique (numismatic classification for "only one of its kind known to be in existence") Johor gold and silver coins. They are the gold Mas of Sultan Abdul Jalil Rahmat Shah, the gold Kupang of Sultan Abdullah Maayat Shah, the silver one Penjurn and quarter Penjuru of Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah and the quarter Penjuru of Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III.

We have several Kupang coins in our collection that are also extremely rare. The Kupang coins of Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II were the first coins minted in Johor and were octagonal in shape. **The Encyclopaedia of Coins of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei 1400 - 1986** by Saran Singh shows that Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II had also issued the round-shaped gold Kupang coins.

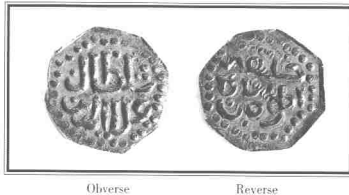
One of the determinants of the value of a coin is its scarcity or rarity. It is defined as in this case based on the number of pieces of Johor coins known to be in existence. It is as follows:

<b>Rarity</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Unique	Only one piece is known to exist
Highest State of Rarity (RRRR)	About 2-10 pieces are known to exist
Extremely Rare (RRR)	About 11-50 pieces are known to exist
Very Rare (RR)	About 50-100 pieces are known to exist
Rare (R)	About 100-300 pieces are known to exist
Scarce (S)	About a few hundred in existence

All the coins shown do not reflect their actual sizes.

## Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II (1528-1564)

Obverse	: Arabic Inscription سلطان علاالدين <i>Sultan Alauddin</i>
Reverse	: Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين <i>Khalifatul Mu'minin</i> (Ruler of the Faithful)
Weight	: 0.6 gramme
Diameter	: 12.0 mm
Composition	: Gold
Denomination	: Kupang
Rarity	: RRRR
Remarks	: The top of the reverse of the coin is at 4 o'clock of the coin.



The next ruler, Sultan Muzaffar Shah issued his own coins in Mas and Kupang denominations. His Mas coins are as rare as those issued by his father, the previous ruler.

The Sultan Muzaffar Shah's Kupang coin has a laterally inverted inscription similar to a retrograph (mirror script), unlike those found on the Kupang coins by the other Johor rulers. This type of coin is considered as very rare.

In 1571, Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah I became the ruler of Johor at the tender age of nine. It was very unlikely that Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah I issued any coin as he was very young and his reign lasted less than a year.

Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah II became the third Johor ruler to issue gold coins after he succeeded Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah I to the throne. During his reign, he managed to develop a flourishing trade between Johor and her surrounding states, despite constant threats from Aceh and the Portuguese. It was known that Johor coins were used in trading as far north as Patani. Patani situated to the north of Kelantan in the Malay Peninsula has long been a province of Thailand.

Of the four Johor rulers who shared the similar title of *Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah*, only the second and the third *Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah* issued gold coins. Major (AP) F. Pridmore, in his book **The Native Coinages of the Malay Peninsula** offered proof that Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah II and III issued gold coins.

Pridmore claimed that when the Portuguese attacked the Johor capital in 1587, the soldiers plundered all the valuable items including gold. He assumed that the gold plundered by the Portuguese was an indication that Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah II had issued gold coins during his reign (1571 - 1597).

In his book, he also said that, with the end of Achinese domination in 1641, Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III issued gold coins in Johor between 1647 and 1663. Prior to this, Johor had been constantly at war with the Portuguese and Aceh, making it difficult for trade to develop in the state.

1641 was a significant year in Johor's history for it marked the fall of Portuguese Melaka. Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III, a descendant of the exiled Melaka Sultanate, aided the Dutch in defeating the Portuguese in Melaka. It was a month later, that year, that Aceh became weaker with the death of its ruler, Sultan Iskandar Thani. With the diminished threat from the two major powers, peace reigned in Johor. Trade flourished, subsequently increasing the demand for its currency and usage.

No records, however, reveal any large usage of Johor gold coins during the reigns of Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah I and IV.

Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah IV did not issue any gold coin because he was a weak ruler and did not have any effective control over his kingdom. After ruling for about eight to nine years, he surrendered his power to his younger brother.

Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah II and III issued gold coins with the same inscription on the obverse and reverse. However, the coins issued by the two rulers differ in writing styles.

The Arabic script on the Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah II's gold coins resembled that of archaic Arabic writings. The gold coins issued by Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III utilised a neater style instead. These scripts were quite similar to the Arabic script found on the gold coins issued during the reigns of Sultan Mahmud Shah II and that of Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah.

The gold Mas coins issued by Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah II and III are classified as being in the highest state of rarity, i.e. RRRR. The Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah II Kupang coins are considered very rare as compared to those issued by Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III.

### Sultan Abdul Jalil Riayat Shah II (1571-1597)

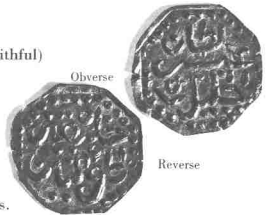
- Obverse : Arabic Inscription سلطان عبدالجليل شاه  
*Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah*
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين  
*Khalifatul Mu'minin (Ruler of the Faithful)*
- Weight : 0.6 gramme
- Diameter : 12.0 mm
- Composition : Gold
- Denomination : Kupang
- Rarity : Unique
- Remarks : Not recorded in any Malaysian coin catalogue. It is believed that this coin was originally octagonal but clipped to be round, making it unique.



The inscription on the reverse begins at 2 o'clock of the coin.

### Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah II (1571-1597)

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription سلطان عبدالجليل شاه  
*Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah*
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين  
*Khalifatul Mu'minin (Ruler of the Faithful)*
- Weight : 0.7 gramme
- Diameter : 13.0 mm
- Composition : Gold
- Denomination : Kupang
- Rarity : RRRR
- Remarks : The edge of the obverse and the reverse of the coin has a series of dots.



The inscription on the reverse begins at 6 o'clock of the coin.

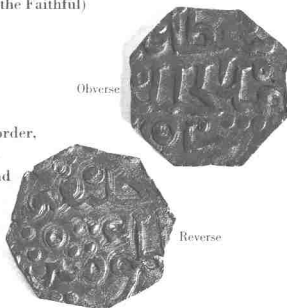
Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III also issued silver Penjuru coins. They are octagonal and were of Quarter and One Penjuru in denominations.

The One Penjuru weighed about 2.25 grammes and was 16 millimetres in diameter, whereas the Quarter version weighed 0.6 gramme and measured 11 millimetres in diameter. At present, silver coins are considered as extremely rare. The exchange rate was as follows:

25 Katun (tin coins)	= 1 Penjuru
2 Penjuru	= 1 Kupang
4 Kupang	= 1 Mas

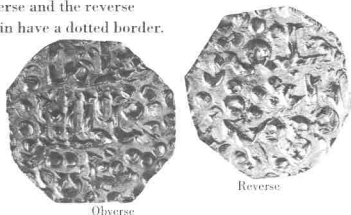
### Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III (1623-1677)

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription سلطان عبدالجليل شاه  
*Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah*
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين  
*Khalifatul Mu'minin* (Ruler of the Faithful)
- Weight : 2.6 grammes
- Diameter : 16.0 mm
- Composition : Gold
- Denomination : Mas
- Rarity : RRRR
- Remarks : This coin is without a dotted border, meaning that it is rare as other similar coins are normally found with a dotted border.



### Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III (1623-1677)

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription سلطان عبدالجليل شاه  
*Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah*
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين  
*Khalifatul Mu'minin* (Ruler of the Faithful)
- Weight : 2.5 grammes
- Diameter : 17.0 mm
- Composition : Gold
- Denomination : Mas
- Rarity : RRRR
- Remarks : The obverse and the reverse of the coin have a dotted border.





### Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III (1623-1677)

Obverse	: Arabic Inscription سلطان عبدالجليل شاه <i>Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah</i>
Reverse	: Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين <i>Khalifatul Mu'minin (Ruler of the Faithful)</i>
Weight	: 0.6 - 0.7 gramme
Diameter	: 12.0 - 12.3 mm
Composition	: Gold
Denomination	: Kupang
Rarity	: RR

Shown below are the different varieties of Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah's coins.

Obverse



Reverse



Obverse

Reverse

### Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III (1623-1677)

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription سلطان عبدالجليل شاه  
*Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah*
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين  
*Khalifatul Mu'minin (Ruler of the Faithful)*
- Weight : 0.6 gramme
- Diameter : 11.4 mm
- Composition : Gold
- Denomination : Kupang
- Rarity : RR
- Remarks : This coin has a finer Arabic inscription compared to other Kupang coins issued by this Sultan.



Obverse



Reverse

### Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III (1623-1677)

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription سلطان عبدالجليل شاه  
*Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah*
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين  
*Khalifatul Mu'minin (Ruler of the Faithful)*
- Weight : 0.6 gramme
- Diameter : 11.2 - 12.2 mm
- Composition : Gold
- Denomination : Kupang
- Rarity : RR
- Remarks : The border of these coins have no dots. They are rarer than similar coins with the dots around the border.



Obverse



Reverse



Obverse



Reverse



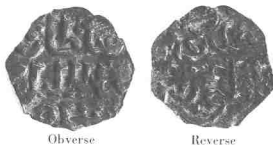
Obverse



Reverse

### Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III (1623-1677)

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription سلطان عبدالجليل شاه  
*Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah*
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين  
*Khalifatul Mu'minin (Ruler of the Faithful)*
- Weight : 0.4 gramme
- Diameter : 11.0 mm
- Composition : Silver
- Denomination : Quarter Penjuru
- Rarity : Unique
- Remarks : It is believed that Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III was the first Sultan of Johor to issue this type of coin.



Obverse

Reverse

In between the reigns of Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah II & III, there were two Sultans who ruled Johor namely Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah III (1597 - 1615) and Sultan Abdullah Riayat Maayat Shah (1615 - 1623).

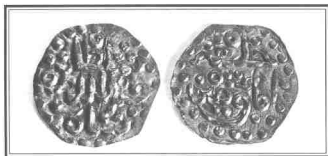
There were also two Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah (II & III) who ruled Johor, the former from 1528 to 1564 and the latter from 1597 to 1615. So far, the gold coins with the inscription of Sultan Alauddin have been attributed to Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II. The Museum however, has in its collection a gold Kupang with the inscription of *Sultan Alauddin Shah* which could have been issued by Sultan Alauddin Shah III, based on the following observations:

Observations	Sultan Alauddin Shah II (1528-1564)	Sultan Alauddin Shah III (1597-1615)
i) Arabic writing style	It has a crude writing style	It has a neat and more artistic writing style
ii) The inscription style	The inscription style of this coin is similar to Sultan Mahmud Shah's (1488-1511) coin	The inscription style of this coin is similar to the Sultan Abdullah Maayat Shah's (1615-1623) coin and Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III's coins (1623-1677)
iii) Inscription on the obverse	The inscription is only "Sultan Alauddin" which is similar to the Melaka tin coin issued by his father Sultan Mahmud which is without the word "Shah"	The inscription has the word "Shah" that is "Sultan Alauddin Shah"
iv) Inscription on the reverse	The reverse has the words "Khalifahtul Mu'minin" in two lines but there is the word "Shah" in between the lines	Has only the words "Khalifatul Mu'minin" in two lines

In the absence of other specimens, it is at this point difficult to classify conclusively this coin as a Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah III issue. More Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah coins would have to be acquired to settle this point.

### Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah III (1597-1615)

Obverse	: Arabic Inscription سلطان علادين شاه <i>Sultan Alauddin Shah</i>
Reverse	: Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين <i>Khalifatul Mu'minin</i> (Ruler of the Faithful)
Weight	: 0.7 gramme
Diameter	: 12.5 mm
Composition	: Gold
Denomination	: Kupang
Rarity	: RRRR



Obverse

Reverse

During his reign, Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah III was constantly at war with the Portuguese and Aceh. In 1613, Aceh destroyed the state capital at Batu Sawar and took captive the royal family. He was later released and allowed to return to Johor. His freedom was shortlived when in 1615 he was recaptured by the Achinese. He died there later that year.

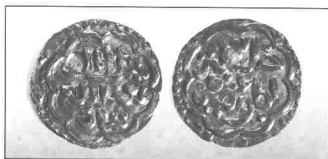
His brother, Raja Bongsu, succeeded to the throne assuming the title of Sultan Abdullah Maayat Shah. He was released conditionally to return to Johor to help Aceh attack the Portuguese in Melaka. As a result of his refusal to cooperate, Johor was then again besieged. Sultan Abdullah Maayat Shah fled to Bentan and later to Lingga in 1618.

It was in Lingga that Sultan Abdullah Maayat Shah, a capable and industrious ruler, rebuilt his empire. He then established trade with Melaka, Siam, Patani, Jawa and Macassar. He issued gold Mas and Kupang coins presumably for trading purposes.

The coins issued by Sultan Abdullah Maayat Shah were rather unusual. They were round instead of octagonal. A flower rosette surrounds the Arabic inscription on the obverse and reverse of the coins. Both the Sultan Abdullah Maayat Shah Mas and Kupang coins are either extremely rare or unique.

### Sultan Abdullah Maayat Shah (1615-1623)

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription سلطان عبدالله شاه  
*Sultan Abdullah Shah*
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين  
*Khalifatul Mu'minin (Ruler of the Faithful)*
- Weight : 0.5 gramme
- Diameter : 13.0 mm
- Composition : Gold
- Denomination : Kupang
- Rarity : Unique
- Remarks : This coin has a dotted border and a flower pattern surrounding the Jawi inscription on the obverse and the reverse. The denomination of this coin is Kupang while the one recorded in **The Encyclopaedia of the Coins of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei 1400 - 1986** is Mas. The shape of this coin is round compared with other Johor coins which are octagonal. This could be due to clipping.



Obverse

Reverse

Sultan Ibrahim succeeded to the throne after the death of Sultan Abdul Jalil III in 1677. He relocated the Johor capital at Riau, where he defeated Jambi and ended their thirty-three year old war. This war had taken its toll on the Johor empire and had greatly affected Johor's trade. It had also led to the breaking up of its dependencies. To the best of our knowledge, Sultan Ibrahim did not issue any gold coin in his name.

There were three rulers who shared the similar title of Sultan Mahmud Shah in the history of Melaka-Johor. The first was the last Sultan of Melaka. The second Sultan Mahmud reigned in Johor from 1685 till 1699 while the third reigned from 1761 till 1812.

Sultan Mahmud Shah I, known to have issued tin coins while in Melaka, did not issue any coin after he left Melaka. The gold coins issued during the reign of Sultan Mahmud Shah II bore similar inscriptions to the gold coins issued by Sultan Abdul Jalil III. It is unlikely that Sultan Mahmud Shah III issued any gold coin. The 18th century witnessed the influx of foreign currency, Johor, like the other Malay states, had been using foreign coins, such as the Mexican and Spanish dollars. Even merchants then issued private tokens for use in the Malay Archipelago.

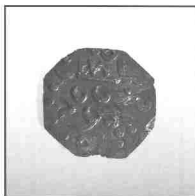
The Sultan Mahmud Shah II coins were minted in Mas and Kupang denominations. Both types are extremely rare. Sultan Mahmud Shah II ruled Johor for 14 years and was killed by his subject when he was twenty-four. Without an heir apparent, he was the last Sultan from the Melaka royal lineage.

The Bendahara was then proclaimed to be the next Sultan of Johor and assumed the title of Sultan Abdul Jalil Riayat Shah IV. Lacking the experience of ruling the state, he practically left the administrative and commercial duties of the state to his brother, the Raja Muda.

The gold coins issued during the reign of Sultan Mahmud Shah II bore similar inscriptions to those issued by Sultan Abdul Jalil III and were minted in Mas and Kupang denominations. Both types are classified as RRRR.

### Sultan Mahmud Shah II (1685-1699)

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription سلطان محمود شاه  
*Sultan Mahmud Shah*
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين  
*Khalifatul Mu'minin* (Ruler of the Faithful)
- Weight : 2.55 grammes
- Diameter : 15.0 - 16.0 mm
- Composition : Gold
- Denomination : Mas
- Rarity : RRRR



Obverse



Reverse



Obverse



Reverse

### Sultan Mahmud Shah II (1685-1699)

Obverse	: Arabic Inscription سلطان محمود شاه <i>Sultan Mahmud Shah</i>
Reverse	: Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين <i>Khalifatul Mu'minin</i> (Ruler of the Faithful)
Weight	: 0.6 gramme
Diameter	: 11.0 mm
Composition	: Gold
Denomination	: Kupang
Rarity	: RRRR
Remarks	: The border of the coin is without dots.



The Money Museum has in its collection one piece of the gold Mas coin with the inscription *Sultan Abdul Jalil Rahmat Shah* which is considered unique.

Sultan Abdul Jalil Rahmat Shah was actually the Raja Muda of Siak. He was a Minangkabau prince who claimed to be the son of Sultan Mahmud II. With the claim that he was the rightful heir to the throne, he forced Sultan Abdul Jalil Riayat Shah IV back to his former position of Bendahara. He then proclaimed himself as the Sultan of Johor, moved his capital to Riau and ruled Johor for four years. He was forced out of Johor by Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah (from the Bendahara line) with the help of the Bugis. With such a short reign, it is doubtful that Sultan Abdul Jalil Rahmat Shah issued many gold coins.

### Sultan Abdul Jalil Rahmat Shah (1718-1722)

Obverse	: Arabic Inscription سلطان عبدالجليل رحمة شاه <i>Sultan Abdul Jalil Rahmat Shah</i>
Reverse	: Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين <i>Khalifatul Mu'minin</i> (Ruler of the Faithful)
Weight	: 2.45 grammes
Diameter	: 15.0 mm
Composition	: Gold
Denomination	: Mas
Rarity	: Unique



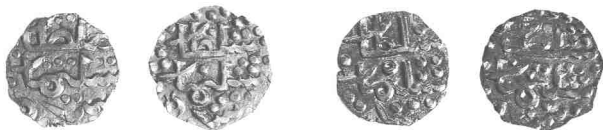
With the removal of Sultan Abdul Jalil Rahmat Shah, the Bendahara family line recovered the Johor throne, Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah ruled Johor from 1722 till 1760. He is known to be the last Sultan to issue coins in Johor.

Some of his coins had *Shah* inscribed on them while it is absent in others. The Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah coins are not as rare as those issued by the other Johor rulers. The only Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah coin that is difficult to obtain is the gold Mas without the dotted border. Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah had also issued silver coins that are classified as unique. The denomination is similar to the silver coins issued by Sultan Abdul Jalil Shah III that is the Quarter Penjuru and the One Penjuru.

### Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah (1722-1760)

Obverse	: Arabic Inscription سلطان سليمان شاه <i>Sultan Sulaiman Shah</i>
Reverse	: Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين <i>Khalifatul Mu'minin (Ruler of the Faithful)</i>
Weight	: 2.3 - 2.6 grammes
Diameter	: 16.0 - 18.0 mm
Composition	: Gold
Denomination	: Mas
Rarity	: RRR
Remarks	: Some of the coins do not have dots around the inscription. These types of coins are rarer than the ones with dots.

Obverse



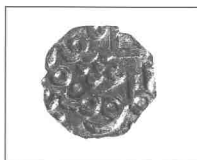
Reverse





### Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah (1722-1760)

Obverse	: Arabic Inscription سلطان سليمان شاه <i>Sultan Sulaiman Shah</i>
Reverse	: Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين <i>Khalifatul Mu'minin (Ruler of the Faithful)</i>
Weight	: 0.5 gramme
Diameter	: 10.8 - 11.8 mm
Composition	: Gold
Denomination	: Kupang
Rarity	: RR
Remarks	: Shown below are the varieties of the Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah's coins.



Obverse

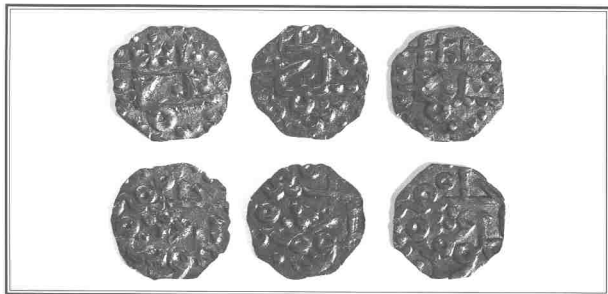


Reverse

## Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah (1722-1760)

Obverse	: Arabic Inscription سلطان سليمان <i>Sultan Sulaiman</i>
Reverse	: Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين <i>Khalifatul Mu'minin</i> (Ruler of the Faithful)
Weight	: 0.5 - 0.6 gramme
Diameter	: 11.3 - 12.1 mm
Composition	: Gold
Denomination	: Kupang
Rarity	: RRR
Remarks	: This coin is considered extremely rare because of the missing <i>Shah</i> in its obverse inscription.

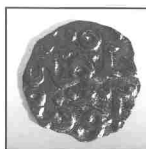
Obverse



Reverse



Obverse



Reverse

### Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah (1722-1760)

Obverse	: Arabic Inscription سلطان سليمان شاه <i>Sultan Sulaiman Shah</i>
Reverse	: Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين <i>Khalifatul Mu'minin</i> (Ruler of the Faithful)
Weight	: 2.25 grammes
Diameter	: 16.0 mm
Composition	: Silver
Denomination	: One Penjuru
Rarity	: Unique



Obverse

Reverse

### Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah (1722-1760)

Obverse	: Arabic Inscription سلطان سليمان <i>Sultan Sulaiman</i>
Reverse	: Arabic Inscription خليفة المؤمنين <i>Khalifatul Mu'minin</i> (Ruler of the Faithful)
Weight	: 0.6 gramme
Diameter	: 11.0 mm
Composition	: Silver
Denomination	: Quarter Penjuru
Rarity	: Unique



Obverse

Reverse

## *Johor Tin Coins*

The tin coins known as Katun were used side by side with the Johor gold coins. The tin coins were minted in various shapes: round, hexagonal and octagonal. Unlike the gold coins, the tin coins generally did not have any inscription of the name of the rulers. The coins were mostly inscribed with titles such as *Malik Al Adil* (The Just King) *Dar Al Johorah* (City of Johor), *Al Adil* or *Sultan Al Adil*. The tin coins were meant for use in local trading only. As the coins were made of tin, they were naturally fragile and were of poor condition.

Major (AP) F. Pridmore grouped the tin coins as follows:

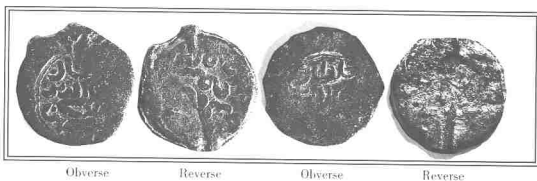
Group	Type/Shape	Issuing Period	Class	Description
A	Bar	16th century	I	i) Bar on reverse ii) Inscription on obverse and reverse
A	Bar	16th century	II	i) Bar on reverse ii) Large raised dot or <i>pusat</i> in the centre, sometimes with the fragment of a character or letter
B	Round	16th century	III	i) Dot on the obverse and some are on the reverse ii) Inscription on the obverse and reverse iii) Show an improved style in the casting of the flans
C	Hexagonal	17th century	IV	i) Inscription on the obverse and reverse
C	Hexagonal	17th century	V	i) A large centre dot, sometimes alone and on others, it is surrounded by further dots or a circle
D	Octagonal	18th century	VI	i) Bigger than the normal Katun in size ii) Inscription on the obverse and reverse
D	Octagonal	18th century	VII	i) Large coin, uninscribed
D	Octagonal	18th century	VIII	i) Smaller than the Class VI type ii) Inscription on the obverse and reverse

By the end of the eighteenth century, Johor traded in various foreign currencies in addition to their own coins. They were the Spanish and Mexican silver dollars, Dutch and English coinage. Furthermore, the Chinese merchants used Chinese copper cash. Later, the merchants in Singapore issued copper merchant tokens for use in Johor. The signing of the Anglo-Johor Treaty in 1835 ended the usage of gold and tin coins in Johor. The British Government assumed the power to issue currency on behalf of the rulers. The Straits Settlements currency was then the only legal tender in Johor.

## Specimen of Katun Coins in The Museum's Collection

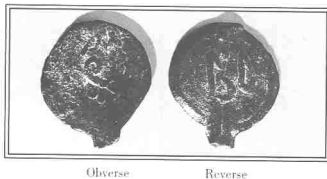
### Group A - Bar Type : Class I

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription سلطان علاالدين خليفة المؤمنين  
*Sultan Alauddin Khalifatul Mu'minin*  
(Sultan Alauddin, Ruler of the Faithful)
- Reverse : A bar. Arabic inscription indecipherable
- Weight : 1.4 - 1.9 grammes
- Diameter : 16.5 - 17.0 mm
- Composition : Tin
- Denomination : One Katun
- Remarks : This issue is supposedly attributed to Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah III (1597-1615).



### Group A - Bar Type : Class I

- Obverse : Arabic inscription indecipherable
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription عادل  
*Adil (Just) stamped on the bar*
- Weight : 1.5 grammes
- Diameter : 17.0 mm
- Composition : Tin
- Denomination : One Katun



Group A - Bar Type : Class I

- Obverse : Arabic inscription indecipherable  
Reverse : Arabic Inscription عادل  
*Adil* (Just) stamped on the bar  
Weight : 0.7 gramme  
Diameter : 16.0 mm  
Composition : Tin  
Denomination : One Katun



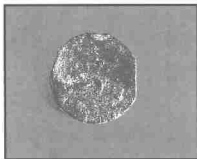
Obverse



Reverse

Group A - Bar Type : Class II

- Obverse : Blank  
Reverse : A large centrally raised dot with the fragment of a  
character or letter  
Weight : 0.5 gramme  
Diameter : 14.0 mm  
Composition : Tin  
Denomination : One Katun



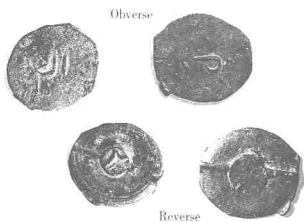
Obverse



Reverse

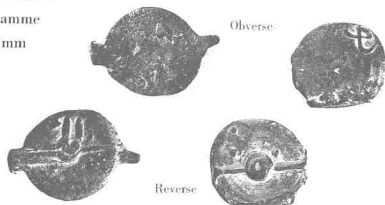
Group A - Bar Type : Class II

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription العادل  
*Al-Adil (The Just)*
- Reverse : A bar with a large centre dot with the  
fragment of a character or letter
- Weight : 0.5 - 0.8 gramme
- Diameter : 13.5 - 14.5 mm
- Composition : Tin
- Denomination : One Katun



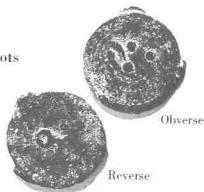
Group A - Bar Type : Class II

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription العادل  
*Al-Adil (The Just)* and some faint markings or characters
- Reverse : A bar with a large centre dot with the fragment of a  
character or letter
- Weight : 0.7 - 0.8 gramme
- Diameter : 13.5 - 13.5 mm
- Composition : Tin
- Denomination : One Katun



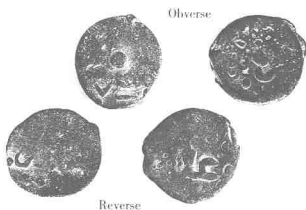
Group B - Round Type : Class III

- Obverse : Three dots
- Reverse : Round type with centre dot and other dots
- Weight : 0.7 gramme
- Diameter : 14.5 mm
- Composition : Tin
- Denomination : One Katun



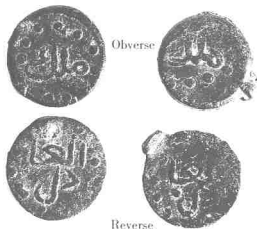
Group B - Round Type : Class III

- Obverse : A large centrally raised dot and in some surrounded by other dots  
 Reverse : Arabic Inscription العادل  
*Al-Adil* (The Just)  
 Weight : 0.5 - 0.8 gramme  
 Diameter : 13.8 - 14.0 mm  
 Composition : Tin  
 Denomination : One Katun



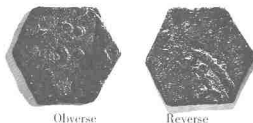
Group B - Round Type : Class III

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription ملك  
*Malik* (Ruler) and dots around the coin  
 Reverse : Arabic Inscription العادل  
*Al-Adil* (The Just)  
 Weight : 0.9 - 1.0 gramme  
 Diameter : 14.5 - 15.0 mm  
 Composition : Tin  
 Denomination : One Katun  
 Remarks : The principal series are usually clearly stamped with the title *Malik Al-Adil*, but some show portions of other inscriptions. For this type, a change of title was also made by substituting *Sultan* with the more empathic title *Malik*. At the same time, it appears that an improved form of manufacture of the blanks was introduced.



Group C - Hexagonal Type : Class IV

- Obverse : Arabic inscription indecipherable  
 Reverse : Arabic inscription indecipherable  
 Weight : 0.8 gramme  
 Diameter : 13.0 - 15.0 mm  
 Composition : Tin  
 Denomination : One Katun





Group C - Hexagonal Type : Class IV

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription هذا المصروف  
*Haza Al Masruf* (This is petty money)
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription دارالجوهرة  
*Dar Al Johorah* (City of Johor)
- Weight : 1.4 - 2.1 grammes
- Diameter : 20.0 - 22.5 mm
- Composition : Tin
- Denomination : One Katun
- Remarks : This coin bears the name of the state.



Obverse

Reverse

Obverse

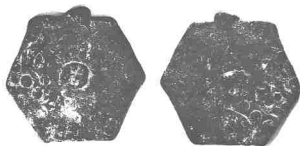


Reverse



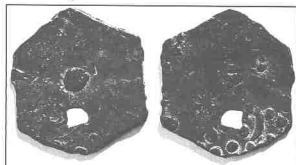
Group C - Hexagonal Type : Class V

- Obverse : A large central dot and an indecipherable Arabic inscription
- Reverse : Arabic inscription indecipherable
- Weight : 0.9 - 1.1 grammes
- Diameter : 14.5 - 19.5 mm
- Composition : Tin
- Denomination : One Katun
- Remarks : In one of the coins, there is a square hole on the right side - between the dot and the centre edge.



Obverse

Reverse

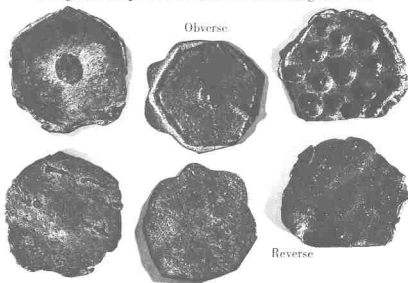


Obverse

Reverse

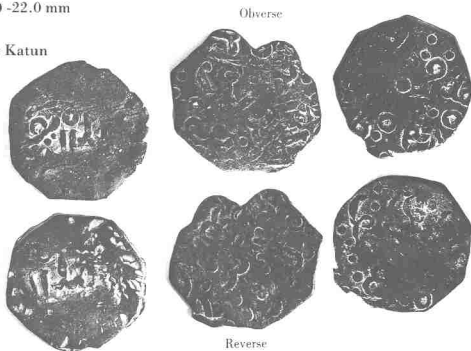
Group C - Hexagonal Type : Class V

- Obverse : A large central dot and in the others  
surrounded by dots  
Reverse : Blank  
Weight : 1.0 - 1.4 grammes  
Diameter : 15.0 - 17.0 mm  
Composition : Tin  
Denomination : One Katun  
Remarks : Irregular shape and struck from a hexagonal die.



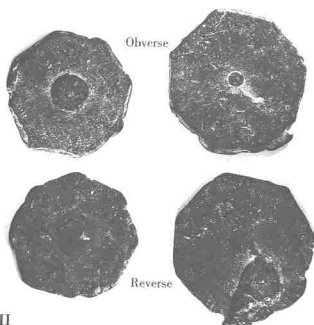
Group D - Octagonal Type : Class VI

- Obverse : Arabic inscription indecipherable  
Reverse : Arabic inscription indecipherable  
Weight : 1.4 - 2.0 grammes  
Diameter : 17.0 - 22.0 mm  
Composition : Tin  
Denomination : One Katun



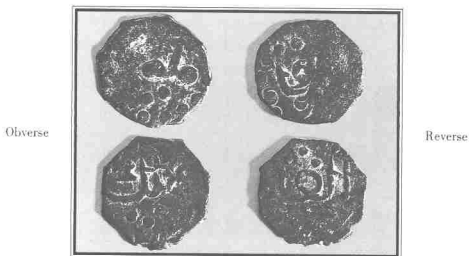
Group D - Octagonal Type : Class VII

Obverse : A 'pusat' or dot in the centre  
 Reverse : Blank  
 Weight : 1.5 - 1.7 grammes  
 Diameter : 18.0 - 21.0 mm  
 Composition : Tin  
 Denomination : One Katun  
 Remarks : A very rare coin.



Group D - Octagonal Type : Class VIII

Obverse : Arabic Inscription ملك  
*Malik* (Ruler)  
 Reverse : Arabic Inscription العادل  
*Al-Adil* (The Just)  
 Weight : 1.1 - 1.4 grammes  
 Diameter : 15.0 - 18.5 mm  
 Composition : Tin  
 Denomination : One Katun



Group D - Octagonal Type : Class VIII

- Obverse : Arabic Inscription ملك العادل  
*Malik Al-Adil* (The Just Ruler)
- Reverse : Arabic Inscription ملك العادل  
*Malik Al-Adil* (The Just Ruler)
- Weight : 1.0 gramme
- Diameter : 18.0 mm
- Composition : Tin
- Denomination : One Katun

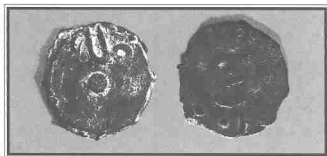


Obverse

Reverse

Group D - Octagonal Type : Class VIII

- Obverse : A large central dot with Arabic Inscription ملك  
*Malik* (Ruler)
- Reverse : Faint markings and dots
- Weight : 1.0 grammes
- Diameter : 15.9 mm
- Composition : Tin
- Denomination : One Katun
- Remarks : This coin is unique because it has the large central dot of the Class VII type and the Arabic inscriptions of the Class VIII type.



Obverse

Reverse

## *Descriptive Guide to Coin Grading*

The value of a coin is determined largely by its quality, grade, condition and its rarity.

A novice coin collector will come across numismatic terminology like Good, Very Good, Fine, Very Fine, Extremely Fine, in coin catalogues and dealers' listings. What do all these gradings mean?

There are many different standards used in coin grading throughout the world. The commonly accepted grades amongst the coin collectors in Malaysia are:

**Proof** (PR) is a special coin struck by the mint just for collectors. Very sharp in detail and having a brilliant, mirror-like surface. Proofs are not circulated. It could be issued to commemorate an event. **Proof Like** (PL) coins are uncirculated coins that are well struck and have a mirror-like surface, and at times mistaken for proofs. Technically, Proof is not a grade.

**Brilliant Uncirculated** (BU or B. Unc.) are coins with mirror-like surfaces and are in perfect condition. **Uncirculated** (Unc.) is the highest grade applied to a coin struck by a mint. An uncirculated coin is a coin intended for circulation but for one reason or another did not reach the public.

**Extremely Fine** (EF) is a coin that is almost in pristine perfection. It may have been handled to some extent and circulated, but shows almost no visible signs of wear. Its engraving may still be very clear but may have lost some of its original lustre. **Very Fine** (VF) coins, on the other hand, will have considerable amount of wear, while **Fine** (F) coins will have some of the finer details missing through wear and tear.

**Very Good** (VG) coins are worn but their designs are still visible and their lettering still readable but quite blurred. In contrast, **Good** (G) coins are used widely in circulation and may have some details missing, like the date on it would be just readable and no more. Collectors will occasionally resort to keeping one of such condition especially if a coin of a particular year is scarce.

**Fair** and **Poor** refers to coins that are damaged, worn through piercing and clipping. An example would be the making of costume jewellery with coins. Such coins have little or no numismatic value.

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