



MONETARY HISTORY, NUMISMATICS & LINGUISTICS

Reader's Guide

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Introduction

Overview

The informations on monetary history, numismatics, and linguistics are organised in separate documents that treat a single country. Historical states are included in present day countries.

Each document deals with two numismatic aspects of a country.

The part Monetary History presents the sequence of currency systems from the beginning of the 19th century. For the period of metallic currencies the focus is on the coinage standard, the equivalent in bullion that corresponds to one monetary unit. The standard normally determines the weights of parts of the circulating coinage (the specie coins).

For paper currency the coinage standard is replaced by the parity which determines the value of a monetary unit without being tangible.

You can explore the monetary history of a country (and its numismatics) only if you are able to "read" the currency. This implies a (basic) knowledge of the local languages and writing systems. This aspect is covered by the section Identification, which lists the country names, rulers, national banks and currency units, together with other texts of numismatic interest, in the original languages. Non-Latin scripts are transliterated.

Two additional sections complete the two above main chapters. History outlines the background of historical developments of the country. The section Language describes numbers and numerals and the basics of the grammar of counting. As a particular linguistic aspect of monetary history is also covers the etymology of currency names.

"Decoding" the Documents

All documents are in German. This should, however, not prevent you from accessing the information even if you are not familiar with the language.

The documents use a tabular form as much as possible, with at most short paragraphs of plain text. The tables allow a uniform presentation of the informations, but as a consequence the documents cannot be "just read through" (not for German speakers, either), since the information is concise and somehow formalised. This reader's guide explains which informations can be found in which section and table.

Title & Section "Introduction" ("Einführung")

Die header contains the following elements:

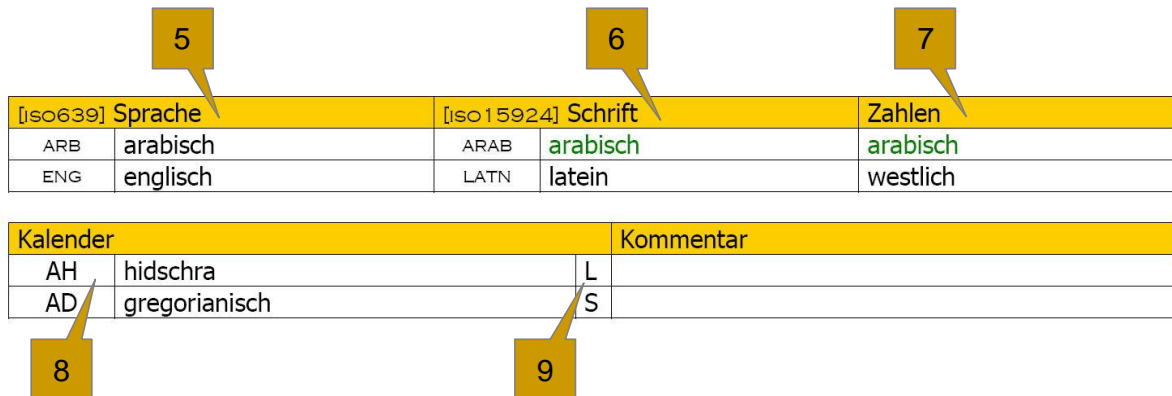


The screenshot shows the header for Afghanistan. Callout 1 points to the German name 'AFGHANISTAN'. Callout 2 points to the local name 'افغانستان <afġānistān> [PRS/PUS]'. Callout 3 points to the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code 'AF'. Callout 4 points to the table of contents below the header.

Afghanistan	Geschichte	1
	Währungsgeschichte	2
	Identifikation	3
	Sprache	4

1.	Country name in German.
2.	Country name in the local language(s), non-Latin scripts are transliterated.
3.	2-letter country code of ISO-3166-1 (alpha-2): → the code has been defined since 1974 (and is non-existent for earlier states).
4.	Table of contents, the sections are hyperlinked.

Next you find some basic data on the country:



The screenshot shows the basic data table for Afghanistan. Callout 5 points to the language code 'ARB'. Callout 6 points to the script code 'ARAB'. Callout 7 points to the numeral system 'arabisch'. Callout 8 points to the calendar code 'AH'. Callout 9 points to the calendar type 'L'.

[iso639] Sprache	[iso15924] Schrift	Zahlen
ARB arabisch	ARAB arabisch	arabisch
ENG englisch	LATN latein	westlich

Kalender	Kommentar
AH hidschra	L
AD gregorianisch	S

5.	The country's official languages, the 3-letter code of ISO-639 is used as reference all over the document.
6.	The writing system(s) used per language, the 4-letter code of ISO-15924 is used as reference all over the document.
7.	The numeral system used for the language (no ISO code exists).
8.	Calendar (dating) systems used, if it is of numismatic relevance; the 2-letter code (which is common, but not standardised) is used as reference all over the document.
9.	Calendar type: → S: Solar year → L: Lunar year



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The section is concluded with the list of references:

- 10
11
- Quellen zur Geldgeschichte
Autor: "Titel des Buchs" (Jahr)
- Links
Nationalbank

10.	Books, articles, and similar
11.	Websites of the national bank and similar institutions (hyperlinked)

The document lists only the country specific sources on its monetary history. The list of overall references can be found on the [website](#).



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Section "History" ("Geschichte")

The section sets the background of general history, against which the monetary history is displayed. It outlines the state forms and ruler periods, starting (in general) in the 19th century.

The country's historical periods

A tabular form is used:

12	1880- 1926 AH1297- 1337/ SH1298- 1307					Emirat [Dynastie Durrani-Barakzay (Mohammadzay)] → 1879- 1919 brit. Protektorat (zuerst in Kabul)				
	1	1880- 1901 AH1297- 1319	Abdorrahman		عبد الرحمان	<°abdulraḥmān>				
	2	1901- 1919 AH1319- 1337	Habibollah		حبيب الله	<ḥabībullah>				
	3	1919 AH1337	Nasrollah		ناصر الله	<nāṣīrullah>				

12.	Informations on the state form.
13.	Informations on the rulers: → for monarchies all rulers are listed, those without numismatic relevance are shaded; → for republics only those rulers are listed who had coins produced in their name. The numbers at the head of a row are used for reference.

The rulers' names are spelled out in German and the local language(s), non-Latin scripts are transliterated.

The dates are given in the Gregorian (AD) and the local calendars.



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Section "Monetary History" ("Währungsgeschichte")

The section outlines the country's monetary history through the sequence of currency systems, in general since the early 19th century.

Preface

Defining the value of a currency

Monetary systems can be split into two classes (when ignoring some of the subtleties):

- **Metal currency:** Money circulation is based on metal. The value of the currency unit is defined in terms of an amount of gold (gold currency), silver (silver currency) or both (bi-metallic currency), the so-called coinage standard. The denomination of a circulating "specie coin" exactly corresponds to the bullion value according to the standard. As auxiliary payment instruments "token coins" are used with denominations exceeding the material value.
- **Paper currency:** Money circulation is based on paper money; metals are used only in the form of token coins. For all monetary instruments the material value is irrelevant for setting the denomination. The value of the currency unit is determined by the parity, a comparison with an amount of fine gold or with another currency. The parity can be fixed or allow various degrees of variability.

Originally all the currency systems are metal based. The transition to paper currencies is usually a gradual one. The distinction is therefore in general not well defined.

Counting units of money

The value of a currency changes in time, one "unit of money" does not always buy the same amount of goods. Therefore it may deem appropriate to from time to time re-define the basic unit of the monetary system. This could happen e.g. for political reasons, like changes in the state form or of the ruler, or (more often) when inflation has rendered unpractical the previous currency unit, such that a couple of "zeroes get crossed out" in a currency reform.

Presentation of the country's monetary history

A tabular form is used.

Each currency period forms is contained in one table, until a new basic unit of money is introduced, (currency reform). The form of the tables is slightly different for metallic and paper currencies.

If non-metrical[‡] weight units ("Münzgewicht", 18a) und finenesses ("Feinheit", 18b) are used in describing the currency system, they are explained beforehand:

18a	Gewichtseinheiten	
	<i>Münzgewicht:</i>	Mark / 8 Unzen → Mark = 244.752g / Unze = 30.594g
18b	<i>Feinheit:</i>	reines Silber zu 16 Lot à 18 Grän reines Gold zu 24 Karat



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16	G: 14.06.1877	E: 01.09.1877 A: 31.12.1877	Goldwahrung	17
14	Dollar / 100 Cents / 10 Mils			
	2'750 Dollars auf ein Kilogramm 900-er Gold			
	10 \$ = 3.27g AU fein (0.900, 3.63g rauh)		1 ← 100	21
	01.01.1900	wahrungsrelevantes Ereignis		
22	Text			
	G: 10.10.1966	E: 01.11.1966 A: 30.11.1966	Papierwahrung	
	(Neuer) Dollar / 100 Cents		ABD	15
	1 ← 1'000			
	01.11.1966	Aussenwert: [G] 400mg AU fein		
20	01.01.1970	Aussenwert: [D] USD zu 1 : 10 [Abwertung: 63.6%]		
	01.01.1972	Aussenwert: [F]		
	11.11.1975	wahrungsrelevantes Ereignis		
	Text			23

14.	Name of the currency unit, the sub-units follow after a slash " / ", where on the right-hand side stands the number of sub-units that make up the (sub-)unit on the left: → in the example: 1 Dollar = 100 Cents, 1 Cent = 10 Mils, so 1 Dollar = 1'000 Mils.
15.	3-letter code of ISO-4217 (based on the country code of ISO-3166-1 alpha-2): → the code has been defined since 1978 (and is non-existent for earlier currencies) → the code is only distributed on request, such that there are currencies after 1978 which do not possess an official code; "unofficial" (but commonly used) codes are shaded.
16.	Timeline of the currency emission: → "G": Date of the legal basis (currency law or similar); → "E": Date of the introduction as accounting unit (often also the start of circulation of the banknotes and coins); → "A": Date of the demonetisation of the predecessor currency, after this date the new currency is the only legal tender (while earlier banknotes and coins may still be redeemed e.g. from the national bank).
17.	Type of currency: → Gold, Silver or Bi-metallic Currency → Paper Currency.
18.	Coinage standard of a metal currency in original weights and finenesses [†] .
19.	Specifications (in metric units) of the principal specie coin(s).
20.	Parity (value definition) of a paper currency: → [G]: Gold parity [example: 1 Dollar corresponds to 400mg fine gold]; → [D]: Pegging against another currency in the Form: "# unit of reference currency : # units of local currency" [example: 1 USD = 10 local dollars]; → [F]: no fixed parity, i.e. in general pegging against a currency basket or a genuine floating.
21.	Exchange rate at the transition from the previous currency unit in the form: "# new units ← # old units [example: in 1966 1'000 (old) dollars make up 1 (new) dollar].
22.	Events of relevance for monetary history (with dates).
23.	Comments and remarks.



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Monetary Institutions

Usually a monetary institution is in charge of a country's currency emission (e.g. a central bank or similar). Often the name of the institution is written on the country's banknotes, sometimes also the coins. Hence, the development of the monetary institutions constitutes an important aspect of monetary history.

Ausgabeinstitute & Banken

01.01.1960	Nationalbank	[G: 10.06.1959]
25	24	26

24.	Name of the monetary institution (in German).
25.	Date of inauguration or of the legal base (national bank law or similar).
26.	Comments; [G: xx.xx.xxxx] always means the date of the legal base for the monetary institution.

Tokens

Tokens are auxiliary payment instruments. They are outside the monetary history but, however often of numismatic interest. Tokens are not emitted by the official monetary institute. Unlike ordinary coins and banknotes they are not "universal" means of payment, but are restricted:

- to certain products and services (e.g. for paying underground fares),
- in time and place (e.g. local emergency money).

In some cases tokens obtain the status of de facto full ("universal") monetary instruments, as the official restrictions as a means for payments is irrelevant, e.g. if tokens are the only circulating medium around such that they get accepted for payments outside their original range of usage.

27	G: 30.03.1919	E: 01.04.1919 A: -	28	Typ der Token
29	Angaben zum Herausgeber und Verwendungszweck			
	01.01.1920	tokenrelevantes Ereignis		
31	A	Identifikation		Übersetzung
	30			

27.	Timeline of token emission (for form see nr. 16).
28.	Type of token, e.g. emergency money.
29.	Issuer and (original) usage.
30.	Events of relevance for token emission (with dates).
31.	Identification of the tokens in original languages and German translation. → The letters at the head of a row are used for reference.



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Section "Identification" ("Identifikation")

The coins and banknotes of a country can be identified through inscriptions, insignia (coat of arms, flag, or seal), persons depicted, or similar.

In the section all inscriptions that can serve for identification are displayed in the original languages with German translation, non-Latin scripts are transliterated.

Landesbezeichnungen		33	34
32	1	حكومة البحرين Government of Bahrain	<ḥukūmā ulbaḥrain> [ARB/ENG] Regierung von Bahrain
	2	دولة البحرين State of Bahrain	<daulā ulbaḥrain> [ARB/ENG] Staat Bahrain
	3	مملكة البحرين Kingdom of Bahrain	<mamlakā ulbaḥrain> [ARB/ENG] Königreich Bahrain

32.	Numbering for reference.
33.	Country name in local languages.
34.	Country name in German translation.

Ausgabeinstitute & Banken	
35	1 Bankname 1 Übersetzung

Herrscherbezeichnungen	
36	1, 4, 5 Herrschertitel 1 Übersetzung

Mottos	
37	1 Motto 1 Übersetzung

Portraits	
38	P1 Portrait 1 Daten Beschreibung 1

35.	Names of monetary institutions and mints in local language and German translation.
36.	Rulers' title as used on coins; abbreviated titles are spelled out: → the numbers refer to the rulers (see nr. 13) who have used the title.
37.	Mottoes and similar.
38.	Persons (Name, dates, historical importance) who are depicted on circulation coins on a regular basis and who may therefore serve as identifiers.



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Section "Language" ("Sprache")

The study of numismatic items requires a basic knowledge of the local languages and scripts.

39 Schreibweisen

40 Zahlzeichen

41 Zahlwörter

39.	Local writing of currency units and other terms of numismatic interest, non-Latin scripts are transliterated.
40.	Numerals (1, 2, 3, ...)
41.	Numbers of numismatic interest (one, two, five, ten ...) and informations on the "grammar of counting", such as the flexion of the numbers and of the counted units.

Etymology ("Etymologie")

The currency names can often be traced back to their linguistic roots.

42 Etymologie

Name	Bedeutung
Währungsbezeichnung 1	Etymologie
Währungsbezeichnung 2	Etymologie

42.	Etymology of the currency name, the meaning ("Bedeutung") is explained in German.
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Resources

Fonts

In general, non-Latin scripts are coded in Unicode (UTF-8). The following fonts are used:

Writing System (ISO-15924)		Font Name	Version	Comment
Amharic	ETHI	Ethiopia Jiret	001.004 (2001)	
Arabic	ARAB	Arial	5.01 (2006)	
Armenian	ARMN	Sylfaen	1.00 (1999)	
Bengali	BENG	Code2000	1.16 (2005)	
Burmese	MYRM	Padauk	2.4 (2003)	
Chinese	HANT	MingLIU (MS Hei)	3.21 (2001)	
		MS Hei	1.0 (1996)	
Corean-Hangŭl	HANG	Gulim	2.21 (2000)	
Cyrillic	CYRL	Palatino Linotype	1.40 (1998)	
Devanagari	DEVA	Arial Unicode MS	1.0 (2000)	
Divehi (Thaana)	THAA	Code2000	1.16 (2005)	
Georgian	GEOR	Sylfaen	1.00 (1999)	
Greek	GREK	Palatino Linotype	1.40 (1998)	
Gujarat	GUJR	Arial Unicode MS	1.0 (2000)	
Gumurkhi	GURU	Arial Unicode MS	1.0 (2000)	
Hebrew	HEBR	Tahoma	3.14 (2004)	
Japanese-Hiragana	HIRA	Arial Unicode MS	1.0 (2000)	
Javanese	JAVA	JG Huruf Jawa Sanskrit	x (2001)	not Unicode, letters have to be composed
Kannada	KNDA	Arial Unicode MS	1.0 (2000)	
Khmer	KHMR	Code2000	1.16 (2005)	
Lao	LAOO	Code2000	1.15 (2005)	
Makassar	BUGI	Code2000	1.16 (2005)	
Malayalam	MLYM	Code2000	1.16 (2005)	
Mongol-Uyghur	MONG	Code2000	1.16 (2005)	Font is right-to-left, then rotated by 90°
Oriya	ORYA	Arial Unicode MS	1.0 (2000)	
Sinhala	SINH	KaputaUnicode	1.000 (2004)	
Tamil	TAML	Arial Unicode MS	1.0 (2000)	
Telugu	TELU	Code2000	1.16 (2005)	
Thai	THAI	Tahoma	3.14 (2004)	
Tibetan	TIBT	TCRC Youtso Unicode	1.00 (2003)	