

The Moguls are very poor indeed, there being nothing of any value, save 3 Noorjehans, one certainly very fine and perfect. The rest are either Akhbars, Jehungirs or Shah Jehans, all of most common type, and, strange to say, without even a single square Rupee among them. Most of these came from Benares, from Mr. Gubbins, in February, 1853.

It is very curious how large a collection there is of Foreign continental coins, mostly Norwegian, some of very old date and probably of much interest to those valuing that series. There is a shilling also of Elizabeth of England, dated 1591, and a crown of Charles I. Mr. Speirs has besides given several old broad pieces and dollars, very curious and doubtless of value; one of James the Sixth of Scotland, in very fine order, dated 1582, and two others of 1570 and 1602, respectively; the others are of Maria Theresa, 1773, Frederick Duke of Brunswick, 1627, Hilary Third of Spain and India, 1637, Charles II. of do. 1668, Maximilian reigning Duke "Bulloniensis," 1677, Frederick of Prussia, 1785, Albert and Elizabeth reigning Duke and Duchess of Brabant, 1619, Sigismund III. of Poland, 1628, and Ferdinand II. of Hamburg. I have been thus particular, in enumerating these because it is strange to find such a collection of heavy medieval pieces in Calcutta, where they could hardly have been looked for.

In conclusion, I would urge that all friends to the Society, among whom must of course be specially included all who themselves feel any interest in Indian numismatics, should be requested to aid in every mode in their power, so that the coin collection may be placed in that rank which would so well befit a society whose Journal is the depository of the life long labours of "James Prinsep."

4. From Baboo Radhanauth Sikdar, an abstract of the Meteorological Register kept at the Office of the Surveyor General for the months of January and February last.

5. From Lieutenant H. Raverty, a paper on the Seeposh Kaffirs. The Librarian and the Zoological Curator submitted their reports.

Report of Curator, Zoological Department.

The following specimens have been presented to the Society since my last Report.

1. Dr. D. Scott, Hansi. The following specimens.

VULPES LEUCOPUS, nobis, *J. A. S.* XXIII, 729. Skin of a fine male, which literally verifies the statement of Mountstuart Elphinstone, quoted *loc. cit.*; appearing "as if it had been wading up to the belly in ink:" the name *leucopus*, therefore, is unfortunate, as being applicable (it would seem) to one sex only. The skin now sent is perfect; and though wanting the skull and limb-bones, has been set up as a stuffed specimen. Dr. Scott remarks of this species, in *epistolá*, that "they differ extremely in colouring; some look all over of a sandy-red colour, while others have black bellies and are very light above. The skin sent is an excellent specimen, one reason for this being, that it was from an inhabitant of the open fields. Those that live among sand-hills get so full of *burrs* (or thorny seeds) that they look miserable, and scratch off a good deal of their fur." For further information concerning this little Desert Fox, *vide* Vol. XXV, 443.

FELIS ORNATA, Gray, *vide J. A. S.* XXV, 441. A fine skin, but wanting that of the lower jaw and tail-tip, and therefore unfit for setting up: also two skins of domestic Cats, sent as supposed hybrids of this species, but which are characteristic representatives of the streaked Indian type of domestic Cat, described in the note to Vol. XXV, p. 442. Having since communicated on this subject with Dr. Scott, he subsequently wrote word, that—"With regard to hybrid Cats, I can offer no proof; but I know that a year or two ago a common domestic Cat had kittens under my haystack, and one of them was precisely like the *F. ORNATA*, and without any white,—whilst my gardener had a tom which might easily have passed for an *ORNATA*, only that he had a white collar and belly, and from living less in the sun was less rusty in colour. There are plenty of tame Cats here with spots like those of the *ORNATA*; and I will try to procure and send some skins of them."

PTEROCLES ARENARIUS; a skeleton, kindly sent at my request.

PALUMBENA CENICAPILLA, nobis, *n. s.* Indian 'Stock Pigeon;' a skin described in a separate paper.*

* Dr. Scott has likewise favored me with a description of two living *Ghor-khurs* from the Bikánir desert; the male of which is most remarkable for having a well developed cross-stripe over the withers, besides faint stripes on the limbs,—not a trace of either being visible in the female. They are believed, he says, to be between eighteen months and two years old.

"The male stands, as near as I could measure, 45 inches high (11½ hands) at the shoulder; and the female about 2 in. less (but she was not measured).

2. Lt Brownlow, Engineers, Lahore. Skull of *URSUS ISABELLINUS*, from Kashmir; and a few bird-skins, also from Kashmir, including *MEROPS APIASTER* and *NUCIFRAGA MULTIMACULATA*. Likewise some specimens of a reversed *pupiform* *BULIMUS* new to the museum, and distinct from *B. KUNAWARENSIS* of Hutton.

3. Capt. Robert Tytler, 38th N. I., Delhi. Five skins of birds, including the *HIRUNDO CONCOLOR*, Sykes, Small Crested Lark—*GALERIDA BOYSII*, and *SYLVIA JERDONI* (if correctly distinguished from the European *S. ORPHEA*).

“The upper part of the body is of a buff-fawn colour, with white belly and legs, and a white streak from the flanks up the side.

“Both have a dark stripe along the back, looking like a continuation of the mane, except that the hair of it is short and smooth: the colour of this stripe is dark brown or nearly black, and it extends all along the back and down part of the tail. The male has a most distinctly marked stripe of the same colour across the withers; but the female has not. The male also has distinctly marked fawn stripes on both fore and hind legs; but I could not discern a trace of them in the female. The black tuft at the end of the tail reaches to about the hocks. The cross-stripe over the withers of the male was about an inch broad, and extended about a foot down the shoulders on each side. Moreover there was a female *Ghor-khur* here some years ago, and she was said to have the cross-stripe on withers. This I have been told by more than one person who saw her.”

Of several *Ghor-khurs* which I have seen and minutely observed in Europe, one only (in the late Surrey Zoological Gardens) had an incipient cross-stripe, extending only about an inch on one side (as near as I can remember), and less than half an inch on the other; and I have sought in vain for traces of the cross-stripes on the limbs: these occur in some domestic Donkeys, even adults, but not in all, however young; and are particularly distinct in some of the small Asses of this country, being of a black colour (not fawn), moderately broad and placed somewhat distantly apart.

It would seem that the deserts of Southern Arabia, the Thebaid, Nubia, and Abyssinia (both on the plains and mountains), are the true indigenous home of *EQUUS ASINUS* (the “Wild Ass” of Chesney); that the more northern parts of Arabia, with Syria and Mesopotamia, are tenanted by the recently described *E. HEMIPPUS* (or “Wild Horse” of Chesney); while the deserts of W. India, S. Afghânistán, Persia, and thence onward to the Aral and beyond, are inhabited by the *Ghor-khur*, the distinctions of which (if any) from the *E. HEMIONUS* of middle Asia remain to be positively determined.

“From what I have heard,” remarks Dr. Scott, “the *Ghor-khur* is still plentiful enough in the Bikanor desert; but they are wild and difficult of approach.

4. Bábu Rajendra Mállika. Body of a Civet (*VIVERRA ZIBETHA*) now preparing as a skeleton. Ditto of a male Hog Deer in its seasonal spotted coat,—sent as a hybrid between *C. AXIS* and *C. PORCINUS*. Ditto of a fine adult male of an African Monkey, the *CERCOPITHECUS CYNOSURUS*; and ditto of a Cassowary, which has been prepared as a skeleton.

5. C. Darwin, Esq. F. R. S. &c. &c. Pair of Red Deer horns (*C. ELAPHUS*),—frontlet with horns, and three odd horns, of *C. DAMA*,—and pair of horns of *C. VIRGINIANUS*; with specimens of various British *Crustacea*.

6. Major Tickell, late of Moulmein. Also some specimens of Crabs from that vicinity.

7. Dr. J. R. Withecombe. A beautiful S. African Snake, the *ELAPS HYGÆI*, forwarded from Cape town.

May 1st, 1857.

E. BLYTH.

A year or two ago the Buháwulpur Nawáb in a month's shooting only got seven. Their flesh is eaten as venison."

Since the foregoing observations were transcribed, the following notice has appeared in a contemporary Journal, the 'India Sporting Review,' *n. s.* No. VIII. no doubt elicited by some articles contributed to that periodical with the express design of educeing such information from competent authorities.

It appears that *Ghor-khurs* are still tolerably numerous in the *Pát* or desert between Asni and the hills, west of the Indus, above Mithur-kote. "They are to be found wandering about this desert pretty well throughout the year; but in the early summer, when the grass and the water in the pools have dried up from the hot winds (which are here terrific), the greater number, if not all, of the *Ghor-khurs* migrate to the hills for grass and water. Some are probably to be found in the hills throughout the year, for among them are sandy plains of greater or less extent. The foaling season is in June, July, and August; when the Beluchis ride down and catch numbers of foals, finding a ready sale in the cantonments for them, as they are taken down on speculation to Hindustán. They also shoot great numbers of full grown ones for food, the ground in places in the desert being very favorable for a 'drive,' or stalking." The author performed the difficult feat, on an Arab horse, of riding down and spearing one of these animals, a female; and he remarks that—"They stand about 12 hands high, are of a fawn (Isabelle) colour, with white on the belly, chest, and neck. They have a dark chesnut mane, [and black] dorsal stripe, tuft to the tail, and tips to the ears. Some are very beautifully striped on the legs; many are mottled. I have seen one or two of a very dark colour. They have not generally the stripe on the shoulder, though I think I have seen some with it slightly marked. Their head very large; ears very long; the eye handsome; and coat very fine." This variation in colouring and especially the stripes on the legs do not appear to have been observed in the *Kyangs* of Tibet.