

A RESEARCH ON HORMIZD IV SASANIAN COINS MINTED IN ANCIENT SAKASTAN

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Abstract: The reign of Hormizd IV (AD 579-590) faced many battles in a series of unending conflicts with other neighboring states and tribes, mostly on the western front. Thus, all the government's attention was focused on the western neighborhoods. Sakastan was one of the most important states of ancient Iran during the Sassanid period, where a member of the king's family was always elected to rule Sakastan. Although minting the royal coins was very active since the beginning of the Sassanid period after the reign of Khosrow I, coinage with the abbreviation SK became common and continued until the Islamization shift that changed all of their ancient symbolism. In the Hormizd IV period, Sakastan was considered a state far from the center of power and was out of the focus of attention. Studying the issue of coinage in this region is important because coins are considered a valuable document in describing the archaeological identity of a region. Therefore, relying on the library resources, the central issue of this research was to identify and prepare a list of coins minted in Sakastan by Hormizd IV, the Sassanid Emperor. The results of this study reveal the fact that during the 13-year reign of Hormizd IV, coins were minted in only four separate years, namely years 3, 5, 10, and 12 of Hormizd IV, and possibly to meet the economic needs of the region.

Keywords: Hormizd IV, Sakastan (Sistan), Numismatics, Sassanid, Dirham.

چکیده: دوران شاهنشاهی هرمزد چهارم ساسانی (۵۷۹-۵۹۰ م.) را باید دورانی پر از جنگ و درگیری با سایر دولت‌ها و اقوام همسایه دانست، به همین علت تمام توجه حکومت به غرب کشور معطوف بود. سکستان یکی از مهمترین ایالت‌های ایران در دوره ساسانی بود که همیشه عضوی از خاندان شاه برای حکومت آنجا انتخاب می‌گردید. هرچند از ابتدای دوره ساسانی ضربخانه سکستان بسیار فعال بوده، اما از دوره شاهنشاهی خسرو اول ضرب سکه با علامت اختصاری «سک» (SK) در آن معمول گردید و تا اسلامی شدن کامل سکه‌ها و حتی کمی پس از آن امتداد یافت. از آنجا که سکستان در دوره هرمزد چهارم، ایالتی دور نسبت به مرکز حاکمیت تلقی می‌شد و از دایره توجه خارج بود، مسأله ضرب سکه در آن اهمیت پیدا می‌کند چرا که سکه‌ها را می‌توان سندی ارزشمند در هویت باستان‌شناختی هر منطقه‌ای دانست؛ بنابراین مسأله کانونی این پژوهش بر شناسایی و تهیه فهرستی از سکه‌های ضرب شده در سکستان از دوران هرمزد چهارم ساسانی، با تکیه بر منابع کتابخانه‌ای قرار گرفت. برآیند این پژوهش مشخص ساخت که در طول دوران ۱۳ ساله شاهنشاهی هرمزد چهارم، فقط در چهار سال پراکنده، یعنی سال‌های ۳، ۵، ۱۰، و ۱۲ هرمزدی، و احتمالاً برای رفع نیاز اقتصادی منطقه، به ضرب سکه پرداخته شده است.

کلمات کلیدی: هرمزد چهارم ساسانی، سکستان (سیستان)، سکه‌شناسی، ساسانیان، درهم.

I. Introduction

Hormizd IV was crowned after the death of Khosrow I while he was consulting for a peace treaty in Byzantium (Menander Protector, 1985: 153). The personality traits of Hormizd IV distressed everyone; as Sebeos said: "Hormizd was more prominent than his paternal ancestors and just as terrifying as his maternal ancestors" (Sebeos, 1904: 18). He curbed the aristocrats to control them using extreme violence, defamation, and even execution. Hence, he gave great importance to the lower classes under his rule and was able to surpass his father, dignifying the labors. However, his goodwill turned to the opposite, and the lower class labor revolted against him (Theophylact Simocatta, 1986: 3, 8-13, 16). Khosrow, I died while Iran was at war on the western border with Eastern Rome. The last months of Khosrow I's life coincided with the peace negotiations with Emperors Tiberius II (AD 574-578) and Justin II (AD 578-582). However, the negotiations were abruptly halted when Hormizd was enthroned because he was not content to give up his father's conquests. With the outbreak of the war between Iran and Rome and its intensification,

the Khazars invaded Azarbaijan, Arabs looted several western cities, and the Turks occupied Balkh and its environs (Pourshariati, 2008: 124). One of the most important events was the annexation of the eastern provinces of the Sassanid Empire by Turkish invaders. However, Bahram VI, the famous Persian general, defeated them with great difficulty. This incident made Bahram famous, which eventually aroused the envy of the Emperor, and he removed his title, the Espahbodi (Major-General). Hormizd's decision angered Bahram VI, and he revolted against the Emperor. Since he was a military man, the Sassanid soldiers also sided with the general against the Emperor, and Bahram set out for Ctesiphon. Before his arrival, Vistahm and Vinduyih, probably with the help of Khosrow II, blinded Hormizd and killed him (Shahbazi, 2004: 466-467). Sakastan was one of the late Sassanid states in ancient times, which was located in the southern division (Kost Nimruz), and today part of it is in Iran (Sistan and Baluchestan), and the other part, in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This province was bordered by Kerman in the west, Sepahan in the northwest, Kushanshahr in

the northeast, and Turan in the southeast. This state was very important in the Sassanid period, to the extent that members of the royal family were appointed as its governors, and they were called Sakanshah, in charge of minting coins by order of the Emperor. From the time of Khosrow I, coins were minted in Sakastan engraved with the acronym SK, and their coinage continued until the end of the Sassanid era. During the Hormizd IV rule, Iran was involved in many wars and tribal conflicts among various ethnic groups, and most of his attention was focused on the western lands. This study intends to examine his coins minted in a province far from the western borders and to determine the proper chronology regarding the coinage in this part of ancient Iran.

II. Research method

To study the coins of this research, numismatic sources of the Sassanid period were used, the research background of which will be presented. In 2002, two large numismatic databases were used to obtain the current images of these coins. The Oriental Coin Database was created in 2005. Its website was also designed (<https://www.zeno.ru/>), in which countless oriental coins, especially Iranian coins, were uploaded. Also, the Coin Auction Institute named Sixbid was created in 2011 (<https://www.sixbid.com/en/>), which contains information about all the best-selling coins, medals, and other valuables in the world with all the details.

III. Research background

There are many opinions about the classification of the Sassanid coins from the historical evolution approach; each of which has a unique advantage. William Valentine was the first person who classified the Sassanid coins according to the historical evolution approach. His classifications were very brief and limited to three periods, which are not applicable today and can only be considered as part of the history of research (Valentine, 1921). The next person to classify Sassanid coins was F. Paruck. He designed his proposed classification of coins for each king specifically and prepared the historical evolution of coins in a linear form (Paruck, 1924). This work is far better than Valentine's work, and it is even called the Sassanid numismatic revolution. R. Gobl is the next person who provides the most important and complete classification of Sassanid coins (Gobl, 1971: 41-55). In fact, Gobl's research is considered the main reference regarding the numismatics of the Sassanid era. After Gobl, there are also two reliable works by M. I. Mochiri "Numismatical Studies of Sassanid Iran" (Mochiri, 1972: 2-3), and "The Numismatical Studies of Sassanid and Arab-Sasanian Iran" (Mochiri, 1977: 3-

23), which put the last touches on the numismatics of the Sassanid period. However, in general, no significant specific research has been published on the coins of Hormizd IV, and only the insufficient book "Hormizd IV: 12 years of reign, 13 years of coins" (Amini, 2004) can be found. Regarding the Sassanid coins minted in Sakastan, we can also refer to two articles "Reconstruction of the political history of Sakastan at the end of the Sassanid Empire based on the new coins from the era of Ardeshir III" (Mortazaei and Zabanavar, 2016) and "Elemental analysis of Sassanid silver Dirhams (Khosrow I, Hormizd IV, and Khosrow II) minted in Sakastan (Sakastan /SK) by PIXE method" (Jozhi and Saadat-Mehr, 2021).

IV. An overview of the political situation in Iran during the Hormizd IV reign

Hormizd was uncompromising in foreign relations. He broke the peace treaty with Byzantium and demanded a tribute from the Romans, which they could not pay (Menander Protector, 1985:9-24). The Romans also angered Hormizd IV by accepting an invalid as the son of Khosrow I. After that, a devastating war broke out that lasted throughout the reign of Hormizd IV (John of Ephesus, 1862: 6, 29; Mossig-Walburg, 2000: 71-72). Menander states that "Iranians and Romans would have established peace if Khosrow had not died and his son, Hormizd IV, a scoundrel in every sense, had not taken his place" (Menander Protector, 1985: 207-209). When Hormizd IV ascended to the throne, Emperor Tiberius II proposed a peace treaty in which the Byzantine Empire turned a blind eye to the entirety of Armenia, returned the city of Dara to Iran, and instead retained the city of Arzenir, which was the Roman military base. Hormizd refused this offer, and Tiberius II ordered the eastern commander, Maurice, to prepare for war with Iran. (Menander Protector, 1985: 209-215; Theophylact Simocatta, 1986: 1-3, 17; John of Ephesus, 1862: 6, 22). After the peace negotiations stopped, Roman general Maurice crossed the border and invaded Kurdistan. He even planned to occupy southern Mesopotamia the next year, but Monzar, king of Ghassan, who had betrayed the Romans, informed Hormizd of the Romans' plan. As a result of this incident, Maurice was forced to retreat back to the borders of Rome. During this retreat, the Iranian general Azarmahan chased him, but in the end, Maurice successfully escaped by crossing the border (Whitby, 2001: 102). A year later, in AD 582, the Persian general Tahm-khosrow crossed the Iran-Roman border and besieged the city of Constantine, but Maurice successfully defeated him and finally killed him. However, the illness of Tiberius II forced him to retreat quickly to Constantinople. At the same time, Maurice's successor on the Iranian-Roman border,

John Mystacon, faced the Sassanids at Nymphaeum but was defeated by the Persian army. Philippicus succeeded him after this defeat, but his army was defeated too. Philippicus spent the years 584-585 in Iran and occupied parts of it. In response, the Persians retaliated by attacking Monocartium and Martyropolis. A year later, Philippicus withdrew from Iran in AD 586. In the Solachon battle, he defeated the Persians and besieged the Jelo-Maroon fort but failed to enter the city. After this event, he retreated to the city of Amida, and in AD 587, Heraclius substituted him (*Ibid.*). In 588, the Iranians again attacked Constantine in Roman territory, but the city's defenders held it firmly. In response, the Romans besieged Arzanene in Iran, which was also unsuccessful in combat. In retaliation, the Iranians besieged Martyropolis again. This time the victory was with the Romans. However, then again, in 589, the Persians successfully entered Martyropolis and defeated Philippicus twice. The government of Constantinople recalled Philippicus and replaced him with Comentiolus, whose army successfully defeated the Sassanids at the Battle of Sisauranon. Then he besieged Martyropolis, and it was at this time that the Gok-Turks attacked the eastern borders of Iran (*Ibid.*). In the year AD 588, Iran entered into a serious crisis. Coincident with the war against the Romans, the Khazars attacked Azerbaijan and massacred the people of the region. Several cities on the western borders were also looted by the Arabs, but Balkh was occupied by the Gok-Turks. Ferdowsi says that Nastoh introduced his father, Mehran Stad to Hormizd, and Mehran Stad advised the Shah, to send Bahram Chobin to fight in the eastern borders (Pourshariati, 2008: 124). As he was told, Hormuod sent Bahram with an army of thirteen thousand horsemen to the Gok-Turk Khagan war (Shahbazi, 1988: 414-522) in April AD 588. He achieved a decisive victory in the battle against the joint army of Heptalians and Gok-Turks and conquered Balkh in AD 589. Bahram then passed through the Amu Darya and, in the same year, defeated the Gok-Turk army in a battle and even killed their Khagan personally by throwing an arrow, according to the Shahnameh. After this victory, Bahram VI advanced to Bukhara and minted coins in the name of Hormizd there. Bermuda, Khaqan's son, attacked Bahram's army in this city, and the Sassanid general defeated him decisively and even captured the Prince of Gok-Turks himself and sent him to Ctesiphon. It is said that Hormizd kept him as a prisoner in his palace for forty days and then released him and sent him back home (Rezakhani, 2017: 178; Jaques, 2007: 463; Litvinsky and Dani, 1996: 368-369). After Bahram's victories in the east, Hormizd sent him to Azerbaijan to push back the Khazar invaders. Bahram VI also won this battle, and then he was commissioned by the Sassanid Emperor to fight

against the Romans. In the first battle, he defeated the Roman legions in Georgia, but in the aftermath of the battle, he suffered a surprise attack. Hormizd, who was jealous of Bahram after his successive victories, took advantage of this failure, deposed him from his position, and humiliated him (Shahbazi, 1988: 414-522; Martindale *et al.*, 1992: 167).

According to the other narrative, it was Izad Gheshnsep that made Hormizd suspicious of Bahram. He told Hormizd that Bahram VI kept the best part of the booty for himself and did not send them to the capital. In any case, Hormizd did not reflect Bahram's popularity and fame and detached from his position as the general commander of the army. It is said that to further humiliate Bahram VI, he sent him an iron chain to remind him that after all these victories was still the servant of the Emperor (Tafazzoli, 1988: 260). Finally, this incident caused Bahram to revolt against the throne. The rebellion of this commander resulted in the fall of Hormizd IV from the position of the Sassanid Emperor.

V. The political status of the Sakastan province during the Sassanid period

In the course of the Parthian era and during the time of Ardavan II, a part of the Scythian tribes settling in the northeast of Parthia invaded the borders of the Parthians, occupied the southeast of their territory, and formed the kingdom of Sakastan. During the reign of Parthian Mehrdad II, the kingdom of Sakastan entirely became a subordinate of the Parthian Empire (Collidge, 2001: 27). In the middle of the Parthian period, the Soren dynasty, which had the privilege of giving crowns to the Parthian kings, have ruled in this region (Pigulevskaya, 2008: 250; Mortezaei and Zabanavar, 2016: 168).

Sakastan was a very important place in Persian mythology and was probably one of the centers of the Zoroastrian religion (Dezfulian, 2008: 856). Further, according to Zoroastrian sources, the most important historical events, such as the preservation of the seed of Sushant, the story of Fereydoun, the war between his children, and the acceptance and spread of Zoroastrian religion by Vishtasb have taken place in Sakastan (Daryae, 1996: 536). The Sassanid Sakastan province includes Derangia and Achaemenid Arachosia (Brunner, 1983: 774). Considering the current modern political borders, in addition to Sistan in Iran, present-day Rajasthan, Gujarat, central Punjab, northwestern provinces of India, and present-day Haryana are also part of this ancient territory (Khadmini-Ndushanand Nahidi Azar, 2004: 23). In some historical texts, this ancient region, due to its location in the south of Khorasan, was called Nimruz, and this name has been mentioned many times in Shahnameh (Dezfulian, 2008: 856). The first reference

to Sakastan in the Sassanid period is related to the inscription carved on the stones of the Kaaba (Cube) of Zoroaster ordered by the Sassanid Emperor Shapur the Great. The inscription mentions Sakastan when introducing his territory. Also, in this inscription, Narseh is mentioned as the King of India and Sakastan and Touristan to the coastline” (Sprengling, 1953: 16-17). During the reign of Bahram II in this part of the country, a Sassanid prince named Hormizd rebelled but soon was suppressed and replaced by Bahram III, who appointed viceroy to the Sakastan province after Bahram II's re-conquest of it sometime in the 280s. Bahram III ascended to the throne vacated by his father following his death in 293 (Mousavi Haji, 2010: 101-122; Frye, 1973: 128).

Based on the historical evidence, it seems that in the early days of the Sassanid Empire, a prince who held the title of Sakanshah or, more fully, the title of the King of India, Sakastan, and Touristan to the coastline had a special privilege to succeed the Sassanid emperor. In the Shapur Sakanshah inscription, which was created in the first years of Shapur II's reign in Persepolis, Shapur Sakanshah introduces the region under his control as India, Sakastan, and Touristan to the coastline (Daryaee, 2001: 110). The last time the title of Sakanshah appears in the Sassanid inscriptions is related to the Soluk Davar inscription placed on the wall of Dariush's palace in Persepolis, where the inscription of Shapur Sakanshah is mentioned in the same place. According to Lukonin, this inscription dates back to around AD 326-327 (Lukonin, 1971: 209). It was made in the first years of the reign of Shapur II and before his extensive conquests (Mortezaei and Zabanavar, 2016: 170). Simultaneously with the progressing conquests of Shapur II and the conquest of the Kushanian territory, the title of Sakanshah was marginalized, and the title “Kushanshah” became the most prominent title used in the eastern regions of Iran. During the time of Kavad I, only a few parts of Sakastan remained under Sassanid rule. However, as a result of the successful campaign established by Khosrow I, this region returned to the territories under the command of the Sassanid Empire. However, after Peroz I was killed in AD 484, Heptalians seized most of the territory of Sakastan, and during the Kavad reign, the Sassanids ruled only parts of Sakastan. However, as a result of the successful campaign of Khosrow I, this region returned back to the grasp of the Sassanids. (Kolesnikov, 2010: 192). After Khosrow I's military reforms dividing the Sassanid territory into four regions, Sakastan is located in the southeast of Iran-Shahr, according to some sources, bordered by the Nimruz region, like the other cities of Iran-Shahr (Daryaee, 2008: 40), while according to some other

sources, such as Thaalabi's reports, it is located in the Khorasan region (Thaalabi, 1989: 393).

At the end of the Sassanid era, Sakastan once again became the key state in this period. After the death of Khosrow II and during the all-around crises that occurred throughout the Sassanid territory, Sakastan was always an inseparable part of Iran-Shahr despite the scattered small rebellions. In the years AD 658-663, and during the reign of Yazdegird III's son Peroz, it was one of the last headquarters of the Sassanid empire as the principal area to support Iran against the Arabs (Daryaee, 2009: 37).

VI. Coinage in Sakastan during the Sassanid period

The Sakastan mint with the abbreviation “SK” can be seen on the coins of the Sassanian period (Gobl, 1973: 259. Mitchiner, 1978: 525. Malek, 1993: 89). For the first time, the name of Sakastan was imprinted on the coins of Bahram I (Fig. 1) and Shapur II, and the full name of Sakastan is engraved on the coin (Mochiri, 1977: 337; Unvala, 1957: 1-3). The evidence provided by Alram regarding the minting design of coins by the Crown Prince during the time of Ardashir I (Alram, 2007: 231) indicates that the commencement of the minting in Sakastan coincides with the beginning of the reign of Ardashir I (Mortazaei and Zabanavar, 2016: 171).



Figure 1. Bahram I dirham minted in Sakastan.
(<https://www.zeno.ru/showphoto.php?photo=208062>)

The coins minted in Sakastan with the mark “SK” appear during the reign of Khosrow I (Malek, 1993: 89), and the noteworthy point is that these coins were minted in the 27th year of the reign of Khosrow I (Moshiri, 2010: 180). By stating that the minting place in Sakastan imprints can be attributed to several cities and probably the biggest city of the state, Moshiri presents the theory that while the minting place of Sakastan and Zarang coins is the same (ZR, ZRN, ZRNG), the gap between the coins minted in Sakastan by Shapur II and Khosrow I is filled by the coins minted in Zarang. It proves with acceptable reasons that coins with the mark “SK” was minted only during the period when the Sakastan governorate was

completely under the control of the Sassanid empire, and in the interval from the defeat of Peroz to the victory of Khosrow I over the Heptalians when the Sassanid emperors only had control over Zarang, their coins also imprinted with the Zarang mint mark (Fig. 2) (*Ibid.*, 181-180).



Figure 2. Kavard I dirham minted in Zarang (Rastegar, 2015: 657).

There are scattered coins related to the 27th to the 46th year of Khosrow I and also from the 3rd to the 12th year of Hormizd IV with the mark “SK” (Fig. 3), which shows the continuous manufacture during this ancient mint. The Sakastan mint was also very active during the time of Khosrow II, and many samples were available from this mint during that period (Gaube, 1973: 103). At the end of the Sassanid period, coins from Ardeshir III, Boran, and Yazdegerd III were designed in this mint (Mortazaei and Zabanavar, 2016: 173).



Figure 3. Sakastan Mint Mark (SK) (Authors).

The last Sassanid Emperor who minted coins in Sakastan was Yazdegerd III. Discovered coins of the 3rd to the 20th year related to the Yazdegerd dynasty were seen with the Sakastan mint mark. (Amini, 2008: 348. Mochiri, 1977: 389-397). There are some reasons proving the fact that in the last years, and especially the 20th year of Yazdegerd’s rule, these coins were minted by his sons, Pirouz and Bahram. During this period, Yazdegerd was murdered (Daryae, 2006: 21-29). After

the conquest of Sakastan by the Arabs, the mint of this state was also active. Even during the Umayyad and Abbasid eras, coins with the names, Zaranj, Madinah Zaranj, and Sajistan, have been introduced until now (Moshiri, 2010: 178).

VII. Introducing Hormizd IV coins minted in Sakastan

In the past, coins were minted mainly of gold, silver, and copper. The Sassanid Empire, like other contemporary and earlier governments, maintained the usage of these three metals. However, golden coins did not have much of an exchange aspect among ordinary people. During the reign of Hormizd IV, the minting of the golden Dinars was stopped, and the copper coins called Pashiz were minted in small numbers, but the minting of the silver dirhams continued according to the needs of the society. The dirhams of the Hormizd IV period have a weight of about 4.10 to 4.15 grams (Gobl, 2003: 109-115).

The design of the dirhams of this period was also adapted from the dirhams of other Sassanid kings after the reign of Peroz I (AD 459-484) (Kianzadegan et al., 2018: 184). Details of the design of the Hormizd IV dirham minted by the 3rd year of Hormizd in Sakastan (Fig. 4):

Obverse design: (1) Pahlavi word 'p̄zwt' (Abzūd). (2) Royal crown. (3) Crescent moon and stars. (4) Chain circle on the coin. (5) Crescent moon and star at the 3, 6, and 9 o'clock positions. (6) Profile of the Sassanid king. (7) Hormizd’s name is Hormazd in Pahlavi (spelling 'whrmzd').

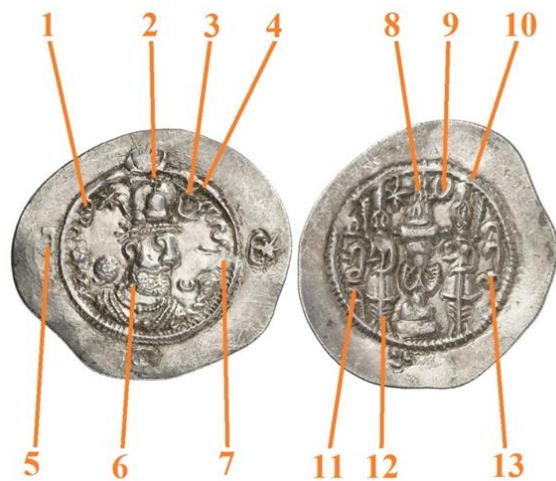


Figure 4. A sample of Hormizd IV dirhams, minted in Sakastan, the 3rd year of Hormizd’s rule (Authors).

Reverse design: 8) Zoroastrian holy hearth. 9) Crescent moon and star. 10) Chain circle on the back of the coin. 11) Minting date. 12) Two guardians standing on the sides of the sacred Zoroastrian hearth.

13) The minting place marked in Pahlavi “SK” (Sakastan).

The basis of the calendar in the Sassanid period was the new king’s accession to the throne. In this way, the reigning year begins with the inauguration of each king and ends with his removal or death. The date imprint on the Sassanid coins occurred first during Peroz’s time, and it was not usual to record the date on the coins before him. The first time, date minted on Sassanid coins was the year “two”, indicating the second year of Peroz’s reign (Fig. 5), and this path continued until the year “seven” (except the year five of his reign) (Jozi *et al.*, 2021).



Figure 6. The date on Hormizd IV coins (Authors).



Figure 5. The first dated Sassanid coin, Peroz I, in the second year of his reign (Amini, 2008: 31).

After the seventh year of Peroz I’s reign, inscribing the date was stopped due to the reasons that have been mentioned earlier, the occurrence of the drought and considering it as bad luck.

Finally, for the second time in the time of Jamasp (AD 496-499) and then in the eleventh year of Kavad

I’s reign, which is equal to the first year of the second series of his reign, it became customary to put the year on the coins (Mochiri, 1972: 123). The year of minting is written on the left side of the back of the coin and next to the holy fire guard, which is engraved in the form of letters from top to bottom (Fig. 6). The date imprint on the coins of Hormizd IV also occurs from the first year of his reign and continues until the thirteenth year of his reign (Table 1). This thirteenth year coincides with the removal and assassination of Hormizd, then his son, Khosrow II takes his position as the emperor. (Amini, 2004: 92).

As mentioned in the research method, according to the numismatic sources, a list of Hormizd IV coins minted in Sakastan was prepared, and in addition, two reliable numismatic sites were also used to search for coins as well as find the unintroduced samples.

These coins were minted in a similar type and on four different dates, the 3rd, 5th, 10th, and 12th years of the Hormizd kingdom. The result of this examination is shown in Table 2:

Table 1: Dates on the back of Hormizd IV coins (Amini, 2004: 94).

خط پهلوی	عدد	خط پهلوی	عدد
س ۱۵	۸	س ۳	۱
س ۱۵	۹	س ۵	۲
س ۱۰	۱۰	س ۱۰	۳
س ۳	۱۱	س ۱۱	۴
س ۳	۱۲	س ۱۲	۵
س ۳	۱۳	س ۱۳	۶
		س ۱۴	۷

Table 2: List of Hormizd IV coins minted in Sakastan (Authors).



Dirham, silver, SK mintage, year 5, 4.12 grams, 29 mm (<https://www.zeno.ru/showphoto.php?photo=180617>).



Dirham, silver, SK mintage, year 3, 4.08 grams, 28 mm (Seyyed Ali Seyyed Mousavi Collection, 2021).



Dirham, silver, SK mintage, year 12, 4.11 grams, 29 mm
(<https://www.sixbid-coin-archive.com#/de/single/134039564>).



Dirham, silver, SK mintage, year 10, 4.13 grams, 29 mm
(<https://www.zeno.ru/showphoto.php?photo=268500>).

VIII. Conclusion:

The reign of Hormizd IV should be considered a tense period because he had conflicts with the Byzantine Empire from the west, the Arabs from the southwest, and the Caspian tribes from the northwest. Hormizd IV was mostly vigilant in the western regions of Iran. On the other hand, Sakastan, although a vast and important state located in the eastern part, was not much of the consideration by the empire during this period. There are many silver coins and few copper coins left from Hormizd IV, among which the share of silver coins in Sakastan province is limited to a small amount. Looking at the coins minted in the western mints, we see that during the 13 years of Hormizd IV's reign, each city minted coins for almost 8 to 10 years or eventhroughout the total period. However, in Sistan

province, only in 4 years, mainly during the years 3, 5, 10, and 12, few coins were minted. By this comparison, we can conclude that the problems of the east of the country, saving on court fees, lack of prior attention, distance, etc., and limited coins with limited dates have been minted in this state.

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