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- 374 **VOLGA-BULGARS. Anonymous, ca. AH 301-310/914-922.** Dirham. Uniface. Imitating a Samanid dirham of Nasr II b. Ahmad. Cf.A-Q1481. This is not a brockage, but rather a deliberately struck piece, thin and uniface with retrograde obverse mirror-image. *Broad flan. An interesting coin. VERY RARE. Toned* **EF** **250.**
- 375 **Anonymous, ca. AH 301-310/914-922.** Dirham. Imitating a Samanid Dirham of Ahmad b. Isma`il, *al-Shash* AH 300. The engraver has done a good job of aping the original in a neat, crisp style. Minor errors and irregular calligraphic formation, however, show that it is a Volga-Bulgarian imitation. Cf.A-Q1481. *Lightly toned* **EF** **200.**
- 376 **Anonymous, ca. AH 301-310/914-922.** Dirham. Imitating a Samanid Dirham of Nasr II b. Ahmad, *Nishapur* AH 300. At first glance, the coin appears to be a regular Samanid issue. But the date is fictional as Nasr II assumed power in AH 301. The engraver has done a fairly good job of mimicking the Samanid legends by sight, but not by comprehension. Letters are routinely omitted, while some word formations are irregular. Cf.A-Q1481. *Minor flatness in margins. Sharp centers* **EF** **200.**



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- 377 **QARAKHANIDS. Ahmad b. `Ali, ca. AH 384-407/994-1016.** Dirham, *Quz Urdu*, AH 400. Ruler named as *Nasr al-Millah Ahmad bin `Ali Qara-khagan*, Mongol word at end. Kochnev 237. **Scarce. Irregular edge with minor chipping** **EF** **125.**
- 378 Dirham, *Quz Urdu* AH 402. Squared mint and date formula. Tiny *mim* middle first line obverse central legend. Ruler named as *Nasr al-Millah Ahmad bin `Ali Qara-khagan*. Kochnev 290. *Surface veining* **Good VF** **100.**
- 379 Dirham, *Balasagun* AH 404. Ruler named as *Qutb al-Dawla khaqan Ahmad bin `Ali*. Kochnev 332. **RARE. Trivial edge chipping** **EF** **150.**
- 380 Dirham, *Quz Ordu* AH 405. Double obverse margin legend, circular. Ruler cited as *Nasr al-Millah Ahmad bin `Ali Qara-khagan*. Above: a star of six diagonal non-linked lines, annulet at center, within arabesque of six arcs. Three annulets between lines of the double inner circle. Kochnev 290. *Typical surface veining. Attractive style. Good lustre* **Choice EF** **225.**
- 381 **Muhammad b. `Ali, ca. AH 393-415/1003-1024.** Dirham, *Kesh* AH 401. Citing his brother and overlord Ahmad b. `Ali as *Nasir al-Haqq Khan*, and his brother and Ilak Nasr b. `Ali as *al-Mu`ayyad al-`Adl Ilak (Nasr)*. Muhammad is named in the margin legend as: *al-Amir al-Jalil Sahib al-Dawla Sinan al-Jish Abu al-Fawaris Bekatuzin*. (The engraver has mistakenly transposed *Sahib* and *Sinan*). Cf.Kochnev 234. **VERY RARE. Grainy** **VF** **200.**
Kesh, the modern Shahr-i Sebz (the Green City), lies south of Samarqand. Some 226 years after this coin was struck, it would be the birthplace of Timur, known as Timur lenk (or Tamerlane as the West would know him), one of history's cruelest conquerors.



382



384 Æ



383 Æ



- 382** Nizam al-Dawla Abu'l-Muzaffar Tungha-tegin, fl. AH 399-404/1009-1014. Dirham, *al-Shash* AH 401. Squared mint and date formula. Ruler named as *Nizam (al-Dawla) al-Muzaffar Tungha tegin*. Overlord Ahmad b. `Ali cited in the margin legend as: *al-Amir al-Sayyid al-Malik al-Muzaffar Qutb al-Dawla wa Nasr al-Millah*. Kochnev 259. **RARE**. Weakness with small flat area at center **VF** 150.
- 383** Yusuf b. `Ali, AH 418-433/1027-1042. Broad Fals, *Bukhara* AH 424. Ruler as *Shams al-Dawla* at center, two crescents and pellet above, two and pellet below/*Tafghaj Khan* (Yusuf's father `Ali b. al-Hasan) at center, two crescents and pellet with tail above, two with pellet with tail below. Kochnev 764. **VERY RARE**. Typical *flan striae* **VF** 150.
- 384** Muhammad b. Mas`ud, AH 566-574/1171-1179. AE Broad Dirham ("Black Dirham"), (*Samarqand*) no date visible. A-3401. Tall, ornate calligraphy. Kalima in octagon formed from a square and a quadrilobe / Ruler named as *al-Khaqan al-`Adl Ghiyath al-Dunya w'l-Din Qilij Tafghaj Khan*, uncertain word above *burhani* (?). Kochnev 1058, A-3401 **VF** 100.

These Dirhams originally were silver-washed, hence the term "Black Dirhams." The Qarakhanids used them as a fiduciary currency in the same manner as the Arab-Bukharan Drachms (the billon derivatives of the Bukharkhudat Drachm) that had previously circulated in the region.



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- 385** QARAKHANID VASSALS. Muzaffar Kiya, *dihqan* at Saghaniyan, fl. AH 395-406/995-1005. Dirham, *Saghaniyan* AH 395. *Muzaffar* above, *Kiya* below. Overlords Ahmad and Nasr b. `Ali cited as *Badshah Nasir al-Haqq Khan al-Mu`ayyad al-`Adl Ilak Nasr*. Kochnev 153, A-3432. **VERY RARE**. Minor weakness **EF** 200.
- 386** Dirham, *Saghaniyan* AH 397. Squared margin legends on obverse, *Muzaffar* cited atop central legend. Overlords Ahmad and Nasr b. `Ali cited as *Nasir al-Haqq Khan al-Mu`ayyad al-`Adl Ilak Nasr* Kochnev 171, A-3432. **VERY RARE**. Some flatness in margins, and deposits in reverse periphery **About EF** 125.
- 387** Dirham, *Saghaniyan* AH 397. Types similar to above, but central legends both sides within double-lined circles, circular legend around. Star below central obverse legend. Kochnev 171var., A-3432. *Minor weakness* **About EF** 150.