The Peacock Coins were cast and became legal tender in Myanmar during King Mindon's reign (1853 - 1878). These coins were made in a mint built within the Mandalay Palace in 1227 (AD 1865). Peacock coins were made of gold, silver, copper, tin and lead. The coinage was issued over the 20 years reign (1865 - 85) and estimated to be worth Rs. 28,755,625.
THE PEACOCK COINS*

Ma Kyan

Peacock Coins were cast and became legal tender in Burma when King Mindon established a Mint at Mandalay in S. 1227 (A.D. 1865). The Mint, built within the Palace Yard was of brick and was installed with the necessary machines for issuing coins of various denominations. The Rhwenazum: Wohara Abhidhan gives a good description of the Mint with its compartments for various processes of making coins such as melting, casting, coining, stamping, etc., as follows:

The auspicious day on which the very first peacock coins were cast was Saturday, 9 waning Tasauangmon, 1227 (11 November 1865). Gold, silver, copper, tin and lead coins were cast. The highest denomination for gold coins was one quarter of a tical (i.e., one mut); then the one tenth (one mut) and the smallest one twentieth (i.e., one pai). The silver coins were of one rupee, half rupee (five muts), quarter rupee (one mut), one tenth rupee (one mut) and one twentieth rupee (one pai) denominations. A gold coin of the highest denomination was equivalent to five rupees, silver. The lead coins were of two different thicknesses. Four thick lead coins were exchangeable for one copper piece and four copper pieces in turn fetched one pai (one anna) silver. The tin and the lead coins did not last long; they became very easily worn out and soon fell out of use. The lead coins had the picture of a rabbit embossed on one side and the year S. 1214 (the year of King Mindon's ascension to power) on the other side.

* This article was written before 1962 and was meant to be published in a Bulletin of the Burma Historical Commission.

1. မြန်မာစာတမ်းတွင် အချက်အလက်မှတ်တမ်းရှိနေသည်။
2. 11 နိုcustomize (၁၈၆၅) ခုနှစ်၊ ၁၉ ကလေးဗော်စ်နေ့၊ သန်စောင် သစ်စင်း ခုနှစ်၊ မြန်မာတောင်ဟောင်း တွင် မိန်းကလေးမ့်တို့က ကြက်ကလေးမ့်ကစားတာ ကျင်းပခဲ့သည်။
3. သင်ကြားမှတ်တမ်းတွင် (၆၅၀) ခုနှစ်၊ သို့မဟုတ် ၁၃၁၄ ခုနှစ်၊ မြန်မာကြက်ကလေးကြက်ကလေးမ့်ကစားတာ ကြက်ကလေးမ့်ကစားတာများကြောင်း သို့မဟုတ် စီစဉ်ပြီး ကြက်ကလေးမ့်ကစားတာများကြောင်း အကြောင်းဖော်ပြသည်။
4. ဒေါင်များအတွက် အမြဲတမ်းတွင် (၁၈၆၅) ခုနှစ်၊ မြန်မာတောင်ဟောင်း တွင် မိန်းကလေး ကြက်ကလေးမ့်ကစားတာ ကြက်ကလေးမ့်ကစားတာ ကြက်ကလေးမ့်ကစားတာ ကျင်းပခဲ့သည်။

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1. မြန်မာစာတမ်းတွင် အချက်အလက်မှတ်တမ်းရှိနေသည်။
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the throne) on the other. The gold and silver coins had Peacock on one side and the year S. 1214 and *Ratana pun Nepran toau* on the other.¹

The amount of coinage (referring to whole rupees only) issued during the reign of King Mindon and Thibaw was estimated at about Rs. 26406000.² According to the information derived from those who had been in charge of the Mint at Mandalay the bulk of the coinage including the smaller pieces was approximately as per statement ³ below. No mention, however, was made to the one anna pieces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rupees</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>Total Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>During four years from 1227 to 1230 (1865–68)</td>
<td>25360000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During ten years from 1231 to 1240 (1869–78)</td>
<td>800000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During six years and eight months, from 1241 to Tasaungmon 1247 (1879 to November 1885).</td>
<td>246000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26406000</td>
<td>26406000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eight anna pieces (5 mu)</th>
<th>Pieces</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>During 16 years from 1227 to 1242 (1865–81)</td>
<td>1600000 = 800000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During four years and eight months from 1243 to Tasaungmon 1247 (1882 to November 1885)</td>
<td>373000 = 186500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1973000 = 986500</td>
<td>986500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four anna pieces (1 mat)</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>During 16 years from 1227 to 1242 (1865–81)</td>
<td>2400000 = 600000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During four years and eight months from 1243 to Tasaungmon 1247 (1882 to November 1885)</td>
<td>466000 = 116500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2866000 = 716500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two anna pieces (1 mu)</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>During 16 years from 1227 to 1242 (1865–81)</td>
<td>4800000 = 600000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During four years and eight months from 1243 to Tasaungmon 1247 (1882 to November 1885)</td>
<td>373000 = 46625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5173000 = 646625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>28755625</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1. *Ratana pun Nepran toau*
2. *UBP* (Finance & Commerce Dept.), July 1886
THE PEACOCK COINS

The Peacock and British Government rupees passed freely at par in Upper Burma. In the frontier districts of Thayetmyo and Toungoo Peacock coins were used to be current though they were not received at Treasuries and Banks. But in Lower Burma large payments in Peacock Coins were received only with a discount.¹

After the fall of Mandalay in 1885, the Burmese and British coins were used without discrimination for a time, though at different values in some districts in Upper Burma. The British Government could neither condemn nor recall the peacock coins immediately after the annexation of the country. To condemn the coins would inflict too great a loss on the people of Upper Burma; and to recall it, all the treasuries in Upper Burma would have to be loaded with the coins of Indian mintage so as to enable them to give in exchange for every peacock coin tendered. Hence a status quo was maintained and the Chief Commissioner, Mr. C. Bernard’s Circular dated 21 December 1885 stated that though the peacock rupees should not be accepted at the treasuries or by banks in Lower Burma they should be paid and received by the public offices in Upper Burma at the same rate as the Government rupees; and that the peacock rupees were not to be forced upon the Government servants—both military and civil—in payment of their salaries.² Instructions were also sent out to all Civil Officers in Upper Burma that though the peacock coins were to be received in payment of Government demands they were not to be received in exchange for Government rupees and that they should be paid away in Upper Burma and should not on any account be sent down to Lower Burma.³ For some months every thing seemed to go on well and smoothly. The Peacock and Government rupees passed at par in the Mandalay bazaar.⁴ Treasuries received the peacock rupees in payment of revenues and other Government demands. The Post and Telegraph Offices did the same. But very soon complaints were heard that in Mahlaing, Melktilla and some other districts the traders charged 2 annas discount on peacock coins.⁵ The Civil Officer, Minhla also wired on 3 February 1886 to the Chief Commissioner that the Thayetmyo Treasury refused to receive peacock rupees from the British officers.⁶ The Thayetmyo Treasury, however, could not be blamed because the treasuries in Lower Burma had clear instructions not to receive peacock rupees. The situation became rather confusing as the troops also fell victim to the situation and the poor ignorant people suffered as the two rupees were current side by side at different values.

The Chief Commissioner was of the opinion that the peacock coins should be withdrawn and melted down as quickly as possible. The existence of the two coins of different values caused much inconvenience to trade and was a source of fraud and dispute. It opened up means whereby “the astute and unscrupulous could defraud the ignorant and unwary”. The Director General of the Post Offices of India, also warned the Government that as the intrinsic value of the peacock coins was much below that of the Government rupee the Government might sustain loss through speculation in connection with money order and other branches of the Postal Department.⁷ After consulting Mr. Gillam, Agent of the Bank of Bengal, Mandalay, the Chief Commissioner suggested a time limit to the circulation of the said coins in Upper Burma. He believed that nine months of free exchange at par and 24 months of free exchange at a discount of 1½ annas per rupee, besides 21 months of receipt

1. UBP (Finance & Commerce Dept.), July 1886, No. 1-6
2. BFP 4 Feb. 1886, No. 1-7
3. BFP 4 Feb. 1886, No. 1-7
4. UBP (Finance & Commerce Dept.), July 1886
5. UBP (Finance & Commerce Dept.), July 1886
6. BFP 26 March 1886
at par in payment of revenue would be sufficient to let the people unload their peacock rupees without loss. The transaction was to be confined to Upper Burma treasuries only and that 1 April 1889 would be the last date for its circulation. Hence a Draft Notification to this effect was submitted for approval of the Government of India.

The Chief Commissioner also pointed out the loss the Government had to sustain for selling in the peacock rupees. The Assaymaster, Calcutta, reported that the assay of a certain number of peacock coins showed that they varied much in weight and fineness among themselves. The average weight of the peacock rupee, according to this assay, was 178.75 grains, or 1.25 grains less than that of the Government rupee; that made the value very nearly 7 in 1000 less than the Government rupee. The fineness was also inferior, being only 911.75 against 916.66 in Government rupees and thus when added the inferiority in weight and fineness altogether came up about 12 in 1000 or 1.2 per cent less. The total issue of peacock rupees was estimated at Rs. 26406000 and it was generally believed that most of the earlier issues had been lost, melted down, or otherwise passed out of circulation. Those current at the moment were of the later issue and were very much debased. It was also very likely that some of the coins would not come in but would remain in circulation from accident or prejudice or other causes long after they were made uncurrenct. Hence only 50 per cent of the whole (i.e. Rs. 13200000) were expected to come in to be retired and recoined. The loss on recoining was estimated as Rs. 2200 per Rs. 100000; the loss owing to difference being 12 per 1000, and the cost of sending the peacock coins to Calcutta was calculated at one per cent. Thus the whole loss to Government would be about Rs. 290400 on retiring Rs. 13200000 peacock rupees.

The Government of India did not accept the Chief Commissioner's proposal for the gradual withdrawal of the peacock rupees from circulation in Upper Burma. The proposed notification was also thought to be inexpedient at the moment, for it would inevitably produce an inconvenient effect of temporarily locking up a large portion of the treasury balances with the uncurrenct coins. Moreover, every peacock coin thus retired had to be supplanted by a Government rupee. The Government thought it best not to interfere with their circulation and thus the only instruction given was that the peacock coins were to be received by the treasuries in Upper Burma on the same basis with the coins of the Government of India; the coins, however, were not to be reissued except in cases of necessity or when the Government coin was not available. The coins thus received were to be forwarded to Calcutta at convenient intervals for transmission to the Mint.

1. UBP (Finance and Commerce Dept.), July 1886, No. 1-6
2. UBP (Finance & Commerce Dept), July 1886, No. 1-6
3. UBP (Finance & Commerce Dept), July 1886, No. 1-6
4. Letter No. 656 dated 12 Feb 1886, BFP 26 March 1886; the Myanma Oktokloponsan Sadam also stated, that the intrinsic value of silver in a peacock rupee was only 7 mu: and that the coins of smaller denominations (the half, quarter, one eighth and one sixteenth) were also debased proportionately. The gold coin was of 3 1/2 pai only and though a legal tender for five rupee silver, it fetched only 4 1/2 rupees in public transactions, Vol. IV, 204-5; at one instance the rate of exchange even fell to 3 rupees outside the capital. See also Mawbi Saya Thein; Myanna Wunygi Mhuugi Mya Atuppati, Rangoon, Myannagonyi Press, 1938, pp. 12-13
5. UBP (Finance and Commerce Dept.), July 1886, No. 1-6
6. Letter No. 3040 dated, Simla 9 Sept. 1886, UBP (Finance and Commerce Dept.), October 1886 No. 1
THE PEACOCK COINS

With these regulations in force, the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company Limited encountered some difficulty in disposing peacock coins collected in course of their business and a special concession had to be given them. The Company requested the Government for transfer receipts payable in Rangoon for the Burmese coins paid into the treasury in Mandalay. The measure, it was pointed out, would save the Government the cost and risk of sending money from Rangoon. But the request was not granted; instead the Company was conceded the privilege of exchanging peacock rupees for Government rupees at par at the Rangoon Treasury. This, however, was not without any objection. The Bank of Bengal, Rangoon, though authorised by the Government, deferred the receipt of peacock coins from the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company on the grounds that there was great variation in the intrinsic value of the coins and that there was nothing to guide as to its weight. To this the Comptroller, Burma, advised, pending the issue of definite orders by the Government, that peacock rupees when not below the minimum weight of Government rupees (i.e. 176.4 grains) should be exchanged at par for the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company; and those below that weight if not “clipped, or filed, or defaced or diminished by fraudulent means” should also be treated similarly. The concession was restricted to the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company only and later extended to the Burma State Railway also with a view to facilitate their greater trade in Upper Burma.

When the peacock coins were thus left to circulate without interference, the Government of India, with a great apprehension for illicit coinage, enquired about the dies of the Mandalay Mint. Accordingly, a report was called for from Lt. Col. W. T. Budgeon, Prize Agent, Mandalay. It was stated in the report that:

1. 76 dies (some for one rupee and some for 8 annas pieces) were sold at auctions in the palace to officers of the Army, Navy, and Civil Services except the four to an European traveller;

2. 15 boxes of 10 rupee dies in each were sold privately to officers of the services by Major Lambert;

3. One box was disposed of by Lt. Col. Budgeon to officers at Thayetmyo;

4. at least there were 150 pairs of dies for rupee and eight annas pieces, besides some worn-out dies for copper coins which were used as paper weights in the reading room; and Lt. Col. Budgeon had four in his possession.

The Chief Commissioner admitted that he was quite unaware of the dies until all or nearly all of them were disposed of by the Prize Agents. It was not possible to ascertain the actual number of the dies or to account for all of them. But the Chief Commissioner assumed that it was unlikely that any of the dies would find its way into the hands of people who would make an improper use of it. Lt. Col. Budgeon was directed to collect as many of the dies as he could trace—including those which were in the reading room—and send them to the Mint Master at Calcutta.

1. Letter dated 22 July 1866 from L. Ward, Agent, I. F. C. Ltd., UBP (Finance and Commerce Dept.), July 1866
2. P. A. Gillam’s letter No. 25-3930 dated 21 Oct. 1886, UBP (Finance and Commerce Dept.), November 1886
The peacock coins were thus left to circulate in Upper Burma without interference until 30 September 1889 when the copper coins ceased to be current. The order to that effect was conveyed in the Finance and Commerce Department Notification No. 21 dated 22 May 1889. But the people just continued using them. So in June 1889 notifications that Government coins could be obtained at par in exchange for Burmese copper coins at all treasuries in Upper Burma had to be again widely circulated. Even then the copper coins did not rush in as speedily as was expected. Only memorials and petitions requesting that the time for receiving and exchanging Burmese Copper coin for other coins of Indian mintage be extended were received instead. The Commissioner, Southern Division, also submitted copy of letters from the Deputy Commissioners Myingyan, Magwe, Pakokku and Minbu showing that much inconvenience had undoubtedly been caused to the public by ordering the Burmese copper coin uncurrenct. But the Chief Commissioner was quite firm with his decision that further concessions in respect of copper coin were inexpedient. Instances, however, are traced in which the Chief Commissioner had to accord special sanctions for acceptance, at the Minbu, Pegu and Mingin treasuries, of Burmese copper coins, left untendered after 30 September 1889 for certain unavoidable circumstances. Apart from that the copper coin of Burmese mintage ceased to be a legal tender after 30 September 1889.

The silver coins of Burmese mintage (i.e. peacock rupees, half rupees, quarter rupees and one eighth rupees) remained in circulation in Upper Burma for nearly seven years after the annexation and was finally withdrawn after 31 March 1892. At first the Government attempted to expedite the withdrawal of the said coins rendering them uncurrenct after 31 March 1890. Accordingly the Finance and Commerce Department Notification No. 21 dated 22 May 1889 stipulated

(1) that up to 31 March 1890 Burmese coins would be received at Treasuries in Upper Burma in payment of Government demands, but not in exchange for Government coins; and

(2) that for a period of two months up to 31 July 1889 Burmese coins would be received in payment of Government demands at Treasuries in Lower Burma.

In consequence of this notification the traders endeavoured to secure Government coin only and the prejudice against the peacock coin prevailed at large trading centres, entailing much loss and hardship to the people. Certain merchants in Rangoon and Mandalay submitted memorials and the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce pointed out

1. BFCP July 1889 (Mint and Currency) p. 5, No. 1
2. BFCP June 1889 (Mint and Currency) p. 1, No. 1
3. Memorial from certain merchants of Rangoon, dated 28 Aug. 1889, BFCP Oct. 1889 (Mint and Currency) p. 1, No. 2; Petition from Mr. E. C. Barber, through Commissioner, Northern Division, dated 31 Jan. 1890, BFCP Pt. II-B, May 1890 (Mint & Currency) No. 5; two petitions from certain traders of Prome, through Commissioner, Pegu, dated 31 Jan. 1890.
5. BFCP Pt. II-B, May 1890 (Mint and Currency) No. 3 dated 27 Jan. 1890 and No. 13 dated 24 Feb 1890
6. BFCP No. 18 dated 18 March 1890
7. BFCP No. 29 dated 22 May 1890
9. BFCP Oct. 1889 (Mint and Currency) p. 1, No. 2
11. BFCP (Mint and Currency) Oct. 1889, p.1, No. 2
the probable consequences of the measure.\textsuperscript{1} Lieutenant H. Daly, Superintendent, Northern Shan States, in his semi-official letter No. 164-2-C, dated 12 September 1889 stated that the amount of peacock money circulating in the Shan States was undoubtedly very large and that the result of the measure would reduce the capital of the Shans by 50 per cent and would cause grave hardship and widespread discontent.\textsuperscript{2} All the representations pointed out that the facilities afforded for the withdrawal of peacock coins were insufficient to enable the holders of the said coins to unburden themselves of their stocks within the time specified.\textsuperscript{3} Based upon them the Chief Commissioner advocated to provide further facilities for the withdrawal of Burmese silver coins. The Chief Commissioner was of the opinion that the most effectual means of withdrawing these coins would be to allow them to be freely exchanged at all government treasuries for standard coins and for currency notes. He also stated that the matter was of a serious importance to the whole population of Upper Burma and that the demonetization of such a large amount of silver would ultimately impoverish the country and paralyse trade producing widespread discontent. He therefore recommended that the period during which peacock coins would be received and exchanged for Government coins at treasuries in Upper Burma be extended to 30 September 1890.\textsuperscript{4} The Government of India was quite reluctant in accepting the recommendations of the Chief Commissioner. Therefore, a notification, superseding No. 21 of May 1889, and stating that silver coins of Burmese mintage would be received at Government treasuries in Upper Burma in payment of Government demands, and also in exchange for Government coins up to 31 March 1890 was at first, gazetted on 10 January 1890,\textsuperscript{5} no mention was made regarding the extension. Later, on 1 March 1890 the same concessions were extended up to 30 June 1890\textsuperscript{6} and only at the second instance was the concession extending up to 30 September 1890 gazetted.\textsuperscript{7} The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company and the Burma State Railway to whom were ceded the privilege of tendering peacock coins at the Treasury, Rangoon, and the Bank of Bengal, Rangoon, were accordingly informed of the consequent extension of the concessions made to them.

This did not, however, put an end to the circulation of peacock coins as a legal tender in Upper Burma. It was intended, as stated above, to deplete the country of the peacock coins by 30 September 1890. But the financial year for 1890 ended only on 31 March 1891 and hence for convenience sake the receipt and exchange of peacock coins was, for the third time, extended up to 31 March 1891. Even then the amount of peacock coin left unattended after 31 March 1891 seemed to be still rather large and the Government of India called upon the Chief Commissioner to report whether it would be expedient to continue the receipt and exchange of peacock coins at the treasuries in Upper Burma after 31 March 1891, charging a discount, or whether it would be better to refuse them altogether.\textsuperscript{8} With the concurrence of the Comptroller, Burma, the Chief Commissioner advocated continuance for a limited term after 31 March 1891.\textsuperscript{9} The reason given was that although the quantity of Burmese coins existing in the more settled districts was probably inconsiderable, there were, undoubtedly, still a good many of them circulating in the Shan States and other frontier tracts; and that it would be inadvisable to subject the people of those border districts to avoidable loss. It was also suggested that a discount of one anna in the rupee (or 6\textfrac{1}{4} per cent) should be

\textsuperscript{1} \textit{BFCP} (Mint and Currency) Oct. 1889, p-1, No. 2
\textsuperscript{2} \textit{BFCP} (Mint and Currency) Oct. 1889, p-1, No. 3
\textsuperscript{4} \textit{BFCP} (Mint and Currency) Oct. 1889, p-4, No. 5
\textsuperscript{5} \textit{BFCP Pt II-B}, May 1890 (Mint and Currency), No. 1 dated 10 Jan. 1890
\textsuperscript{6} \textit{BFCP} No. 15 dated 1 March 1890
\textsuperscript{7} \textit{BFCP} No. 25, dated 20 May 1890
\textsuperscript{8} No. 4789, dated Simla 7 Oct. 1890, \textit{BFCP} December 1890 (Mint and Currency), p. 20, No. 1
\textsuperscript{9} No. 259-3G dated 9 Dec. 1890, \textit{BFCP} December 1890 (Mint and Currency), p. 21, No. 4
charged both in payment of Government demands and in exchanging for the current coins of Indian mintage. The proposal was accepted and the sanction for one year extension after 31 March 1891 was conveyed in Finance and Commerce Department Notification No. 5 dated 30 January 1891 for general information. The concessions ceded to the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company and the Burma State Railway were accordingly extended, but subject to the prescribed discount. Thus the peacock coins remained in circulation, though at a discount, in Upper Burma for one more year and on 11 March 1892 it was notified that they would entirely cease to be current, at a discount or otherwise, after 31 March 1892.

As regard the withdrawal of the peacock coins, one is faced with the difficulty of ascertaining the actual amount retired as only some of the financial statements and returns were recorded in the Proceedings. As stated above, the total amount of peacock coins was estimated at Rs. 28755625, with a certain quantity of it being believed to be either lost, melted down, or otherwise disposed off and passed out of circulation. The withdrawal would by no means be exhaustive. The Government expected to retire about half of what had been in existence at the time of annexation. It was reported that the amount of peacock coins received in the treasuries in Lower Burma either in payment of Government demands or in exchange for Government coin, during the months of June and July 1889, vide Finance and Commerce Department Notification No. 21 dated 22 May 1889, aggregated Rs. 495350. In Upper Burma withdrawals averaged about two lakhs a month and from the time of annexation up to 31 August 1889, the amount withdrawn had been Rs. 6857000. The Comptroller, Burma, in his No. C.C. 810 dated 27 September 1889, reported that probably ten million in whole rupees and about one hundred thousand in small coins were expected to be withdrawn by 1 April 1890, leaving a balance of Rs. 16406000 and Rs. 2250000 respectively to be accounted for. Nothing more could be traced. But on 27 February 1892, it was recorded that

The Finance and Commerce Secretary stated that as the continuance of the receipt of silver coins of Burmese mintage at the treasuries in Upper Burma would expire on the 31st March 1892, requested to be informed, whether Government should further continue to receive Burmese coins under certain conditions after that date. In reply a copy of a statement showing the value of Burmese silver coins received during the last four years was forwarded to him with the remark that the value of the coins received during 1891-92 had been trifling and that the Chief Commissioner was of opinion that they might cease to be received after 31st March of this year.

Unfortunately, the matter happened to be regarded as of routine and was placed in the Proceedings under the head Part II-B in which the original papers were not printed. Therefore the total amount of peacock coin withdrawn could not be ascertained.

1. No. 299-3G dated 9 Dec. 1890, BFCP December 1890 (Mint and Currency), p. 21, No. 4
2. No. 66 dated 8 Jan. 1891, BFCP February 1891 (Mint and Currency), p. 4, No. 1
3. BFCP Feb 1891 (Mint and Currency), p. 4, No. 6
4. BFCP (Mint and Currency) Feb 1891, p. 4, No. 3
5. BFCP (Mint and Currency) Feb 1891, p. 4, No. 5
6. BFCP Pt II-B, March 1892, No. 1C-1, dated 11 March 1892
7. No. 89 dated 13 July 1886, UBP (Finance and Commerce) July 1886, No. 1-6
8. BFCP Oct. 1889 (Mint and Currency), p. 1, No. 1
9. BFCP (Mint and Currency) Oct. 1889, p. 3, No. 4
10. BFCP (Mint and Currency) Oct. 1889, p. 3, No. 4
11. BFCP Part II-B, February 1892, No. 1C-1
In resume, peacock coins were cast and became legal tender in Burma in the year 1865. The bulk of the coinage issued during the 20 years (1865-85) was estimated as Rs. 28755625. At first, the British Government did not interfere with their circulation in Upper Burma. They were treated at par with the Government coins and were received at the treasuries in Upper Burma for payment of Government demands and in exchange for coins of Indian mintage. The copper coins of Burmese mintage ceased to be current after 30 September 1889. As regards silver coins they remained a legal tender in Upper Burma, until 31 March 1891 at par with the Government Coins, and one more year, subject to a discount of one anna in the rupee. They were rendered finally uncirculated after 31 March 1892. The actual amount withdrawn could not be ascertained. The inferiority in weight and fineness of the peacock rupee was reported to be 12 in 1000 or 1.2 per cent less than the Government rupee. Hence the loss to be sustained by Government on retiring and recoining them was estimated at Rs. 2200 per Rs. 100000 or 2.2 per cent.
No. 1. The Mint at Mandalay.
(Reproduced from the Burma Archaeological Survey Department Negative No. 676/621 -1954-5)
No. 2. The Peacock Coins (A.D. 1522) in four denominations.
(Reproduced from the Burma Archaeological Survey Department Negative No. 14b)

No. 3. The Peacock Coin (another type)
(Reproduced from Pl. V, No. 3 of A. P. Phaye, "Coins of Arakan, of Pegu and of Burma."
International Numismata Orientalia, London, 1882.)