The Hand in Art: Hands on Coins: Iran
1961—Happy Coin

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Historically, coins have represented mostly memorial and portrait medals. The hand may be a prominent symbol on some coins around the world. Iran minted several happy coins and awards to symbolize the celebration of events and spiritual memorials.

*Nowruz*, the first day of spring, is the beginning of the Iranian New Year. Happy coins have been distributed during the *Nowruz* festive times as a gift. Gifting happy coins has been a common festive tradition in *Nowruz* from ancient times as a symbol of wealth, opulence, benediction, felicity, and blessings.¹

Figure 1A and B demonstrates a happy coin minted on the occasion of *Nowruz* in March 1961. The hand is a prominent feature on the obverse side.

REFERENCE