

# The Hand in Art: Hands on Coins: Iran

## 1961—Happy Coin

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**FIGURE 1:** Happy coin. **A** Front. **B** Back. Country: Iran. Occasion: *Nowruz*, the beginning of the Iranian New Year. Mint date: March 1961. Obverse: A hand holds a bouquet. Reverse: tulip flowers, olive leaves, and legend (“Be happy”). Material: silver. Weight: 1.4 g. Diameter: 16 mm.

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.

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*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.<sup>1</sup>

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

1. *Nowruz*. Available at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowruz>. Accessed February 8, 2014.