

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

BY ALEX BLAIR

This short article first appeared in late Sarceen's Knowledge fanzine. It has been re-written for Sholari.

Have you ever noticed that when you are really roleplaying that extra little details can add a lot of feeling to a session. In my campaign which took over two years of real time gaming to just cover one year in game, we found that the level of roleplaying that we were doing was quite mundane. We loved playing real life characters and not jetting off to save the world! When you roleplay the day-in-day-out events of your characters the you find that mundane matters become of interest.

So while we were playing I noticed that Burdothian currency needed some life to it. So I decided to try and flesh it out; this is what I came up with.....

From the information in the rule book we know that the economy's smallest unit of currency is the Gemmule. Since the Gemmule ("yule") converts to about 50 cents (33 Pence), you can imagine that it is used in the same way that we use small change. Yules could be used for tips, the odd thivin fast food snack, giving to beggars and pacifying large groups of

marauding children.

As they are not worth much and to avoid having to employ a corastin to carry your cash, the yule can be found in the following denominations

5 Yule Piece Known as an "Esmin"

10 Yule Piece Known as a "Jarid"

25 Yule Piece Known as a "Jerrin"

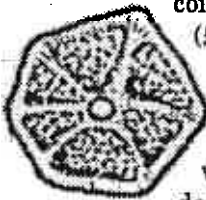
50 Yule Piece Known as an "Arf"



The yule and the Esmin are both made from a brass like metal, The Esmin has a small lump in its centre so it can easily distinguished from the 'yule and the Jarid. The Esmin is worth about two and a half bucks (£1.50). It is a much used coin as most drinks in an illidge cost this much. Woffen are never without a pouch full of these babies!



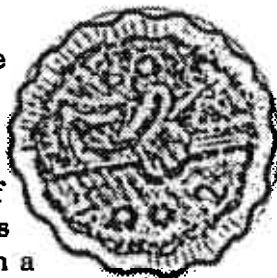
The Jarid is a six sided coin made from a brass/nickel type alloy that is lighter in colour than both the Esmin and Yule. The coin is worth about five bucks (£3). It has been known for some unsavory types to sharpen the edges to this coin and use it a throwing weapon as it is easily hidden and hard to detect. But you must really hate someone to throw money at them...



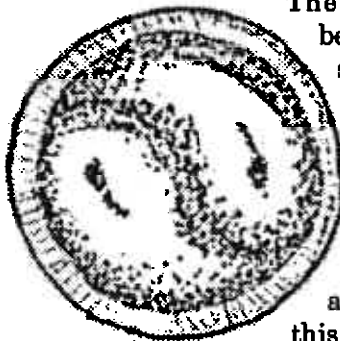
Top: yule
Center: Esmin
Bottom: Jarid

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The Jennin is the most common coin in the realm. This light-weight coin is worth about twelve and a half bucks (£8.25). It is made from steel with a small amount of copper in it to make it harder to forge, as the pigmentation is almost impossible to copy with knowledge of the ratio of steel to copper.



The Arf is made from pure steel with a very complicated design upon one face.



The design has been used by a small group of religious fanatics as there symbol of recognition. So people try to avoid carrying this coin because

of the implications the design has. This heavy coin is worth about twenty five bucks (£6.0).

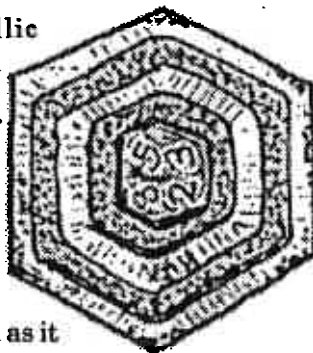
The next coin up is the gemlink, it is a large coin with only one denotation the 5 Gemlink piece - the "Lillic"

The gemlink is made from solid brass

*Top Left: Jennin
Center Left: Arf
Top Right: Gemlink
Bottom Right: Lillic*

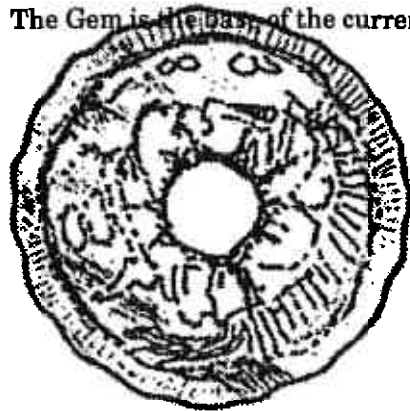
and thus heavy. It is well known the a purse half filled with Gemlinks is a great defence against muggers. It is worth about fifty bucks (£33).

The Lillic however is a much lighter coin made of copper and nickel, its worth about 250 bucks (£165). It a very large coin as it



isn't carried around very much. It is an odd looking coin because there is a hole cut through its centre, ruining the Dharsarge's engraving upon its surface.

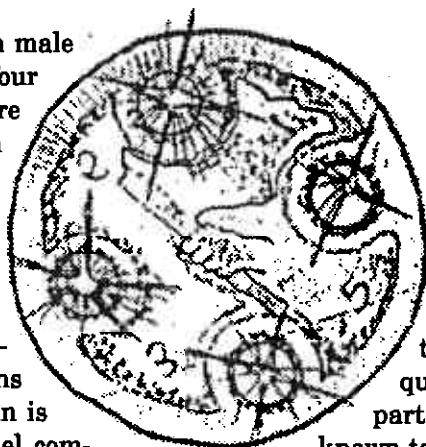
The Gem is the base of the currency.



Because of its worth, about \$500 (£330) it is unlikely to be carried by anybody but the very rich (who don't often carry there own money anyway). It is a hefty coin made from the same substance as the Lillic.

The Gemcluster is a large coin (about

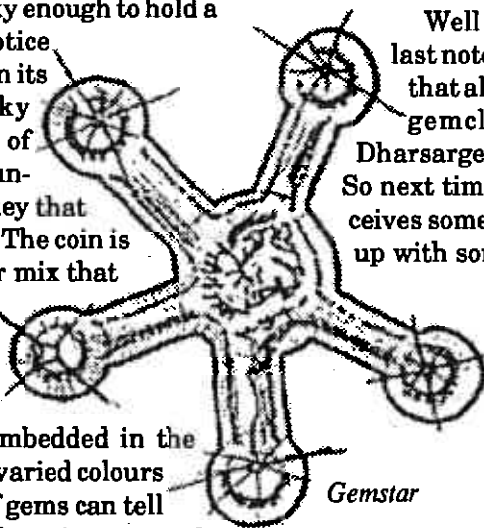
the size of a large human male open hand) that contains four small gems in it, that are multi coloured. It is worth \$5000 (£3300). The gems alone are worth about 2 gems in total. The crafting on this coin is quite excellent as all these coins are hand crafted (as opposed to the smaller coins that are minted). The coin is made from a silver/ nickel compound that looks very similar to pure silver to the untrained eye, but at a fraction of the cost.



The Gemcluster

in. Because the coin is worth over \$50,000 (£33,000) most people don't even know that they exist. It is rumoured that the Dharsage on his infrequent tours of the poorer parts of his realm has been known to give on of these works of art to a village or sometimes an individual if they impress him.

If you are ever lucky enough to hold a Gemstar you will notice that it is a work of art in its self. Any one lucky enough to own any of these will keep them under the best lock and key that they can afford to buy. The coin is made out of gold/silver mix that has a reddish tint to it, due to a secret chemical added to it during the melting process. The five gems embedded in the coin are all mixed and varied colours. The order and type of gems can tell an expert what year the coin was made



Well that's about it then, as a last note I would like to point out that all the coins apart from the gemcluster have the Dharsarge's crest and date on them. So next time one of your players receives some cash try and brighten it up with some extra zip.....

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