

## New Die Varieties in Queen Victoria Coins of British Indian Coinage

In British Indian Coinage we can see many Obverse varieties in Victoria Queen's period (1862 to 1876). For example, **A, B, C, D**, but in Empress Period (1877 to 1901) we can see only two Obverse **A** and **C**. However, both **A** and **C** Obverse has some sub varieties. For example, **A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, C1, C2, C3, C4**, etc. The interesting thing is, those sub varieties have few more variety with little changes in Obverse design. For example, **C2 (i), C2 (ii), C2 (iii)** etc.

Here I would like to describe a **NEW** variety. In Empress period of British Indian coinage **C3** bust used by Calcutta mint (except some mule), mostly it's identified with the number of pearls of queen's necklace in second loop and two extended hair at the nape of queen's neck. **C3** bust first introduced in 1887, and Calcutta mint was used this bust from 1887 to 1890. In 1890 Calcutta mint introduced a **NEW C3** bust with some changes on Queen's bodice floral embroidery design. Those changes are very much prominent to identify the differences between the old **C3** bust and **NEW C3** bust. Below images are marked those changes in bodice floral embroidery design.



1887 to 1890

1890 to 1901

In above images we can see both bust has two extended hair at the nape of queen's neck and same 10 pearls of queen's necklace in second loop, but left **C3** bust has incused effect (which marked by some arrow sign) in floral embroidery designs of queen's jabot which is struck from 1887 to 1890 and the right **C3** bust has raised effect in floral embroidery designs of queen's jabot which struck from 1890 to 1901 and there are some changes in floral embroidery designs also, which we can see in circle marked area of both images. In 1890 Calcutta mint used both **C3** and the **NEW C3** bust for struck rupee coin, most probably mint authority used this **NEW** variety as trial basis in this year and that's why we can see few specimens of **NEW C3** exist in 1890 rupee coin. In 1891 Calcutta mint stopped to use the old **C3** bust and start using the **NEW C3** till 1901. Considering all the discussions and evidences this **NEW** bust can be named as **C3(i)** or **C3(a)** or **C3.1** and there is a chance for existence of **MULE** in between 1891 to 1901. Below images are both varieties in same Calcutta mint of 1890.



Obverse with old **C3** bust

Obverse with **NEW C3** bust

This article based on circulated coins only.