

# Coins of India Through the Ages



Published by  
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Government Museum, Chennai

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## INTRODUCTION

This booklet on the Coins of India was originally prepared by Thiru. P.N. Mohan Das, former curator of the Numismatics section of Government Museum, Chennai. The historical references in it were checked by Prof. T.Balakrishnan Nayar, former Principal Presidency College, Madras.

This booklet serves as a guide for study of some of the important coins of India in the collection of the Government Museum, Chennai.

Part I of the booklet gives a general introduction to the history and coinage of the dynasties and Part II contains the detailed description of the individual coins.

The original booklet contained the photographs of the coins in separate plates. This new revised edition provides presents the photographs of the coins along with the descriptions for the convenience of the readers.

We felt that it is necessary to come up with a reprint of this book as a low priced edition for the spread of the knowledge of Indian Numismatics. Readers may also like to refer to the manual on the Numismatics Gallery by Dr.R.Kannan published by the Government Museum, Chennai for detailed study on the subject.

M.A.SIDDIQUE  
DIRECTOR OF MUSEUMS

# COINS OF INDIA THROUGH THE AGES

## PART – I

### 1. PURANAS OR PUNCH-MARKED COINS

Purana are the earliest money coined in India. They were in circulation during the centuries long before the beginning of the Christian era. Sanskrit writers such as Manu and Panini and the Buddhist Jataka stories have made mention of these coins.

Numismatists call these puranas, punch-marked coins. This name is derived from the method of manufacture peculiar to these coins. The symbols or marks on these coins were not die-struck as in the case of modern coins.

Although gold, silver and copper puranas are mentioned in ancient literature, only silver and copper punch-marked coins have so far been unearthed.

An interesting feature of these coins is that they bear no date or any name of kings. We only find a number of symbols punched on the face of these coins.

The symbols found on these coins are religious, mythological or astronomical in character. Among the marks commonly found are the sun, the elephant, cow, chariot, horse, bull, jackal, tree, tiger or lion and *dharmachakra*.

Punch-marked coins were in circulation in Northern India up to the beginning of the Christian era. In Southern India they continued to be in use for three centuries more. The earlier disappearance of these coins from Northern India must have been due to the influence of Greek coinage introduced by the Greek invaders.

## II. INDO-GREEK COINAGE

After the death of Alexander, Seleukos, one of his generals, established a Greek Kingdom in Syria and Bactria was one of the provinces of this kingdom. Bactria was on the north of the Hindukush with its capital on the site of the present Balkh.

Bactria became independent under Euthydemus, son-in-law of Diodotus I, in whose time the country was still a Seleucid Satrap. The Bactrian Greeks came to India first under Demetrius, son of Euthydemus.

There were two rival branches of Indo-Greek family: (1) the family of Eucratides (including Helicoides, Antialcidas, and Hermias ruling in Bactria) and (2) the family of Demetrius (including Apollodotus I, Menander, Strato I and Zoilus) ruling in the Punjab.

The rule of the Indo-Greeks lasted from about 189 B.C. to about 30 B.C.

The Indo-Greeks introduced into the Indian coinage the fashion of showing the bustor head of the ruler. The legends on their Indian coins are in two languages, in Greek on one side and in Kharoshthi on the other.

The Greek gods and goddesses commonly shown on the Indo-Greek coins are Zeus, Heracles, Apollo and Pallas Athene.

## III. KUSHAN COINS

Kushans were one of the five branches of the Yueh-chi tribe who overthrew the Saka power in Bactria in about 100 B.C. At about 50 A.D., the Kushans, under Kujula Kadphises, extended their power from Bactria to Paropamisadae and about ten years later Vima Kadphises, son of Kujula Kadphises, conquered Gandhara and Western Punjab.

The Kushans may be grouped under two heads: (1) the Kadphises group comprising Kujula Kadphises and Vima Kadphises and (2) the Kanishka group, comprising Kanishka, Huvishka and Vasudeva.

The coins of the Kanishka group employ only Greek characters. Kanishka introduced the Iranian title 'Shaonana Shao', 'King of Kings' instead of the Greek "Basileus Basileon".

The appearance of the skill and craftsmanship of the Indian may be noticed from the Kushan coins. The coinage becomes more Indian than Greek. This is evident from the cult of Siva seen in the coins of Vima Khadphises and Vasudeva, from Buddha coins of Kadphises and Kanishka and from the typical Indian cross-legged position in which Vima Kadphises and Huvishka are shown on their coins.

#### IV. COINS OF SATAVAHANAS

Satavahanas became an independent dynasty soon after the death of Ashoka in 232 B.C. and their rule lasted up to about 227 A.D. Their dominions extended from the northern parts of modern Mysore in the south to river Narmada in the north and from the mouth of the Godavari river on the Bay of Bengal to the Western Ghats.

The Satavahana kings mostly used lead as a material for their coins. Most of their coins are of lead. Silver coins are very rare. Next to lead, they used an alloy of silver and copper, called "potin". Many copper coins are also available.

Although the Satavahana coins are devoid of any beauty or artistic merit, they constitute a valuable source-material for the dynastic history of the Satavahanas.

Most of the Satavahana coins have on one side the figure of an elephant, horse, lion or Chaitya. The other side shows the so-called Ujjain symbol—a cross with four circles at the end of the two crossing lines.

## V. COINS OF THE GUPTA KINGS

The period of Guptas, which lasts roughly between 300 A.D. and 550 A.D. marks a period of great Hindu revival.

The Gupta coins are essentially of gold, although the Gupta kings also issued silver and copper coins. Silver coins were issued only after Chandragupta II overthrew the Western Satraps.

There are many types and varieties of Gupta gold coins. On one side of these coins, we find the king standing and making oblations before an altar, playing the veena, performing asvamedha sacrifice, riding a horse or an elephant, slaying a lion or a tiger or a rhinoceros with a sword or bow, or sitting on a couch. On the other side is found the goddess Lakshmi seated on a throne or a lotus seat, or the figure of the queen herself.

The inscriptions on the coins are all in Sanskrit, which appears on Indian coins for the first time.

## VI. COINS OF THE WESTERN SATRAPS

The Western Satraps had their dominion in Western India, originally comprising Malwa, Gujarat and Kathiawar. They were all of Saka origin and included two different lines, the Kshaharata, which was earlier and in which we have two names Bhumaka and Nahapana, and the Kardamaka, established by Chastana in the beginning of the 2nd century A. D.

The coins of Western Satraps are of great historical importance. They bear dates in the Saka era, which started from 78 A.D. With the help of these dates, it is possible to reconstruct the history of the Western Satraps down to the end of the 4th century A.D., when they were overthrown by Chandragupta II of the Gupta Dynasty.

The coins of the Western Satraps have the head of the king on one side and on the other side, they carry the device of the

Buddhist chaitya or stupa, evidently borrowed from Satavahana coinage.

## VII. COINS OF THE VARADHANAS

The Varadhanas of Taneshwar and Kanauj were responsible for turning out the Hun invaders from India. The most powerful of their kings was Harsha, whose empire comprised almost the whole of Northern India.

The silver coins of the Vardhanas have on one side the head of the king and on the other the figure of a peacock.

The dates on the coins of Harshavardhana are reckoned in a new era, which most probably began in A.D. 606, the year of his coronation.

## VIII. COINS OF THE RAJPUT DYNASTIES.

The coins issued by the Rajput dynasties were mostly of gold, copper or billon (an alloy of silver and copper), but very rarely silver.

There are two types of Rajput coinage. One type shows the name of the king in Sanskrit on one side and on the other side is found a goddess. The coins of the Kalachuris of Dahala (modern Jabalpur), the Chandellas of Bundelkhand, the Tomaras of Ajmer and Delhi and of the Rathores of Kanauj are of this type.

The kings of Gandhara or Ohind introduced the other type of silver coins that have a seated bull on one side and a horseman on the other. This type was copied by the Tomaras and Chauhans of Delhi, the Rathores and the kings of Narwar (very near modern Gwalior) on their copper or billon coins.

## IX. COINS OF WESTERN CHALUKYAN KINGS

The Chalukyan dynasty was founded by Pulakesin I in the middle of the 6th century A.D. with the capital of his kingdom at

Badami in the present Bijapur district. The Chalukyan kingdom became extensive and powerful under his grandson Pulakesin II. In 753 A.D., however, the Chalukyas were overthrown by the Rastrakutas.

In 973 A.D., a new Chalukyan Kingdom was founded by Tailapa with its capital at Kalyani. This is known as the Western Chalukyan dynasty. The domination of the Western Chalukyas lasted till 1190 when they were overthrown by the Hoysalas.

The coins of the Western Chalukyan kings have on one side a temple or a lion and legends in old Kanārese. The other side is blank.

#### **X. COINS OF EASTERN CHALUKYAN KINGS**

The dynasty of Eastern Chalukyas was established by Vishnuvardhana, brother of Pulakesin II in the second quarter of the 7th century A.D. The capital of the Eastern Chalukyan kingdom was Vengi. The rule of this dynasty lasted till the 11th century A.D. when it was overthrown by the Cholas.

The Eastern Chalukyan coins have their insignia, the boar in the centre, round which, each letter of the king's name is punched by a separate punch. The other side is blank.

#### **XI COINS OF THE CHOLAS**

The Cholas dominated Southern India for a period of two centuries and a little more after the accession of Raja Raja, the Great in A.D.985. During this period they conquered all territories up to the Deccan and subdued even Ceylon. Their power declined finally in the 13th century.

The three important Chola emperors were Raja Raja the Great, his son Rajendra and Rajendra Kulothunga I.

There are many types of coins of Raja Raja, the most common of which has the standing king on one side and seated goddess on the other. The legend on most of the types is in Sanskrit.

Rajendra Chola's coins have the legend "Sri Rajendra" or "Gangaikonda Chola" and the emblems, tiger and fish.

Some coins of Kulottunga I belong to the standing king and seated goddess type. There are others which have the tiger in the centre, and fish and bow (the emblems of the Pandyas and Cheras respectively) on either side. On the margin is the legend "Kataikonda Chola" or "Malainadukonda Chola", each letter of which is punched separately.

## **XII. PANDYAN COINS**

The Pandya had a very chequered history. They began as an independent power, but were subdued by the Pallavas.

They recovered their independence in the 7th century only to fall under the heels of the Cholas during the 11th and 12th centuries. In the 13th century, the Pandyas were the leading power in the South. But soon thereafter, their power declined.

The earliest Pandyan coins were square, but die-struck, with an elephant on one side, the other side being blank. Between the 7th and 10th centuries, the Pandyan coins bear the fish emblem. The fish appears sometimes single, sometimes in pairs, and sometimes in conjunction with other symbols like the Chola standing figure or the Chalukyan boar. The inscription on the silver and gold coins is in Sanskrit and most of their copper coins have Tamil legends.

## **XIII. KERALA COINS**

The term "Kerala" though usually used synonymous with "Chera" is not used here in that sense. Here it is used in a very restricted sense denoting that part of the Western Coast which forms the later States of Travancore and Cochin and the district of Malabar.

The Kerala kings were mostly under the sway of the Cholas. It was under their most famous ruler, Ravivarman Kulasekara, also known as Dakshina – Bhoja that they assumed their independence. The rule of the Kerala kings lasted from the 10th to the middle of the 14th century.

#### **XIV. COINAGE OF THE SULTANS OF DELHI.**

The Muslim conquest of Northern India introduced far-reaching changes in Indian coinage.

The fashion of showing the bust or head of the ruler was dropped as engraving of images was forbidden by Islam. Both sides of the coin bear inscriptions, giving the king's name, and titles as well as the date in the Hijri era. The mint name, that is, the place of striking the coin, makes its first appearance on Indian coins during the period of the Sultanate of Delhi.

Another feature was the inclusion in the inscription of religious formulae, the most commonly used being the "Kalima" or profession of faith: "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah".

The period of the Sultanate of Delhi is also noted for the reappearance of silver in Indian coinage. This was due to the re-opening of commercial relations with Central Asia.

The Sultans of Delhi issued gold, silver, copper and billon coins. Gold coins came to be issued in plenty from the time of Alauddin Muhammad Shah (Khilji) whose treasury was enriched by conquests in Southern India.

Alauddin Khilji changed the design by dropping the name of the Khalif and replaced it by self-praising titles such as "the second Alexander", "the right hand of the Khalifate". The billon coins of Alauddin are the first to bear dates.

Sher Shah Suri who ruled from 1540 to 1545 introduced two standards of weight—one of 178 grains for his silver and one of

about 330 grains for his copper coins. These were later known as the "rupee" and the "dam".

## **XV. COINAGE OF THE VIJAYANAGAR KINGS**

The Kingdom of Vijayanagar was established in 1336 by Harihara and his brothers as a bulwark against Muslim expansion to the south. It flourished under three dynasties till the battle of Talikota in 1565. Thereafter, a fourth dynasty ruled, first at Penugonda and later at Chandragiri.

Vijayanagar coins are mostly "varahans" or "pagodas" which weigh 56 grains, with their half and quarter divisions. These "Pagodas" started a fashion in South Indian coinage that lasted till 1835.

A number of devices are found on Vijayanagar gold and copper coins. The most common of these are the bull, the elephant, various Hindu deities, and a double-headed eagle holding an elephant in each beak and claw.

The inscription on Vijayanagar coins is either in Kanarese or Sanskrit. The later kings used the latter script.

## **XVI. MUGHAL COINAGE**

Mughal emperors attached great importance to the privilege of coining. Akbar used the coins to propagate his new "Divine Faith". The artistic tastes of the two Mughal emperors, Akbar and Jahangir have been expressed through their coins.

The standard gold coin of the Mughals was the "Mohar" of about 170 to 175 grains. Abul Fazl says in his 'Ain-i-Akbari' that a Mohur was equivalent to nine rupees. Half and quarter mohurs are also known.

The silver rupee, which was an adoption from Sher Shah's currency, was the most famous of all Mughal coins. The rupee maintained its standard weight of 178 grains with little variations.

Half, quarter, one-eighth and one-sixteenth rupees were also minted.

The Mughal copper coin was adopted from Sher Shah's 'dam' which weighed 320 to 330 grains.

Akbar issued both round and square coins. In 1579 he issued what are called the Ilahi coins. These coins bear the names of the Persian solar months.

Jahangir's gold and silver coins are perhaps the most artistic of Mughal coins. He adopted the practice of showing the legend in a couplet. In some of his coins he added the name of his queen, Nurjahan.

The most famous of his coins are the Zodiacal issues. These show pictorial representations of the signs of the Zodiac.

The Hijri era was used by all the Mughal emperors. Their regnal years were also inscribed on their coins.

## **VII. COINAGE OF THE MYSORE SULTANS**

Though the period of the Mysore Sultans, Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan lasted for a short period only, it produced a coinage that was marked by its variety and artistic merit.

Haider Ali minted pagodas and fanams. For sometime after his overthrowing the Wodayars, Haidar continued their coinage with the figures of Siva and Parvati on his earlier gold pagodas.

Tipu Sultan continues for sometime his father's pagodas and fanams. Later he minted the mohur and the half-mohur in gold, the double rupee and the rupee with its 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16 and 1/32 pieces in silver, and the 40, 20, 10, 5 and 2-1/2 cash pieces in copper.

The Persian inscriptions in Tipu's gold and silver coins are religious in character.

Tipu adopted the elephant device of the Wodayar kings of Mysore for his copper coins.

Tipu's coins are dated in two eras. For the first four years of his reign his coins are dated in the Hijri era. Thereafter, the dates are in the "Mauludi" era, reckoned from the Prophet's birth in 571 A.D. and these dates are written from right to left.

### **XVIII. COINS OF THE MYSORE WODAYARS.**

The Wodayar dynasty ruled Mysore from 1578 with a short interruption caused by the rule of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan. The most important ruler before Haider Ali was Kanthirava Narasa Raja (1638-1659).

In 1799, after Tipu was killed at the battle of Srirangapatnam, the old Hindu line of Wodayars was restored and Krishna Raja Wodayar, a child of age five was made the king.

The fanams of Kanthirava Narasa bear the image of the Narasimha avatar of Vishnu and weigh six to eight grains.

The gold varahans of the restored dynasty bear the king's name in sanskrit on one side and the figures of Siva and Paravati on the other. Silver fanams, double and single were also issued. The elephant was replaced on their copper coins by the lion.

### **XIX. COINAGE OF THE ENGLISH EAST INDIA COMPANY**

The royal charter creating the East India Company was issued by Queen Elizabeth on December 31, 1600. The Queen authorized the minting of a special type of coin specially intended for use in India. These coins were called in the India money or the Portcullis money, so called from the device of the sliding gate of a castle impressed upon it.

The Madras mint was in existence from about 1661. From this mint were issued the pagodas- the single swamy pagoda, the old

star pagoda, the three-swamy pagoda, the mohur in gold and the star pagoda in silver. All public and private accounts were kept and all dues and salaries were paid in "old star pagodas" also known as company "varahans". The silver-star pagodas were first minted in 1741.

The English factories were then engaged in reproducing the rupees of the Mughal emperors. East India Company rupees bearing the names of Alamgir II and Shah Alam II were issued from the Madras, Surat and Bengal mints. In 1742, the Mughal emperor Muhammed Shah permitted the Company to coin Arkat rupees and in 1756, after the battle of Buxar, the Bengal mints were taken over by them. In 1835, a standard weight of 180 grains was adopted for the rupee.

Between 1814-1816 the Madras star pagoda was abolished and the rupee became the standard coin.

In 1835 a uniform device was introduced for the British rupee in India. This rupee bears the king's name on one side and the title "East India Company" on the other. This type was continued till 1862 when a new Act provided that the rupee was to bear on one side the figure and the name of Queen Victoria and the inscription, VICTORIA QUEEN, and on the other side the designation of the coin in English, filled by the word INDIA.

## PART II

### 1. SATAMANA

*(About 600 B.C.)*

This is a rare type of the "Purana". It is a long bent bar of silver weighing 560 grains. Satamana means one hundred mana, mana being the name of a weight that is equivalent to 5.6 grains.

This coin has on one side a sun symbol at each end. The other side is blank. Panini the Sanskrit grammarian has made mention of these coins in the work.



### 2. PURANA

*(Date not definitely known)*

This is a circular type of silver punch-marked coin. On one side are found five symbols. A humped bull, the sun, a tree over stupa and a crescent on a circle are clearly seen. The fifth symbol is not clear. The symbol of a crescent on a circle represents the Hindu Zodiacal sign of Vrishaba. The other side of the coin shows many symbols; but none of them is clear



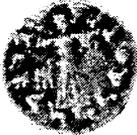
### 3. MENANDER

*(About 160 – 140 B. C.)*

Menander is the most famous of the Indo-Bactrian Greeks. He invaded the Magadhan Kingdom.



The silver coin of Menander had on one side the bust of the king. The king is thrusting a javelin with his right hand. Around on the margin is the legend in Greek language. "King Soter Menander".



The other side had the figure of the Greek goddess, Pallas Athene, hurling thunderbolt with her right hand. The legend around the margin is in Kharoshthi and reads as Maharajasa tratasa Menandrasa – (coin) of the King, saviour, Menander.

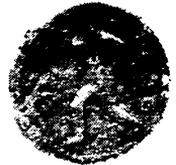
### 4. KANISHKA

*(1st century A.D.)*

Kanishka, the greatest among the Kushan Kings, ruled a vast dominion stretching from Kabul to the banks of the Ganges. Sometime in his reign he came under the influence of Buddhism, for the spread of which his contribution was next only to Asoka's.



This copper coin of Kanishka has on one side the figure of the king performing a sacrifice before an altar. The Greek legend reads Shao Kaneshki (King Kanishka).



The other side shows the wind-god running to left. The legend reads as "Oado" (Iranian name for wind-god).

## 5. VASUDEVA

(About 2nd century A.D.)

Vasudeva was one of the successors of Kanishka. His name and his coins suggest that he was a patron of Hinduism. The coin shows him as a great devotee of Siva.



On one side is the figure of the king wearing a closefitting dress. The legend gives the name, *Bazodeo*.



The other side shows Siva with trident in his left hand, standing in front of bull. The legend reads as Oesho (the Iranian title for the Hindu god Siva).

## 6. SATAKARNI IV.

(154-164 A.D.)



This 'potin' coin of Satakarni IV, the son and second successor of Gautamiputra has on one side the figure of an elephant with its trunk upraised and legend in Brahmi script, *Sataknaisa*.

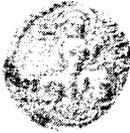


The other side had what is commonly known as the "Ujjain symbol", which is a distinct dynastic symbol of the Satavahanas.

## 7. CHANDRAGUPTA I.

(About 320-326 A.D)

Chandra Gupta I was the founder of the Gupta empire. He extended his dominions by conquest and by his marriage alliance with the powerful Lichchavi republic. To commemorate this alliance he inscribed the figure of his Queen Kumaradevi, along with his own, on his coins.



One side of this gold coin shows the king and the queen facing each other. The king is offering the queen a ring. The inscription here reads, *Chandragupta*.

The other side has the figure of the goddess seated on a lion, which lies on a lotus. The legend on this side reads, *Lichchaviyah*

## 8. SAMUDRA GUPTA

(About 326-375 A.D).

Samudra Gupta was a great conqueror. He extended the Gupta empire up to Narmada. He was also a great patron of learning and fine arts. After his conquests he performed the Asvamedha sacrifice.



The coin shows on one side the king holding a standard and sacrificing before an alter. Behind the alter is a Garuda headed standard. The legend translated into English reads, "Samudra, the unconquered one, whose victories extend over centuries of battles, having conquered his enemies, wins heaven".

The other side shows the goddess Lakshmi seated on a throne, her feet resting on lotus. The inscription reads, *Parakrama*.

## 9. CHANDRA GUPTA II.

(375 – 413 A.D).

Chandra Gupta II, the legendary Vikramaditya, was a great patron of learning and fine arts. He saved western India from the Sakas by overthrowing their power.



On one side of the coin is found the king standing. He is grasping bow in left hand and holding arrow in the right. There is a Garuda standard and the legend reads, Deva Sri Maharajaderaaja Sri Chandragupta.



The other side has the queen seated on lotus. The inscription on this side reads, *Sri Vikramah*.

## 10. RUDRASENA 1.

(3rd century A.D.)



Rudhrasena belongs to the dynasty of the Western Satraps who were powerful in Western India until they were overthrown by the Guptas.

The silver coin of Rudhrasena shows on one side the bust of the king, the other side has the Buddhist chaitya, or stupa and the inscription, which translated into English reads “(the coin) of Mahakshatrapa Rudrasena’ the son of Raja Mahakshatrapa Rudhrasena’

## 11. HARSHA VARDHANA

(606-648 A.D.)



Harsha was the last of the Hindu emperors of ancient India. He rescued India from the confusion and disorder created by the Hun invasion by defeating them and establishing a strong empire. He was a follower of Buddhism and a patron of learning. He was himself a great scholar and the author of many plays in Sanskrit.

The silver coin of Harsha has on one side his bust and on the other a peacock with its wings and tail full outspread. The legend on the reverse translated into English reads, "Sri Siladitya having conquered the world (as) world-lord, wins heaven."

## 12. PRITHVIRAJ

(About 1175-1193 A.D)

Prithviraj belongs to the Rajput dynasty of Chauhans of Delhi and Ajmer. A legendary hero of Rajputana, he is still remembered for his heroic resistance to Muslim expansion under Muhammad Ghor.



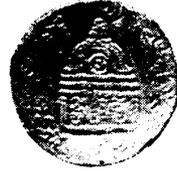
This billion coin of Prithviraj has on one side the figure of a horseman and the legend Sri Prithviraj Deva. The other side shows the figure of a bull and the legend Asavari Sri Samanta Deva.

### 13. JAGADKEMALLA

*(About 1018-1042 A.D)*

Jayasimha I, known as Jagadekamalla (the sole champion of the world) is the greatest of the Western Chalukyan kings.

The coin has nine punches on one side. The central punch has a large temple with a domed tower supported by pillars and surmounted by Vishnu's Chakra. Between the pillars is a two-line legend in Kannada, Sri Ja ga de ka ma la; the eight punches near the border have alternately Kannada Sri and the King's name in two lines.

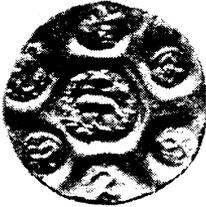


The other side of the coin is blank.

### 14. RAJA RAJA

*(1012-1062 A.D)*

Raja Raja, an illustrious member of the Eastern Chalukyan dynasty of Vengi, is the father of the famous Chola emperor Kulottunga I.



The coin has seven punch marks on one side. In the centre is a boar to right with a lamp on each side and a goad and an umbrella supported by two chamaras. Around, near the edge are six punch marks with one Telugu-Kannada letter in each punch, Sri Ra ja ra ja sa (mvat). There is the figure 38, which is the regnal year.

The other side is blank.

## 15. RAJA RAJA I

(980-1014 A. D.)

Raja Raja the Great is the famous Chola emperor who subjugated the Pandyas, Cheras, Chalukyas and the King of Ceylon. He is credited with the building of the Brihadeeswarar temple at Tanjore.



This coin has on one side the king standing. His left-hand holds a lotus near his face and the right hand has a sceptre nearby is a small lamp stand. Also found are a crescent and fish below four dots.

The other side shows a seated goddess. On the right is the three-line legend in Sanskrit, Sri Raja Raja.

## 16. RAJENDRA

(1014-1044 A.D)

Rajendra Chola, the son of Raja Raja, is also known as Gangaikonda Chola for his conquest of many principalities in the Gangetic valley.



On one side of Rajendra's silver coin is found a tiger seated. There are an umbrella with a chamara on each side, a lamp-stand and two fish. The two-line legend in Sanskrit reads, Gangai ko (n) da Chola.



The other side is similar to the first one.

## 17. KULOTHUNGA

(1070-1120 A.D.)

Rajendra Kulottunga I was the last of the great Cholas. He was related through his father to the Eastern Chalukyan dynasty of Vengi. He is famous for his conquest of the Pandyas, the Cheras and the King of Ceylon. He is credited with the invasions of Malaya and Burma.

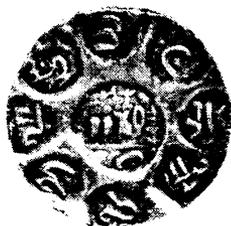


This gold coin Kulottunga commemorates his conquest of Kheda in Malaya. One side shows two fish, a tiger, a bow and two lampstands in the centre. The legend near the edge in punches reads, *Katai Konda Chola*. There is a figure, 33, which is the regnal year.

The other side of the coin is blank.

## 18. KULOTTUNGA

(1070 - 1120 A.D.)



This coin also belongs to Kulottunga I. The coin shows the same emblems as in the “*Katai Konda*” type, but the legend and the date vary in this case.

The legend in punches reads *Malai nade Konda chola*. The regnal year inscribed here is 36.

This coin commemorates Kulottunga’s conquest of Malnad, most probably the Malabar coast.

## 19. DHANAJAYA

*(Date not definitely known.)*



The name of the king who issued this coin is known to us only from the legend.



One side of the coin has a three-line Sanskrit legend which reads, Sri Panda (ndya) Dhona (n) -jaya

The other side shows some symbols made up of lines and dots, which have been identified as forming the figure of a fish.

## 20. VIRA KERALA

*(About 1127 A,D)*

This silver coin of Vira Kerala has on one side a two line legend in Sanskrit, Sri Ganda ram kusasya. Between the two lines of the legend is a Kumbha or pot. The word gandaramkusa means "the elephant-goad to the heroes"

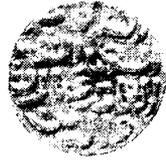


The other side has the Sanskrit legend in two lines, Sri Vira Keralasya. Between the lines of the legend is a makara or crocodile, open-mouthed and in moving posture.

## 21. ALAUDDIN MOHAMMAD SHAH.

*(1296-1316 A.D)*

Alauddin Mohammed Shah of the Khilji dynasty was a great conqueror. He subjugated all the Rajput kingdoms in the north. The Muslims invaded Southern India first during his reign. His army under Malik Kafur invaded the south and defeated all kings upto Madura. Alauddin called himself the Second Alexander and inscribed this title on some of his coins.



On this coin are inscribed the Kalima, the Sultan's name, Alauddin Mohammad Shah, his various titles, the name of the mint place, Darul Islam and the Hijri date, 706.

## 22. SHER SHAH.

*(1540-1545 A.D)*

Sher Shah who belonged to the Pathan dynasty of the Surs of Bengal, defeated the Mughal King Humayun and became the King of Delhi. In spite of a very short reign Sher Shah accomplished many reforms in the revenue administration. He gave a new standard weight for the Rupee, which continued to the days of the East India Company.



Both sides of the coin contains Persian inscription. One side shows the Kalima or the Muslim profession of faith and the other side has the Sultan's name, his titles and the Hijri date, 948.

### 23. KRISHNADEVA RAYA

*(1509 – 1530 A.D)*



Krishnadeva Raya is the most famous of all Vijayanagar kings. During his reign the Vijayanagar empire reached its zenith.

This gold varahan has on one side the figure of seated Vishnu and on the other a three-line legend in Sanskrit, Sri Pratapa Krishna Raya.

### 24. AKBAR

*(1556 - 1605 A.D)*

This gold Mohur of Akbar has persian inscription on both sides. On one side is inscribed the Kalima or the Muslim profession of faith and the names of the four companions of Prophet Mohammad.



The other side has Akbar's personal name Jajaluddin Mohammad and the Hijri date 976.

## 25. JAHANGIR

*(1605 -1627 A.D)*

This is a zodiacal coin of Jahangir, This was an innovation by which pictorial representation of the zodiac were made on one side of the coin. On this coin the zodiacal sign represented is that of Vrishabha.



A humped-bull surrounded by solar rays is found on one side. The other side has Persian couplet which translated into English reads, "the face of gold received ornaments at Agra: from Jahangir Shah, Shah Akbar ('s son).

## 26. HAIDAR ALI.

*(About 1772-1782 A.D)*



This is an exception to Haidar's other coins. Here he continued to inscribe on one side the emblems of the Hindu kings of Mysore, the figures of Siva and Parvati.

On one side of the coin is inscribed the first letter of Haidar's name in Persian. The other side has the figures of Siva and Parvati, side by side, the former holding the Trisula and the latter, the deer.

## 27. TIPU SULTAN

(1782-1799 A.D.)



This is the Double Rupee of Tipu and it has Persian inscription on both sides. The mint is Seringapatnam and the date is 1216 in the Mauludi era, initiated by Tipu and reckoned from the birth of the Prophet in 571 A.D



The inscription on one side translated into English reads, the religion of Ahmad is illumined in the world by the victory of Haidar; struck at Pattan,”

The legend on the other side reads, “He is the Sultan, the unique, the just third of ‘Bahari’.

## 28. TIPUSULTAN

(1782-1799 A.D)

This is Double Paisa (copper) of Tipu. The name of the mint place is Seringapatam and the date is 1218 of the Mauludi era.

One side of the coin has the figure of an elephant with its trunk upraised and the date, 1218. Behind the elephant is a flag bearing a star.

The other side has Persian inscription which translated into English reads, “An ‘Usmani’ (Double Paisa) struck at the royal residence, Pattan.”



## 29. KRISHNARAJA WODAYAR

(1799-1868)

After the death of Tipu at the battle of Seringapatam in 1799, the English restored Mysore to its old Hindu dynasty of Wodayars, and a boy, Krishna Raja, was installed on the throne.



This gold *varahan* of Krishnaraja has on one side the figures of Siva and Parvati. The other side has a three-line Sanskrit legend, Sri Krishna Raja.

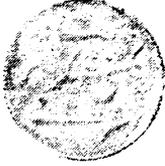
## 30. THREE SWAMY PAGODA



This pagoda issued by the English East India Company is called the three-swamy pagoda, as it has on one side the figures of three deities. These pagoda were issued by the company from the Madras Mint.

The coin has on one side the figures of Lord Venkateswara and his two consorts, as at the Tirupati Temple. The other side is blank.

### 31. SINGLE MOHUR



The English East India Company issued gold pagodas and mohurs from the Madras Mint from the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The mohur has on one side the coat of arms of the company and the inscription in English, '*English East India Company.*' On the other side is found the Persian inscription which translated into English reads, *Ashrafi of the Honourable English company.*

### 32. STAR PAGODA: HALF

These star pagodas issued from the Madras Mint continued to be the standard coin of the company in the south until it was abolished in 1816 and the Silver Rupee was made the standard coin.

This coin has on one side the temple gopuram surrounded by 18 stars. Near the edge is inscription both in English and Persian, Half Pagoda,

The other side has the figure of Vishnu surrounded by dots and a star. The denomination of the coin "Half Pagoda" is inscribed here both in Tamil and Telugu scripts.

