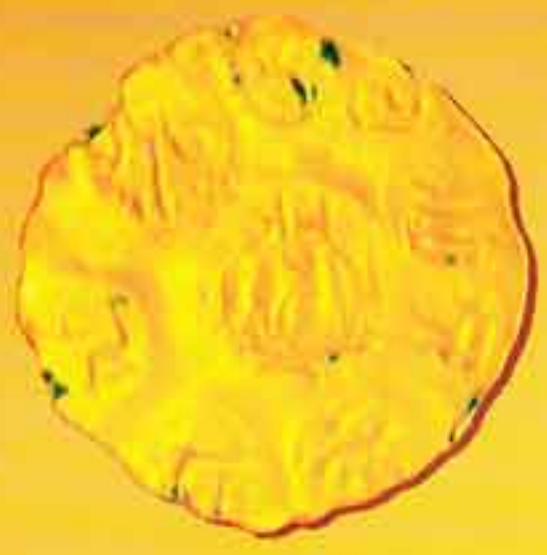
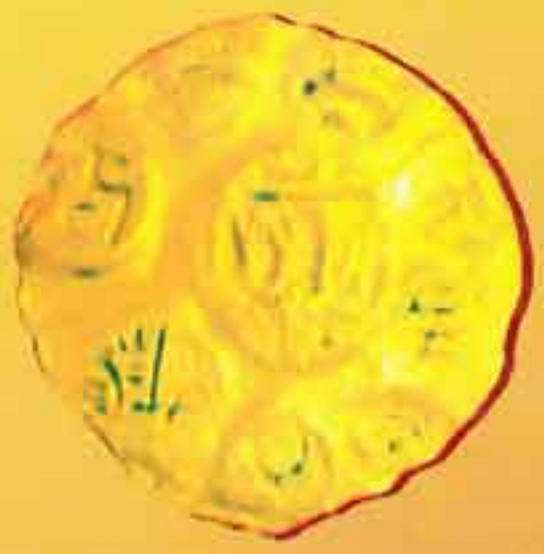


MANUAL ON THE NUMISMATIC GALLERY

IN THE GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, CHENNAI

Typological, Descriptive and Chronological catalogue on Coins and Medals

Dr. R. KANNAN,
B.Com., B.L., M.B.A., C.A.I.I.B.,
M.Soc.Sci. (Birmingham, U.K.), Ph.D., I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Agriculture and Museums.



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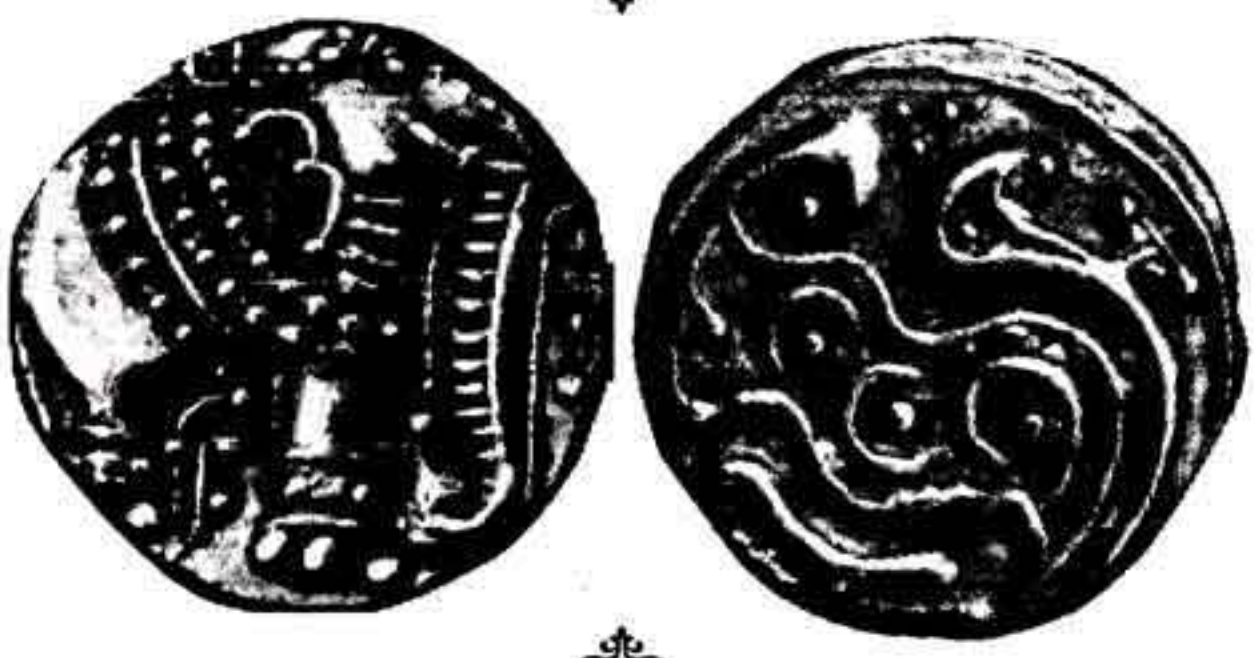

By

Dr. R. KANNAN,
B.Com., M.B.A., C.A.I.I.B., B.L., M.Soc.Sci.(Birmingham, U.K.), Ph.D., I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Agriculture and Museums,
Government of Tamilnadu

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LAKSHMI PRANESH, I.A.S.
CHIEF SECRETARY

SECRETARIAT
CHENNAI - 600 009

FOREWORD

I have written the foreword for the book Manual on the Bronzes in the gallery in the Government Museum, Chennai. It gives me great pleasure to write the foreword for this book on Numismatics. The political and economic history of a country is constructed among other disciplines by numismatics. Many facts connected with the administration, historical geography, religious and cultural history of India are revealed to us by numismatics.

The Government Museum, Chennai completes its one hundred and fifty-first year in 2002-2003 AD. It is the second oldest and biggest museum in India. The Government have directed it to be celebrated on lines similar to the Centenary Celebration in 1951 AD, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India took part as the chief guest.

In the year 1976 AD, the Numismatics Section was allocated space for its gallery on the first floor of the Bronze Gallery building. About Rs.4 Crores has been sanctioned by the Government to the museum for repairing the buildings housing some of the galleries, modernising and renovating the displays.

The displays of the Bronze, the Numismatics and the Chemical Conservation galleries, which are housed in the building called the Bronze Gallery Building have been reorganised. The display uses the latest technology like acrylic see-through frames for the coins. These are placed in the K-Brand wooden showcases, which are an adaptation of British design to suit conditions in Chennai. The display technique is on par with the best museums in the world. The technical work has been designed and executed by Dr. R. Kannan, the Commissioner.

It is not possible to exhibit the coins in original to the public on grounds of safety. Therefore plaster cast and metal cast impressions of the coins are prepared and exhibited in the gallery. There are about 100 exhibits out of the total collection of about 45,000 coins and medals on display. The exhibits displayed are a fraction of the total collection because there are multiple copies of the same coin. Only copies in some cases and one of each leading type in other cases are displayed so that an overview of the history of numismatics can be got, while security problems are also taken care of. The holographic gallery displays holograms of some of these rare coins. Computer Aided Design and Three Dimensional Modelling by creating a Virtual Gallery was part of the planning exercise. This is perhaps the first use of such techniques among museums in India.

The museum has published a lot of original material on its collection of coins right from 1890 AD. This publication was by Dr.Edgar Thurston C.I.E., the then Superintendent of the Museum. Though various hoards like the Dowlaishwaram hoard of Telugu Chola coins have been published there is no complete

Phone 2567 15 55 Fax 2567 71 28, 2567 23 04

manual on the Coins Gallery, which would also serve as a guide so far. Museum publications have also undergone a technology transformation in recent years as evidenced by the book, Iconography of Jain Images in two parts in 2001 and 2002 published with world class colour photography and execution. The profile of visitors has also changed. Especially, the foreign visitors for whom the gallery is a must-see, demand a world-class guide to carry home. Therefore, this manual has been written and published.

This book includes newly researched material so that it would not be a mere reproduction of the old books or a coffee-table book but also a book with a lot of knowledge intensity. For example, the elucidations of the Sun on the Satamana and Shadara Chakra on the Punch Marked Coins or the inscriptions in Latin etc. on the Medals like the medals issued to commemorate the victory of Lord Cornwallis over Tippu Sultan are a new contribution. Great scholars of yester-years like Thurston, Henderson, T.Balakrishnan Nair and others have written definitive works on Numismatics. This manual is a worthy successor to them, but in terms of photography and execution it beats them as the latest technology has been used by Dr.R.Kannan, Ph.D., I.A.S.

Writing of books forms part of the technical work of the head of the department of Museums. Dr.Kannan has written several important books and monographs earlier. Some of these are the Documentation on the Cannons in the collection of the Government Museum, Chennai (1999 AD). The Monograph on Holistic Dating (2000 AD), Iconography of Jain Images in the Government Museum, Chennai (2001 AD) and Iconography of Jain Images in the districts of Tamilnadu (2002 AD). Besides these he has edited the Journal of the museum, written several articles and papers, which have been published among others in the Annual Journal of the Museums Association of India. He has written, edited and published several colourful brochures on the Museum galleries. He has co-authored many of these publications with the curatorial staff.

Bringing out more than a dozen publications of world class in a short span of time of about six months is an achievement for any museum, which does not have many precedents. Almost all of them have the personal contribution of the Commissioner. Dr.R.Kannan, the Commissioner is a Board Member of the International Museums of History, Paris on the strength of his technical work and publications.

I compliment Dr.Kannan for this fertile output of publications, which is a remarkable blooming within a short period of time for the Government Museum, Chennai. I am sure that it will be a valuable reference work in the field in the years to come.

Fort St.George
Chennai-600 009
31-3-2003

(Mrs.Lakshmi Pranesh)

Dr. R. KANNAN,
B.Com., B.L., M.B.A., C.A.I.I.B.,
M.Soc. Sci (Birmingham, U.K.)., Ph.D., I.A.S.,
Commissioner of Agriculture and Museums,
Government Museum,
Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Off : 819 3778
Res : 434 1209
Fax : 819 3035
E-mail : govtmuse@md4.vsnl.net.in

PREFACE

The Government Museum, Chennai completes its one hundred and fifty-first year in 2003 AD. The Government desired to celebrate it in a fitting manner on the lines of the Centenary Celebration in 1951 AD, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India took part as the chief guest. In order to display the exquisite collection of bronzes, a separate building was constructed in 1963 AD. In the year 1976 AD, on the first floor of the Bronze Gallery, the Numismatic Section was allocated space for its gallery.

About Rs.4 Crores have been sanctioned by the Government for repairing the buildings housing some of the galleries, modernising and renovating the displays.

The display of all the collection sections, viz. Numismatics, Chemical Conservation and Archaeology (Bronzes), which are housed in the building called The Bronze Gallery Building have been reorganised. Their display has been modernised using the latest technology and display techniques adopted in the best museums in the world.

About 100 coins and medals in plaster cast and metal cast impressions have been exhibited in the gallery. This is out of the total collection of about 45000 coins. The exhibits displayed are a fraction of the total collection because there are multiple copies of the same coin. Only one of each leading type is displayed so that an overview of the history of numismatics can be got. The economic, political and social history of India and the world to the extent it interfaces with Numismatics can be gleaned from this gallery.

The work was started in November, 2002 and completed by the end of February, 2003. This quick pace of execution was preceded by detailed planning, which included Computer Aided Design and Three Dimensional Modelling. A Virtual Gallery and showcases were first created which was later on translated into reality. This is perhaps the first use of such techniques in the world of museums.

While the museum has published a lot of original material on its collection of coins right from the book of 1890 AD by Edgar Thurston, the then Superintendent of the Museum, no Manual on the Coins Gallery has been published so far. Museum publications have also undergone a technology transformation in recent years as evidenced by the book, Iconography of Jain Images in two parts in 2001 and 2002 published with world class colour photography and execution. The profile of visitors has also changed. Especially, the foreign visitors for whom the gallery is a must-see, demand a world-class guide to carry home. Therefore, this new Manual, which would easily guide the visitors around the newly redisplayed gallery, has been published. I have included newly researched material so that it would not be a mere reproduction of the old books or a coffee - table book but also a book with all the knowledge intensity usually associated with our museum publications. This guide has also been written within the same tight timetable as the reorganisation and the redisplay.

I hope this book serves tourists and scholars and also kindles enough interest in them to buy our research publications written by the great scholars of yester-years like Thurston, Henderson, T.Balakrishnan Nair and others. Most of these are considered definitive works. It has drawn heavily on their material for the descriptive part, since there is no purpose in reinventing the wheel. The introductory part is largely based on the work of this writer. Any suggestions for improvement are welcome.

28-2-2003
Chennai – 600 008.

(Dr.R.Kannan, Ph.D., I.A.S.)

To

The memory of late Sri T.S.Padmanabha Iyer (Retd.) Superintending Engineer (P.W.D) British India & Composite Madras State, my grandfather on his centenary (1901-2001) and my uncle late Sri P.Subramanian. Also to Ms. Lalitha, my mother, Mrs. Seetha, my wife, Master Sridar Padmanabhan, my son and Ms.Shrikalaa, my daughter for their encouragement and help.

Dr. R. Kannan, Ph.D., I.A.S.

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I acknowledge the help given by Thiru K. Lakshminarayanan, Assistant Director and Curators Tmt. Santhi, Thiru Sekar, Thiru Ramesh, Technical Assistant, Thiru Muthukrishnan and Thiru Girija Sankar, Photography section, Tmt. Sasikala and Tmt. Thara, personal staff of the Commissioner also rendered valuable assistance.

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MANUAL ON THE NUMISMATIC GALLERY

INTRODUCTION

Numismatics is the study of coins. It is important for the study of history, especially ancient history. It confirms, modifies and even amplifies history. To a great extent the political and economic history of a country is constructed by numismatics and historical facts are very often corroborated or rejected by numismatic findings. Many facts connected with the administration, historical geography and religious history of ancient India are revealed to us by numismatics. Coins of other countries found in India and our coins found elsewhere help to link events with anchor dates in History. They are very useful in Dating.

The introduction of coins is a landmark in the history of civilisation. Coins served the purpose of currency. This continued even after the introduction of paper money in the 17th Century AD by a private bank in Sweden. Paper money was introduced by other countries in subsequent years. Coins are still used as change in small denominations to facilitate transactions. Once they cease to be current, they are still valuable as historical documents. They conjure up before us the life and story of their time. Coins reveal many facts about the rulers who issued them, their names, dynasties, their ideals and achievements. They have also aesthetic and artistic value. They reflect the workmanship of the artists of the day and also the aesthetic taste of the people of their times.

The Evolution of Coinage

Pre-historic people had to produce their necessities by the effort of their own labour. As civilisation advanced and animals were domesticated, the practice of barter came into vogue. For example, a cultivator could get from a weaver, a piece of cloth in exchange for a quantity of his own produce. But a drawback in the barter system is that it requires the coincidence of the respective needs of the parties concerned, viz. the buyer and the seller – in economics it is called *double coincidence of wants.*

Therefore, with the progress of civilisation, the need for a common medium through which transactions could be carried out was felt. In India, in the *Vedic* period, the cow seems to have been regarded as a unit of wealth, and a commodity could be purchased in exchange for a cow, the quantity of the article being determined by the number and value of the animals. However, difficulty was felt when it came to buying a small article, which would cost much less than a cow. To alleviate this difficulty, articles like cowrie shells, etc., used as ornaments in early human society, also came to be used as media of exchange. Gradually these were supplanted by metallic pieces and the use of this medium of exchange ultimately led to the introduction of coins.

A coin is a piece of metal having a definite shape and weight and bearing recognized symbols on its face impressed upon it by a responsible authority. They state the value on its face. Coins of the same face value are uniform, unless the designs are changed deliberately at certain periods of time.

Material used for coinage

Coins of cowrie shells and other material like leather have been issued at certain points of time. The metal value of coins of larger denominations and their intrinsic value used to be equal. Coins of the same face value usually have uniform intrinsic value, unless this is changed deliberately at certain periods of time. The first attempt at token currency was by Sultan Muhammad Bin Tughlak who issued leather coins. This was a fiasco, since people were not ready to accept such coins. He was too far ahead of his time. When the country went through bad times the intrinsic value used to suffer.

Various metals have been used for minting coins in different periods. Lead was used in Roman Egypt and in Denmark as late as the 17th Century AD. In ancient India, the Andhra *Satavahanas* used lead for minting coins. Tin was used in *Rome*. Tin Half-pennies and farthings were coins current in England up to 1692 AD. Brass was used by the early Roman Emperors and nickel by the kings of *Bactria* (present North Afghanistan - Tajikistan) after 200 BC. In Japan, even in recent times, iron was used for minting coins. The other metals used were *electrum* (an alloy of gold and silver), *potin* (an alloy of copper, zinc, lead and silver) and bullion (gold or silver with a large amount of base metal). Gold, silver, copper and bronze are generally used by a large number of countries for minting coins. Aluminium, Nickel and Stainless Steel have been used in Free India.

The coins and medals collection in the Government Museum, Chennai

The Government Museum, Chennai has a rich collection of ancient, medieval and modern Indian coins, gold, silver, copper, lead, *potin*, electrum and bullion. Besides these, there is a representative collection of foreign coinage.

The Museum had, up to 1865 AD, only a very small collection of coins in its cabinet. Under the Indian Treasure Trove Act,1878 all finds unearthed anywhere in the State are sent to this Museum by the Revenue authorities for examination and if it is decided that they are worth acquiring, they are acquired by the Government for the Museum. But treasure trove hoards are not the only source through which coins are received here. Most of the North Indian coins are donated by North Indian Museums and institutions such as the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay, the Asiatic Society, Bengal, the Central Museum, Nagpur, the U.P. Coin Committee, the Indian Museum, Calcutta and so on.

In the year 1976 AD, on the first floor of the Bronze Gallery, a gallery for the Numismatics section was started. It is not possible to exhibit the coins in original to the public on grounds of safety. Therefore plaster cast impressions of the coins are prepared and exhibited in the gallery. This gallery has been reorganised this year (2003 AD) with the present state of the art display techniques with our resources.

There are at present two hundred and fifty medals in the section, a majority of which are exhibition medals, of not much market value. The rare pieces are the Mysore medals. The plaster cast of these medals are kept in the gallery with photographs. The collection includes a facsimile of the Great Charter of England, the *Magna Carta* of 1215 AD believed to be the only copy in India. It is displayed in the gallery.

TYPES OF COINS

Satamana Coins

Satamana is a rare type of '*Purana*' (ancient coin). It is a long bent bar of silver weighing 560 grains (*Satamana* means one hundred *mana*, *mana* being the name of a weight – in today's equivalent one *mana* is equivalent to 5-6 grains or 3.63 grams) (Sarkar, D.C, 1968, p.48). They have on one side a sun symbol at each end in most cases. The explanation for the manner of depiction of the Sun is to be found in the *Kali Vilasa Tantra*.The *Bindu*, zero or cipher represents *Siva*. *Shunya*, the dot represents the *Para - Brahma*, the Supreme Being. The rays are shaped like a *Trisul* (Trident, the weapon of Lord *Siva*). Rays around the central disc are cut to make it look like the Sun (Prasad, Durga, 1934, p.22). This symbol has variations with the *Shadara chakra* seen on Punch Marked Coins, which is described below. The other side is blank. *Panini*, the *Sanskrit* grammarian, who wrote the most ancient work on grammar dated to pre-history (Circa 8000 BC - 6000 BC) has made a mention of these coins in his work.

Puranas or "Punch Marked" Coins

The earliest money coined in large numbers in India is known as "*punch marked*" coins. The word "*Punch-marked*" has been used in contra-distinction to "die-struck". This name is derived from the method of manufacture

peculiar to these coins. The symbols and marks on these coins were not "die-struck" as in the case of the modern coin, but are impressed on its face by many separate punches. The punches were applied irregularly at various points on the surface of the coin.

Sanskrit writers such as *Manu* and *Panini*, and the *Buddhist Jataka* stories have made mention of these coins.

An interesting feature of these coins is that they bear neither their date nor the name of any king. Only a number of symbols are punched on the face of these coins.

The punch-marked coins were in circulation up to a thousand years before the beginning of the Christian era.

The symbols found on these coins are religious, mythological or astronomical in character. Usually the obverse of these coins shows a large number of symbols like Sun, Bull, Horse, Cow, Jackal, Fish, Elephant, Tree, Tiger, *Stupa*, *Swastika*, and *Shadarachakra* (forerunner of the discus held by Lord *Vishnu*, one of the Hindu Trinity), *dharma chakra* (a Buddhist symbol) and on the reverse, none or at the most one or two symbols are seen. There were usually five marks on the obverse. They had extra marks of bankers and miniature of the official marks on the reverse. These were used to solve the problem of obliteration and debased value as a result of obliteration. In *Asoka's* time, the mint itself placed one bold additional mark on the reverse in the centre to end all disputes (Gupta, P.L. et al., 1985, p.7).

A geometric figure is seen on many coins. In many cases, this is a Proto-*Swastika* or even full-fledged *Swastika* symbol. This is found in combination with other symbols or separately. Durga Prasad corroborates this view (1934, pp. 22-29), which is ignored by subsequent writers.

The *Shadara chakra* is a special feature found on these coins. A full *Shadara chakra* has a circle with six arms. Its structure is a circle with a dot in the centre and an outside border. Six arms emanate from the circle - arrow heads (leaves) and *taurean* symbols are found on alternate arms. The *Taurean* symbol is a crescent on a circle (Hindu - *Vrishabha*). Gupta et al. (1985) use the phrase six-armed symbol to describe them. They reject the theory of Mitchiner (from Gupta et al., 1985, p.13) who felt that it is the signature of the mint with the number of such symbols increasing with the expansion of the Mauryan Empire. Durga Prasad refers to the *Narasimha Tapani Upanishad* in which the *Shadara Chakra* is described. This text states that six spokes drawn about a *nabhi* (like an umbilical knot) in the centre with termination as leaves or other symbols form the auspicious symbol of *Shadara Chakra*. This is like the *swastika* another ancient auspicious symbol, which has survived even today. The successor of this *chakra* of ancient India is the *Sudarsana Chakra* of Lord *Vishnu* (Prasad, Durga, 1934, p.29). Kosambi has analysed them. He rejects the explanation of Durga Prasad that these have mystical significance (Kosambi, D.D., 1981, p.19). This is in tune with his general secular thinking of rejecting religious explanations as far as possible. He states that they are not the marks of a deity, but the mark of the *chakravarti* or king issuing them. He argues this based on the presence of small homosigns on coins, where the symbol is not found (Kosambi, D.D., 1981, p.19). This rejection does not appear to be correct, since in ancient India, kings called themselves *Dharma Chakravartis* i.e. they ruled according to *Dharma*. *Dharma* is *Sanatana Dharma*, the word used to describe Hinduism in pre-colonial days. This does not rule out religious tolerance, since Hinduism is the only tolerant religion in the world from that era onwards. Buddhism and Jainism were part of extended *Santana Dharma*. Conversions and re-conversions were common. The *Shadara chakra* is rarely seen in its full form (Kosambi, D.D., 1981, p.27). In the coins described here also, this is the case. The exact form has to be determined by comparison with similar coins. Kosambi has personally examined the hoard from which the coins described in this manual are taken in the 1950s. Please refer to Chapter-9, 'The *Bodenayakkanur* hoard' of his book, 'Indian Numismatics' for a more detailed account. They are 'square' type while the hoards from *Khandesh* have 'round' coins also. The coins have the sun, *Shadara chakra*, a *stupa* like symbol, leaves with a stalk, a crescent -axe and a

symbol on the reverse called a stylised fish now, which Kosambi identifies as the stamp of the Mauryan mint on the reverse. He suggests that this hoard is from a peninsular king claiming descent from the Mauryas. He dates it to circa 2nd - 4th Century AD. This symbol on the reverse is interpreted in recent years as a fish, the symbol of the Sangam Pandyas, since the hoard is from *Bodenayakkanur*, near Madurai. This later interpretation seems reasonable, since the Mauryan Empire or its successors never stretched into Tamil country till the time of the Delhi Sultanate. However, the use of the Mauryan symbol, *Shadara chakra*, would show that may be there was some sort of loose suzerainty, may be even moral supremacy that made rulers use the Mauryan symbol to claim a glorious descent to assert their legitimacy. This is like most Kings in India claiming Solar or Lunar dynasty descent to show their ancestor as *Rama* or *Krishna* respectively.

These punch-marked coins are referred to as *Puranas* in Hindu and Buddhist literature. They are also called as *Karshapana* coinage of *Magadha* in the *Nanda- Mauryan* era. They were in circulation in North India up to the beginning of the Christian era. In South India they continued to be in use for three centuries more. The word '*Purana*' otherwise usually means Hindu mythological stories with a pinch of history.

Coins of *Satavahanas*

After the decline of the *Mauryan* Empire (320 BC to 180 BC) whose sway extended over almost the whole of India, there was a rapid growth of an Andhra Kingdom in South India. The Andhra Kings were known as the *Satavahanas*. They asserted their independence soon after the death of *Asoka* in 232 BC and their rule lasted up to 227 AD. Their dominion extended from the northern parts of the present Karnataka in the South to the River *Narmada* in the North and from the mouth of the *Godavari* River on the Bay of Bengal on the East to the Western Ghats in the West.

The metal most used by the Andhra *Satavahanas* for coins was lead. Silver coins were rarely used. Next to lead, they used an alloy of copper, zinc, lead and silver called "*Potin*".

Satavahana coinage falls into distinct groups showing different epochs. Although the coins of this period are devoid of any beauty or artistic merit, they constitute a valuable source material for the dynastic history of the *Satavahanas*. They are the earliest coins of South India bearing legends giving dynastic names along with religious devices.

Most of the *Satavahana* coins generally bear on the obverse the figures of a horse, an elephant, a lion or a *Chaitya* (Buddhist *Vihara* used for worship). The reverse side shows the so-called *Ujjain* symbol – a cross with four circles at the end of two crossing lines.

Coins of the Tamil *Sangam* Period

The land between Bay of Bengal in the East and the Arabian Sea in the West, Indian Ocean (Cape Comorin) in the South and Tirupati Hill (*Venkadam*) in the North is described in classical Tamil literature as the land of the Tamil speaking people. It was ruled by three different dynasties of monarchs in the ancient period, *Cheras*, *Cholas* and *Pandyas*. The royal emblems of these three dynasties are the bow and arrow for the *Cheras*, the tiger for the *Cholas* and the fish for the *Pandyas*.

The coinage of these three monarchies of the Tamil country falls into distinct groups showing different epochs bearing their dynastic emblems and the legends (script on the coins) of different periods. The period of the Third Sangam era, the historical Sangam, was dated from 2nd Century BC to 2nd Century AD. Recent research has taken it back up to 900 BC (Kannan, Dr. R, 2000, p. 47; 2002, pp. 63-65).

Coins of the *Sangam Cholas*

Centuries before the Christian era, the *Cholas* had established themselves on the Coromandel Coast (Eastern coast - *Chola Mandalam*). The civilisation was as advanced as any in the world. In the Second Rock Edict (3rd Century BC) of *Asoka*, the *Cholas* are referred to along with the *Cheras* and the *Pandyas*. For the Early *Cholas*, *Uraiyur* in Tiruchirapalli district was the capital. The principal port and cosmopolitan city of the *Cholas* was *Kaveripoompattinam* or *Puhar* near the mouth of the Cauvery River. The *Chola* emblem, the tiger, was imprinted on the exported and imported goods at the port of *Puhar*.

The *Sangam Chola* coins are square in shape. These coins are mostly in copper. They bear the standing tiger with the tail lifted up on one side and on the other side an elephant, fish, bull or other symbols.

Coins of the *Sangam Pandyas*

The normal extent of the *Pandya* Kingdom in the *Sangam* Era corresponded to the undivided districts of Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Madurai and Kanyakumari and below (some land has been lost in Holocene sea-transgressions – refer Kannan, Dr. R., 2002) with the Southern *Vellar* River for its northern boundary.

The *Pandyas* had a very chequered history. During the *Sangam* period (circa 900 BC - circa 200 AD), they were one of the three kings who ruled Tamil Nadu. But at the turn of 3rd Century AD, their power declined. They went into oblivion. They emerged again in the 6th Century AD.

The earliest *Pandya* coins are square in form. They are struck with an elephant on the obverse and a blank reverse or a stylised fish.

Coins of the *Sangam Cheras*

The *Cheras* are one of the three powerful dynasties of the 3rd Tamil *Sangam* Era. Their territory included much of the present Kerala State, Coimbatore, Erode Districts and some area east of Palghat Pass. The capital of the *Cheras* was *Vanji* (present Kodungallur in Kerala according to some including this writer)/ Karur (*Vanji* according to others) near Tiruchirapalli District.

In early Tamil literature, the *Cheras* are referred to as *Cherala* and *Cheramans*. Coins of the early *Chera* period are in copper and square in shape. They bear figures of the elephant, the bow and arrow and the *chakra*. Some of the *Chera* coins are round in shape. On the obverse they bear the palm tree, the bow and the depiction of a sacrificial altar in the form of dots.

Coins of *Pallavas*

Around the close of the 4th Century AD, the *Pallavas* appear on the Tamil horizon. For about six hundred years, till the end of the 9th century AD, the northern part of the Tamil region was dominated by the *Pallavas*. The Pallava territory included Bellary and a part of the present Mysore State, the erstwhile undivided North Arcot, South Arcot and Chingleput Districts with a portion of undivided Thanjavur and Tiruchirapalli Districts.

The emblems ordinarily appearing on the coins of the *Pallavas* are "the Bull" and the "two-masted ship". A lion or lioness takes the place of the bull on the obverse of some coins. Some of them bear legends in the Sanskrit language in *Grantha* script - *Sri Bhara and Srinidhi Maanabhara*. On the reverse of the coins appear one or other of the emblems, the *Swastika*, the sacrificial lamp, the bow, the fish, the umbrella, the *Chaitya* (Buddhist *Vihara* or temple), the horse, the lion and the *Chakra*.

The *Pallavas* of Kancheepuram had the *Rishabha* or Bull and the squatting Lion as their dynastic emblem. Both the bull and lion emblems were in use in the *Pallava* territory.

The Pre-*Pallavas* were pastoral people and so they issued coins with the bull as the emblem. The coins with the lion as emblem may represent their victory over their enemies.

Pallava coins are mostly in lead and copper. The coins are circular in shape. The *Pallava Grantha* script is found on the obverse side of the coins and in a few on the reverse side.

Roman Coins

Roman Imperial Coins are found in India, largely on the East Coast of Southern India in present Tamilnadu. Of all the regions of India, Tamilnadu has yielded the maximum number of Roman coins. The references in the Tamil *Sangam* works to *Yavanas* bringing wine to the Tamil country indicates that the *Yavanas* were mostly Romans, as wine was one of the chief commodities of exports from the Mediterranean world. So exchange of wine and gold took place. Iron and steel was exported from *Kodumanal* near Erode in Tamilnadu to Rome. Trade relations with Rome brought Roman gold coins in large quantities to Tamilnadu. The Tamils did not usually accept any coins other than gold coins. Gold coins are called '*solidos*' and '*aures*', silver '*denarius*' and copper '*asses*' and '*folles*'. But aures was in infrequent use to pay the army (Radhakrishnan, P.V., 1999, p. 41). There are also brass coins found near Thanjavur (Aravamuthan, T.G., 2002, p.16). The *solidos* were more in use.

The Roman Coins constitute the finest specimens of numismatic art found in ancient South India. The Roman coins usually portray royal figures on the obverse. The reverse displays a wide variety of themes, which includes Princesses and Queens, birds, animals, angels, public buildings, weapons and historical events.

Coins of the Roman Emperor Augustus and Tiberius with the inscriptions '*GL Caesarus*' and '*Pontiff Maxim*' are popularly known as trade coins. These are undated issues, but scholars place them between 14 AD and 37 AD and are said to have been specially issued by the Romans to trade with India. The coin in the collection of this museum, which is considered to be in the best condition, has the word '*Maxim*' slightly attenuated.

These types of coins, which were introduced by Augustus and continued by his adopted son Tiberius, are referred to as *GL Caesarus* and *Pontiff Maxim* type. These are the trade coins seen above. There are a large number of imitations also. The imitations are mostly of the *Gaius* and *Lucius* coins of Augustus and *Pontiff Maxim* type (Radhakrishnan, P.V. , 1999, p.9). There are actual counterfeits, copies made in terracotta etc (bullae). Some have the obverse and reverse of two different periods, i.e. obverse of Antoninus Pius with reverse of another period say Hadrian. The cut marks on some coins could be to test their genuineness. The other theory that these were meant as insults appears far-fetched, as traders are only interested in profits – not who is King or Pope. Since they were full-bodied coins (i.e. face value was determined by metal value – gold in most cases) they could not be demonetised by slashes as contended sometimes (Radhakrishnan, P.V., 1999, 10).

Coins of the *Kushana* Kings

Kushanas were one of the five branches of the *Yuch-chi* tribe who overthrew the *Saka* power in Bactria about 126 BC. About 50 AD, under the leadership of *Kujula Kadphises* they passed South of the Hindukush and overwhelmed the ruling power in the Kabul Valley. *Vima Kadphises*, son of *Kujula Kadphises* conquered *Gandhara* (Afghanistan) and Western Punjab.

The *Kushana* dynasty may be grouped under two heads.

Kadphises group: Consisting of *Kujula Kadphises* and *Vima Kadphises*.

Kanishka Group: Consisting of *Kanishka*, *Huvishka* and *Vasudeva*.

Kanishka is considered by scholars as the founder of the *Saka* era. His reign started in 78 AD.

Kushana coins show definite traces of the influence of the Greek coins, in the mode of representation of the King, his headdress and his costumes. Some other minor details also resemble that of Greek coins.

The gold and copper coins of *Kushanas* bear on one side the figure of the monarch either seated or standing. On the reverse of their coins are found a series of Gods and Goddesses of Indo-Persian origin.

The appearance of the skill and craftsmanship of India may be noticed on the *Kushan* coins. *Kushan* coinage was the first proper gold coinage in India.

Coins cf the *Guptas*

The Gupta era started about 320 AD, the time of the accession of *Chandragupta* I. The period of the *Gupta* dynasty lasted roughly between 300 AD and 550 AD.

The splendid *Gupta* gold coins with their many types and varieties are the first examples of purely North Indian Art. For the first time, Indian coins have their legend (inscriptions) in pure Sanskrit in *Nagari* script.

The three famous kings of this dynasty are *Samudra Gupta* I, *Chandra Gupta* II and *Kumara Gupta*. They introduced different types of coins, sometimes representing events in the life of the ruler or simply emphasising the ruler's prowess. These types of coins are the highest achievement of the engraver's art in India and fully a match to the finest of Greek, Roman and Renaissance Coinage of the West.

The *Gupta* coins are essentially of Gold. On one side of these coins, we find the King standing and making oblations before an altar.

On the other side, we find the Goddess *Lakshmi* seated on a throne or on a lotus seat, or the figure of the queen herself.

Coins of the Eastern *Chalukyas*

In 624 AD, *Kubja Vishnuvardhana*, the brother of *Pulikesi* II established the Eastern *Chalukyan* dynasty. It maintained its sway continuously for about four and half centuries from 624 AD to 1070 AD except for a short interruption of 27 years from 973 AD to 1000 AD.

The capital of the Eastern *Chalukyan* kingdom was *Vengi*. The rule of this dynasty lasted till the 11th Century AD, when it was overthrown by the *Cholas*.

The Eastern *Chalukyan* coins have as their insignia, the boar, in the centre, around which, each letter of the king's name is punched separately. The other side is blank.

Coins of the Western *Chalukyas*

Pulikesi I is considered to be the true founder of the Western *Chalukyan* dynasty in the middle of the 6th century AD. He established his capital at *Vatapi* (*Badami*) in modern Bijapur district. The *Chalukyan* kingdom became extensive and powerful under his grandson, *Pulikesi* II. In 753 AD, the fortunes of the western house suffered a temporary

setback. The *Chalukyas* were over thrown by the *Rashtrakutas* in 753 AD (Mohandas, P.N., 1980, p.5). *Tailapa* II recovered the throne of his ancestors in 973 AD and established the Western *Chalukyan* dynasty with its capital at *Kalyani* near Gulbarga in present Karnataka. The domination of the Western *Chalukyas* lasted till 1190 AD, 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 *Kanarese* language and script. The other side is blank.

Coinage of the Imperial *Cholas*

Between the ninth and thirteenth centuries of the Christian Era, the *Chola* Kings, with varying degrees of success, attempted to maintain their supremacy over the whole of South India. During this period they conquered all the territories up to the Deccan and subdued even Ceylon, Cambodia, Vietnam, Burma,Thailand (Siam), Laos and the Far East Islands like Bali. *Pazhayarai* near Kumbakonam was their principal administrative capital.

The important and famous emperors of this dynasty are *Raja Raja* I - the Great, his son *Rajendra* I and *Rajendra Kulothunga*.

The *Chola* coins are essentially of copper, although silver and gold coins were also issued by the *Chola* Kings.

Coins of *Uttama Chola* or *Madurantaka* Chola (973-985 AD)

The immediate predecessor of *Raja Raja* the Great was *Uttama Chola*, who had also the title "*Madurantaka*". His territory extended up to Chennai (Madras) in the North and to Madurai in the South. His coins are of silver and copper.

On one side, the coin bears a seated tiger, two fish and a bow. These are shown on a pedestal. Above these emblems are seen a parasol and two *chamaras* (fly-whisks). On the reverse is the legend '*Uttama Chola*' in *Nagari* characters. The assemblage of all the three emblems of the Tamil Kings is to show his conquest over the entire Tamil country.

Coins of *Raja Raja* – the Great (985 - 1014 AD)

The thirty years of *Raja Raja*'s rule constitute the ascending phase of the imperial period in the history of the Imperial *Chola* dynasty.

Rajaraja's coins are the best known in South Indian numismatics. It is found in several thousands in South India. It looks as though for several centuries his coins were the main currency circulating in Tamilnadu. There are various types of coins of *Rajaraja*. Two of the types are well known. The most common has the King standing on the obverse and a seated goddess on the reverse. The legend '*Raja*' on most of the types is in Sanskrit in *Nagari* script. This type is found in gold, silver and copper.

Coins of *Rajendra Chola* (1014-1044 AD)

Rajaraja was succeeded by his mighty son *Rajendra I*. He was the only ruler of India to carry his arms to the Far East across the sea and to win several victories.

Rajendra Chola's coins have the legend '*Sri Rajendra*', '*Gangaikonda Chola*', '*Yuddhamalla*' and '*Mudikonda Chola*' in Sanskrit and Tamil languages in *Nagari* and Tamil scripts with the emblems, bow, tiger and fish. The assemblage

of all three emblems is to show that he symbolised all the three legendary dynasties of the Tamil Sangam Era, *Chera*, *Chola* and *Pandya*.

Coins of *Kulothunga-I* (1070-1122 AD)

Rajendra Kulothunga-I was the last of the great *Cholas*. The gold coins of *Kulothunga* commemorate his conquest of Malaysia.

The commemorative coins bear tiger, fish and bow in the centre. On the margin of the coins is the legend "*Kataikonda Cholan*" or '*Malainadu Konda Cholan*' each letter of which is punched separately. They are in Tamil script. There is another theory that the coins are of *Rajendra Chola* and *Rajadhi Raja* I respectively. 'But this has been considered and rejected by Thiru. T. Balakrishnan Nair (2002, pp. 4-7).

Coins of *Kongu Cheras* (8th - 13th Century AD)

The *Cholas* ruled the *Kongu* region (Coimbatore and Salem region) in the 10th and 11th Centuries AD through their feudatories, the *Cheras*. Their descendants were called as *Kongu Cheras* and ruled the north west of the *Kongu* region. They issued coins in gold, silver and copper. Their coins bear the elephant device on the obverse and a floral design on the reverse.

Coins of *Later Pandyas* (13th Century AD)

Between the 7th and 13th centuries AD, the *Pandya* copper coins bear single fish or sometimes a pair of fish, some times in conjunction with other symbols like a standing figure or the boar. The inscription on the silver and gold coins is in Sanskrit. Most of their copper coins have Tamil legends. A pair of fish is usually found in their extended territories like Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts.

Coins of the *Vijaynagar* Empire (1336-1565 AD)

In the fourteenth century AD, the foundation was laid for the last great Hindu dynasty, which exercised an important influence on the history of Southern India, both in the political and numismatic spheres. This was the Kingdom of *Vijaynagar*. *Harihara I* and his brother *Bukka* in 1336 AD established this Hindu dynasty.

There were four main dynasties of the *Vijaynagar* Kings. The *Sangama* dynasty was the first one, under which the empire was started. The second, *Saluva* dynasty lasted only for two decades. The third was the *Tuluva* dynasty, under which Vijaynagar empire reached its peak. The last was the *Aravidu* dynasty. The empire came to an end after the great battle of *Talikotta* in 1565 AD. It survived in an attenuated form as its chieftains retained supremacy in their respective areas. It came to a close finally in the 17th century AD, when all the erstwhile feudatories who asserted their independence after the collapse of the central power also declined.

Standardisation in coinage took place in the *Vijaynagar* period. Coins were minted in gold, silver and copper. The matrix method i.e. using die cast was adopted instead of the punch method. A uniform weight standard for the *pagoda* was introduced, the shape and metallic values of the different coins were fixed and the coinage in general was sub-divided into several denominations. The coins were mostly "*Varahas*" or *Pagodas*. These *Pagodas* started a fashion in South Indian coinage, which lasted till 1835 AD.

A number of emblems are found on *Vijaynagar* gold and copper coins. The most common of these are the bull (*Vrishabha*) the elephant, various Hindu deities (*Siva* and *Parvati*, *Krishna*, *Vishnu*, *Venkateswara* and *Hanuman*) and a double-headed eagle (*Gandabherunda*) holding an elephant in its beak and claw. According to *Vaishnavite Puranas*, *Vishnu* took this form to pacify *Sarabhamurthy*, a form of *Siva*. *Sarabha* is supposed to have subdued the thirst for blood of *Narasimha* (a form of *Vishnu*) after the slaying of the demon *Hiranyakasipu*. This can be considered

as a *Purana* depicting the continuous back and forth swing of supremacy between *Saivite* and *Vaishnavite* forms of Hindu worship.

The early Kings of the *Vijaynagar* dynasty, *Harihara I* and *Bukka* employed *Kanarese* script for the legends on their coins. *Devanagari* was substituted for *Kanarese* in coins during the reign of *Harihara* II and the kings who reigned after him.

Coins of the Delhi *Sultans*

The Muslim conquest of Northern India introduced far- reaching changes in Indian coinage. At the end of the 12th century AD, Muslim rule was extended to large tracts of the subcontinent. *Muhammad Ghori*'s successors established their capital at Delhi. Muslim rule gradually extended to the entire country. But the extreme south was not effectively conquered.

The *Sultan* of Delhi introduced traditional Islamic coinage into India, derived essentially from the Persian-Arabic typology of the late 12th century AD.

The fashion of showing pictorial devices (the bust or head of the ruler) was dropped as the engraving of images was forbidden by Islamic faith. Both obverse and reverse sides of coins are entirely devoted to inscriptions, giving the King's name and titles as well as the date, in the Hijri era. The first year of the Hijri era begins on Friday, July 15th-16th 622 AD. Another feature was the inclusion of the *Kalima* or Profession of faith as defined in the *Quran* on the coins. The most commonly used sentence is 'There is no god but *Allah*, and *Muhammad* is the Prophet of *Allah*'. The script is Arabic.

During the period of the Delhi *Sultans*, the name of the mint makes its first appearance on Indian coins. Mint marks are, of course, seen even from *Mauryan* times.

The *Khilji Sultan* of Delhi issued gold, silver, copper and bullion coins. *Alaud-din Khilji* (1296-1316 AD) had enriched his treasury by conquests in Southern India. He issued plenty of silver coins and changed the design by dropping the name of the *Khalif* from the obverse and replaced it by a self-laudatory title, "The second Alexander, the right hand of the *Khalifate*". The bullion coins of *Alaud-din Muhammad (Khilji)* are the first to bear dates.

After the expulsion of the *Moghul* King, *Humayun* in 1540 AD, *Sher Shah Suri*, an Afghan controlled the destinies of Hindustan for five years. He was a great ruler of constructive and administrative ability. His reform of Coinage, though completed by *Akbar*, was a great measure. His introduction of a new standard of 178 grains for silver coins and about 330 grains for copper coins was a great innovation. These new coins were subsequently known as the *rupee* and the *dam*. The rupee is till today the standard Indian currency.

Coins of the *Moghul* era - the great *Moghuls* (1526 - 1707 AD)

The Great *Moghuls* issued a great deal of coinage over a period of two centuries through different mints in various parts of India. These coins are miniature works of art designed by outstanding artists. They brought to light the beauty of workmanship available during the *Moghul* period (16th to 17th Century AD).

Akbar used his coins to propagate his "Divine faith" or '*Din - Ilahi*'. He started issuing coins in copper and silver.

The *Moghul* copper coins were based on *Sher Sha's "dam"* which weighed 320 to 330 grains. The silver rupee, adopted from the *Sher Sha* currency, was the most famous of all the *Moghul* coins. The rupee maintained its

standard weight of 178 grains with little variation. Coins with denominations of half, quarter, one-eighth and one-sixteenth of a rupee were also minted.

Akbar minted both round and square coins. The coins with names of the Persian Solar months were called *Illahi* coins that were minted in March 1579 AD.

The standard gold coin of the *Moghuls* was the *'Mohur'* of about 11 grams. Half and quarter *Mohurs* were also issued. The legends are usually in Persian.

The legends on the *Mughal* coins were in Persian usually.

Zodiacal Coins

Jehangir (1605-1627 AD) struck an extensive series of Zodiac *Mohurs*. *Jehangir* took a personal interest in his coinage and ordered the production of the coins with signs of the zodiac in his 13th regnal year (1618). Previous to this, the usual convention in coinage was that on one face of the metal, the mint stamped his name and on the reverse the name of the place and the month and the year of the reign. But the zodiacal issues show pictorial representations of the signs of the zodiac instead of the month. *Jehangir's* zodiacal coins are unparalleled in *Moghul* coinage. He must have been interested in astrology.

Venetian Coins

Even in the Pre-Christian period, South Indian rulers had commercial interaction with the West. This is quite evident from the discovery of Roman, Arab, Venetian and other coins of Europe in South India.

The flow of Venetian coins into India started from the fifteenth century AD and continued till the closing period of the eighteenth century AD, when the Venetian Republic fell to *Napoleon*. Venetian *sequins* did not serve as internal currency but were valued on the basis of their metal value at various ports. Venetian coins occur in considerable quantity in South India and were used for jewellery. Their intrinsic value determined their exchange value.

Venetian coins are all made of gold. The designs on the obverse and reverse of the coins are the same. The legends are also constant. Variation takes place on the obverse depending on the names of the *Doge* (Duke). The names of the Dukes are inscribed.

Coins of South Indian Chieftains

The local chieftains exercised a great measure of autonomy after the decline of the great Hindu kingdom of *Vijaynagar* in 1565 AD. The chieftains themselves were numerous and had only local authority. Their coinage was typically of South Indian style. Their coins are mostly in copper and bear the names or the titles of the issuer in several languages.

After the downfall of the *Vijaynagar* Empire, *the Nayaks* of *Madurai* and *Thanjavur*, *the Sethupathies* of Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga, and *the Tondamans* of Pudukottai were important chieftains in Tamilnadu. They issued coins for their local circulation. Their coins bear the names and honorific titles of the issuer in several Indian languages. These coins are mostly in copper and are in South Indian style.

Coins of *Konerirayan*

In the latter half of the 15th Century AD, *Konerirayan* a feudatory under the *Vijaynagar* rulers was ruling from *Kancheepuram* in the North to *Tiruchirapalli* in the South, including *Thanjavur* region.

In 1471 AD, *Konerirayan* became the chieftain of *Tiruchirapalli* region also. He had his capital at *Kancheepuram*. About 25 years of chieftaincy and control over the fertile region of the Tamil country made him a formidable ruler. A series of copper coins bearing the Tamil legend "*Konerirayan*" on the obverse and a standing bull on the reverse were issued by him. A crescent is also seen sometimes.

Coins of the *Nayaks*

The *Nayaks* were subordinates of the imperial *Vijaynagar* emperors. They became powerful and established their principalities at *Ginjee*, *Thanjavur* and *Madurai* in the closing years of *Krishnadevaraya*.

The Nayaks also issued coins of their own. They were numerous and the majority of them have no legends but have gods and symbols. The seated bull with the Sun and the Moon is the royal crest of the *Madurai Nayaks*.

A few of the coins bear the bull on the obverse and the initial of the ruler in Tamil, Telugu and *Nagari* scripts on the reverse. Other copper coins with a bull on its face bear the names of the rulers. Besides these, there are a number of coins bearing the figures of deities like *Hanuman, Garuda*, Goddesses, *Uma Maheswara, Kartikeya* etc.

Coins of the *Sethupathi*

The *Sethupathis* of Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga were the chiefs of the *Marawa* tribe, the most important of the southern warrior classes (predatory to the British), and the principal feudatories of the *Pandyas*. Their copper coins are remarkable for their variety and antiquity.

Coins of the *Tondamans*

The *Tondamans* of *Pudukottai* issued copper coins with Telugu legends. The seated goddess, the family deity of the *Tondaman* rulers, "*Brihan Nayaki*" (great or big goddess) is depicted on the obverse side. The Telugu legend "*Vijaya*" is found on the reverse side. These coins were issued by the local authorities for *puja* (worship) purposes in the temples. They were distributed to pilgrims and *Brahmins* (priestly class) along with the *Prasadam* (food first offered to the Gods and then distributed to others) during the *Navaratri* Festival (Nine-day festival during September-October when the Goddess does penance to slay a demon).

"*Ramatanka*" – Temple Coin or Token Coin

Ramatankas are religious tokens. The earliest of these were struck exclusively in gold. They are dated to the latter half of the *Vijaynagar* empire in Southern India (16-17th century AD). They were issued in the later period also. They were not intended as money, but to be used in *puja* ceremonies.

Their origin owes to private agencies like temple authorities who minted these coins and sold them to pilgrims at holy places in North India in the late medieval period. The popular type of *Ramatanka* represents *Rama* and *Lakshmana* with a legend *SM Rama* or *Ramajeyam* on the obverse and the scene of *Rama's* coronation on the reverse.

The same types of *Ramatanka* with modification on the obverse have been issued on behalf of the *Puri Jagannatha* Temple in Orissa. There are also coins of the same type, which have the representation of other deities (*Kali, Mahavira, Buddha* etc). Modern coins of this type are usually made of base silver, German silver or brass.

Coins of *Mysore Sultans* (1772-1799 AD)

The short reign of the Mysore *Sultans* produced an infinite variety of coins. *Hyder Ali* struck copper coins with

elephant figures at *Srirangapatna* in the last two years of his reign. They are of considerable interest as they form the model for the extensive series of copper coins issued by his son *Tipu Sultan*.

Despite being an orthodox Muslim, *Hyder* minted gold *pagoda* coins, with the figure of *Siva* and *Parvati* on one side. On the other side of the coin is inscribed the first letter of *Hyder's* name in Persian. This must have been due to the desire to get the loyalty of his subjects by depicting himself as a successor to the *Wodeyar* dynasty by adopting their emblems. *Tipu Sultan*, the son of *Hyder Ali* continued his father's *Pagoda* and *Fanams*. His coins are most instructive. He introduced various innovations and rare varieties in his coinage. *Tipu* minted gold *Mohurs*, silver rupees and copper cash (a type of coin, *kasu* is the name given to money even today) from different mints. His coins are named after either a *Caliph* or a Saint. The Persian inscriptions in *Tipu's* gold and silver coins are religious in character. The elephant devices of the *Wodeyar* kings were also adopted by *Tipu* in his copper coins.

Coins of the *Mysore Wodeyars*

The *Wodeyar* dynasty ruled Mysore from 1578 AD till 1947 AD, with a short interruption caused by the rule of the Mysore Sultans. Before *Hyder Ali*, *Kantheerava Narasa Raja Wodeyar* was the King of Mysore from 1638 till 1659 AD. He issued very small gold *fanams* (equivalent of the rupee) bearing his name in *Kanarese* on one side and on the other side the figure of *Narasimha*, *avatar* of *Vishnu*. These *fanams* are small in size.

After *Tipu* Sultan, the *Wodeyar* dynasty was restored and *Krishna Raja Wodeyar*, a child of five was made the king. The gold *Varahans* of *Krishna Raja Wodeyar* bear his name in *Sanskrit* in *Devanagari* script on one side and the figure of *Uma Maheswara* on the other. He minted silver *fanams*, double *fanams* and single *fanams*. The elephant was replaced on the copper coins by the lion.

Coins of the *European Powers*

The first European explorers arrived in India in 1498 AD, when the *Portuguese* adventurer, *Vasco da Gama* landed on the Indian coast at Calicut. Within a decade, the Portuguese had established their first trading colony on the sub continent, and by 1510 AD were producing their first coinage. The Portuguese monopoly over the Indian trade ended shortly after 1600 AD, as their Dutch, French, British and Danish rivals established commercial beachheads in India. All four began to produce coinage in India during the early decades of the 17th century AD, either under their own initiative or with *Moghul* authorisation. Dutch coinage ceased by 1790 AD, French in 1841 AD and Danish in 1845 AD. The Danes ceded their settlement of Tranquebar in 1845 to the British. Therefore, their coinage stopped. Pondicherry was restored to the French in 1815 AD. They resumed coinage but closed the mint in 1840 and in 1871 all the coins issued by the French ceased to be legal tender (Desikachari, T., 1991, p.105).British coinage was superseded by those of the Republics of India and Pakistan in 1948 AD, while the Portuguese issues were minted till 1961, the year in which the Indian Republic annexed the last Portuguese possessions.

Coins of the *Portuguese*

The Portuguese coins do not bear any inscription or words in their native language. A large number of coins bear initial letters or abbreviations, which stand for the names of the viceroys or the denominations of the coins.

Coins of the *Dutch*

The Dutch exercised undisputed supremacy over the Eastern seas at one time. In the 17th Century AD, they established themselves in the island of Java, wrested the Moluccas and Ceylon from the earlier Portuguese settlers and owned many settlements on the Coromandel Coast of the Indian mainland. A few monuments that still remain

recall the old days of Dutch rule in some parts of India.

The issues of their prolific mint bear silent witness to their supreme power in the East. The most familiar coins "*Nagore Challies*" (the lowest denomination of coins) are artistically executed pieces, bearing on the obverse the monogram "V.O.C" standing for "*Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie*" meaning " United East India Company".

The obverse of the coins bear the monogram made up of the letters O and C superscribed over the arms of the letter V. The devices over the monogram such as a flower, a cock, a plain shield, a castle or a galloping horse might have served as mint marks (common in those days). The coat of arms on the reverse represented the state from where they were issued. The early *Dutch* coins consist of 2,1, ½ and ¼ *stuiver* pieces. They were stamped with the value of the coins. *Stuiver* are thick copper coins. They are ill designed and irregular in shape. Most of them bear the letter "S.T." standing for *Stuiver*. They were minted in their Asian colonies.

The Dutch settlements on the Coromandel Coast possessed mints of their own. The coins issued from Pulicat bore the Persian Legend "*Zerbe, Pulicat*" – *pice* (old for *paisa* of today) of Pulicat in consonance with the fashion of the European East India Companies of that time.

The Dutch coins from Nagapattinam had the letter "N" over the monogram on one side and the legend '*Nagapattinam*' in Tamil script on the obverse.

Coins of the *Danish*

Danish coins consist mostly of *four cash* (a denomination, anglicised for *Kasu* in Tamil) pieces in copper and very rarely in gold or silver. All of them bear on one side (obverse) the monogram of the reigning Monarch. The coins most commonly found are those of Christian VI (1730-1746 AD), Christian VII (1766-1808 AD) and Fredrick VI (1808-1839 AD). The first Danish East India Company was formed in Copenhagen in 1616 AD. It was closed in 1650 AD. A new company was formed in its place with the name DOC (DANSK OSTINDISK COMPAGNI) in 1670 AD. They issued coins with the monogram "DOC" on the reverse side.

In 1732 another company, the Royal Danish Asiatic Company was formed and given the charter. On the other side (reverse) of the earlier issues is found the monogram DAC (Danish Asiatic Company) of the company. In later issues "X" or "IV KAS" as the case might be is found with the year below. Coins of Christian VI were issued only from 1732 AD.

***Indo-French* Coins**

On 24th June 1642, the French established an Indian company on the model of the earlier Dutch East India company. During the reign of Louis XIV, in 1664 AD, the French East India Company was established. In Western India, the company established its factory in *Surat* and in Southern India it acquired *Pondicherry* in 1674 AD.

Pondicherry was the foothold for French Coinage in South India. They minted money in the form of gold, silver and copper coins. They were known as the Gold *Pagoda*, the Silver *Fanam* and the *Kasu* in copper or lead.

Fanams were issued in three denominations as the half-*fanam* (Fanon), single *fanam* and the double *fanam*. The copper coins were also in three types. The commonest have a large fleur-de-lis on the obverse and the Tamil legend *Puducheri* (puduche) on the reverse.

The *Gallic* Cock with the date on the obverse with the tamil legend 'puduche' on the reverse is found in the second type. The third type of coins has the legend, '*Nagapattinam*' in Tamil script on the obverse and *Puducheri* on

the reverse. A few coins are found with the legends, *'Karaikal'* on the obverse and *'Nagapattinam'* on the reverse in Tamil script.

The gold *pagoda* coins were minted at Pondicherry. This was for use at the settlement of Yanam. They had on their obverse, three figures of *Venkateswara* with his two consorts and on the reverse on a granulated surface, the crescent as seen on the Pondicherry *Pagoda*. Rupees and *Fanams* intended to meet the need of the local currency for Mahe were also struck at Pondicherry (Desikachari, T. (1991) P.109).

The settlements of *Yanam* , Masulipatnam, Mahe, Chandranagore and Surat each had their distinctive coinage. They bore the mark of the Pondicherry mint and could easily be classified as the coins of French in India.

Indo-British Coins

The English East India Company minted coins in gold, silver and copper for the use of their settlements from the beginning of their existence. Circa 1661 AD (from the Madras mint) they issued gold *Pagodas* of different types. They are the Single *Swamy Pagoda*, the Old Star *pagoda*, the Three *Swamy Pagodas*, the *Mohur* in gold and the Star *Pagoda* in silver. The Silver Star *Pagoda* has a temple *gopuram* (tower) on one side. The other side has the figure of *Vishnu*.

The *Pagoda* called the Three - *Swamy Pagoda* has on one side the figures of three deities. The East India Company issued these Pagodas from its Madras Mint. In this coin, Lord *Venkateswara* and his two consorts are seen. The use of *'Vishnu'* continues the tradition of the Gingee Nayaks, who ruled over the Chennai region. Chennai gets its name from Chennappa. It later fell to the Nawabs of Arcot. The East India Company probably felt it would secure the loyalty of its Hindu subjects by this method. This also gave them the man power to fight and subdue the Muslim, Nawab of Arcot. The 'British' used this policy in the 20th century and encouraged the division of India. 'Divide et Impera' technique (Divide and Rule) was employed to perfection.

In 1835 AD, a uniform design was introduced for the rupee in India. On the obverse side of the rupee was the king's name and on the reverse, the title "East India Company". This type was continued till 1862 AD.

Later on a new law provided that the rupee was to bear on the obverse, the figure and name of *Queen Victoria*, and on the reverse, the denomination of the coin with the word 'India' inscribed in English.

COINS OF FREE INDIA

Though India got her independence in 1947, she did not issue new designs on the coins immediately. Only in 1950, on the occasion of the third anniversary of Independence on 15th August 1950, free India issued her new coins. These coins simply follow the earlier Indo-British coins, in respect of the value, weight, metal and fabric. But the designs were changed by replacing the symbols of British sovereignty with symbols of India's past glory on the obverse of all the coins, from rupee to paise. The figure of the British monarch was replaced by the representation of the lion capital of *Sarnath*, the *Asoka* Pillar. The super inscription Government of India took the place of the name of the British king. On the reverse of coins of 1 rupee, 1/2 rupee and 1/4 rupee denominations, a pair of sheaves of wheat was placed on the two sides of the Arabic (English) numerals showing the value.The Pice(old) became Naye Paise after 1957 AD.

In 1957 AD, the metric or decimal system was introduced in India. The value of money was now reckoned in the new system. Under the new system, the rupee retained its original value, but instead of being divided into 64 pice it was divided into 100 units called paisa (*Naya paisa* or new *paisa*). This was changed back to paisa in 1964 AD.

TYPES OF MEDALS

The performance of individuals in any field, whether it is in education or administration, is not uniform. It is always likely that one individual performs a task better than another does. It is only to distinguish quality and to give encouragement to the deserving ones that prizes and medals are instituted. This practice of conferring distinction has been in vogue from very early times. In Greek times and in the Roman Period, the laurel wreath was used for this purpose. In the days of chivalry, the coloured shield and the plumed helmet were employed. Over the centuries the medal has become a universal mark by which services are rewarded and participation in certain events is acknowledged.

The awards are given in the name of the sovereign in monarchies and in the name of the government in democratic countries.

Medals are historical records in metal and are minor artistic pieces. The medals apart from other items like coins, jewelleries, sculptures and bronzes provide information and serve as an original source material for the study of history.

Decoration medals are awarded for acts of gallantry in wars. Commemoration medals are issued to commemorate some events like coronations, inaugurations, centenaries, jubilees, discoveries etc.

In the nineteenth century AD, a number of commemoration medals were issued to commemorate the Agricultural, Horticultural, Industrial and Fisheries Exhibitions held at various cities in India like Madras (Chennai), Jabalpur, Calcutta (Kolkatta), Nagpur (Nagpore) and Roorkee.

SCROLLS (This is a paper facsimile kept in our collection)

Magna Carta

The Great Charter by which the Barons wrested their rights from the tyrant King, John I (1167 - 1216 AD) on the battlefield of Runnymede, England is called *Magha Carta* in Latin. Latin was the classical language of law and courts then. The year was 1215 AD. This Charter is the foundation on which the whole edifice of English law on liberties of the citizens rests. All the present democracies base their constitutions in one way or another upon this Charter. This was signed by the King and given to the nobles with the royal seal set upon it as a token of his acceptance. This course of action was taken since King John was known to break his word.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COINS AND MEDALS - COINS

***SATAMANA* COIN (About 600 BC)**

Usual Pattern

Obverse: A sun symbol at each end.

Reverse: Blank

Sl. No. 1. *Satamana* Coin

Acc. No. : 762/2;

Weight : 11.264 grams; Length: 4 Centimetres;

Provenance : Rawalpindi (Purchased through the Curator, Lucknow Museum on 7-8-1942 from Dr. T. Krishna Agarwal of Rawalpindi, now in Pakistan);

Period : Circa 600 BC;

Metal : Silver.

Obverse : A Sun symbol at each end. This identification is based as seen above on the rationale of Durga Prasad (Prasad, Durga, 1934, p.22). This is adopted in the book, Indian Numismatics by D.D. Kosambi (1981, p.25 and p.125). This coin is earlier in time than the Punch marked coins on which he has written, but the symbol is the same;

Reverse : Blank.

***"PURANAS"* OR "PUNCH-MARKED" COINS**

Usual pattern - One or more of the following ;

Obverse : Sun / Bull / Horse / Cow / Fish / Elephant / Tree / Tiger / *Trisul* (Trident, the weapon of Lord *Siva*) / *Swastika* / Geometric design/ *Stupa* (a hemispherical dome- derived from the Sanskrit root '*stup*' to collect and means heap or mound; usually containing relics of the Buddha) and *Shadara chakra;*

Reverse : Blank / Mint mark.

Sl. No. 2. *Purana* Coin

Acc. No. : 1168;

Weight : 3.05 grams; Length: 1.3 Centimetres;

Provenance : *Uthamapalayam*, Uthamapalayam Taluk, Madurai District, Tamilnadu;

Period : Circa 600 BC - Circa 300 AD;

Metal : Silver.

Obverse : Sun and Bull ;

Reverse : Blank.

Sl. No. 3. *Purana* Coin

Acc. No. : 1321;

Weight : 2.62 grams; Dimensions (Irregular square): 1.7 x 1.7 Centimetres;

Provenance : *Kachirapalayam*, Kallakurichi Taluk, South Arcot District, Tamilnadu;

Period : Circa 600 BC - 300 AD;

Metal : Silver.

Obverse : Sun, Bull, Elephant, three arches denoting hills and part of a *Shadara chakra;*

Reverse : Three Arches in the centre and a horse shoe shaped mark made probably as a mark of authentication.

COINS OF *SATAVAHANAS*

Usual pattern

Obverse: Horse/Elephant/Lion or *Chaitya*

Reverse: *Ujjain* symbol - a cross with four circles at the end of two crossing lines

Sl. No. 4. Satavahana Coin

Stock Register Coin No. : 130;

Weight : 2.5 grams; Diameter: 1.4 Centimetres;

Provenance : Andhra Pradesh (exact place unknown);

Period : 232 BC - 227 AD;

Metal : Lead.

Obverse : Elephant;

Reverse : *Ujjain* Symbol.

Sl. No. 5. Satavahana Coin

Acc. No. : 925/42;

Weight : 3.05 grams; Diameter: 1.8 Centimetres;

Provenance : *Tiruchirappalli*, Tiruchirappalli District, Tamilnadu (Purchased);

Period : 232 BC - 227 AD;

Metal : Potin.

Obverse : Elephant;

Reverse : *Ujjain* Symbol.

***SANGAM* PERIOD COINS**

COINS OF THE *PANDYAS*

Usual pattern

Obverse: Elephant.

Reverse: Single Fish.

The Punch Marked Coins of the *Sangam Pandyas* conform to the *Purana* pattern seen above.

Sl. No. 6. *Pandya* Coin

Acc. No. : 960;

Weight : 2.51 grams; Dimensions: 1.7 x 1.7 Centimetres;

Provenance : *Tiruchirapalli*, Tiruchirapalli District, Tamilnadu; (Purchased);

Period : Circa 900 BC - 200 AD;

Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Elephant;

Reverse : Fish.

COINS

SATAMANA
Sl. No. 1. *SATAMANA*

- obverse

PURANA
Sl. No. 2. *PURANA*

reverse -

- obverse

Sl. No. 3. *PURANA*

reverse -

COINS

SATAVAHANA

Sl. No. 4. *SATAVAHANA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 5. *SATAVAHANA*

- obverse

reverse -

SANGAM PERIOD

Sl. No. 6. *PANDYA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 7. *SANGAM PANDYA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No.7. Punch Marked Coins *Sangam Pandya*

Acc. No	:	749/23;
Weight	:	1.45 grams; Dimension (Irregular rectangle): 1.0 x 1.4 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	*Periyakulam*, Bodinayakanur Taluk, Madurai District, Tamilnadu;
Period	:	Circa 300 BC;
Metal	:	Silver.
Obverse	:	Broken at the edge. Three leaves, a stalk, part of a *Shadara Chakra* , *stupa* and a geometric design, which appears to be a window or a primitive *swastika* (identified as a geometric shape by writers other than Durga Prasad), as seen under typological descriptions;
Reverse	:	Looks like a stylished fish. The mintmark made to authenticate it, viz, the fish type mark may be because it is in *Pandya* country.

COINS OF THE *CHERAS*

Usual pattern

Obverse: Bow and arrow

Reverse: Bow and arrow

Sl. No.8. *Chera* Coin

Acc. No.	:	936;
Weight	:	2.35 grams; Diameter: 1.4 Centimetres ;
Provenance	:	*Tirunelveli*, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu; (Purchased)
Period	:	Circa 300 BC - 100 AD;
Metal	:	Copper.
Obverse	:	Bow and arrow;
Reverse	:	Bow and arrow.

COINS OF THE *CHOLAS*

Usual pattern

Obverse: Tiger

Reverse: Fish / Bull / Elephant

Sl. No. 9. *Chola* Coin

Acc. No.	:	969/2;
Weight	:	1.43 grams; Dimension (Rectangular Shape): 1.1 x 1.2 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	*Tiruchirapalli*, Tiruchirapalli District, Tamilnadu; (Purchased)
Period	:	Circa 300 BC;
Metal	:	Copper.
Obverse	:	Tiger;
Reverse	:	Elephant.

COINS OF THE *PALLAVAS*

Usual pattern

Obverse : Lion / Standing Humped Bull.

Reverse : Swastika / sacrificial lamb / bow / fish / umbrella / *chaitya* (Buddhist prayer hall in the form of an apsidal hall usually containing an image of the Buddha) /horse / lion/Two masted ship

Sl. No. 10. *Pallava* Coin

Acc. No. : 960;

Weight : 3.31 grams; Diameter: 1.9 Centimetres ;

Provenance : *Tiruchirapalli*, Tiruchirapalli District, Tamilnadu; (Purchased)

Period : 4th – 9th Century AD;

Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Standing Humped Bull;

Reverse : Two masted ships steered by means of oars from the stern.

KUSHANA COINS (Circa 78 AD – 200 AD)

Usual Pattern : The appearance of the skill and craftsmanship of Indians is noticed on *Kushana* coins. The coinage is more Indianised than Greek. The coins of the *Kanishka* group employ only Greek characters. *Kanishka* introduced the Iranian title *'shaonana shao'*, 'King of Kings', instead of Greek legends. On the reverse of the coin series is found the figure of the Wind God with the legend "*Oado*" in Persian.

Sl. No. 11. *Kanishka* Coin

Acc. No. : 842/3;

Weight : 15.17 grams; Diameter: 2.6 Centimetres ;

Provenance : *Tiruchirapalli*, Tiruchirapalli District, Tamilnadu; (Gift)

Period : 78 AD - 102 AD;

Metal : Copper.

Obverse : King Kanishka performing a sacrifice before an altar. The Greek legend reads '*Shao Kaneshki*' meaning King *Kanishka*;

Reverse : Wind God with the legend "*Oado*" in Persian.

ROMAN COINS

Usual pattern

Obverse: Figure of the King who issued the coin.

Reverse: Deities/ Buildings/Animals.

Sl. No. 12. Emperor *Augustus* Coin

Acc. No. : 806/351;

Weight : 3.54 grams; Diameter: 1.8 Centimetres;

Provenance : *North Budinatham*, Udamalpet Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamilnadu;

Period : 27 BC - 14 AD;

Metal : Silver (technically called *denarius*).

COINS

CHERA

Sl. No. 8 *CHERA*

- obverse

reverse -

CHOLA

Sl. No. 9. *CHOLA*

- obverse

reverse -

PALLAVA

Sl. No. 10. *PALLAVA*

- obverse

reverse -

KUSHANA

Sl. No. 11. *KANISHKA*

- obverse

reverse -

COINS

ROMAN

Sl. No. 12. EMPEROR *AUGUSTUS*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 13. EMPEROR *TIBERIUS*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 14. EMPEROR *VESPASIAN*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 15. EMPEROR *DOMITIAN*

- obverse

reverse -

Obverse : Bust of *Augustus*. Legend around the edge- *Augustus* – the other part of the legend on the right side of the head - TI CAESAR - the next three letters are fully worn out;

Reverse : *Gaius* and *Lucius* . These are the two grandsons of Augustus and heirs apparent. They are shown standing. Under their feet is the legend - *Caesare* ; The legend around the edge is not visible.

Sl. No. 13. Emperor *Tiberius* Coin

Acc. No. : 806/351;

Weight : 3.7 grams; Diameter: 1.7 Centimetres;

Provenance : *North Budinatham*, Udamalpet Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamilnadu;

Period : 14 AD - 37 AD;

Metal : Silver.

Obverse : Head of *Tiberius*. Legend - *AVG* (U in new English) for Augustus. The other part, which starts over the head, reads '*DIVI F PATER PATRIAE*'. This means son of the deified father of the country;

Reverse : *Livia*. Legend - *Maxim Pontiff* - this means chief of priests. This was a coin type much used in trade.

Sl. No. 14. Emperor *Vespasian* Coin

Acc. No. : 822/4;

Weight : 7.22 grams; Diameter: 2.0 Centimetres;

Provenance : *Kadmat* Island, Amandivi Group, Lakshadweep (purchased from a private individual through the Collector of Canara in 1949);

Period : 69 AD - 79 AD;

Metal : Gold.

Obverse : Bust of *Vespasian*. Legend - *IMP VESPASIAN .. TCAESAR*. (Imperator Vepasian, Caesar i.e. Emperor Vespasian, Caesar, the last title was assumed by Roman Emperors after Octavius, the nephew of Julius Caesar took this title and called himself Augustus Caesar. Till Hadrian, the Emperors gave themselves these two titles. After, Hadrian the reigning Emperor was called Caesar Augustus and the heir apparent Caesar. This was to give them a larger than life image.

Reverse : Bull butting to the right. Legend – COS –IIII i.e. Consul for the 4th time. The Emperors were not so particular about prompt renewal of their judicial power as their executive power. The single bar, instead of the two bars normally used and also four lines instead of 'IV' is common in ancient Rome.

Sl. No. 15. Emperor *Domitian* Coin

Acc. No. : 324/148;

Weight : 7.56 grams; Diameter: 1.8 Centimetres;

Provenance : *Karivalamvandanallur*, Sankarankoil Taluk, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu;

Period : 81 AD - 96 AD;

Metal : Gold.

Obverse : Bust of *Domitian.* The legend is from left to right - *Domitianus – Augustus;*

Reverse : Goddess Minerva standing facing left. Legend – *Germanicv(u)s COS XVII.* Germanicus means Honour conferred for the victory over Germany. COS stands for Consul denoting exercise of judicial power by the Emperor. XVII denotes the 17th renewal usually year of the judicial power. TR.P. (*Tribunicia Potestas*) denotes the exercise of executive power, which was renewed without break. The same care was probably not taken with judicial power (Radhakrishnan, P.V., 1999, p. 7).

Sl. No. 16. Empress *Faustina* Coin

Acc. No. : 838;

Weight : 7.04 grams; Diameter: 1.9 Centimetres;

Provenance : *Bhimavaram*, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh;

Period : 138 AD - 141 AD;

Metal : Gold.

Obverse : Bust of *FAUSTINA.* Legend-*DIVA FAV (U)STINA* - *Diva* means consecrated Empress.

Reverse : Goddess Venus standing facing left. Legend- *AUGUSTA* - the female form of Augustus. She is the wife of Antoninus Pius.

Sl. No. 17. Emperor *Commodus* Coin

Acc. No. : 822;

Weight : 7.385 grams; Diameter: 2 Centimetres ;

Provenance : *Kadmat* Island, Amandivi Group, Lakshadweep (purchased from a private individual through the Collector of Canara in 1949);

Period : 177 AD - 192 AD;

Metal : Gold.

Obverse : Bust of *Commodus.* Legend – *DIVUS - M - ANTONINUS PIUS.* Divus means - Consecrated Emperor - M - Abbreviation for Maxim i.e Chief. *ANTONINUS PIUS* is the name.

Reverse : *RUGUS.* Legend-*CONSECRATIO* - *Rugus* usually means Funeral Pyre; however, in this context it represents a fire rite. *Consecratio* means deification of the Emperor. This is to denote a fire rite to deify the Emperor or as a prayer to the deified Emperor, more probably the former.

COINS OF THE *GUPTA* KINGS

Usual pattern

Obverse: Figure of the King who issued the coin

Reverse: Musical instrument/ furniture/ Goddess/ Queen.

Sl.No. 18. *Samudra Gupta* Coin

Stock Register Coin No.: 3;

Weight : 7.17 grams; Diameter: 2 Centimetres;

Provenance : Unknown;

Period : 326 AD - 375 AD;

Metal : Gold.

COINS

Sl. No. 16. EMPRESS *FAUSTINA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 17. EMPEROR *COMMODUS*

- obverse

reverse -

GUPTA KINGS

Sl.No. 18. *SAMUDRA GUPTA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 19. *CHANDRA GUPTA* II

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 20. *VINAYADITYA* OF KASHMIR

- obverse

reverse -

EASTERN CHALUKYAS

Sl. No. 21. *RAJA RAJA*

- obverse

reverse -

WESTERN CHALUKYAS

Sl. No. 22. *JAGADEKAMALLA*

- obverse

reverse -

IMPERIAL CHOLA

Sl. No. 23. *UTTAMA CHOLA*

- obverse

reverse -

Obverse : The Coin shows on one side the king holding a standard and performing a sacrifice before an altar. Behind the altar is a *Garuda* on the standard. The legend in Sanskrit, *Nagari* script reads "*Samudra*".

Reverse : The other side shows the Goddess Lakshmi seated on a throne, her feet resting on a lotus. The inscription reads, "*Parakrama* " in Sanskrit in *Nagari* script meaning 'powerful'. Goddess *Lakshmi* holds a lotus in her left hand.

Sl. No. 19. *Chandra Gupta* II Coin

Stock Register Coin No.: 5;

Weight : 7.54 grams; Diameter : 2 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 375 AD - 413 AD;
Metal : Gold.

Obverse : *Chandra Gupta* II, the legendary *Vikramaditya*, was a great patron of learning and fine arts. On one side of the coin, the king is found standing. He is grasping a bow in the left hand and holding an arrow in the right. There is a *Garuda* standard and the legend reads, "*Chandra*". The inscription is not clear.

Reverse : Goddess Lakshmi is seated on a lotus. The inscription on this side reads, "*Vikramah*". Goddess *Lakshmi* holds a lotus in her left hand. Inscription is not clear.

Sl. No. 20. *Vinayaditya* of Kashmir's Coin

Stock Register Coin No.: 6;

Weight : 7.47 grams; Diameter: 1.9 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 772 AD - 802 AD;
Metal : Electrum.

Obverse : Standing figure of a bird in flight plucking a fruit or nut with its beak.
Reverse : Crude figure of a deer with its head turned, a floral design and a cross or a European type sword. If it is a cross, is this due to the connection conjectured by some historians that Jesus Christ spent some time in Kashmir learning philosophy?

COINS OF THE *EASTERN CHALUKYAS*

There is no usual pattern.

Sl. No. 21. *Raja Raja* Coin

Acc. No. : 808/36;
Weight : 4.36 grams; Diameter: 3.5 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Dowlaishwaram*, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh;
Period : 1012 AD – 1062 AD;
Metal : Gold.

Obverse : The coin has seven punch marks on one side. In the centre is a boar with a lamp on each side, a goad and an umbrella supported by two *Chamaras*. Near the edge are six punch marks with one Telugu-Kannada letter in each punch, *Sri Ra ja ra ja sa*.

Reverse : Blank

COINS OF THE *WESTERN CHALUKYAS*

There is no usual pattern.

Sl. No. 22. *Jagadekamalla* Coin (1018 AD – 1042 AD)

Stock Register Coin No.: 2;

Weight : 3.71 grams; Diameter: 2.1 Centimetres;

Provenance : Unknown;

Period : 1018 AD -1042 AD;

Metal : Gold.

Obverse : Nine punches. The centre 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.

Reverse : Blank.

***IMPERIAL CHOLA* COINS**

There is no usual pattern

Sl. No. 23. *Uttama Chola* Coin (973 AD - 985 AD)

Acc. No. : 960/50;

Weight : 3.62 grams; Diameter: 1.9 Centimetres;

Provenance : Tiruchirapalli -1, Tamilnadu; (Purchased)

Period : 973 AD - 985 AD;

Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Tiger seated under a canopy facing a pair of fish at the right side.

Reverse : *Nagari* Legend-*Uttama Chola*.

Sl. No. 24. *Raja Raja* Coin (985 AD - 1014 AD)

Acc. No. : 297/1;

Weight : 3.61grams; Diameter: 1.7 Centimetres;

Provenance : *Govindankudi*, ValangaimanTaluk, Thanjavur District, Tamilnadu;

Period : 985 AD - 1014 AD;

Metal : Copper.

Obverse : This coin has a figure of the standing king on the obverse. His left hand holds a lotus near his face and the right hand has a sceptre. Near by is a small lamp-stand.

Reverse : Seated goddess. On the right is the three-line legend in Sanskrit. "*Raja*".

***RAJENDRA CHOLA* (1014 AD - 1044 AD)**

Generally his coins have the legend in Sanskrit "*Sri Rajendra* " and the emblems, bow, tiger and a pair of fish on both sides. *Rajendra Chola*, the son of *Raja Raja*, is also known as *Gangaikonda Chola* for his conquest of many principalities in the Gangetic valley.

Sl. No. 25. *Rajendra Chola* Coin

Acc. No.	:	960/51;
Weight	:	3.50 grams; Diameter: 1.8 Centimetres ;
Provenance	:	Tiruchirapalli District, Tamilnadu, (Purchased);
Period	:	1014 AD - 1044 AD;
Metal	:	Copper.
Obverse	:	Bow, tiger along with lamp-stand, two fish and legend *Gangai (Ko) da Konda Chola* in Sanskrit (*Nagari* script);
Reverse	:	Same as obverse.

Sl. No. 26. *Kulothunga Chola* I (1070 AD - 1122 AD)Coin

Acc. No.	:	808/102;
Weight	:	4.34 grams; Diameter: 3.1 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	*Dowlaishwaram*, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh;
Period	:	1070 AD - 1122 AD;
Metal	:	Gold.
Obverse	:	This coin has the figures two fish, seated tiger, a bow and two lamp stands in the centre. The legend in punches reads "*Malai Nadu Konda Cholan*". The regnal year inscribed here is 35. The script is in Tamil.
Reverse	:	Blank.

Rajendra Kulothunga I was the last of the great *Cholas*. 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. There is another theory that these coins are of *Rajadhi Raja I*.

***KONGU CHERA* COINS**

Usual Pattern

Obverse: Ornamented Elephant

Reverse: Floral design.

Sl.No. **27. *Kongu Chera* Coin**

Acc. No.	:	1027/5;
Weight	:	3.81 grams; Diameter: 1.4 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	*Nagachi*, Ramanathapuram Taluk, Ramanathapuram District, Tamilnadu;
Period	:	8th - 13th Century AD;
Metal	:	Gold.

Obverse	:	Ornamented Elephant;
Reverse	:	Floral design.

***Later Pandya* Coins (13th Century AD)**

Usual Pattern:

Obverse: Standing figure.

Reverse: Seated figure and a two fish and Tamil letters.

Sl. No. 28. *Sundara* Pandya Coin

Acc. No.	:	960/52;
Weight	:	3.5 grams; Diameter: 1.7 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	Tiruchirapalli District, Tamilnadu, (Purchased);
Period	:	13th Century AD;
Metal	:	Copper.
Obverse	:	Standing figure;
Reverse	:	Seated figure, two fish and Tamil letter *Su*.

***Vijaynagar* Coins**

Usual pattern

Obverse: Hindu Deities

Reverse: Kanarese/ Telugu/ Nagari legends giving the name of the ruler who issued the coin.

Sl. No. 29. *Hari Hara* I (1336 AD - 1357 AD) Coin

Acc. No.	:	694/17;
Weight	:	3.21 grams; Diameter: 1.2 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	*Savaragundam*, Vishakhapatnam Taluk, Vizag District, Andhra Pradesh;
Period	:	1336 AD - 1357 AD;
Metal	:	Gold.
Obverse	:	*Hanuman* facing front;
Reverse	:	Legend in *Kannada* in three lines. *'Sri Vira Hari Hara'*.

Sl. No. 30. *Bukka* I Coin (1344 AD - 1377 AD)

Acc. No.	:	694/8;
Weight	:	3.17 grams; Diameter: 1.2 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	*Savaragundam*, Vishakhapatnam Taluk, Vizag District, Andhra Pradesh;
Period	:	1344 AD - 1377 AD;
Metal	:	Gold.
Obverse	:	*Hanuman* facing front;
Reverse	:	Legend in *Kannada* three lines, *"Sri Vira Bukka Raya"*.

COINS

Sl. No. 24. *RAJA RAJA CHOLA*

- obverse

reverse -

RAJENDRA CHOLA

Sl. No. 25. *RAJENDRA CHOLA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 26. *KULOTHUNGA CHOLA I*

- obverse

reverse -

KONGU CHERA

Sl.No. 27. *KONGU CHERA*

- obverse

reverse -

COINS

LATER PANDYA

Sl. No. 28. *SUNDARA PANDYA*

- obverse

reverse -

VIJAYANAGAR

Sl. No. 29. *HARI HARA* I

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 30. *BUKKA* I

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 31. *KRISHNADEVA RAYA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 31. *Krishnadeva Raya* Coin (1509 AD - 1530 AD)

Acc. No. : 694/7;
Weight : 3.37 grams; Diameter: 1.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Savaragundam*, Vishakhapatnam Taluk, Andhra Pradesh;
Period : 1509 AD - 1530 AD;
Metal : Gold.

Krishnadeva Raya is the most famous of all *Vijaynagar* Kings. During his reign the *Vijaynagar* Empire reached its zenith.

Obverse : This gold *varahan* has on one side the figure of *Vishnu* seated.
Reverse : A three-line legend in Sanskrit in *Nagari* script, *Sri Pratapa Krishna Raya* is seen.

Sl. No. 32. *Achyutaraya* (1530AD - 1542 AD) Coin

Acc. No. : 611/1;
Weight : 1.69 grams; Diameter: 1 Centimetre;
Provenance : *Maduranthakam*, Kancheepuram District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1530 AD - 1542 AD;
Metal : Gold.

Obverse : *Gandabherunda*, (double headed eagle).
Reverse : Legend in Sanskrit in Nagari script "*Achyuta Raya*".

COINS OF THE DELHI SULTANS

There is no usual pattern since several dynasties and rulers are covered in this period.

Sl. No. 33.*Sher Shah* Coin (1540 AD - 1545 AD)

Acc. No. : 722/1;
Weight : 11.31grams; Diameter: 2.8Centimetres;
Provenance : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh;(Received from Additional Secretary to Government), Government of Uttar Pradesh;
Period : 1540 AD - 1545 AD;
Metal : Silver.

Both the sides of the coin contain Persian inscriptions. One side shows the *Kalima* or the Muslim profession of faith and the other side has the Sultan's name, his titles and the Hijiri date, 948.

***MOGHUL* COINS**

There is no usual pattern as the Great *Moghuls* were individualistic and there are too many varieties.

Sl. No. 34. *Akbar* Coin (1556 AD - 1605 AD)

Stock Register Coin No.: 2;
Weight : 10.53 grams; Diameter: 2.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1556 AD - 1605 AD;
Metal : Gold.

Obverse : This gold *Mohur* of *Akbar* has Persian legends on both sides. On one side is inscribed the *Kalima* Communion *(Lines from Quran)*, the sayings of Islam and the names of the four companions of *Prophet Mohammed.*

Reverse : The reverse side has *Akbar's* personal name, *Jalaluddin Mohammed* and the *Hijri* date 976.

Sl. No. 35. *Jehangir* Coin (1605 AD - 1627 AD)

Stock Register Coin No.: 1;

Weight : 10.81 grams; Diameter: 2 Centimetres;

Provenance : Unknown;

Period : 1605 AD - 1627 AD;

Metal : Gold.

Obverse : This is a coin of *Jehangir* depicting a sign of the zodiac. This was an innovation by which the pictorial representation of the signs of the zodiac was made on one side of the coin. On this coin the sign of the zodiac represented is that of *Vrishabha* (Bull, *Taurus*).

Reverse : The other side has a Persian couplet, which translated into English reads, "the face of gold received ornaments at Agra from *Jehangir Shah*, *Shah Akbar*'s son".

Sl. No. 36. *Jehangir* Coin (1605 AD - 1627 AD)

Stock Register Coin No.: 2;

Weight : 10:86 grams; Diameter:2. Centimetres;

Provenance : Unknown;

Period : 1605 AD - 1627 AD;

Metal : Gold.

Obverse : Front part of a goat and tail of a fish. This is a representation of Aries, the first sign of the Zodiac depicted with artistic licence.

Reverse : *Jehangir Shah*, the son of *Akbar Shah* - Rupaiya - minted at Agra - 1031 A.H.(Hijri Era)

COINS OF THE MYSORE SULTANS

Sl. No. 37. *Hyder Ali* Coin

Acc. No. : 799/24;

Weight : 3.42 grams; Diameter: 1.2 Centimetres;

Provenance : *Sidhout*, Cuddappah Taluk, Andhra Pradesh;

Period : 1772 AD - 1782 AD;

Metal : Gold.

Obverse : This is an exception to *Hyder*'s other coins. In this coin, he continues to inscribe on one-side Hindu deities, the figures of *Siva* and *Parvati. Siva* holds the trident and deer in his upper hands.

Reverse : On the reverse side of the coin is inscribed the first letter of *Hyder's* name in Persian.

COINS

Sl. No. 32. *ACHYUTARAYA*

- obverse

reverse -

DELHI SULTANS

Sl. No. 33. *SHER SHAH*

- obverse

reverse -

MOGHUL

Sl. No. 34. *AKBAR*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 35. *JEHANGIR*

- obverse

reverse -

COINS

Sl. No. 36. *JEHANGIR* COIN

- obverse

reverse -

MYSORE SULTANS

Sl. No. 37. *HYDER ALI*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 38. *TIPU SULTAN*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 39. *TIPU SULTAN*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No.38. Tipu Sultan Coin (1782 AD - 1799 AD)

Stock Register Coin No.: 62;

Weight : 22.21 grams; Diameter: 3.2 Centimetres;

Provenance : Unknown;

Period : 1782 AD -1799 AD;

Metal : Copper.

Obverse : This side of the coin has the figure of an elephant with its trunk raised and the date, 1218. Behind the elephant is a flag bearing a star.

Reverse : A Persian inscription which translated into English reads, 'An '*Usmani*' (Double Paisa) struck at the royal residence, *Pattan*".

This is Double Paisa (Copper) of Tipu. The name of the place of the mint is Seringapatam (Srirangapatnam) and the date is 1218 of the Mauludi era. This era was initiated by Tippu and is reckoned from the birth of the Prophet in 571 AD.

Sl. No.39. Tipu Sultan Coin

Stock Register Coin No.166;

Weight : 11.34 grams; Diameter: 3.5 Centimetres;

Provenance : Unknown;

Period : 1782 AD - 1799 AD;

Metal : Silver

Minted in Srirangapatnam and has a Persian inscription on both sides.

Obverse : The inscription translated into English reads, ' the religion of *Ahmad* is illumined in the world by the victory of *Haidar*, struck at *Pattan*'.

Reverse : The legends reads, " He is the Sultan, the unique, the first, the third of "*Bahari*".

This is the Double Rupee of Tipu and it has a Persian inscription on both sides. The mint is Seringapatam and the date is 1216 in the Mauludi era.

COINS OF THE MYSORE *WODEYARS*

Sl. No. 40. *Krishnaraja Wodeyar* Coin

Acc. No. : 504/4;

Weight : 3.43 grams; Diameter: 1.1 Centimetres;

Provenance : Bellary, Karnataka;

Period : 1799 AD - 1868 AD ;

Metal : Gold.

Obverse : After the death of *Tipu* at the battle of *Seringapatam* in 1799 AD, the English restored Mysore to its old Hindu dynasty of *Wodeyars*, and a boy, *Krishnaraja*, was installed on the throne. This gold *varahan* of *Krishnaraja* has on the obverse side, figures of *Siva* and *Parvati*.

Reverse : The reverse side has a three-line Sanskrit legend in *Devangari* script, *Sri Krishna Raja*.

VENETIAN COINS

There is no usual pattern since the *Doges* (Dukes) were elected persons with different ideas.

Sl. No. 41. *Dominico Contarini* Coin (1659 AD – 1674 AD)

Acc. No. : 1013; (Register starting from April 1941)
Weight : 3.45 grams; Diameter: 2.1 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Pavithram*, Namakkal Taluk, Salem District;
Period : 1659 AD - 1674 AD;
Metal : Gold.

Obverse : St. Mark handing the *gonfalon* (flag) to the *Doge*. *Dux* (Duke) standing at top in the middle. Legend : DUX (Centre); S.M. VENET (Sanctus Marcus Venetus - St. Mark of Venice); DOMIN.CONT (abbreviation for the Duke's name)

Reverse The standing saviour with nimbus (halo), surrounded by stars, is enclosed by an oval of dots - SIT.T.XPE.DAT.Q.TVREGIS.ISTE.DVCA (Sit tibi Christe; datus quem tu regis, iste, ducatus' - 'Let this duchy which thou rulest be dedicated to thee, O Christ)

Sl. No. 42. *Alvise Mocenigo* Coin (1763 AD - 1779 AD)

Acc. No. : 902; (Register starting from April 1941)
Weight : 3.49 grams; Diameter: 2.1 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Pallapalayam*, Karur Taluk, Karur District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1763 AD - 1779 AD;
Metal : Gold.

Obverse : St. Mark handing the *gonfalon* (flag) to the *Doge*. *Dux* (Duke) standing at top in the middle. Legent : Dux (Centre); Aloy. Moceni (abbreviation for the Duke's name); S.M. VENET

Reverse : The standing Saviour, with nimbus and surrounded by stars is enclosed by an oval of dots. SIT.T.XPE.DAT.Q.TV REGIS. ISTE. DVCA (Sit tibi Christe; datus quem tu regis, iste, ducatus'- Let this duchy which thou rulest be dedicated to thee, O Christ)

COINS OF SOUTH INDIAN CHIEFTAINS

Sl. No. 43. *Tondaiman* Coins (18th Century AD)

Acc. No. : 1066;
Weight : 1.32 grams; Diameter : 1.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu (Purchased);
Period : 18th Century AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Seated goddess, *Brihadamabal*, the family deity of the *Tondaiman* rulers is depicted on the obverse side.

Reverse : Telugu legend *'Vijaya'* is found on the reverse side.

COINS

MYSORE WODEYARS

Sl. No. 40. *KRISHNARAJA WODEYAR*

- obverse

reverse -

VENETIAN

Sl. No. 41. *DOMINICO CONTARINI*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 42. *ALVISE MOCENIGO*

- obverse

reverse -

SOUTH INDIAN CHIEFTAINS

Sl. No. 43. *TONDAIMAN*

- obverse

reverse -

COINS

Sl. No. 44. *SETHUPATHI*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 45. *RAMATANKA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No.46. *KONERIRAYAN*

- obverse

reverse -

NAYAK

Sl. No. 47. *MADURAI* NAYAK

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 44. *Sethupathi* Coins (18th Century AD)

Stock Register Coin No.: 8;

Weight : 2.36 grams; Diameter: 1.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 18th Century AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Seated *Ganesa* with four hands;
Reverse : Tamil three letter legend *'Se tu pa [ti]'*.

Sl. No. 45. *Ramatanka* Coin

Stock Register Coin No.: 8;

Weight : 6.70 grams; Diameter: 2.6 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : About 19th century AD;
Metal : Gold.

Obverse : *Rama* and *Sita* are seated on the throne. *Lakshmana* holds a parasaol overhead. *Hanuman* stands to the left of *Rama*. There are eight auspicious symbols (*ashtamangalas*) below like *kalasa* (pot of sacred water) *srivatsa* (mole of God *Vishnu*), double fish etc.;
Reverse : The attendants (eight in number) walk in procession carrying various banners symbolising royalty. The Roman procession resembles this. They go towards left. Below floral decorations are seen.

Sl. No.46. *Konerirayan* Coin

Acc. No. : 953/1;
Weight : 3.32 grams; Diameter: 1.4 Centimetres;
Provenance : New Delhi (Purchased);
Period : About 1471-1495 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Bull and a crescent are seen.
Reverse : Tamil legend *Konerirayan*.

NAYAK COINS

Sl. No. 47. *Madurai* Nayak Coin

Stock Register Coin No.: 15;

Weight : 2.1 grams; Diameter: 1.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 18th Century AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : The symbol is not clear.
Reverse : Tamil legend "*Madurai*". It is in two lines. The Tamil letters '*Ma*' and '*Thu*' are shown in the

first line and in the second line the letter '*Rai*' is depicted. This coin does not conform to typological description.

COINS OF THE EUROPEAN EAST INDIA COMPANIES

INDO PORTUGUESE COINS

Sl. No. 48. *Jose Ferreira Pestana Coin*

Stock Register Coin No.:17;

Weight : 4.45: grams; Diameter : 1.8 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1845 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : The coat of arms of the Kingdom of Portugal depicted a little crudely and the year 1845
Reverse : 7 ½ R. 'R' stands for Reis. Pestana was the name of the Viceroy of Portugal in Goa. 'Reis' are Portuguese coins issued in India.

Sl. No. 49. *Januario Correa De Almeida Coin*

Stock Register Coin No.: 54;

Weight : 6.31 grams; Diameter: 2.0 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1871 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Coat of arms of the Kingdom of Portugal, Inscription - 'INDIA-PORTUG , 1871'.
Reverse : 10 REIS. This is a Portuguese coin issued in India by 'Almeida', Viceroy of Portugal in Goa in 1871 AD.

Sl. No. 50. *Januario Correa De Almeida Coin*

Stock Register Coin No.: 30

Weight : 9.56 grams; Diameter : 2.7 Centimeters ;
Provenance : Unknown
Period : 1871 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Coat of arms of the Kingdom of Portugal; Inscription - ' INDIA – PORTUG 1871'
Reverse : Within the floral design ¼ TANGA 15 REIS i.e. quarter tanga weighing 100 grains of gold Troy equivalent to 15 Reis. Tanga and Reis are Portuguese coins issued in India by 'Almeida' Viceroy of Portugal in Goa in1871 AD.

COINS

INDO PORTUGUESE

Sl. No. 48. *JOSE FERREIRA PESTANA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 49. *JANUARIO CORREA DE ALMEIDA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 50. *JANUARIO CORREA DE ALMEIDA*

- obverse

reverse -

INDO DUTCH

Sl. No.51. *NAGORE CHALLIES*

- obverse

reverse -

COINS

Sl. No. 52. *NAGORE CHALLIES*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 53. *NAGORE CHALLIES*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 54. *NAGORE CHALLIES*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 55. *STUIVER*

- obverse

reverse -

INDO DUTCH

Sl. No.51. *Nagore Challies* Coin (1727 AD - 1806 AD)

Acc.No : 884;
Weight : 2.80 grams; Diameter : 2.0 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Karamadai*, Coimbatore District, Tamilnadu; (Purchase)
Period : 1745 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Monogram VOC ("*Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie*" meaning " United East India Company") - 1745.
Reverse : A plain divided shield supported by a Lion Rampant on either side. This is the coat of arms of the Dutch state of Utrecht.

Sl. No. 52. *Nagore Challies* Coin

Acc. No. : 450/1;
Weight : 1.58 grams; Diameter : 1.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : Gift from C. Sankaranarayana, George Town, Chennai;
Period : About 18th Century;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Monogram VOC - Letter N on the Monogram for Nagapattinam mint.
Reverse : In Tamil two letters - '*Na*' and '*ga*' for Nagapattinam. '2' and '*ka*' for 2 *kasu* (copper coins of small denomination used as small change).

Sl. No. 53. *Nagore Challies* Coin

Stock Register Coin No.: 37;
Weight : 2.85 grams; Diameter: 2.0 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1737 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Monogram VOC -1737
Reverse : Shield (coat of arms of Utrecht).

Sl. No. 54. *Nagore Challies* Coin

Acc. No. : 936;
Weight : 2.78 grams; Diameter : 2.1 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Tirunelveli*, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1786 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Monogram VOC - 1786
Reverse : Shield (coat of arms of Utrecht).

Sl. No. 55. *Stuiver* (1792 AD - 1793 AD) Coin

Acc. No. : 883/1;
Weight : 61.13 grams; Length : 6.8 Centimetres;
Provenance : Purchased from Thiru Chockalingam, *Kodambakkam*, Chennai, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1792 -1793 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Letter *ST* - stands for Stuiver. At the left end the monogram VOC is seen. Above the monogram, the letter C is found. This refers to their Colombo, Ceylon mint. A long irregularly shaped bar type coin. "4¾" is seen at the right end.
Reverse : Same - but "4¾" is not clear.

INDO DANISH

Sl. No. 56. *Frederic V Coin* (1746 AD - 1766 AD)

Stock Register Coin No .195;
Weight : 2.36 grams; Diameter: 1.5 Cms.;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1763 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Royal Crown.
Reverse : DAC - 4; 1763

Sl. No. 57. *Christian VII Coin*

Stock Register Coin No.: 356;
Weight : 2.41 grams; Diameter: 1.0 Centimetre;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1800 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Crown C7 for Christian VII
Reverse : KAS 1800

Sl. No. 58. *Christian VII Coin*

Acc. No. : 198
Weight : 2.40 grams; Diameter: 1.4 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1768 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Crown C7- Seven within the capital 'C';
Reverse : DAC 1768; '4' below DAC 1768; all numbers are in Arabic numerals; Digit '1' is not visible.

INDO DANISH

Sl. No. 56. *FREDERIC V*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 57. *CHRISTIAN VII*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 58. *CHRISTIAN VII*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 59. *FREDERIC VI*

- obverse

reverse -

COINS

Sl. No. 60. *FREDERIC VI*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 61. *INDO FRENCH*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 62. *INDO FRENCH*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 63. *INDO FRENCH*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 59. *Frederic VI Coin*

Stock Register Coin No.: 146

Weight : 2.5 grams; Diameter : 1.5 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1823 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Crown
F VI R - stands for Frederic VI. R stands for Rex (King). 'I' in VI is not seen. Is it obliterated or a freak or a forgery? Since it is a small denomination, a former two appear more likely.

Reverse : IV (Roman 'I' slightly orliterated)
KAS (*Kasu* seen above)
1823

Sl. No. 60. *Frederic VI Coin*

Stock Register Coin No.: 148;

Weight : 2.4 grams; Diameter : 1.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1832 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Crown
F VI R

Reverse : IV
KAS
1832

INDO FRENCH

Sl. No. 61. *Indo French Coin*

Stock Register Coin No.:15;

Weight : 4.0 grams; Diameter: 1.7 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : About 19th Century AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Fleur-de - Lis (The national emblem of France- The Lily flower)
Reverse : *Puducche* (in Tamil) standing for *Puducheri.*

Sl. No. 62. *Indo French Coin*

Stock Register Coin No.: 17

Weight : 4.1 grams; Diameter:1.7 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1836 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : A Gallic cock with the year – 1836
Reverse : *Puducche* (in Tamil) standing for *Puducheri.*

Sl. No. 63. *Indo French Coin*

Stock Register Coin No. 5;

Weight : 1.50 grams; Diameter: 1.0 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : About 19th Century AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : '*che*' in Tamil representing Puduchery.
Reverse : Tamil letter '*kaal*' representing Karaikal. '*l*' is slightly obliterated.

INDO BRITISH
ENGLISH EAST INDIA COMPANY COINS

Sl. No. 64. Three *Swamy Pagoda* (17th century AD)

Acc. No. : 768/1;
Weight : 3.39 grams; Diameter : 11.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Ramachandrapuram*, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh;
Metal : Gold.

Obverse : The figures of Lord *Venkateswara* and his two consorts as seen at the *Tirupati* Temple.
Reverse : Blank - full of bas relief rounds. This pattern is seen in Roman jewellery. The Manual on the Holographic Gallery in the Government Museum, Chennai (2003) written by this author describes this in greater detail.

Sl. No. 65. Old Star *Pagoda* (17th century AD)

Acc. No. : 836/2
Weight : 3.44 grams; Diameter : 1.1 Centimetres;
Provenance : Zamin *Ariyalur*, Udayarpalayam Taluk, undivided Tiruchirapalli District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 17th Century AD;
Metal : Gold.

Obverse : This *Pagoda* is called the Old star *Pagoda*, as it has on one side the figure of *Vishnu* with stars.
Reverse : Star.

The use of '*Vishnu*' continues the tradition of the Gingee Nayaks, who ruled over the Chennai region. Chennai

gets its name from Chennappa. It later fell to the Nawabs of Arcot. The East India Company probably felt it would secure the loyalty of its Hindu subjects by this method. This gave them the manpower to fight and subdue the Muslim, Nawab of Arcot. The 'British' use of this policy in the 20th century encouraged the division of India. 'Divide et Impera' technique (Divide and Rule) was employed to perfection.

Sl. No. 66. Quarter Star *Pagoda*

Acc. No.	:	1301/1;
Weight	:	10.42 grams; Diameter: 2.6 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	*Aariyapalayam*, Aathur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period	:	About 19th Century AD;
Metal	:	Silver.

Obverse : These star *Pagoda*s issued from the Madras Mint continued to be the standard coin of the company in the south until it was abolished in 1816 AD and the Silver Rupee was made the standard coin. The figure of *Vishnu* is surrounded by dots and a star is depicted on the obverse side of the coin.

The denomination of coin – '*kaal varakan*' pronounced as '*kaal varahan*' is inscribed in Tamil. In Telugu it is '*kaalu varahani*'. This is inscribed here both in Tamil and Telugu scripts.

Reverse : This coin has on one side the temple *gopuram* (tower) surrounded by 18 stars. Near the edge is an inscription denoting its value 'Quarter *Pagoda*' both in English and Persian. The use of the temple as seen above is to secure the allegiance of the Hindus.

Sl. No. 67. William IIII (1835 AD) - normally written as IV

Acc. No.	:	1143/2;
Weight	:	11.54 grams; Diameter : 3.1 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	*Chikkadasampalayam*, Mettupalayam Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamilnadu;
Period	:	1835 AD;
Metal	:	Silver.

Obverse : Bust of King William IV with the inscription 'William IIII, King'.

Reverse : The reverse side has legends informing the denomination, issuing authority the 'East India Company'. The year of its issue 1835 AD is also engraved. There is a floral design of two laurel leaves around the denomination legend 'one rupee'.

Sl. No. 68. Victoria Silver Coin

Acc. No.	:	1150;
Weight	:	11.50 grams; Diameter :3.2 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	*Manavalanallur*, Vridhachalam Taluk, Erstwhile South Arcot District;
Period	:	1890 AD;
Metal	:	Silver.

Obverse : Head of Victoria - Inscription 'Victoria Empress'.

Reverse : Floral design - Inscription 'One Rupee India 1890'.

Sl. No. 69. GEORGE V Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 4.58 grams; Diameter: 2.5 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti*, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1930 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Figure of George V; Inscription: George V King Emperor;
Reverse : One quarter Anna India 1930.

Sl. No. 70. GEORGE VI Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 4.75 grams; Diameter: 2.5 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti*, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1939 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Figure of George VI; Inscription: George VI King Emperor;
Reverse : One quarter Anna India 1939.

Sl. No. 71. GEORGE VI Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 1.65 grams; Diameter: 1.60 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti*, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1941AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Figure of George VI; Inscription: George VI King Emperor
Reverse : 1/12 Anna, India, 1941

FREE INDIA COINS

Sl. No. 72. George VI Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 3.75 grams; Diameter: 2.3 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti*, Omalur Taluk, Salem District ; Tamilnadu;
Period : 1947 AD;
Metal : Nickel.

Obverse : Head of George VI with the legend 'George VI King Emperor'
Reverse : Walking Lion with the legend of Half Rupee "*Aadha Rupaya*" in Hindi and Urdu. Below the lion is the legend 'India' in English with the year '1947'.

Note : Since it was got from the same hoard, the same Acc. No. 1390 is given to the coins of George V and George VI.

COINS

INDO BRITISH

Sl. No. 64. THREE *SWAMY PAGODA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 65. OLD STAR *PAGODA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 66. QUARTER STAR *PAGODA*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 67. *WILLIAM IIII*

- obverse

reverse -

3397
3/6/4

COINS

Sl. No. 68. *VICTORIA SILVER*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 69. *GEORGE V*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 70. *GEORGE VI*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 71. *GEORGE VI*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 73 Half-Rupee coin

Acc. No.	:	2003/4
Weight	:	5.8 grams; Diameter : 2.5 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	Chennai-600 074.
Period	:	1950 AD;
Metal	:	Nickel.
Obverse	:	Asoka pillar showing three of the four lions and a star below; legend Government of India in English
Reverse	:	In the central area – denomination ½ flanked by wheat sheaf with *Adha rupaya* (words in Hindi) and Rupee in English year 1950.

Sl. No. 74. One Pice Coin

Acc. No.	:	1390
Weight	:	2.83 grams; Diameter: 2.2 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	*Poosaripatti*, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period	:	1951 AD;
Metal	:	Copper.
Obverse	:	Three lions (Out of 4 of the Asokan lions only 3 are visible in the Govt. of India Emblem) - At the base, the Government of India symbol with Asoka Chakra in centre, a horse to the right and Bull to the left. Legend 'Government of India' in English.
Reverse	:	Horse running to left, legend 'one pice' (left) 'Ek paise' (in Hindi in Devanagari Script) and 1951. A star is shown along with the horse and a four-sided diamond below the horse. The size is bigger showing the higher value of the currency.

Exchange Rate Table - British India

Old Currency

3 pies = 1 pice
12 old pies make 1 anna
16 annas make 1 Rupee
i.e. 192 old pies make 1 Rupee.

New Currency

4 pice	...	1 anna
16 annas	...	1 Rupee
64 pice	..	Rupees 1 (Post Independence)

Metric conversion

100 paise make 1 Rupee.
The old annas could not be converted exactly in the decimal system.
Therefore 4 annas became 25 paise and 8 annas - 50 paise. Such coins were issued as 25 paise and 50 paise coins.

Sl. No. 75. One Pice Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 2.89: grams; Diameter: 2.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti*, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1952 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Asoka Pillar. Legend Government of India
Reverse : Horse running to left, legend 'one pice' (left) 'Ek paise' (in Hindi) and 1952.

Sl. No. 76. Quarter Rupee Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 2.98 grams; Diameter: 2.0 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1954 AD;
Metal : Nickel.

Obverse : Asoka pillar showing three of the four lions and a star below; legend Government of India in English
Reverse : In the central area – denomination ¼ flanked by wheat sheaf with *char anna* (words in Hindi) and Rupee in English year 1954.

Sl. No. 77. Two Naye Paise with scalloped edge Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 3.0 grams; Diameter :1.9 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1957 AD;
Metal : Nickel.

Obverse : Asoka Pillar. Legend (in Hindi) *Bharath* and (in English) India
Reverse : Denomination '2' in the centre, Below that '*Naye paise*' and '1957'. Legend around the 2. '*Rupaiye ka pachasvan bhag*' (in Hindi i.e. 1/50th of a Rupee). (100 *paise* = Re.1)

Sl. No. 78. One Naya Paisa Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 1.50 grams; Diameter :1.6 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu ;
Period : 1961 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Asoka pillar. Legend Bharath (in Hindi) and India (in English)
Reverse : In the Central area 1 (paisa in numeral) above 'Rupaiye Ka Sauvaan bhag Naya Paisa (new paise 1961)', i.e. 1/100th of a rupee. Below the figure 1, 'Naya paisa' in Devanagari Script in Hindi.

COINS

FREE INDIA

Sl. No. 72. *GEORGE VI*

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 73. HALF-RUPEE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 74. ONE PICE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 75. ONE PICE

- obverse

reverse -

COINS

Sl. No. 76. QUARTER RUPEE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 77. TWO NAYE PAISE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 78. ONE NAYA PAISA

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 79. TWO NAYE PAISE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 79. Two Naye Paise with scalloped edge Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 2.98 grams; Diameter :1.9 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1962 AD;
Metal : Nickel.

Obverse : Asoka Pillar. Legend (in Hindi) Bharath and (in English) India
Reverse : Denomination '2' in the centre. Below that 'Naye paise' and '1962'. Legend around the 2, "Rupaiye ka Pachasvan bhag" (in Hindi)-i.e.1/50th of a rupee.

Sl. No. 80. One Naya Paisa Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 1.49: grams; Diameter1.6: Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu ;
Period : 1963 AD;
Metal : Copper.

Obverse : Asoka pillar.
Reverse : In the Central area 1 (paisa in numeral) above 'Rupaiye Ka Sauvaan bhag Naya Paise (new paise 1963)', i.e. 1/100th of a rupee . Below the figure 1, 'Naya paisa' in Devanagari Script in Hindi.

Sl. No. 81. One Paisa Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 0.80 grams; Dimension (square with rounded edges): 1.8x1.8 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu ;
Period : 1966 AD;
Metal : Aluminium.

Obverse : Asoka Pillar. 'Bharat' in Hindi and 'India' in English
Reverse : Numeral '1'. Paisa in Hindi and in English.

Sl. No. 82. Three Paise Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 1.32 grams; Hexagonal side: 2.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu ;
Period : 1966 AD;
Metal : Aluminium.

Obverse : Asoka Pillar. Bharat in Hindi (Devanagari Script) and India in English – Roman Script
Reverse : In the centre, the numeral '3'. Below that '1966'. '3 paise' in Hindi. Wheat Sheaf on both the sides of the numeral.

Sl. No. 83. Two Paise with scalloped edge Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 1.05 grams; Diameter: 2.1 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1968 AD;
Metal : Aluminium.

Obverse : Asoka Pillar. Legend (in Hindi) Bharat and (in English) India
Reverse : 'Paise' in English and in Hindi. Year '1968' ; below the numeral '2'.

Sl. No. 84. One Paisa (square type) Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 0.79 grams; Sides : 1.8 x 1.8 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1968 AD;
Metal : Aluminium.

Obverse : Asoka Pillar. Bharat in Hindi and India in English
Reverse : Numeral 1. Paisa in Hindi and in English.

Sl. No. 85. Three Paise Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 1.25grams; Hexagonal side: 2.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu ;
Period : 1971 AD;
Metal : Aluminium.

Obverse : Asoka Pillar. Bharat in Hindi and India in English
Reverse : In the centre, the numeral '3' below that '1971'. '3' Paise in Hindi. Wheat sheaf on both the sides of the numeral.

Sl. No. 86. Five Paise Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 1.46: grams; Sides : 2.4 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu ;
Period : 1971 AD;
Metal : Aluminium.

Obverse : Asoka Pillar. Bharat in Hindi and India in English
Reverse : Legend 'Paise' (in Hindi and English). In the centre the numeral '5' below that '1971'.

COINS

Sl. No. 80. ONE NAYA PAISA

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 81. ONE PAISA

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 82. THREE PAISE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 83. TWO PAISE

- obverse

reverse -

COINS

Sl. No. 84. ONE PAISA

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 85. THREE PAISE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 86. FIVE PAISE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 87. TWO PAISE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 87. Two Paise with scalloped edge Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 1.03 grams; Diameter: 2.1 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1973 AD;
Metal : Aluminium.

Obverse : Asoka Pillar. Legend (in Hindi) 'Bharat' and (in English) 'India'
Reverse : 'Paise' in English and in Hindi. Year '1973'; below the numeral '2'.

Sl. No. 88. Five Paise Coin

Acc. No. : 1390;
Weight : 1.51 grams; Dimention (square): 2.2 x 2.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : *Poosaripatti* Village, Omalur Taluk, Salem District, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1974 AD;
Metal : Aluminium.

Obverse : Asoka Pillar. 'Bharat' in Hindi and 'India' in English
Reverse : Legend 'Paise' (in Hindi and English). In the centre the numeral '5'; below that '1974'

Sl. No. 89. One Rupee Coin

Acc. No. : 2003/1;
Weight : 5.98 grams; Diameter: 2.7 Centimetres;
Provenance : Private collection, Chennai-74, Tamilnadu;
Period : 1985 AD;
Metal : Nickel.

Obverse : Three Lions capital pillar of *Asoka* with the *Chakra* (wheel of Dharma or righteousness) in the centre of the base, bull to the right and horse to the left with legend '*Bharath*' in Hindi and 'India' in English. Below the lion is the legend in small Deva Nagari script, '*Sathyameva Jayathe*' i.e. 'Truth alone Triumphs'.
Reverse : The denomination of the coin with the legend '*Rupaya*' in Hindi and 'Rupee' in English on either side of figure '1' are on the ear of wheat. The year of issue '1985' is inscribed below.

Sl. No. 90. Two Rupees Coin

Acc. No. : 2003/2;
Weight : 6.10 grams; Diameter: 2.7 Centimetres;
Provenance : Private collection, Chennai-74, Tamilnadu ;
Period : 1998 AD;
Metal : Stainless steel.

Obverse : Three lions of *Asoka* Pillar with the legend '*Bharath*' in Hindi, 'India' in English on the edges. Below the lion is the legend in Deva Nagari script '*Sathyameva Jayathe*' below which the denomination of coin is given in Arabic numeral '2' and script in Hindi and English;.

Reverse : The bas- relief of India with Indian flag with the legend '*Rashtriya-Ektha*' in Deva Nagari script and 'National integration' in English; the year of the issue of the coin '1998' is below the English legend.

Sl. No. 91. Five Rupees Coin

Acc. No. : 2003/3;
Weight : 8.98 grams; Diameter: 2.4 Centimetres;
Provenance : Private collection, Chennai-74, Tamilnadu;
Period : 2000 AD;
Metal : Stainless Steel.

Obverse : Three lions of the Asoka pillar with the legend '*Bharath*' in Deva Nagari script 'India' in English. Below the lion is the legend '*Sathyameva jayathe*' in small Deva Nagari letters.

Reverse : No '5' the denomination of the coin is depicted with lotus flowers and floral designs on either side. '*Rupaye*' in Deva Nagari and 'Rupees' in English are engraved. Below the legend Rupees is the year of its issue, '2000'.

COINS

Sl. No. 80. ONE NAYA PAISA

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 81. ONE PAISA

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 82. THREE PAISE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 83. TWO PAISE

- obverse

reverse -

COINS

Sl. No. 84. ONE PAISA

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 2 *NAPOLEON* III

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 86. FIVE PAISE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 87. TWO PAISE

- obverse

reverse -

DESCRIPTION OF THE MEDALS

Sl. No. 1. *George VI* Medal

Acc. No : 237
Weight : 42.02 grams; Diameter: 3.6 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : Unknown;
Metal : Silver.

Obverse : Single bar - Head of George VI is embossed. Inscriptions round the rim: 'Georgivs (the old method of writing 'u') VI D:G:BR.OMN: REX BRITANNIA ET INDIAE IMP:' Floral design on the bar. The inscription in full is '*Dei Gratia, Omnibus Rex et Indiae Imperator*'. It means 'George VI, By the grace of God, King of all Britain and Emperor of India'.

Reverse : Within a laurel wreath – "For distinguished service".

Another title given to the British monarch is 'D:G:M:.B.R.F: Et. H.REG. – By the Grace of God, Queen of Great Britain, France and Ireland. In Latin, Rex means King, Regina means Queen, Imperator means Emperor and Imperatrix means Empress.These titles were meant to inspire awe in the Indian subjects. They are also a hangover of the past, the days of the divine right of kings.

Sl. No.2. Napoleon III Medal

Acc. No. : 203;
Weight : 111.85 grams; Diameter:6.1 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1855 AD;
Metal : Brass.

Obverse : The head of Napoleon III. Around the edge is embossed the legend 'NAPOLEON III EMPEREUR' meaning Emperor Napoleon III of France. The engraver's initial is given in small letters as 'ALBERT BARRE'.

Reverse : Design with eagle at the centre and crown at the top. Inscribed - 'EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE AGRICULTURE ET INDUSTRIELLE BEAUX , PARIS, 1855 ' – meaning ' Great Universal Agriculture and Industrial Exhibition'. In this case, 'beaux' is interpreted as 'great' in preference to 'beautiful'. The centre has the Imperial Eagle of the Bonaparte emblem. Below the eagle is the ensign of the *lègion d'honneur* (an elite force of France). Around the centre are the flags of the French provinces. The crescent emblem on one shield might be Egypt or some Moslem country conquered by Napolean I or III. The hand of justice is shown on the North East corner.

This exhibition was a rival to the Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations held in London in 1851 AD at the Crystal Palace. Prince Albert, the Consort of Queen Victoria took a leading role in organising this exhibition.

Sl. No.3. Calcutta International Exhibition Medal

Acc. No. : 219;
Weight : 62.09 grams; Diameter:5 Centimetres ;
Provenance : Unknown
Period : 1883-1884 AD;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : Bust of Queen Victoria. The year 1883-84 is inscribed below.
Reverse : Within a wreath the inscription "Awarded To " is inscribed

This and other medals seen below for similar exhibitions on Agriculture and Industry were attempts of civil servants to imitate the glory of the metropolis (London) in other more remote parts of the empire. There was also probably an element of self-glorification of these civil servants and an attempt to perpetuate their memory.

Sl. No. 4. Calcutta Agricultural Exhibition Medal

Acc. No. : 42;
Weight : 41.25 grams; Diameter: 4.3 Centimetres ;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1864 AD;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : Bust of Queen Victoria. The inscription is 'VICTORIA D:G: BRIT :REG: FID: DEF:' Abbreviation '*Dei Gratia, regina de Britannia, fide Defensor*' (*Defensa* in the case of Queen) By the Grace of God, Queen of Britain, Defender of the Faith (Christianity).
Reverse : Legend - 'Calcutta Agricultural Exhibition. Exhibitors Medal 1864'.

Sl. No. 5. Agricultural Show - Calcutta Medal

Acc. No. : 46;
Weight : 126.29 grams; Diameter: 6.5 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1864 AD;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : A bull, a cow, two sheep, a horse, a coconut tree and a wheeled cart. Inscription: 'Agricultural Show Calcutta 1864'.
Reverse : Within an embossed wreath - 'prize for: awarded to'.

Sl. No. 6. Agricultural and Horticultural Society – Burmah Medal

Acc. No. : 215;
Weight : 126.41 grams; Diameter: 6.5 Centimetres ;
Provenance : Unknown
Period : 1864 AD;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : A bull, a cow, two sheep, a horse, a wheeled cart and a coconut tree in the background. 'Agriculturál Show, Calcutta, 1864' is inscribed below.

MEDALS

Sl. No. 5 AGRICULTURAL SHOW - CALCUTTA

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 6 AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - BURMAH

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 7 AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - BURMAH

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 8 AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION - ROORKEE

- obverse

reverse -

MEDALS

Sl. No. 9 FIRST INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION - NAGPUR

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 10 EXHIBITION OF MANUFACTURERS - NAGPORE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 11 AGRA DIVISIONAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION

- obverse

reverse -

Reverse : Around the rim is the inscription -'Agricultural and Horticultural Society Burma 1865'. In the centre, 'PRIZE FOR ..... AWARDED TO' is inscribed. The mistake appears to be that two different years on the reverse and obverse have been inscribed.

Sl. No. 7. Agricultural and Horticultural Society Medal, Burmah

Acc. No. : 58;
Weight : 45.43 grams; Diameter: 4.9 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1864 AD;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : A bull, a cow, a sheep, a goat, two horses and two coconut trees. Inscription at the edge – '1864'.
Reverse : 'PRIZE FOR ..AWARDED TO ..' is inscribed around the rim. The inscription reads 'AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, BURMAH, 1865'.

Sl. No. 8. Agricultural Exhibition Medal, Roorkee

Acc. No. : 174;
Weight : 40.57 grams; Diameter: 4.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1864 AD;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : Head of Queen Victoria. Inscribed 'VICTORIA D:G: BRIT: REG: FID: DEF'.
Abbreviation : '*Dei Gratia, regina de Britannia, fide Defensa* (*defensor*, if male)' By the Grace of God, Queen of Britain, Defender of the Faith.
Reverse : Inscription 'ROORKEE, N.W.P. AGRICULTURAL EXHBITION 1864'. N.W.P. stands for North West Province. In 1901, Lord Curzon created the North West Frontier Province beyond the Punjab and Baluchistan on the border of Afghanistan. It is still called by that name and is in Pakistan. The province included some districts from the old Punjab and Khyber on the other side of the Indus. The Chief Commissioner directly reported to the British Indian government at Delhi. The old North Western Province (NWP) and Oudh were merged to form the United Provinces (U.P.). It is still called UP (Uttar Pradesh), though it has recently been split into Uttaranchal and U.P.

Sl. No. 9. First Industrial Exhibition Medal, Nagpur (Nagpore)

Acc. No. : 59;
Weight : 52.14grams; Diameter: 5.2 Centimetres ;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1865 AD;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : Embossed head of the Chief Commissioner Central Provinces. Inscription around the rim - 'Chief Commissioner Central Provinces'. Below the bust in minute letters, 'Calcutta Mint'.

Reverse : Inscription below a wreath – 'In commemoration of the First Industrial Exhibition for the Central Provinces held at Nagpore Decr. 1865 at the close of the fourth year of MR R. Temple's administration'.

Sl. No. 10. Exhibition of Manufacturers Medal, Nagpore

Acc. No. : 213;
Weight : 41.03 grams; Diameter: 4.2 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1865 AD;
Metal : Brass.

Obverse : Head of Queen Victoria. Inscription – 'VICTORIA D: G: BRIT: REG: FID: DEF:' Floral design at the bottom. Abbreviation 'Dei Gratia, regina de Britannia, fide Defensa (defensor if male)' - By the Grace of God, Queen of Britain, Defender of the Faith.
Reverse : Figure of vessels and the exhibition site and a tent with a flag on its top. The rays of the Sun are seen in the background. A toothed wheel signifying industry. Inscription - 'Exposition of Manufacturers - Nagpore, 1865'.

Sl. No. 11. Agra Divisional Agricultural Association Exhibition Medal, Agra Division

Acc. No. : 109;
Weight : 42.09 grams; Diameter: 4.3 Centimetres ;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1865-1866 AD;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : Head of Queen Victoria –Inscription - 'Victoria D.G. BRIT: REG: FID: DEF:' Floral design at the bottom.
Reverse : Legend - Around the edge 'Agra Divisional Agricultural Association' - At the centre - ' Exhibition 1865-1866'.

Sl. No. 12. Provincial Exhibition N.W.P. Medal

Acc. No. : 124;
Weight : 40.67 grams; Diameter: 4.3 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1867 AD;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : Head of Queen Victoria. Inscription - 'VICTORIA D.G. BRIT: REG: FID: DEF:'
Reverse : Around the edge- 'PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION N.W.P. THE HONBLE.E. DRUMMOND L^TG^R' - (Honble – Honourable; L^TG^R - Lieutenant Governor) within the wreath at the centre 'Medal of Honour 1867'. N.W.P. stands for North Western Province.

MEDALS

Sl. No. 12 PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION N.W.P.

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 13 COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION - LONDON

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 14 JUBBULPORE EXHIBITION (JABALPUR)

- obverse

reverse -

MEDALS

Sl. No. 15 MADRAS EXHIBITION
MADRAS (CHENNAI)

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 16 EAST INDIA RAILWAY

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 17 ROMAN PENDANT

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 13. Colonial and Indian Exhibition Medal, London

Acc. No. : 103;
Weight : 80.96 grams; Diameter: 5.2 Centimetres ;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1886 AD;
Metal : Brass

Obverse : Head of Albert Edward. Inscription around the edge – 'ALBERT EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT'.
Reverse : Inscription inside a wreath: 'COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION – LONDON – 1886'.

Sl. No. 14. Jubbulpore Exhibition Medal, Jabalpur

Acc. No. : 37;
Weight : 40.62 grams; Diameter: 4.3 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1886 AD;
Metal : Bronze.
Obverse : Head of Queen Victoria. Inscription around the edge – 'VICTORIA D:G: BRIT: RIG: FID: DEF:'
Reverse : Legend around the edge – 'JUBBULPORE EXHIBITION - 1866' .
Design : A lady crowning another lady with a laurel wreath, both standing. In the background, a horse and a cow. A child is seen carrying a sheaf of grain presumably wheat . There are also trees, a toothed wheel indicating industry and a railway steam engine which form the backdrop. Some typical North Indian terracotta vessels for storing water (*surai* in Hindi) which cools to a certain extent due to evaporation because the terracotta breathes are also seen in the background. Below the figures, the year 1866 is inscribed.

Sl. No. 15. Madras Exhibition Medal, Madras (Chennai)

Acc. No. : 73;
Weight : 95.97 grams; Diameter: 5.2 Centimetres ;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 19th Century AD;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : Head of Victoria (embossed). Inscribed – 'VICTORIA REGINA'(Victoria Queen).
Reverse : Legend around the edge – 'Madras Exhibition'. At the centre within a floral wreath – inscription 'FOR MERIT'.

Sl. No. 16. East India Railway Medal

Acc. No. : 150;
Weight : 162.34 grams; Diameter: 7.3 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1860 AD;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : Head of Victoria (Embossed). Inscription-'VICTORIA REGINA' (Victoria Queen).

Reverse : Legend – 'THE EAST INDIA RAILWAY PROJECTED BY ROWLAND MACDONALD STEPHENSON, GEORGE TURNBULL BEING CHIEF ENGINEER WAS COMMENCED IN THE XV YEAR OF THE REIGN OF VICTORIA. JAMES ANDREW, MARQUIS OF DALHOUSIE, K.T. BEING GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA; AND WAS OPENED TO RAJ MAHAL. IN THE XXIVth YEAR OF THE SAME GRACIOUS REIGN: CHARLES JOHN EARL CANNING, G.C.B. BEING VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL AD MDCCCLX'. AROUND THE RIM in italics in Old English Text MT script letters – 'prosper thou the work of our hands upon us! O prosper thou our handy work. Ps.XC '. The reference is to (Ps) Psalm (XC) 90 of the Bible. Hence the Cross at the end of the inscription. K.T. means Knight of the Order of the Thistle; G.C.B. means Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. The inscription states that the work began in the 15th regnal year of Queen Victoria and was completed in the 24th regnal year of the same monarch in 1860 AD. The first railway track was laid to Rajmahal from Howrah. In May,1845 or about 20 years after construction of first rail road in England, the East Indian Railway Co. was founded. The managing director of thiscompany Mr. R. McDonald Stephenson can be considered the founder of the company.

1851 : Construction of EIR experimental line from Howrah to Rajmahal began.

1854 : The first passenger train in Eastern India operated from Howrah to Hooghly on 15th. August.

1855 : The "experimental" line extended upto Raneegunje (present Ranigunj in West Bengal)- 122 miles.

Sl. No. 17. Roman Pendant Medal

Acc. No. : 209;

Weight : 18.87 grams; Diameter: 5.4 Centimetres;

Provenance : Unknown;

Period : 3rd Century AD;

Metal : Gold.

Obverse : The design on the obverse stands out in very high relief and represents a boldly modelled bust of a figure wearing a veil over the head. The features seem to be those of a matron, Roman or Greek. The veil is worn in the manner affected by fashionable ladies, who are represented on Greek and Roman Coins till about the beginning of the 3rd Century AD.

Reverse : The devices on the reverse are in low relief, so it is difficult to identify the devices. The reverse has a damaged figure in outline not recognisable as also an inscription around the edge, which is undecipherable. The Accession Register does not contain particulars on where the hoard came from.

Sl. No. 18. *Taku* Fort Medal

Acc. No. : 196;

Weight : 38.53 grams; Diameter: 3.6 Centimetres;

Provenance : Unknown;

Period : 1860 AD;

Metal : Silver.

MEDALS

Sl. No. 18 TAKU FORT

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 19 MYSORE

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 20 MYSORE

- obverse

reverse -

MEDALS

Sl. No. 21 EGYPT WAR

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 22 GREEK

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 23 INDIA

- obverse

reverse -

Obverse : Bust of *Victoria Regina.*
Reverse : Single bar – 'TAKU FORTS 1860'.

Two cannons on a wheeled cart, bayonets, a spear, a drum and other weapons of war, a coconut tree and a shield showing the coat of arms of the British Sovereign. At the centre below is the word "CHINA". Around the rim are the letters *'ARMIS EXPO CERE PACEM'*. This reflects the Opium Wars which concluded with the Treaty of Nanking.

Ceres – Mother earth (Roman term) ; *armis* - arms; *pacem*- peace; *expo*- exposition, i.e the exhibition of British arms resulted in peace on earth or so the British and the West claimed after the unjust imposition of terms on China after the Opium War. The Chinese were forced to import opium due to the arrogance of the Western powers. The allies began military operations in late 1857 and quickly forced the Chinese to sign the Treaties of Tientsin (1858), which opened up China. At the end of 1857, an Anglo-French force occupied Canton; in March 1858 they took the Taku fort and marched to Tientsin. In further negotiations in Shanghai later in the year, the importation of opium was legalised. The Chinese, however, refused to ratify the treaties, and the allies resumed hostilities, captured Peking, and burned the emperor's summer palace. In 1860, the Chinese signed the Peking Convention, in which they agreed to observe the treaties of Tientsin (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1999). This medal commemorates this unjust triumph.

Sl. No. 19. Mysore Medal

Acc. No. : 74;
Weight : 34.92 grams; Diameter: 4.5 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1799 AD;
Metal : Silver.

Obverse : Lion pouncing on a tiger with the flag (Union Jack) and Persian inscription. The date is ' *IV May MDCCXCIX*'. i.e. 4th May, 1799 AD. The Persian inscription translated states 'Srirangapatam'. This refers to the 4th Mysore War in which Tippu was finally defeated at the Battle of Seringapatam (Srirangapatnam) and lost his life. This medal gives the exact date of the event.

Reverse : A scene showing a temple, a mosque, a lot of cannon balls, a fort and a lot of soldiers. It refers to the taking of *Seringapatam* (Srirangapatnam) by the British. A Persian inscription is at the bottom. The Persian inscription translated states ' the gift of the God'.

Sl. No. 20. Mysore Medal

Acc. No. : 198;
Weight : 52.92 grams; Diameter: 4.4 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1792 AD;
Metal : Lead.

Obverse : Bust of Cornwallis. Inscription around the edge - 'CAR.MARCHIO CORNWALLIS STRATEGUS ACERRIMUS'. The word '*acerrimus*' is used by Cicero, the Roman poet in the sense of sharp, keen and energetic. '*Strategus*' means a general. This reflects the 3rd Mysore War, when Lord Cornwallis inflicted a temporary defeat on Tippu Sultan in 1792 AD. The Latin 'Car.' translated means probably ' caritate' from 'Caritas' i.e. esteemed or

beloved. 'Marchio' is Latin for Marquis. i.e. the inscription means ' Beloved or esteemed Marquis Cornwallis, the sharp or clever general'.

Reverse : Figure showing the surrender of Tippu's sons. Inscription around the edge - 'FAS SI PARCERE HOSTI' - It means 'the hostages will be spared'.

Below the bas-relief figures of Cornwallis and Tippu's sons 'SOLTLEC TIPPOO DEVICTO ? ONS DES RECIPIT, MDCCXCII'. - the last word is the year 1792 (correct year) in Roman numerals. The letter before 'ons' is not clear. Ceres means Mother Earth in Roman parlance.

In this war, two of Tippu's sons were taken hostage by the English led by Lord Cornwallis (Sathianathaier, R., 1952, p.224). The inscription means that Tippu Sultan deserving punishment pledged his sons, who were received (by Lord Cornwallis).

Sl. No. 21. Egypt War Medal

Acc. No. : 197;
Weight : 46.45 grams; Diameter: 4.8 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : 1801 AD;
Metal : Silver.

Obverse : Embossed portrait bust inscription – '*ABERCROMBIUS DUX IN EGYPTO CECIDIT VICTOR* 23 MARCH 1801'. Below the bust the name of the engraver '*PIDGEON .F*'. The 'N' and 'F' are slightly obliterated. This means 'Abercrombie, leader or marshal in Egypt, architect of the victory'.

Reverse : Two soldiers are fighting. Inscription. '*NA FIR A CHOISIN BUAIDH SAN EPHAIT 21* MARCH 1801'. Below the soldiers, in small letters an inscription, 'B.WERIPRA' engraved crudely probably by a soldier and that of the engraver '*PIDGEON .F*' are recorded. The inscription could not be translated despite my best efforts. Scholars from Alliance Francaise, Latin scholars etc stated that the language is not French, German, Italian or Spanish. Some Scots from the *MAC TV* Co., Stornoway, Scotland, who came to shoot the Amaravati Gallery in this museum for the Highlands and Islands Development Board felt it was Gaelic.

In 1801, a three fold attack on Egypt took place. British forces landed at Abu Qir in March, 1801. British Indian forces landed at Qusayr on the Red Sea Coast. The French garrison in Cairo surrendered in June, 1801. This medal was issued to commemorate this victory of the British Indian forces.

Sl. No. 22. Greek Medal

Acc. No. : 270;
Weight : 25.09 grams; Diameter: 3.5 Centimetres;
Provenance : Unknown;
Period : Not Given;
Metal : Bronze.

Obverse : Head of a woman and four fish around the rim.

Reverse : A chariot drawn by four horses with the charioteer. An angel with wings above. Some fish are shown in the line below the chariot and a structure.

In Sicily, and particularly in Syracuse the carver's art reached perfection. The coins of Syracuse showe many varieties of the heads of *Arethusa* and *Persephone*, Greek Goddesses and the chariot on the reverse wa found capable of varied treatment. After the middle of the 5th century, artists began to sign their work. Therefore, th coin, which looks like a medal must be dated to circa 5th Century BC. This is a rare piece, which shows that trade toc place between India and Greece as claimed in the 3rd Tamil Sangam Era Tamil literature and also bears out the datir of this author (Kannan, Dr.R., 2000; 2002) that even before 300 BC, the 3rd Sangam Age had started. It started circ 900 BC.

Sl. No. 23. India Medal

Acc. No.	:	190;
Weight	:	40.61 grams; Diameter: 3.7 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	Unknown;
Period	:	1897-98 AD;
Metal	:	Bronze.
Obverse	:	Bust of Victoria. Legend – 'VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX' (Victoria, Queen anc Empress).
Reverse	:	Single bar-Punjab Frontier 1897-98 AD. An English soldier holding a rifle and an Indian soldier holding a sword- Legend on the Bar – 'PUNJAB FRONTIER - 1897-98 - India 1895'. The reference is to the campaign on the frontier of 1895 for which the medal was issued in 1897-98 AD. The state of Chitral (North West Frontier Province) came within the British sphere of influence. In 1895, there was a revolt and Dr.Robertson, the Agent was attempted to be expelled by the tribals. He maintained his position till he was relieved for about 6 weeks. There was a revolt in 1897 as the British did not evacuate the state as demanded by the tribals. The tribals were defeated in 1898. This medal commemorates the heroic resistance of Dr. Robertson (Sathianathaier, R., 1952, p.464).

Sl. No. 24. Kabul to Kandahar

Acc. No.	:	192;
Weight	:	29.91 grams; Diameter: 5.1 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	Unknown;
Period	:	1880 AD;
Metal	:	Bronze.
Obverse	:	Five sided star with a crown at the top. Inscription 'Kabv(u)l to Kandahar 1880'. The old form of script 'v' is used for 'u'. The 2nd Afghan War 1878-1880 AD was followed by an invasion of Afghanistan. The territory between Kabul and Kandahar was speedily occupied by the British as Sher Ali, the Amir received no Russian help. In May, 1879, Yakub Khan was asked to become the new Amir and submitted to the terms of the Viceroy for India. Kandahar was separated from Kabul and offered to Sher Ali Khan, a cousin of the late Amir in April,1880 (Sathianathaier, R., 1952, p.448). The letters in the centre are VR for Victoria Regina, the V being stylised to look like a 'M' also.
Reverse	:	Blank

Sl. No. 25. Burma War Medal

Acc. No.	:	195;
Weight	:	40.78 grams; Diameter: 3.7 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	Unknown;
Period	:	1889 AD - 1892 AD;
Metal	:	Silver
Obverse	:	Single bar-Burma 1889-92. Bust of Victoria. Victoria *Regina* (Queen).
Reverse	:	An angel with wings crowning a warrior having a sword in his right hand. This probably refers to the story of the Good Savage by Rousseau, the French writer. The angel is bringing civilisation to the savage Burmese. This is the White Man's Burden during the 19th Century AD, when they thought that the rest of the world was uncivilized, waiting for their civilised touch.

In the 3rd Burma war which the British waged on totally unjustified grounds, King Thibaw of Burma was defeated in 1895. The British fleet reached Mandalay. The King surrendered. On 1-1-1886, the Viceroy proclaimed the annexation of Upper Burma. A lieutenant Governor was appointed in 1897. This medal celebrates this triumph of British arms (Sathianathaier, R., 1952, p.458).

Sl. No. 26. China War Medal.

Acc. No.	:	46;
Weight	:	30.01 grams; Diameter: 3.7 Centimetres;
Provenance	:	Unknown;
Period	:	1900 AD;
Metal	:	Bronze.
Obverse	:	Bust of Queen Victoria. Inscription 'VICTORIA *REGINA ET IMPERATRIX*'.- Queen and Empress i.e Queen of England and Empress of India.
Reverse	:	Figure of coat of arms, a cannon and some trees with the inscription at the bottom - 'CHINA 1900' . Inscription around the rim- '*ARMIS EXPO CERE PACEM*'.

This Latin sentence has already been explained above (Taku Forts Medal).

This was issued to commemorate the suppression of the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 AD. This was an anti-foreigner movement, which turned into an anti- Christian movement. The Imperial forces of the Dowager Empress were defeated and Peking was captured by an international force in which the British played a major role on 14-8-1900. This medal celebrates this victory of British arms.

Copy of the *Magna Carta*

A copy of the *Magna Carta*, handwritten has been displayed in the gallery. It has been entered in the Accession register as No. 1/1952. This must have been acquired in 1952, though its actual age is not known. There is no history in the Accession Register. This is a paper facsimile strengthened on the back with canvas cloth.

MEDALS

Sl. No. 24 KABUL TO KANDAHAR

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 25 BURMA WAR

- obverse

reverse -

Sl. No. 26 CHINA WAR

- obverse

reverse -

COPY OF THE *MAGNA CARTA*

CONCLUSION

This manual is an attempt to introduce the magnificent collection of rare coins and medals in the collection of the Government Museum, Chennai by placing them in their cultural, historical and mythological contexts to our visitors. It may kindle the curiosity of the learned scholar to delve into our other older research publications.

The coins in the collection range from the Punch marked coins described by *Panini*, the Sanskrit grammarian whose antiquity is as great as *Tolkappiar*, the Tamil grammarian (Kannan, Dr.R, 2002). This is roughly circa 8000 BC. The composition of the alloy *'potin'* even during the post *Mauryan* era showed the high proficiency in metallurgy of ancient India. The *Gupta* coins were the high water mark of ancient India. Art reached its peak because there was political stability and excellent maintenance of law and order, which gave rise to economic growth. Hence, the appellation, 'Golden Age of the *Guptas*'. Kalidasa, the great Sanskrit poet stated *'Sarve Janah Kanchanam Aasrayanté'* meaning that all people go after gold coins i. e. money. Ancient Indians balanced this world and the next – *dharma, artha, kama, moksha* – righteousness, economics, desire and yearning for salvation were the objectives of human life. The foundation was based on *dharma*.

Every great civilisation has its periods of waxing and waning. From the glorious days of the *Guptas* and the Imperial *Cholas*, India went through invasions and political instability from time to time. This led to debased coinage, when the rulers were weak and consequently the economy became weak. The decline of the *Mughal* Empire is an apt illustration of this phenomena. But this civilisation has always risen back like a phoenix (the *ganda bherunda* bird of Hindu mythology, the emblem of the *Vijaynagar* Empire is the nearest equivalent for its strength, though it never dies). This great civilisation, its knowledge and its practices were criticised in the 19th Century AD. This is because conquerors, who have conquered by military prowess, usually regard the conquered as inferiors. The science of the Occident was also not so well developed as now. The scholars were also people who thought that they had to civilise the lesser mortals, the so called White Man's Burden. Therefore, they misrepresented ancient cultures as primitive and ridiculed them. With the benefit of hindsight we can be more understanding of them. More open-minded scholars and ordinary people of the West in recent years have not only marvelled at this great civilisation but want to preserve it as a precious heritage of mankind. This civilisation declines and then revives. It has always done so. As Max Mueller stated it is a great octopus and aborbs everything that comes its way and then modifies it to suit its idiom. It is the only unbroken chain linked to pre-history. As Tennyson says in his poem, the *Brook*,

'Men may come and may go,
But I (Indian civilisation) will go on forever'.

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