

A Study on Numismatic Importance of Krishna and Godavari Region**Dr. M. Rama Krishna**

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Abstract:

The world we live in today is a postmodern one. The availability of materialistic things is used to measure developments in this era. This is why currency is a dominant form of exchange in this era. During both modern times as well as during historical periods, currency played a significant role. Throughout human history, coins have played an important role in determining value. We get an understanding of human development when we study evaluation in humans. Human life has become simpler and more rational since all of these discoveries were made. Human life became stable and social groups formed when important and great discoveries like fire, the wheel, and agriculture were made. Those discoveries were significant on their own. The invention of coins made commerce easier and more relevant. Coins simplified exchange systems as well. An ancient coin's shape and size were not perfect in its early stages. With time, coinage began to develop and the Krishna Godavari region had become the apex point of Indian coinage. We aim to examine the role numismatics play in this region in this study. Indian coins were introduced into the region, monarchy, and private markets. Numismatics is the systematic and scientific study of Coins. Through numismatic study, researchers can discover the past and explore the political, socio-economic, religious, and cultural conditions of that time period. The chronological, genealogical, and cultural development of the dynasties can also be established, and a structurally intact past can be reconstructed. This is why numismatics is so important to re-examine and reconstruct history.

Keywords: Numismatics, Krishna and Godavari region.

Introduction:

Throughout history, various objects like coins, tokens, and token-like objects have been used as currency by people as numismatic objects. As well as a study of money and other forms of payment people use to buy goods and services and settle their debts, the term may also refer to a study of money's role in economic development study of the objects is concerned with the physical aspects, including their appearance, year of production, technique, and place of manufacture, as well as details of the social, political, and economic conditions in the period when they were produced.

Study of the objects is concerned with the physical aspects, including their appearance, year of production, technique, and place of manufacture, as well as details of the social, political, and economic conditions in the period when they were produced. The English term "numismatics" was first used in 1829 and derived from the adjective "numismatic". The French term "numismatiques" was derived from the Latin term "numismatis".

Background of Numismatics:

During the reign of Caesar Augustus, coin collecting was a common practice. As a gift to other rulers of foreign lands, Augustus reportedly collected coins from all over the world. According to letters written by Petrarch, he credited himself as being the first Renaissance collector by buying the coins of vine diggers and identifying rulers on them (Holt, F.L., 2021). The author was Guillaume Bude in 1514. Early coin collectors included emperors, nobles, and kings as well as prominent members of society.

The Roman Emperor Maximilian of the Holy Roman Empire, Pope Benedict VIII, and King Henry IV of France were a few notable coin collectors. The practice of coin collecting was once known as the “hobby of kings”. The first coin collecting societies emerged in the 19th century. These societies published journals that documented coins found in their territories (Kemmers et. al. 2011).

Numismatics of Krishna Godavari Region:

As these two major rivers and their tributaries drain into the delta, it is one of the most fertile areas in peninsular India. The production of a large agricultural surplus and the emergence of a thriving economy are no surprise, therefore (Kemmers et. al. 2011). ‘Monetization’ was a well-known phenomenon by the time Buddhism thrived in the lower Krishna valley. There have never been any punchmarked coins found before in the Amaravati region, but they are chronologically the oldest. Numismatists are well familiar with two hoards - the Singavaram and Amaravati hoards (Galla, A., 1982). These hoards of coins, while generally described as ‘punch-marked’, contain a wide variety of coins. Scholars first became aware of the Singavaram hoard in 1936.

The silver coins must have numbered about 60,000. There were four marks on each one, a type associated with the pre-Mauryan horizon during the 16th Mahajanapadas. This type of issue is best dated to the 4th–3rd centuries BCE and is known as the “Andhra Janapada” (Roy, K., 2008.). By locating them in the reserves of the Government Museum in Chennai, Puljal and Reddy (2005) republished 90 coins from this hoard. The Amaravati hoard has been described in detail by P.L. Gupta. On 4 Aug. 1953, a pot containing the relic was found buried at a depth of 8 to 10 feet (2.5 to 3.0 meters) on Government land about 20 yards from the Stupa site and 15 yards from the Travelers' Bungalow. Coins weighing approximately 60lb (27.215kg) were found in the pot. Weighing them revealed that they contained 7,668 coins in 2,333 tolas (around 27kg). ‘Imperial’ Karshapana coins date to about the 3rd-2nd centuries BCE and are considered the monetary apparatus of the Magadha-Maurya Empire.

The Krishna-Godavari delta region has a rich dynastic history since the Mauryan period. In general, the Krishna delta is associated with the Sātavāhanas and the Ikṣvākus (Wu et. al. 2013). Coastal Andhra was ruled during this time by rulers named Sada, who were preceding the Sātavāhanas. Due to their location, they can be called the “Sadas of coastal Andhra”. There have been numerous reports of their coins from sites as diverse as Amaravati, Gudivada, Dharanikota, Chebrolu, Bapatla, and Vaddamanu in the Krishna and Godavari districts. While Sadas coins have existed for centuries, it took nearly a century for their correct attribution to be discovered. The obverse usually features a lion standing in profile, facing left on many coins, but on others it faces right. His mouth is normally held up by a symbol, commonly a ‘tree-in-railing’ symbol. An arch symbol appears on the reverse of these coins, often enclosed within a rectangular border; a crescent is sometimes included as well (Srinivasan, D.M., 2010). Unfortunately, most of these coins have their reverses obliterated. In his publications, Sir Walter Elliot describes a few of these.

Various specimens held in the British Museum were collected by Elliot, Cunningham, and Sewell who had collected them from various locations throughout the Krishna and Godavari Districts. Rasson made a note of these specimens and they are now in the British Museum. The legend ‘...(gha)sadasa’ also appeared on one small lead coin.

There was no other instance of a name ending in ‘Sada’ before this. Rapson’s treatment of these coins deserves some explanation since it is rather unusual, contributing to their incorrect attribution in a major way. The coins were identified as ‘Andhradesa’ coins for understandable reasons. He classified them into two groups according to their fabrics and then further divided them according to their weight and type. Normal numismatic treatment centers on the ‘fabric’, and not the ‘type’. However, this goes against the grain.

Walter Elliot collected two larger lion-type lead coins from Chittala in Yernagudem Taluk Godavari district, which Rapson also included in the Andhradesa category, but under another heading, pertaining to a truncated inscription on one of them that reads as “..vera”. Last but not least, he observed two more ‘lion’ -type coins bearing legends that, despite the incomplete nature of the inscriptions, could possibly mention Pulumavi’s name and title (Bhandare, S., 2016). The animal hesitantly described on it was a horse, as Rapson tentatively attributed the inscription on the coin to the Satavahana ruler Meghasvati.

Rapson identified this inscription as that of Siva Siri Satakani, a Satavahana king, in one of the Amaravati inscriptions based on peculiar linguistic logic. I.K. Samara attributes the lion-shaped coins in the British Museum to the Satavahana ruler Viasithiputa Siri Puḷumāvi. A lead coin weighing 39 grams was also found at Mukhalingam and attributed to Vishishiputa Sattaki in the IAR 1957-8 report, in addition to the British Museum coins. It was they who identified the ‘lion’-type coin as being different from those of the Satavahana or ‘Andhra’ dynasty (Reddy and Reddy 1985). Most of which were found stray between Dharanikota and Amaravati. “Maha Sada, Siri Sada, Shiva Sada and Sivamaka Sada” are among the names recorded on these coins (Bhandare, S., 2016). The coins were identified as Mahameghavahana coins (hence the monograph's title) by Reddy and Reddy after an inscription from Guntupalli was found that records the ruler as a member of the Mahameghavahana family.

As a result of P.R.K. In Prasad’s publications (Prasad 1993), the Sadas have finally entered the numismatic scene of Amaravati. Reddy and Reddy as well as the Vaddamanu excavators reported on these coins in the past. The curator of the Archaeological Museum at Amaravati also noted another coin of Asaka Sada in its collection (Prasad 1993), who’s contents largely consist of finds excavated at that site.

It’s Importance:

- India's history can mostly be reconstructed through numismatics, as well as through inscriptions as the first source.
- A coin is generally found in a hoard when digging a field, building a building, or constructing a road.
- A relatively small number of coins are found in systematic excavations, but these coins are very valuable because they can be dated and placed within the cultural context of their discovery.
- Punch-marked coins are the oldest coins. Both copper and silver versions are available. Furthermore, some gold punch-marked coins were also found, but their authenticity cannot be ascertained due to their rarity.

- Silver and copper were also used for the Indo-Greek coins, but rarely gold.
- Gold and copper were the most common metals used by the Kushanas, whereas silver was seldom used.



- There are numerous gold Gupta coins among those minted in gold and silver.
- India's earliest coins are punch-marked and bear (only) symbols on them. These symbols are often overlapped, with each punched separately.
- In addition to Taxila and Magadha, coin marks have also been found as far south as Mysore and other locations. Neither inscriptions nor legends have been found on them.
- Beautiful artistic features can be seen on the Indo-Greek coins. It appears that the king's bust or portrait is actually a real portrait of the king, but on the reverse, some deity is depicted.
- Through their coins, we learned about the Saka-Parthian kings.
- Most north Indian cities and states up to Bihar contain Kushana coins, mostly gold and copper.
- From the very beginning, there was an Indian influence, as Lord Siva stood beside a bull on Vima Kadphises.
- Mahesvara, meaning devotee of Siva, is the name of the king on the coins. There are coins depicting this figure from Kanishka to Huvishka to Vasudeva, etc.
- In addition to depicting many Indian deities, Kushana coins also depicted Greek and Persian deities.
- Imprinting coins had been a tradition of the Kushanas until the Guptas took over. They introduced Indian coinage.
- In the paintings, the kings are shown hunting lions or rhinoceroses, performing Ashvamedha yajna, holding bows and battle-axes, or playing musical instruments.

Discussion and Conclusion

In the area between the rivers Godavari and Krishna, the Satavahanas were the early kings. These kings are also known as the Andhras. Western-Deccan as well as Central India were soon under their control. A number of dates are cited for their rise to power, ranging from 270 BC to 30 BC. The majority of their coins were composed of copper and lead, but it is also known that they had silver issues. Often, these coins featured motifs from nature, such as hills, trees or elephants, juxtaposed against motifs from fauna like lions, elephants, bulls, horses, etc. In addition to portraits and bilingual legends, Satavahana coins bore designs inspired by Kshatrapa types.



Coins of Krishna Godavari region

Rivers were a significant source of freshwater in ancient India and most civilizations flourished nearby. Agricultural activity, irrigation, drinking water, and so on depended on rivers, and these rivers were sacred and worshipped. Having clean water was essential for survival at that time since rivers were the only source of water. In those days, copper was the primary currency, an element essential for human health. Cu would slowly dissolve in the water once thrown in the river and a person who drinks it would be able to optimize the metal's absorption by their body. Moreover, copper also removed all the dirt from the river, freeing up fresh and clean water. The age-old tradition of throwing coins in the river persists today, even though modern currencies do not contain copper. Numismatic studies thus play an important role in re-examining and reconstructing history.

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