

LEGACY OF NUMISMATICS IN ANCIENT KANYAKUMARI

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Introduction:

Kanyakumari is a historic authentic place. It has the significance of historic traditional things. Numismatics is scientific analytical of money and the study related with throughout history. Based on numismatics, the economic tendency social life of the ancient Kanyakumari people and the prosperity of the country, political condition were exhibited. From the period of Age of Aye Kingdom to Travancore chieftains the coin were excavated by the government. In 1938 archaeological excavation was happened at karuppukottai, in 1945 at Vellimalai. But not more than enough information was brought by the excavation report. This article is describe about the Numismatics of Kanyakumari.

Coins of Aye Kings:

From the Sangam age Aye Kings were ruled over the region of Kanyakumari. They are the enormous rulers. During the time “Rasi” gold coins were printed in the mints. It was called as “Rasi”¹ one side of the coin a conch was printed. The wait of coin is 58/10 “Nelmani”. It was measure by Sir. W. Ealite. Beyond that “Rasi” is a land measurement symbol of North Travancore.

Coins of the Early Pondiyas

The Early Pondiyas were extent their boundaries upto Kanyakumari from 8th century to 10th century. So the Pondiyan country coins were circulated in the region of Kanyakumari. Varaguna Pondiya was ruled Kanyakumari from 862 to 880. He was published various type of the coins. One side the figures of two fishes

were printed. And another side his name was printed as “*Sree varagunan*”² in the language of Grandarm. The coin was in the shape of round.

Sree Maran Sree Vallaban was the son of Pondiyan Nedun Chadayan. He was invaded and occupied the Vizhangam. He was published copper coins. In the coin, a name “*Avaniba Segava Kologalan*”³ was printed. Koon Pondiyan who was printed copper coins. He was ruled from 624 to 674. In the copper coin, one side a human figure was printed in the stage of side and another standing stage of human figure was printed. And his name “*Koon Pondiyan*”⁴ also printed.

Maravarman Sundara Pondiya I was published copper coin. In the coin “□□” Tamil letter was printed. It was mentioned the name of Sundara Pondiyan⁵. And two figure of fishes were printed between the figures of Bouquet.

Coins of Later Cholas

Paranthaga chola was captured Kanyakumari in 907 AD. 10th and 11th centuries the later cholas were ruled the region of Kanyakumari. Paranthaga Chola I was published a coin, known as “*Ealakalanchu*” (or) “*Eala karum kasu*”⁶.

RajaRaja I was published a copper coin. In the coin, the foot of Vishnu and the standing stage of the figure of king was printed. In another side, his name was printed by the language of Nagari. The name “*Malai Nadu Konda Cholan*”⁷ was printed in the copper coins of RajaRaja I

During the period of Chola Pandia, the Cholas coins were circulated in the region of Kanyakumari. Sundara Chola Pondiya was published gold coins. The name of the coin is “*Kalanchu*”⁸. The “*Kalanchu*” was measure by “*Maattu*” Twenty “*Kalanchu*” is equal to nine “*Mattu*”

Veera Pandiya was published copper coins in 12th century. In the coin the king’s figure was printed in standing stage and in the below of his left there were

more than three dots are printed. The another side figures of two fishes were printed⁹. Between the fishes the figure of lamb fixed to a stand was printed, scepter and the name “*Veera Pondiya*” was printed. These coins were known as “*Tiramam*”. The King selva Pondiya was published the coins name are known as “*Tiramam*”, “*Maadu*”, “*Klanachu*”, “*Kassu*”, “*Aachu*”¹⁰.

Coins of 14th Century

In the 14th century Kerala Ravi Varma Kulasagavan was published copper coins. In the coin figure of two elephant, two fishes and the name Kulasagavan was printed.

Coin of Venad Kings

In the 15th century the Venad king was published the coin of “*Kaliuga Ramar Panam*”. In the coin, Footh of Vishnu and Umbrella Venkorra and the name “*Kaliyuga Raman*” was printed¹¹.

Coins of 16th Century

During the period of 16th century the Portugeez were dominate the Tamil people. At the time a Tamil king VengalaRasam was ruled Samikattuvilai at Kanyakumari¹². He was published two type of coins in bronzes in the coins the figure of Siva Linga, figure of Weels and a word “*Vengala*” was printed¹³.

Coin of Travancore

Kanyakumari region was considered as the part of South Travancore. It concern by the rulers of Travancore chieftains. They were published various coins. That were circulated in the various places of Kanyakumari.

Gold coins

The king leave the habit of Dulabanam. They donate the Gold bar as equant to their weight. And it was given to the hands of Bramins. The Gold bar

coins as known as “*Anantha royan panam*” and “*Anantha Varagan*”. Anatha Rayan “*Oru Panam*” and Arai Panam was printed during the period of Karthigai. Tirunal Ramavarma. The equalent currency of British for AnathaRayan is 0-4-7 and 3-15-5. In the Gold coins the figure of Cronic was printed. And the name “*Sree Padman*”¹⁴ was printed in Malayalam. In 1869 the gold coins were measure as “*Nelmanigal*” in the count of 78.65, 39.32.19.66 and 9.83. In 1877 the coins of “*Vavagan*”, “*Arai Vavagan*” was printed¹⁵.

Silver coins

In 1809, Divan Ummini Thambi was published “*Two Sakara and “half Sakkara*” Silver Coins. In the coins cronic and “*Salaman*” symbol was printed. And the name Padmanabhan was printed in the language of Malayalam.

In 1900, two “*Sakava*” Silver coin was published. It is known as “*kasu*”, the equalent money of British currency is $1/456$ ¹⁶.

Copper coins

In 1848 the copper coins also published. The equalant money of “*kasu*” to “*Sakkara*” is

1 “*kasu*” - copper coin

4 “*kasu*” - $\frac{1}{4}$ “*Sakkara*”

8 “*kasu*” - $\frac{1}{2}$ “*Sakkara*”

12 “*kasu*” - 1 “*Sakkara*”

4 “*Samara*” - 1 “*fanam*”

7 “*fanam*” - 28 “*Sakkara*”¹⁷

Coins of Dutch

In the 17th century the Dutch people were lived at Colachel. They used the coin of “*Naacoor Saligal*”. It is manufactured in copper. In the coin a letters “*V.O.C*” was printed. The figure of Lion and shield also printed in the coin. This coin was circulated between 1727 to 1741 in the region of Kanyakumari¹⁸, and they published the gold coin “*Pacoda*”. In the coin the figure of Vishnu and the word “*Devasham Pattanam*” was printed¹⁹.

Coins of British East Indian Company

The British East Indian Company also published copper coins. In the coins figures of George II and George I was printed. In another side the figure of Lion, Shield and the name “East India Company” was printed²⁰. The measurement of coin is One “*Sakkara*”, half “*Sakkava*”. Another type of coin in “*Sanan Kasu*” (or) “*Kavadi kasu*”. In the coin the figure of a Soil Pot was hanged in the Shoulder of a man was printed²¹.

Conclusion

Numismatics is an important allied part of history. It gives the wider and correct includes of historical and social events. In the region of Kanyakumari the property is measured by the coins from Sangam age to Travancore Chieftains period. Most of the coin were deals about the religious condition of ancient Kanyakumari.

End Notes

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