

Coins from Tranquebar Waters Tamil Nadu

Numismatics is a science relating to the study of coins which throw light on the political and religious history of the kingdom. Before the appearance of coinage, India passed through a long period of simple exchange systems such as barter, gift, and presentation. India is known for a large variety of coins distinguished by regional, cultural and linguistic features and political association. Coins are also a valuable source for historical research.

The prominent metals used for Indian coinage are gold, silver, copper and lead. Metal alloys were also used particularly in coastal areas.

Metalwise distribution of the coins from Tranquebar is:

Gold 3, Silver 2, Copper 95, Lead 7

Particulars:

Sl. No.	Metal	Size	Weight	Obverse	Reverse	Dynasty	Period
1.	Copper	1.70	2.29	Crude standing figure	Crude sitting figure	Chola	10 th C.
2.	Copper	1.15	1.14	DVC	Nahapattinam in Tamil (three lines.)	Dutch	18 th - 19 th C.
3.	Copper	0.20	0.61	Within a circle crown below F4	within a circle crown below DOC	Danish	17 th C.
4.	Lead	0.30	2.19	Within a circle DC engraved	Within a circle C5	Danish	17 th C.

Chola Coins

There is a crude standing figure on the obverse and a crude sitting figure with the legend Sri Rajaraja in Devanagari script can be seen on the reverse. These coins were issued by the Chola King Rajaraja I (985-1014 AD).

Dutch Coins

On the obverse of the Dutch coins which are mostly of copper is the company name V. O. C. (vercenigde Oost Indische Compagnie) and on the reverse the name of the mint 'Nahapattinam' in three lines in

Tamil script is mentioned. They must have been issued from Nagapattinam.

Danish Coins

The Danish coins which are mostly of copper and lead belong to the Dansk Ostindisk Compagni (Danish East India Company). On the obverse is the crown and the name of the issuer in a circle. On the reverse crown is repeated and the value of the coin is mentioned along with the company name D. O. C. (Dansk Ostindisk Compagni). On some coins the date of issue 1788 is also visible.

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