ISSN No: 2249-894X

Monthly Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Review Of Research Journal

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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2249-894X

Review Of Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE





IMPORTANCE OF COINS OF THE BAHMANI KINDOM

DR. SUBHASCHANDRA DODDAMANI

Lecturer in History

Abstract:

Within a wide span of about 2,700 Years of the historic period of india. Many kingdoms rose and fell in different parts of the country some of them were big enough to attain the expanse of an empire occupying an area of only a few square miles. But all the states with many ruling dynasties within them, and many kings within the dynasties issued their own coins, as such the country with then extended from the Himalayas to cape comorin and from the tip of Burma to the Arabian sea, possesses a vast historical treasure of many thousands of varieties of coins in various metals.

KEYWORDS:

ruling dynasties, historical documents, Indian occupations.

INTRODUCTION:

These coins in their own time faithfully served the purpose for which they were made. But beyond that they still retain their value and importance. They provide any almost unparalleled series of historical documents. They conjure up before use the life and times of those who had issued them. They weave of the extra of the history into there being and do not simply illustrate it. They furnish us true information. In India we do not possess much literature of the ancient period which can serve as historical evidence in the modern sense. Such as we have dose not reveal many fact about the rulers, their names, dynasties, their thought and actions. But we find this fact well illustrated in many instances on our coins. So coins have a great importance for the study if the history of our land.

COINS OF BAHUMANI DYNASTY

Central Deccan and some parts of south India had come under the control of the sultans of Delhi. When alauddin Khilji and Muhammad Tughlak invaded that region . but none of them stayed there for long. They had appointed their provincial governors there, just as in the north. These governors soon become independent of the hegemony of Delhi. Two New muslim states came out of the south Indian occupations of the Delhi sultans. On of them was established in the other in central Decan and came to be Known as the Bahumani dynasty.

Like the other provinces of the Delhi Sultanate, the province of the Deccan also revolted. After a series of revolts . a series of revolts extending over four years it finally severed its relations with Delhi in 1346-47 in that year ismail relations with royal authority over Deccan and took the title if nasiruddin ismail shah and issued some copper coins in the style of delhi coinage with the simple legend Nasiruddin Ismail

Title: IMPORTANCE OF COINS OF THE BAHMANI KINDOM Source:Review of Research [2249-894X] DR. SUBHASCHANDRA DODDAMANI yr:2013 vol:2 iss:4



Shah Abdul Fath. His coins weighed in the Proximity of 54 gains. He enjoyed authority only for a short period of about a year, abdicating in favour of zafar khan who founded the bahamani dysnasty which ruled till 1518 thereafter for a few years more the pretensions of royalty were kept alive by members of the dynasty.

Coins in gold silver is scarce copper is by the bahamani sultans while gold is scarce copper is profuse of the seventeen rulers of the dynasty gold coins are known of nine Muhammad shah I (1358-1375) mujahid shah (1375-1378) Muhammad ahmad shah II (1435-1457) Firoz shah (1397-1442) ahmed shah II (1435-1457) humayun Shah(1457-1461) ahmed Shah III (1461-1463) Muhammad Shah III (1463-1482) and Mohmud Shah(1482-1518) the coins of all the rulers except mujahid shah and feroz shah follow the standard weight of the tankah of the Delhi sultans i.e 170 gains. These two rulers adopted the weight of the dinar of Muhammad tughalaq i.e 197 gains silver coins were issued by all the rulers except the last two waliullah and kalimullah

who were nominal sultans they all uniformly weight 170 gains. A two third tankah of 110 gains was issued by mujahid shah and Muhammad shah II. Still smaller coins of 27 and 17 gains were issued by Bahaman shah and Muhammad shah I, the early rulers. Copper coins were issued by all rulers denominations very in weight and are of a number of denominations. While the earlier rulers and issued to have followed the weight standard of 57 gains and issued coins of its multiples or sub multiples the coins after firoz shah mrked a radical change. A big coin of about 255 gains was introduced and its weight gradually increase during the reigns of the subsequent rulers. The sub multiples of this coin were also issued.

The early bahamni rulers adopted the pattern of the delhi coinage. The silver and copper coins of the first ruler Bahaman shah are very much similar to the khilji and tughalaq coins in their from and execution. He adopted the khilji legends word for on both sides of his coins, only the name Bahaman shah was substituted for Muhammad shah. But his son Muhammad shah I gave altogether new legends to his coins he called himself on his coins sultan ul ahd wa zaman hami u millat I rasul ir rahman (the king of the land and time supporter of the community of the apostle of the merciful) the other titles he used were al muwayyid bi nasr I allah (helper of the cause of god) and abu muzaffarI the father of victory) the latter title was reyained invariably by all the succeeding rulers. mujahid shah seems to have reverted to the delhi conger for the inscriptions of his coins. He retained the title al muwayyid bi nasr I allah and added to it yaman ul khilafat nasri amir al momnin (right hand of the khilafat helper of the commander of the muslims) the title of the khiljis on the coins of the subsequent rulers no such epithets are found that could show their belief in the khilafat however almost all the rulers grandiloquent high sounding and awe inspiring epithets on their coins the title sultan is found along with the names of the rulers and missing on the coins sometimes the name of the father of those of both father and grandfather are added on the coins along with the name of the issuing king.

The bahamani kingdom was practically extinct in 1490 sovereign power was seized either by the four provincial governors fatehullah imad ul mulk ahmad nazam ul mulk yusuf adil khan and sultan qual aub ul mulk or by amir barid the minister of the central government yet the coins show that the bahamani rule continued to be held in great esteem in the eyes of the subjects and the governors who were virtually independent rulers in their respective province did not dare for a along time to issue coins their own name coins continued to be issued in the names of the nominal sultans and as shadowy bahamani rulers but were also issued for some time after the death of the last ruler kalimullah.

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