

INDO DANISH COINS

T. N. RANGA CHARI.

AND

T. DESIKA CHARI.

1120

Obverse.—Similar to the last.

Reverse.—The monogram D.A.C., in larger and bolder characters than in the last, with a sort of ornamental work above the monogram and the numeral 4 standing for 4 kash beneath it.

We have in our cabinet also two other coins of this reign, weighing 22 and 7·2 grains, respectively. Both these seem to have suffered much from circulation, so much so that the only thing clearly visible on either of them is the monogram of the king on one side (Fig. 10). A comparison of the weights of these coins, with Fig. 7, making allowances for the decrease in weight caused by wear, seems to establish the fact that this coin is a IV KASH piece, while the two last are 2 and 1 kash, respectively.

The next king of Denmark was Frederick V, who came to the throne in 1746. It may be of interest to know that he married Princess Louisa, the daughter of the king of England.

Coins of this king in our cabinet are of two sizes: the smaller of the two is a one-kash piece, being nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of the weight of the larger, which is nearly equal in weight to that of the 4 kash pieces of Christian VII and his successors.

Fig. 9.—We have two coins of this size.

Average weight: 39·7 grains.

Obverse.—The monogram of the king.—The letter F and the numeral 5 being combined and surmounted by a neatly executed crown which is however much worn on the specimen figured.

Reverse.—The monogram D.A.C. with the date distributed on either side and the numeral 4 underneath. The reading of the date furnishes the year 176—with a gap, which may be supplied by any digit under 7, Frederick V having died in 1766.

Another issue of this king weighs 9·2 grains. Its obverse and reverse are very similar to the last; the only difference

being that the numeral 1 appears in the place of the 4 under the monogram, to denote the value of the coin,—1 KASH.

Of Christian VII we have a fairly long series of coins in copper and silver. We have not been able to find any gold issues of the Danish mint, nor have we as yet heard of issues in silver before Christian VII. Copper coins of his, as far as we know, consist of IV and II kash pieces, the latter being rarely met with. There are two types of these coins, one evidently earlier than the other.

Fig. 11.—X KASH of the earlier type, weighing 92·55 grains.

Obverse.—The monogram of the king—two linked C's with the numeral 7 combined with each—surmounted by a crown.

Reverse.—The monogram of the Company—D.A.C.—surmounted by a crown; under the monogram in a line is inscribed X. K.A.S. The next line consists of an A. probably intended to denote anno: and the date, the reading of which gives us 177—.

Fig. 12.—A four-kash piece of the older type.

Obverse.—The monogram of the king—a single C. enclosing the numeral 7—surmounted by a crown.

Reverse.—The monogram of the Company with the date distributed on either side and the 4 again under the monogram. The reading of the date furnishes the year 1770,—5 years after the accession of Christian VII. We have also a coin of 1771, both being in a tolerably good state of preservation.

A two-cash piece of this king in our collection is as follows:

Weight: 17·2 grains.

Obverse.—The monogram of the king C. VII as in the last.

Reverse.—The monogram of the Company—D.A.C.—with the date distributed on either side and the numeral 2

underneath. This numeral 2 occupies the same place as that of the 4 in the 4 kash pieces referred to.

We next come to the later variety of the coins of this reign.

Fig. 13.—X KASH of Christian VII.

Weight : 88·7 grains.

Obverse.—The monogram of the king C. VII—single C enclosing the numeral 7—under a crown.

Reverse.—X. KAS. in large characters with the date under the inscription, the reading of which gives the year 1786.

Fig. 14.—Average weight : 36·6.

Obverse.—The monogram of the king—C. VII—surmounted by a crown.

Reverse.—IV KAS. and date.

These IV KASH pieces continued to be issued during the following reigns, bearing the monogram of the reigning monarch till 1845, when Tranquebar ceased to be in Danish hands.

Those in our cabinet are of the following years :—1788, 1790, 1797, 1800, 1816, 1817, 1820, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1835, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, and 1845.

We have already seen that the Danish possessions in India were for a time (1808—1814) in English hands. We have of course not seen or heard of any coins struck during this period, as the mint naturally suspended operations.

On examining the two varieties of the coins of Christian VII, we find that the earlier bear, on the reverse, the monogram of the Company and the date, while the later variety, still preserving the same obverse, bear on the reverse the value of the coin, viz. X or IV KAS. and the date. This change seems to have taken place at the end of the last century between 1771 and 1780, for we have in our cabinet

a 4 KASH of 1771 of the former type and a IV KASH of 1780 of the latter, and we have seen a IV KASH of the later style bearing the date 177—.

Silver coins of Christian VII are of two sizes, the larger being exactly twice the smaller in weight.

Fig. 15, larger size.

Weight: 39·5 grains.

Obverse.—The monogram of the king, C. VII.—under a crown.

Reverse.—A word which appears to be 'ROVALIN' or 'ROYALIN,' over what looks like a globe or a coat-of-arms, the date being distributed on either side thereof. The reading of the date gives the year 179—the last digit being obliterated. Coins of this size are very rare.

Fig. 16, smaller size.

Obverse.—Same as last.

Reverse.—The same word over the coat-of-arms, (?) the date 1784 being distributed on either side. We have not been able to make out the meaning of this word Rovalin. These silver pieces would appear to be fanams and half fanams. Dr. P. Kelly, in his *Universal Cambyst* (1821), says that 8 fanams went to a Danish Rupee and a rupee was worth $24\frac{3}{8}d.$ sterling; and, according to a calculation given by him, a fanam would weigh a little more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ dwts., which is the weight of the coin figured as No. 15. These coins are also rare.

We have never met with any Danish Rupees in the course of our coin hunting. Our earliest silver coin bears the date 1770, and the latest 1793. It is probable that the silver coins began to be issued simultaneously with the later type of IV KASH pieces of Christian VII; X cash pieces of Christian VII in silver occur but are rare; we have a specimen of this coin, but the inscription on it is too far gone to be decipherable.

Frederick VI, as crown prince for some years, administered the affairs of the State conjointly with his father. In 1808 he became sole ruler.

Fig. 17.—X KASH of Frederick VI.

Average weight: 90·6 grains; but the specimen figured weighs as much as 97·9 grains.

Obverse.—The monogram of the king—consisting of F. R. with the Roman numeral VI beneath—surmounted by a crown.

Reverse.—X. KAS. and date.

We have X. KASH pieces of this reign, bearing the following dates:—1816, 1822 and 1839, and we have heard of one bearing the date 1838.

Fig. 18.—A fair representative of a long series of coins (1808-1839) weighing on an average 37·96 grains.

Obverse.—The monogram of Frederick VI. as in Fig. 17.

Reverse.—IV KAS. and date.

There probably were two-kash pieces of C. VII. in the later form; also one-kash pieces of that king and two and one-kash pieces of his successor, though we have not come across any specimens of them.

We have also heard of a one-kash piece of Frederick VI in which however the date is gone.

Silver coins of Frederick VI and his successor seem to be very rare. Captain R. H. C. Tufnell mentions in Part II of his recent "Hints to Coin-collectors" a "2—fano" of 1816 in his cabinet, with the exception of which we have not heard of any specimen.

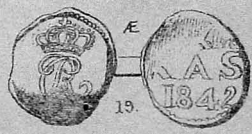
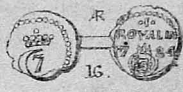
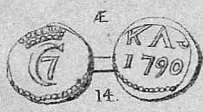
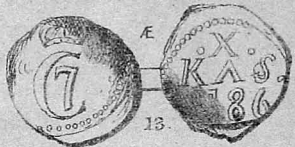
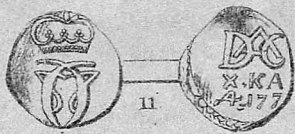
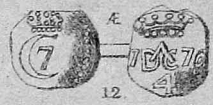
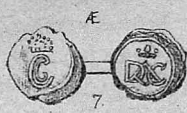
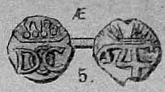
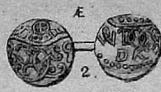
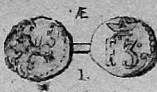
During the six years succeeding the death of Frederick VI, X and IV KASH pieces continued to be issued in the name of his successor, Christian VIII.

Figs. 19 and 20 are fairly representative specimens, bearing on the obverse the monogram of the king—C. R. and the Roman numeral VIII beneath—under a crown.

In addition to the coins above described, we have several others, which however are for the most part too much worn to be legible. All the issues of the Danes in India are now becoming very rare indeed, and it is only by laying several of the same description side by side that anything like an intelligible legend can generally be deciphered, owing to the bad state of preservation of all but the latest types. Many too have monograms so complicated in design that in the absence of a date it is impossible to know to whom to attribute them. Among those to which we are unable to assign a place is a coin similar to Tufnell, Fig. 66 ("Hints to Coin-collectors") but weighing only 16·4 grains; while the obverse bears the D.O.C. in large and well defined characters, the reverse is worn almost smooth. The coin however may belong to the reign of either Frederick IV or Christian V., probably the former, as the form of the letters differs materially from those of the latter, while the occurrence of the letter O in the monogram fixes it prior to 1746, the latest year in which that letter occurs. It is worthy of note too that hitherto so few silver coins struck by the Danes in India have been found; and of the four descriptions that are known, two are as far as we can learn unique in this country. Further search should throw more light on the subject and help to preserve in our museums and private collections a more complete record of the issues of a power whose connection with this country has now almost entirely ceased.

NOTE.

Since writing the above paper, the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum has placed at our disposal Neumann's "Beschreibung der bekanntester kupfermünzen 1863," and Weyl's "Verzeichniss von Münzen und Denkmünzen der Jules Fonrobert'schen Sammburg," where the following coins to which we have made no reference are noticed:—



CHRISTIAN IV.

1. COPPER.—*Obverse*.—The monogram of the king surmounted by a crown.

Reverse \overline{B} (Tranquebar) KAS. 164.

2. LEAD.—*Obverse*.—Same as the last.

Reverse.—Illegible.

FREDERICK III.

1. COPPER.—*Obverse*.—The monogram of the king, crowned, ANNO 1667.

Reverse.—The Norwegian lion.

2. LEAD.—*Obverse*.—The monogram of the king surmounted by a crown.

Reverse.—The arms of Jutland.

Other coins, with a similar obverse, have on the reverse—

- (a) the Gullandische lamb,
- (b) the Holstein nettleleaf,
- (c) the arms of Stormarn,
- (d) the arms of Delmenhorst,
- (e) the arms of Island,
- (f) a rose,
- (g) the letters (D.B. Dansborg) with an illegible date below.

3. LEAD.—*Obverse*.—F₃ and a crown.

Other coins, with a similar obverse, have on the reverse—

- (a) an elephant,
- (b) a cross, and
- (c) a dragon.

CHRISTIAN V.

1. SILVER.—Piaster.
2. Do. 5 and 2 FANOS of the date 1683.
3. LEAD.—*Obverse*.—Crowned monogram and date 1687.
Reverse.—DOC and the letters WHVK.
4. COPPER.—Coins of this monarch with the monogram C, doubled, of the dates 1691, 1692, 1693 and 1694.

FREDERICK IV.

1. SILVER.—Single and double FANOS.
2. COPPER.—X KAS.
Obverse.—The monogram of the king F₄ doubled and surmounted by a crown.
Reverse.—DOC X KAS.
3. COPPER.—IV KAS.
Obverse.—Crowned monogram.
Reverse.— \overline{B} (Tranquebar).

CHRISTIAN VI.

1. SILVER.—Single and double FANOS of 1731.
2. COPPER.—KASH.
Obverse.—The monogram C₆ crowned.
Reverse.— \overline{B} (Tranquebar).
3. Do. Coin similar to the above with date 1732.
4. Do. 1 KAS.
Obverse.—Crowned monogram C₆ date 1730.
Reverse.—The Norwegian lion surrounded by a ring of dots.
5. Do. 2 KAS similar to the 4 KAS of this period with the numeral 2 instead of 4.

FREDERICK V.

1. SILVER. Double and single Royalins of 1755 and 1756.
2. Do. Single Royalin of 1762, 1765 and 1766.
3. Do. Double and single Ducats of 1746 and Piaster of 1749.

CHRISTIAN VII.

1. GOLD.—Pagoda.
Obverse.—C₇ on a granulated surface.
Reverse.—The figure of a diety.
2. SILVER.—Single Royalins of 1773, 1775, 1776, 1780, 1781, 1786, 1788 and 1792.
3. Do. Double Royalins of 1775, 1776, 1781, 1787, 1796, and 1807.

4. COPPER.—Earlier X KAS of 1768, 1770, 1772 and 1777.
Do. Later X KAS of 1782, 1786, 1788 and 1790.
Do. 2 KAS of 1770 and 1780.
Do. 1 KAS of 1777 and 1780.

FREDERICK VI.

1. SILVER.—Single FANO of 1816 and 1818.
2. COPPER.—1 KAS of 1819, similar to iv KAS.

A NOTE ON THE FIRST ENGLISH COINAGE AT BOMBAY.

THE early history of the British Indian currency is a subject which invites the attention of some one who, with a competent knowledge of numismatics, has sufficient leisure to make an exhaustive examination of the contemporary records, particularly those of the East India Company now preserved in the India Office at Westminster. The present writer possesses neither qualification, and all that is here attempted is to render available some hitherto unpublished extracts from the India Office records, which throw light on the first distinctively English coinage in India, and incidentally correct the date usually accepted for that issue.

It is hardly necessary to remind the reader that the island of Bombay was ceded to England by Portugal in 1661, as part of the very miscellaneous dowry of Charles II's consort, Catherine of Braganza; that, after many disputes and delays, it was actually handed over to the King's representative in February, 1665; and that in March, 1668, His Majesty, by letters patent, transferred it to the East India Company, whose servants took possession of it in the following September. The acquisition of this island gave the Company's factors on the West Coast what they had long desired—a settlement of their

own, which they could fortify and administer in their own fashion, free from the interference and extortion to which they were always liable in native territory; and although for twenty years longer Surat remained the head-quarters of the Western Presidency, yet all that time Bombay was being nursed into greatness as the future centre of English trade on that coast. From the first, careful schemes for its development were thought out both in India and in England; and one of the earliest of these was a plan for the establishment there of an English currency which, besides meeting local needs, would, it was hoped, gradually win its way into general use for purposes of trade in other parts of India.

The first intimation of such a plan is contained in a letter from the Company to their servants at Surat, dated February 22, 1671, in which they say—

“Wee doe thinck it convenient for us to have a coyne of our owne there [at Bombay]. Wee would have you therefore consider of such a coyne, soe as it bee not our Kings Majesties or any stampe resembling the same, and of such sorts as will best suite with the traffique and exchange of the country, both in bigger and lesser speties. And if you shall find it necessary to have for change a small sort of copper coyne, let it apeare to be what it is; but what you shall coyne of gold or silver, let it have an intrinsique value as to what it is stampt for, that it may be to our honor and the begetting and preserving the esteeme thereof. But wee would not have you coyne any copper or other inferiour mettall before you coyne gold or silver, for to begin with that would be a disparagement to us.”

Nothing seems to have been done to carry out these instructions before the summer of 1672, when President

“The mint for gold and silver also, when well settled, will turne to some advantage, but wee cannot proceed therein without possitive order from you. The copper and tinn coyne goe currant in these partes, but that of copper of farre greater expence then the tinn.”

Meanwhile, however, the Company at home were somewhat exercised as to the right of their servants to coin and issue money without specific authority from the Crown. This was secured in 1676 by the grant of letters patent, dated October 5 in that year, by which the East India Company were permitted to coin in Bombay and its precincts moneys of gold, silver, copper, tin, lead, or any metal compounded of these, to be current in the East Indies, and to be called *rupees*, *pieces*, and *budgrooks*, or any other names the Company might adopt, provided they were not the names of any coins current in the King's dominions. The grant of this privilege was intimated by the Company to Surat in March, 1677, and in the same year a rupee was struck at Bombay bearing the royal arms and the legend, “By authority of Charles the Second.” Evidently no attempt was made to continue Aungier's fanciful nomenclature, for the coin is stamped, “The Rupee of Bombaim.” With this the regular issue of dated coins appears to have begun.

