

SOME COPPER COINS ISSUED BY THE ENGLISH
EAST INDIA COMPANY AND OTHER EUROPEAN
POWERS IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

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THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

Madras Presidency.

Figs. 1 to 9.—Copper coins of the East India Company, probably coined in Madras as they are not found outside that presidency.

Obverse.—The bale-mark of the East India Company surrounded by a beaded circle.

Reverse.—Crossed lines and symbols.

The date ۷۱۱۱ سنه "Year A.H. 1117" = A.D. 1705, occurs on Figs. 4 and 5, and is written from right to left, instead of from left to right—evidently an error.

Eleven specimens were procured in Madras in 1892.

These crossed lines and symbols are frequently found on the reverses of Mysore and other Hindu coins, and were doubtless intended by the Company to make their issues as nearly as possible resemble those of the native princes. It is interesting to note that when the British obtained the grant of Madras in 1640, from one of the descendants of the ancient kings of Vijayanagar, the right of coining money was restricted by the proviso that the pattern in use during his dynasty should be followed. As the natives of India dislike change in the form of currency, it is probable that these coins would not have been accepted if they had not been somewhat similar, and possibly this accounts for these wretched little pieces which disgraced the English mints in India at this period.

Figs. 10 and 11.—


Obverse.—☪ = Sri, "Fortune."


Reverse.—கம்பனி = Kumpani, Tamil for "company."

These copper coins are figured by Dr. Hultsch in the *Indian Antiquary* for November, 1892, who remarks that the word "Sri" and "Sriranga" are the names of a celebrated shrine of Vishnu near Trichinopoly, and are also used as epithets of the God Vishnu himself. The reverses were "probably selected by the Company with the view of making their coin popular with the native public, and of matching the image of Vishnu, which was engraved on all the Madras pagodas."

Figs. 12, 13, and 14.—

Obverse.—An orb, surmounted by a cross.

Reverse.—, "Sri."

, "Ranga."

These small copper coins are also figured as No. 26, by Dr. Hultsch under the same reference; the three specimens in my cabinet were given to me by him, and were found on the sea shore at St. Thomé, near Madras, having been cast up by the tide. A very similar coin is described by Atkins, p. 140, No. 34, which has the figure 78 inscribed on the lower portion of the orb, and has the addition of a double line between the two lines of the legend on the reverse.

Fig. 15.—

Obverse.—The bale-mark of the Company, *viz.*, a heart-shaped shield surmounted by the figure 4, and divided by a saltire, or St. Andrew's cross, into four compartments, which contain respectively the letters V.E.I.C., *i.e.*, United East India Company.

Reverse.—The date 1710.

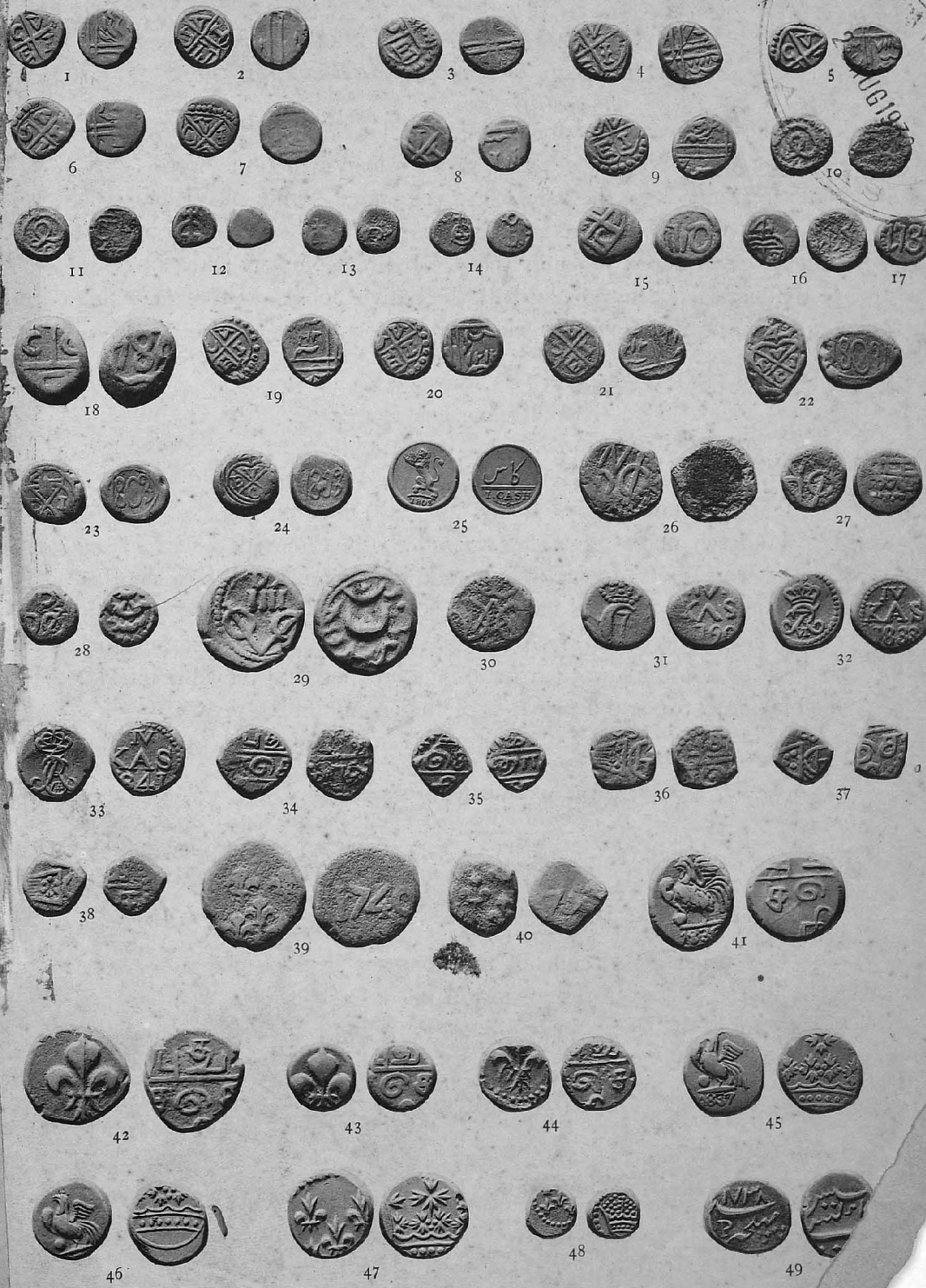
The earliest dated coins of the Company in the Catalogue of the coins in the Madras Museum are a thick copper coin bearing the monogram of the Company and date, 1732, and a small thin coin dated 1733.

*Figs. 16 and 17.—*As No. 15, but date 1733.

Fig. 18.—

Obverse.—Orb and cross inscribed $\frac{C. C.}{E}$ another form of the monogram of the East India Company.

Reverse.—The date [1]786 with a wavy line below.



18 AUG 1908

LONDON STEREOGRAPHIC CO.

COINS ISSUED BY THE BRITISH, DUTCH, DANES AND F
IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

The earliest coin of this issue bears the date 1702, and the latest, 1801, the series thus ranging over exactly a century.

Figs. 19, 20, and 21.—

Obverse.—The bale-mark of the East India Company within a beaded circle.

Reverse.—Crossed lines with ۱۲۱۲ سنه = "Year 1212 A.H., i.e., A.D. 1797."

Figs. 22 and 23.—

Obverse.—Bale-mark of the East India Company.

Reverse.—The date 1803.

Similar coins bear date 1807.

Fig. 24.—As Figs. 22 and 23, but half the weight—evidently half-cash : 5 specimens.

"Discussion has arisen as to the origin and meaning of the 4 (which surmounts the monogram of the company, V.E.I.C.), but as a reference to the handbooks of the mercantile tokens of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries proves the same mark to be of very common occurrence on the pieces struck by tradesmen of those periods, I think there is every reason to regard it as merely a trade mark."¹

Fig. 25.—

Obverse.—A lion to the left, holding a crown, date 1803 below plain rim on face.

Reverse.—كس "Kas," 1 cash : plain rim on face.

A shop-keeper in Bangalore in 1892 brought me a bag containing about 200 of these little coins in mint preservation.

According to Atkins these coins were made in England, the whole of the preceding pieces being doubtless of local production.

Dutch Issues.

Fig. 26.—

Obverse.—N = Negapatam.

V.O.C. = Vereinigte Ostindische Compagnie.

Reverse.—நகபட்டணம், Tamil for "Negapatam."

¹ Captain Tufnell's *Hints to Coin Collectors in Southern India.*

Fig. 27.—As *Fig. 26*, but half the weight : 4 specimens.

Fig. 28.—

Obverse.—P = Pulicat, V.O.C.

Reverse.—Said to be an emblematic sun and moon, possibly denoting permanency of rule, and an attempt at ضرب پلیکت Persian = “Struck at Pulicat.”

Fig. 29.—As No. 28, but with the addition of .1111 probably denoting 4 cash.

In 1783 Negapatam, the last Indian possession of the Dutch, was sold to the British. “When one looks at these rude caricatures of coins (and the British were not far ahead of the Dutch), and then compares them with the clear cut issues of the Moghuls and Pathans struck centuries before, fine in design and exquisite in workmanship, with every letter well defined and clear, one can hardly believe that we were posing among them as a civilised and civilising power, though for our own credit, be it said, we had not then got so far as the establishment of “Schools of Art.”¹

DANISH ISSUES.

Fig. 30.—

Obverse.—D.A.C. “Dansk, Asiatisk Compagni.” 4 below.

Reverse.—C “Christian” with 6 enclosed, crowned.

Fig. 31.—

Obverse.—C “Christian” with 7 enclosed, crowned.

Reverse.—IV KAS 1790.

The dates of the 4 cash pieces of Christian VII. are from 1782 to 1807.

Fig. 32.—

Obverse.—F.R. “Fredericus Rēx” linked and crowned. VI below

Reverse.—IV KAS 1833.

Fig. 33.—

Obverse.—C.R. “Christianus Rex” linked and crowned. VIII below.

Reverse.—IV KAS 1841.

¹ Captain Tufnell.

For a period of more than 200 years the Danish power enjoyed possession of its settlements in India, except between the years 1808 and 1814. In 1845 the Danish settlements were purchased by the British.

FRENCH ISSUES.

Figs. 34 and 35.—Dr. Hultzsch No. 30, *Ind. Antiq.*, Nov., 1892.

<i>Obverse.</i> —	புது	Pudu-	}	= Pondicherry, Tamil.
	சேச	Chche-		
	ரி	ri-		
<i>Reverse.</i> —	கா	Ka-	}	= Karikal, Tamil.
	னாகு	raik-		
	கல	kâl		

Figs. 36, 37, and 38.—

Obverse.—An emblem.

Reverse.—Pondicherry, in Tamil.

Fig. 39.—

Obverse.—Fleurs-de-lys.

Reverse.—Date 1740.

Fig. 40.—As Fig. 39 but half the weight and date [1]752.

Fig. 41.—

Obverse.—A cock and date 1836.

Reverse.—Pondicherry, in Tamil.

Fig. 42.—

Obverse.—A fleur de lys.

Reverse.—Pondicherry, in Tamil.

Fig. 43.—As Fig. 42 but half the weight

Fig. 44.—As Fig. 43 but with variation in the fleur de lys.

Figs. 45 and 46, silver.—

Obverse.—A cock and date 1837.

Reverse.—A crown.

Fig. 47, silver.—

Obverse.—Fleurs de lys.

Reverse.—Crown.

Fig. 48, silver.—As Fig. 47, but with variations in the crown and in the weight.

Fig. 49, silver.—

*Obverse.—*Pondicherry year 1738, Hindustani.

*Reverse.—*فرانس کمپنی (?)

“When we consider how extensive were the operations of the French forces in Southern India, and how wide the extent of country over which those operations were carried out, we cannot fail to be surprised at the small number of varieties of French coins struck in India. While the plodding merchants of the English East India Company were trading, building factories, and carrying out extensive mercantile transactions with the natives, leaving to their armies the defence of their rights and the extension of their territorial power, France, on the other hand, seems to have concentrated her whole energy in the operations of her forces, and to have paid comparatively little attention to the more peaceful avocations of her company.”¹

¹ Captain Tufnell.