

A SHORT NOTE ON THE COINS
OF THE ANDHRA DYNASTY FOUND
AT BATHALAPALLI ANANTAPUR Dt.

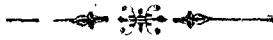
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BY Y. R. GUPTE, B.A., NASIK.

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A SHORT NOTE ON THE COINS OF THE ANDHRA DYNASTY, FOUND AT
BATHALAPALLI, ANANTPUR DISTRICT.

BY Y. R. GUPTA, B.A.; NASIK.

THE learned Professor E. J. Rapson, M.A., has, in his unique and standard book, entitled *A Catalogue of the Indian Coins in the British Museum*, assigned a different class to the lead coins found in the Anantpur and Caddapah districts (Southern India). He says:—"The lead coins from Anantpur and Caddapah districts entitle them to be regarded as a distinct class. Like the coins of Fabric B from Andhradésa, they have a 'horse' for their obverse type; but they are of rougher workmanship and they have a different reverse type l. *caitya*; r. tree. This reverse, it may be noticed, connects them with the class which is tentatively assigned in the catalogue to Feudatories of the Andhra dynasty. Indeed it is not improbable that they may belong to the same class."¹

Specimens of the coins found at Bathalapalli are also noted further in the general description:—


"Obverse.—Horse standing r. above, ; in front, spherical object. Inscription not completely read.

Reverse.—Type (usually obliterated) left, *caitya* of six arches surmounted by a crescent; r., tree within railing; both standing on a pediment ornamented with scroll and dots."²

Nine of these coins I have purchased through Mr. Henderson, Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras. I am glad to say, he has placed in my hands two coins, which, in my opinion, enable us to decide that, at least some of the coins found at Bathalapalli belong to the Andhra dynasty and not to their feudatories. They seem to be more regular in form. But so far as I know, no notice of the inscription on them is taken. Prof. Rapson says that it cannot be read. It appears that he was not fortunate enough in securing good specimens. One coin in my possession is covered with some red substance. The substance or colour—call it anything—is thick and fine, and is sufficient to preserve the coin and make it hard, so much so, that it cannot be scratched off with a penknife. But when the coating is removed, the lead yields to man's nails.

By applying impure soda (what we call *pāpadhār* in Marāṭhī), I am able to make out some words. The letters on my coin are rather small, but seem to be more carefully formed than any on the coins of the two feudatories of the Andhras, Chūṭakaḍānanda and Muḷānanda. The first word on it is *Rāño* and it is very clear. The second is *Vāsithīputasa* or *Vāsathīputasa* (the vowel is uncertain). But the letter *thi* is not as clear as one could wish, and the *va* is more ornamental than I have seen on other coins. As regards the remaining word, an eye copy of it is given below:—

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The first letter seems to be *hā*, and the second like *ta*, but the second is indistinct and puzzles me a little. The line that follows is, I believe, a portion of the pedestal on which the horse is standing. Then comes *ka*. The next letter is half lost, but the lower half that remains can be tolerably made out. The last letter appears like *sa*  but is very indistinct, the vertical portion only being visible. I would thus like to take the word as *Hātakanisa*, which, evidently stands for *Sātakanisa* so that the whole name we obtain is *rāño Vāsithīputasa Hātakanisa*.³ The coin probably belongs to *Vāsishthīputra-Sātakarṇi*, viz., the *Sātavāhana* prince of that name referred to in a *Kanherī* inscription.⁴

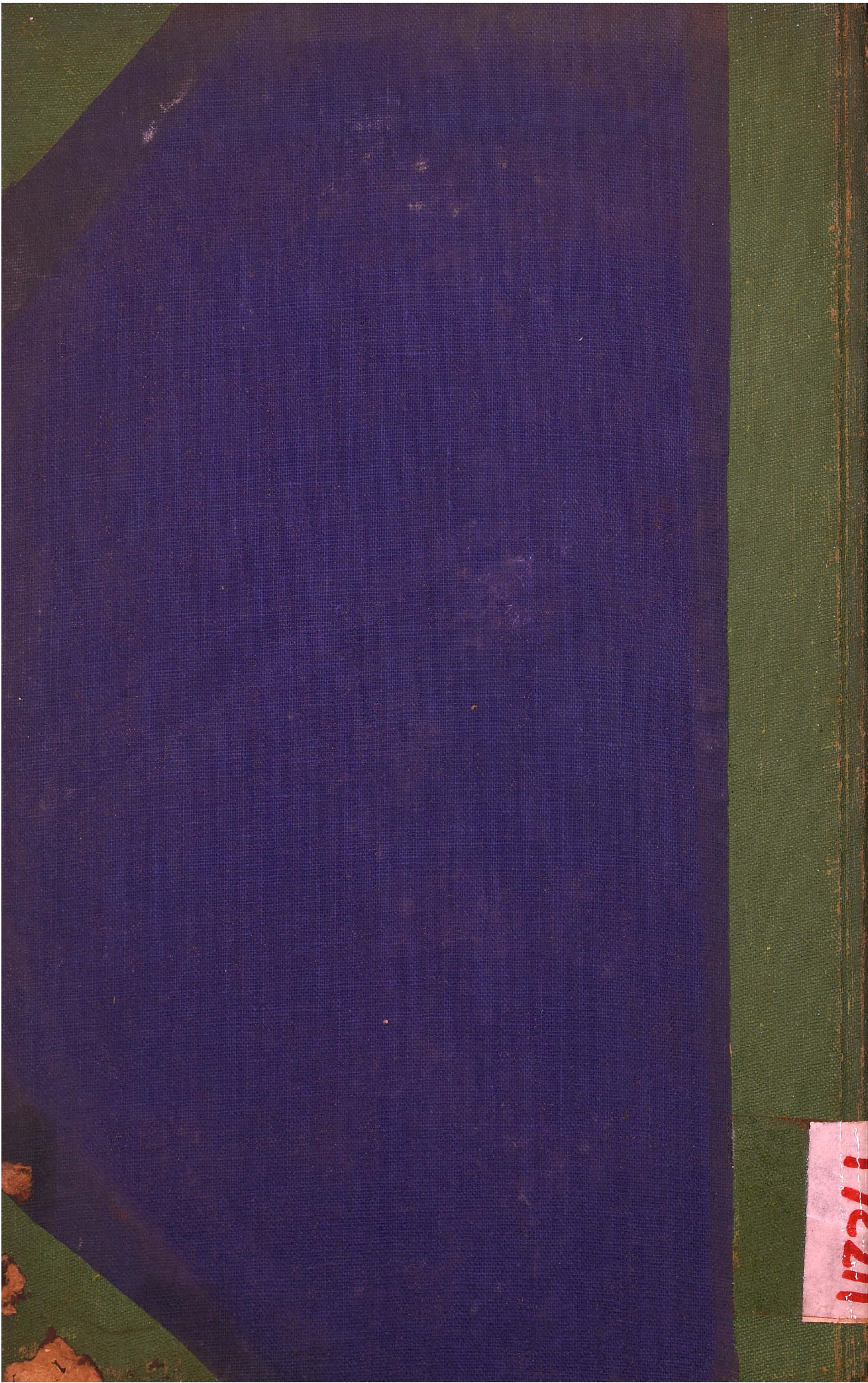
Another coin in my possession, which is a poor specimen, has *vā* on it. But nothing more can be said about it. By the bye it would not be out of place to remark that very small lead coins, or perhaps those of mixed metals having a tree on the reverse, are sometimes met with in the *Nāsik* district. The tree is just like the one found on the coins of *Mulānanda*. But the obverse I am still unable to identify.

¹ Intro., p. lxxxi.

² The coin is much worn out, and does not yield any good cast. No illustration of it is, therefore, possible. There can, however, be no doubt about the reading proposed by Mr. Gupta, except in one respect. The initial letter of the third part of the legend is not *hā*, as he says, but simply *sā* with the slanting side stroke on the proper right being very much worn out.—D R. B.

⁴ *Arch. Surv., West Ind., Vol. V, p. 78.*

³ P. 25.



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