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RESEARCH ARTICLE

**A BRIEF STUDY ON THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT COINAGE OF IMPERIAL CHOLAS WITH
INTER AND INTRA TERRITORY AND THEIR NEIGHBORING STATES**

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Abstract

The coinage of the Cholas that attempt is made to show that very close affinity which existed in cultural, language and religious development of the Dravidian powers in southern India. There is reference which made to what surely had been common origin of Cheras, Cholas and Pandyns and this is suggested that in period 200 B.C.E to 300 C.E, the power which appeared and to control destinies, The three dynasties were first power and to consolidate position in contacts that made with the other powers resulted in trading and common improvement in cultural economic and advances that followed these contacts. This was suggested also that coinage used by the Chola rulers probably consisted in copper, and also supplemented by the punch-marked coinage in gold, silver etc.

Key words: Dravidians, traditional accounts Arguments, Karikala, annexations, occupations, Western Chalukyas, Kulothunga -III Rajakesari, gradual process Coorg, Nagari,

Introduction

There are various Arguments in the support of advent of the of the Dravidians earlier than 500 B.C.E which have been advanced also by Prof, K.A, Nilakanta Sastri and others Historians who have stated that by 7th century B.C.E and they had organized themselves in to readily the noticeable communities and they were referred also to as Solan, Keralas and Pandaia,. An another and interesting traditional

accounts concerning early Dravidians in Tamil Nadu occurs in the account contained in the history which was published by the Bishop Caldwell, That three Dravidian's dynasties Cheras, Cholas and Pandias had also sprung from common origin and they can reasonably be accepted and subsequent developments into various kingdoms separately must have been fairly and gradual process.

The Cholas

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Nearly the two centuries before rise of the Vijayalayan in neighbourhood of the Tanjore there flourished Chola kingdom in Telugu areas comprise portions of the Anantapur, Cuddapah, and Kurnool whose kings traced descent from the Karikala, ancient Chola ruler. The kingdom of Chola from time of Vijayalayan (846 C.E. - 880 C.E) extended along East coastal region from the Pennar river to the Vellar river and on West reached borders of the Coorg. The limits were significantly extended with the subsequent annexations. Of the territory and which will be referred to what time considering some of conquests of the Cholas. One of earliest capitals of the Cholas was 'Manaloor' of which location is unidentified and also this was followed by the Uraiyur and they had an important great port at the Kaveripattanam otherwise called as Pugar, on West bank of Kaveri river. Later their capitals were Jayamkonda Cholapuram in Trichirapalli.

As the power of the Cholas grew and they had capitals at Kanjpuram, Kumbakonam, Tanjavore and also viceroys at Rajahmundry in North and Madurai in South. Chola ruler Vijayalaya (846 C.E -871 C.E), came to throne about middle of 9th century C.E. and was succeeded by Aditya (871 C.E - 907 C.E).

Coins of Cholas

It is generally stated that the occupations of the Cholas and conquests in the Ceylon ended in year 1070 C.E. There is an evidence however of the later invasion in the Ceylon and extract from article will be quoted as this also confirms that, actually, invasions and occupations in short duration did occur actually. A coin which is found usually in Ceylon is also possibly last coin of the Cholas issued on island in the period of Kulothunga -III (1178 C.E-1218 C.E) who invaded the Ceylon and this coin was issued possibly in 1190 C.E -1200 C.E.

The accession of Kulothunga- I, marks commencement of the new era in Chola's history. At end of century of the intermittent subordination to Cholas, Chalukyas territories of Vengi became the province of Cholas through actions of this own ruler. After Kulothunga- I become Chola emperor and Vengi was ruled consecutively by his sons as the Viceroys

and that added to strength of Chola Empire, as this ended intrigues of Western Chalukyas in the area. The Viceroys ruled in the Vengi were Rajaraja Mummadi Cholan. Veera cholan, Rajaraja chodagarigha, Vikrama chola.

The gold coins of the Chalukyan type of Dowlshwaram hoard probably were issued in these Viceroys in the Vengi, similar to Vengi coins, but in name of Kulothunga- I. The Copper coins were issued also with pose of standing King and boar and other withstanding bull and letters of Telugu Nagari and Canarese which could refer to 'Veera Vikrama'. There were also two inter marriages between Eastern Chalukyas and Cholas which could also had accounted for some of coins with Cholas standing, or also seated, figure with legend Raja Raja on several of them and boar under the umbrella on reverse.

Kulothunga I

Kulothunga- I was known also as Kedéram Konda Cholan. Kadaikonda cholan coins to be described afterward, also can thus be identified with the KulottuigaI, mainly as one of coins which has title Raja in the characters of Granth and we also know Kulothunga- I was Rajakesari, and that in the fact he was the only Rajakesari with such regnal years as are supplied by these coins. Certain various copper coins with seated bull obverse and also tripartite objects, or trifula, on reverse will be referred to under coinage and this suggests there is the sufficient evidences in supports of their have been issued by tCholas in Pegu region in Burma.

Sir Arthur Phayre who refers to coins with tripartite objects, or the Trisula of Lord Shiva on the similar coins which struck in the Arakan about 8th century. C.E and he also refers to these medals and coins and Hindus symbols on them which being found in the Pegu and which mentions that the princes of Chandra were ruling in the Arakan on that time. Other reference in the support of a connection in South India and interests in Burma in 10th and 11th centuries C.E. are quoted and to support attribution of certain copper coins of the Cholas issued for the circulation in the Burma.

A chronological lists of Cholas is very useful when the studying coinage, particularly when attempt to assign the coins to Cholas and Pandyas rulers and Viceroys in 1020 C.E -1070 C.E and later also ,when which helped Pandiyans in succession issues, or also received assistances from them at what time pressed by their enemies. When describe certain coins this will also be seen that names appear on them aren't of necessity those of the rulers of Cholas but are, actually, names of Pandiyan rulers with in Chola's empire who, as stated earlier also received assistances from them and had assisted them in difficulties of them and in the consequence ' asserted authority over Cholas and had receiving recognition by incorporation of their names on the Chola coins.

Ceylon

The legends of the Nagari on Chola coins seem also to appear very first under the Raja Raja-I replacing the legends of Grantha of earlier period of Uthama Cholas gold. Coin in in Southern India. Before enter into discussion of metals which used for coinage of Cholas in Ceylon and India , this is considered that references to so called the 'Ceylon Man' type of the C Raja Raja I coins and also his successors. The coins of Raja Raja are referred usually to as those of the Ceylon types. The adoptions of so called coin of Ceylon type by the Raja Raja, greatest emperor of his age and must be of the real significances.

Gold Coins of Cholas

The rulers of Cholas issued coins in 4 metals. The Madais coins were of the gold which also varied considerably in the purity. But in the earliest were pure gold but later coins were alloyed with silver metal until in the sum of later issues and they were of the silver only gold plated washed.

Silver Kasus

Silver Kssus which varied from the pure silver to the coins of assorted metal contained very little silver. Some of the coins were of washed and plated with copper and silver. Copper Kasus, and smaller divisions of them were of very pure bronze and copper

Conclusion

Enable this to be done, there is a reference to Chola rulers and their impact that who made in area in which rule of Cholas will be also necessary. The Relations with neighbors on the Cholas in the mail land mainland and also in Ceylon (Srilaka) and together with contacts of the Cholas with China, Indonesia, Malayasia and Burma was the important aspects in the Cholas's history. These historical and chronological details are necessary also for clearer understanding of coinage of the Cholas issued in Ceylon, Chalukyan and Pandiyans territories in and few coins that also appear to had been issued during temporary occupations of the parts of Arakan coastal region of Burma also.

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