

## A P P E N D I X - II

### PORTUGUESE COINS

We have already seen a brief account of Portuguese coinage and minting, with special reference to Bassein. Here we will see the various types of Portuguese coins, their comparative value, etc. We will consider only those coins which are related to the history of Portuguese Bassein.

#### 1. Bazaruco -

It was a copper coin which was also called leal. It valued 1.2 reis in Goa which was equal to 1/50 tanga. In 1545 D.João de Castro, replaced these coins by the earlier good coins.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2. Cruzado -

It was a gold coin valued at 360 reis in Goa in 1554 but in Portugal it was valued at 420 reis. When Afonso de Albuquerque conquered Goa in 1510, it was the first coin he minted in Goa which was also valued at 420 reis.<sup>2</sup> Its standard value was 390 reis.<sup>3</sup>

#### 3. Fedea -

It was a copper coin, which was in use during the period of Muslim rule in Bassein and remained in circulation even when Bassein came under the Portuguese control. In 1554, four Fedeas were worth one tanga. It was valued before 1546

1. Antonio Nunes, Lyvro do pesos da Ymdia, op.cit., p.31;  
Dalgado, op.cit., Vol.I, p.109.

2. Nunes, op.cit., pp. 31-32; Gaspar Correa, op.cit., Vol.II, p.76.

3. K.S.Mathew, op.cit., p.239.

as six tangas in the land leases and revenue.<sup>4</sup>

4. Larim -

It was a silver coin in the shape of a bent wire with a Persian stamp, introduced into India from Ormuz. It was valued at 60 reis.<sup>5</sup>

5. Leal -

It was a copper coin valued at 1.2 reis or 1/50 tanga. Since 1542, it was also called bazaruco. Afonso de Albuquerque minted it for the first time in Goa which valued at 48 leais equal to one tanga. The viceroy, D. Antao de Noronha (1564-1568) ordered 60 leais to be given for one tanga. But in monetary transactions, 80 or more leais were demanded for one tanga.<sup>6</sup>

6. Pagoda -

It was a gold coin with the incarnation of Vishnu as a boar, which was valued at 360 reis. It was minted in South India by a Hindu King. The Tombo geral states that the Pagoda formerly called a gold pardão, was equal to 13 baranis which was the equivalent of 360 reis.<sup>7</sup> It was known by various indigenous names such as Varsha, Javali, Hona, Hun and Suvarna.<sup>8</sup>

4. Simão Botelho, Tombo, op.cit., p.161;

Dalgado, op.cit., Vol.I, p.393.

5. Dalgado, op.cit., Vol.I, p.513;

Duarte Barobsa, op.cit., Vol.I, pp. 99-100.

6. Nunes, op.cit., p.31;

Dalgado, op.cit., Vol.I, p.524.

7. APO, Vol.V, p.326; Nunes op.cit., p.31.

8. K.S.Mathew, op.cit., p.329.

7. Pardão -

It was one of the most famous coins which were in circulation in Portuguese India during the 16th and 17th centuries. The pardãos were of two qualities - one was a gold pardão valued at 360 reis or 6 tangas and the other was a silver pardão, valued at 300 reis or 5 tangas. The governor, Francisco Barreto, issued a special edict on August 27, 1557, regarding the value of the Pardão.<sup>9</sup>

8. Pataka or Patação -

It was a silver coin valued at 300 reis, which was of the viceroy D.Afonso de Noronha (1550-1554), and valued at 360 reis per pardão. The people objected to the raising of its value which led to loss of its value.

In 1569, the Portuguese ordered that the minting of these coins in India be stopped and those in circulation to be melted down.<sup>10</sup> In 1567, 80 Patakas were worth 1000 fanams.<sup>11</sup> In 1569, its value was 300 reis.<sup>12</sup>

9. São Tome -

It was an important gold coin with the image of the apostle St. Thomas and valued at 1000 reis. Originally it came from Lisbon with the fleet of 1545. It had the Portuguese coat of arms on the other side. Later on, João de Castro and Garcia

9. Barros, Decada II Cap.VII, p.480

Simão Botelho, Tombo, op.cit., p.95-98.

Nunes op.cit., 32. Dalgado, op.cit., Vol.II, p.424.

10. APO, Vol.V. in 54 - pp.176-184.

11. Joseph Wicki, Documenta India, op.cit., Vol.VII, pp.427-428.

12. Henry Yule, A Glossary of Colloquial Anglo Indian Words, (New Ed) by W.Crook (London, 1903), p.683.

de Sa minted them in Goa.<sup>13</sup> During the reign of John III, these coins were also minted in silver with a value of 360 reis. But in 1569, King Sebastian ordered no more silver coins to be minted in India. The only gold coins which were minted in Goa were São Tome, having value of 360 reis.<sup>14</sup>

#### 10. Tanga -

It was a silver coin valued at 60 reis or 50 leais. There were three types of tangas, known as silver tanga and tanga branco, valued at 60 reis, 72 reis and 115.02 reis respectively.<sup>15</sup> According to Philippe Neri Xavier, it was worth 153-1/2 reis in Salsette and Bardez in Goa but in its three neighbouring islands, only 96 reis.<sup>16</sup> According to Tombo Geral, the tanga branca was worth 4 bargains.<sup>17</sup>

#### 11. Xerafim or Asharfi -

It was a gold coin minted for the first time by Sultan Barsbay of Egypt and Syria and took the name from the title at Malik-al-Ashraf of the Sultan, which was inaugurated in 1425.<sup>18</sup> It was valued at 300 reis or 5 tangas and came to India from Ormuz. In 1550, the Portuguese captain of Ormuz received 2000 xerafins per year.<sup>19</sup>

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13. H.T.Grogan, Numismatica Indo-Portuguesa, (Lisboa, 1955) pp. 57-59.

14. APO, Vol.II, op.cit., p.184.

15. K.S.Mathew, op.cit., p.240.

16. G. Schurhammer, op.cit., p.672.

17. APO, Vol.V, p.326; Nunes op.cit., p.32.

18. K.S.Mathew, op.cit., p.239.

19. Barros, Decada II, VII, p.480; Simao Botelho, Tombo, op.cit., pp. 95-98; Nunes, op.cit., p.32; Dalgado, op.cit., Vol.II, p.424.