

Keladi Coinage

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Abstract: Coinage System is a representation of a ruler that signifies a particular characteristic. The Keladi Kingdom, though is a great Dynasty Karnataka, recognized the nominal sovereignty of the Hindu Kingdom in whose service rulers had risen to such a great power. They gave more importance for the Coinage and also gave importance to improve the National Kingdom.

Keywords: Varaha, Gadyana, Homu, darnahanamupogaadda, kasu, Coinage, Varaha, tankasale, Muhamadan.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nayakas of Keladi who grew into a powerful kingdom after the downfall of the Vijayanagara kingdom, Keladi kingdom has been decided way than others Hayavadhana Rao, Lakshminarayana Rao, E.M. Alvares and K.D Swaminathan have written their own and different perspectives of the Keladi kingdom.

The work on the Keladi polity by K.N Chitnas is a recent / latest work on this kingdom and reviews in detail the administrative steps of the Nayakas of Keladi this work contains some information on the coinage of the Keladi Nayakas this work is immensely helpful while data collection of the research.

The Keladi Nayakas followed the Vijayanagara system of coinage with minor innovations. We can come to know *Varaha*, *Gadyana*, *Homu*, *darnahanamupogaadda* hog abele visa arevisa and *kasu* were the names of the different coins of the Keladi period by studying the inscriptions (Karnataka inscriptions Vol.1: 9).

These inscriptions mention the relative value / rate of the coin to the other these are the relative value of a coin

Varaha – *Gadyana* = 52 grains

Varaha – *Honnu* = 52 grains

1 *hon* – 2 *daranas* = 26 grains

1 *hon* – 5 *hanas* = 26 grains

$\frac{3}{4}$ *hana* – 1 *mupaga* = 3.75 grains

1 *hana* – 2 *adda* = 5 grains

1 *adda* – 2 *hoga* = 2.5 grains

1 *haga* – 2 *bele* = 1.25 grains

1 *haga* – 4 *visa* = 1.25 grains

1 *visa* – 2 *arevisa* = 0.6 grains

1 *haga* – 16 *kasu* = 1.25 grains

(Karnataka Inscriptions, Vol: 26)

These inscriptions also mentioned about officer – in – charge of the minting coins.

An inscription from Hosanagar - this inscription provides some information regarding the minting of coins the inscription is engraved a metallic machine which is called *tankasale kallu* (minting machine) it was six sides measuring 20X20X8X8X9X1. It has a flat button there are six notches of different sizes in it. It has two iron handles for operating the machine it is famous as minting machine this machine was originally in Nagar and it was brought to Hosanagar when the *taluk* office was shifted to the latter palace the inscription on the side of the machine refers to a date which corresponds to August 30, 1726 A.D (Marsden 1931: 171 – 176)

After studying Marsden work it becomes clear that during the Keladi period there was a mint in Nagar and they had their own minting machine called *tankasale kallu*.

The Keladi Coins have not been found in plenty the most famous and most popular coin called Ikkeri *Varaha* is a gold coin belonging to the Sadashiva Nayaka's time three types of his gold coins are known Sadashiva Nayaka's times coins were having some similarities with Vijayanagara coins one word was there on their coins that was "*Pratapa*" so which coin does not have the word *Pratapa* that coin was considered as Shivappa Nayaka's coin like this scholars differentiate he coins of Shivappa Nayaka Vijayanagara.

Different types of the coins of Keladi Nayakas are as follows:-

1. Type A
2. Type B
3. Type c

(Marsden 1930: 78)

These are the variety of coins of the Keladi Nayakas period.

According to the Historians – Hayavadhana Rao, Lakshminarayana Ra, E.M. Alvares and K.D. Swaminathan Keladi Kingdom has been studied by various scholars in a more detailed way than other kingdoms.

2. COASTAL REGION CONFLICT FOR TRADE

In the Political Intervention trade has played a vital role in survival through the commercial and cultural exchange by bringing people from one region to another, gave them permanent or temporary settlements. This encouraged intermarriages and political coalitions which further strengthened community cohesion and traditions. The exchange of techniques and skills between two different worlds and took place the existing systems. It helped mutual culture several religions like Islam, Christianity came in and made their base to spread their philosophy.

The Political Interventions took place in Coastal Region, in the Colonial Times Tipu Sultan had the contact with this region and even Keladi kingdom was also had the trade contacts.

The Forts found in Kasaragod are constructed on the Coastal Region and on the route to Madikeri (Mercera in Coorg). It is believed that the 'Koteyar' / Ramakshatriya' community found in Bekal, Panayal and other places in Kasaragod were brought to this land by the Nayakas to strengthen and defend the fort. There was a prolonged struggle between the Kolathiries and Nayakas to recapture and maintain their holdover this area. These battles came to an end with the rise of Nawab Haider Ali who conquered the Nayakas. Susequently, Bekal fell into the hands of Mysore Kings.(Kerala Gazetteer 2005:52).

Tipu Sultan was having authority over the Coastal Region, in that area, the Bekal Village served as an important Military Station of Tipu Sultan. When he led the great Military expedition to capture Malabar, the Coins and other artifacts unearthed by the Archaeological excavation conducted recently at Bekal fort is a manifestation of the strong presence of the Mysore Sultans. The death of Tipu Sultan in Fourth Anglo – Mysore War in 1799 A.D. saw the end of Mysorean control and subsequently, the fort came under the British East India Company. (Kerala Gazetteer 2007:38).

3. COASTAL REGION CONFLICT FOR TRADE WITH THE KELADI KINGDOM

As we know many controversies arose in the coastal region for trade most of the Indian rulers desired to control these regions which caused frequent tussles between the foreign merchants. Foreign merchants were having the monopoly over the coastal region. So the Indian rulers realized the importance of this region. All the rulers – native and foreign both tried to control it. Among them, Keladi rulers had struggled a lot. The conflict was developed in a vigorous range in the Keladi Nayakas Venkatappa Nayaka I and hence Keladi consolidated their rule over the coastal region, Venkatappa Nayaka I fought a battle for control Rani Bhairadevi, Queen of Tulu country though she was powerful, she was unable to stop Venkatappa.

Historian K.N. Chitnis in his work 'Keladi Polity' points out and cites epigraphical support that he successfully stemmed out the *Muhammadan* advance by driving back the Bijapur troops.

About Keladi, Chitnis says that they maintained diplomatic relation with the Portuguese and other foreigners very ably and successfully (Chitnis 1974:14) for the commercial purpose only they have done all these interventions. That is why all the rulers of Keladi were pointed as important.

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