

## **British Indian Coins at Hirekumbalagunte Village of Kudligi Taluk**

**HONNURASWAMY, H.**

Assistant Professor

Department of History and Archaeology, Davangere University, Shivangotri, Davangere (Karnataka) India

### **ABSTRACT**

This paper, with its appendices, gives a full account of the coinage of the British administered in India, and It analyses the problems of coins of British India. The main part of the discussion focuses on the coins of George –V, George-VI and George Washington period. The present paper intends to discuss mainly coins of Hirekumbalagunte village. are likely to shed new light on some important aspects of the economy of the contemporary human past.

**Keywords:** History of British coins, Features of coins, Economy, George –V, George-VI and George Washington, Hirekumbalagunte village

Hirekumbalagunte is a village in the north-west direction of Kudligi taluk of Vijayanagara district. Karnataka state, India. Coins of the British period stored in a small box in the house of Ajamat Saab of this village were searched with the help of my student. A total of six coins were found here. Among them three coins belong to the period of George-V, while one coin belongs to the period of George-VI. The remaining two coins are a quarter dollar minted in 1793 and a 1 paisa coin minted in 1944. The background of printing of these coins, British coinage etc. are discussed in the present article.

Among the colonizers Britisher's are the once who came to India for trading. They became more successful in Indian other than French, Dutch and Portuguese. They defeated the local kings and they occupied India and ruled nearly for about two centuries. During the year 1600 a business organization named East India Company got permission from the Queen of England to visit India. During that period Mughal king Jahangir was ruling and they took permission from him in the year 1613 and they started their trading centre at Surat. At the time of 1834 East India Company gained their prominence in politics. In 1835 they brought their currency in different parts of India.

They started their minting place at Calcutta, Patna, Marshidabad, Banaras, Farukabada and at many other places. Because of the performance of this company Sepoy mutiny placed in India in 1857. As a result the British Government directly come forward to rule India. The Queen Victoria ruled in India from 1<sup>st</sup> May of 1876 to 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1877. Because of this the pattern of the coins was changed. The crown wearing Queen Victoria picture on the front and the word wrote as 'Victoria Queen' on the back of the coin was issued at first time and it was continued. In 1877 when the queen became the emperor then she changed the word 'Queen' into 'Empress' on the currency. Hence, it led to a new type of coins. This kind of coin was found at Balamuri.

After the rule of Queen Victoria many kings ruled here. George-V was the main king ruled India from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1911 to 20<sup>th</sup> January 1936. During his period the legacy of the coin pattern was changed. In front of the coin George picture was minted. This made the people angry because in the one rupee silver coin his picture with crown worn gown with an elephant was minted. The elephant was printed small and the trunk minted very small since the coin was very small, the elephant in the coin looks like pig. The Muslim peoples were protested

against this coin that they have minted the pig in the coin to dishonor their religion. The government suddenly wake up and cancelled the currency and then designed the elephant picture nicely and minted the coins. Besides this we can see the coins minted with the King George-V picture.

**The description of the Coins:**

Three silver coins of the period of George-V have been found. Each coin weighs approx. 11.56 grams. It is 31 mm. in diameter. The obverse of these coins has a crowned image of George-V, with the English word George-V king emperor written in a semi-circular shape above the head. The reverse has a circular lata design, with the inscription One Quarter Anna India in the middle. The years of printing of these coins are 1919, 1931 and 1935 at the bottom.

A coin of the period of George-VI has been found. This coin is of the size of coins of the period of George-

V. On one side of the coin there is a portrait of George-VI wearing a crown, with the English word George-VI Emperor written in a semi-circular shape above his head. On the other side there is a roaring tiger in a moving pattern. At the bottom there is the English word India and the year of 1947. At the top there is the word One Rupee written in a semi-circular shape in Hindi, English and Urdu. Another coin of the period of George-VI has a hole made in the middle. On one side of this coin the word 1 Pice is written in Hindi, English and Urdu script. Between the English word 1 Pice and India, there is a picture of the king's crown. On the other side of this coin there is a circular lata design.

A coin from the era of George Washington of the United States of America has been found. On one side of this coin is a portrait of George Washington in a turban. On the top of the head is the English word United State of America and on the bottom of the coin are the English words Quarter Dollar, Liberty in the middle and In God



**Fig. 1 : Front and back side of the coins**

We Trusted on the right. On the other side of the coin is the name of the state Kentucky on the top, and the year 1792 below it. At the bottom is the English word E Pluribus Unum. Above it is the year 2001. On this side is a palace, a palace in front of which there is a gate, and a horse standing inside. On the left side of the palace is the English word My Old Kentucky Home.

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