



PORTUGUESE GOLD COINS FROM GOA (1706 – 1777)

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Abstract:

Portuguese Coinage

During the governorship of Afonso-de-Albuquerque coins were first minted. Alfonso de Albuquerque the 1st governor of Portuguese India in Goa ordered the minting of early gold coins. Minting was immediately started and in the year 1510 itself, around eighty one denominations of these three metals (Gold, silver and copper) were issued (De Souza 1972).

KEY WORDS:

Babasaheb Ambedkar , social reformation movement , philosophical framework.

INTRODUCTION-

The Portuguese established their first mint in Goa in 1510 and few more mints were subsequently started in their principal settlements along the west coast of India. A mint was opened at Cochin in 1544, at Bassein (Vasai) and Daman in 1611 and Chaul in 1611. However, the important settlement of Diu which was occupied in 1535 was left without a mint till 1685 (Borges et al. 1997) . No adequate details regarding mints and their issues are available in India. The coins struck in Diu mint, which was started in 1635 bore the mint marks viz. D-O, O-D, O-O and some have the name DIO in full. However, the first coins struck by Diu mint were without marks (De Souza 1972). The viceroy Afonso-de-Noronha, who governed Portuguese settlements in India from 1550 to 1554, ordered the coinage of St. Tome of silver, sometimes called Patacoes.

Coinage and denominations changed according to kings and viceroys. Weight fell over time and also it was unstable. But there were many silver coins with similar design. Value was indicated on coins (Munshi 2000-01). Goa mint coins were known as Sao Tome (St. Thomas). Sao tome is among the earliest dated gold pieces. It was minted in Goa and later at Diu. Value was indicated on coins. Weight was unstable. Appearance of the date was first shown on gold coins in India during the reign of Filipe II (1598-1621): Sao Tome (Shirodkar 1998). Earlier Sao Tome coins were:

Obverse: Coat of arms and legend of monarch
Reverse: effigy of St. Thomas (seating/standing).

Denominations:

- 1) CRUZADO, Nova Cruzado
- 2) XERAFIN, Meio Xerafim and Dobrado Xerafim
- 3) PECA, 4) ESCUDO, 5) CALVARIO

Cruzado

- Cruzado (420 reis) later called Manoel (Meio Manoel) was issued by Alfonso de Albuquerque.
- The name comes from Portuguese cruzado which means cross, referring to the cross of the patron saint of Portugal, St George, on the reverse
- Later was struck in silver (CRUZADO NOVA) 1643.
- Obverse: Crowned shield bearing the arms of Portugal.
- Reverse: Cross of St. George.

Xerafin

- From the reign of Joao V (1706-1750) to Mary II (1834-1853), Minted in Goa and Diu
- Xerafim (silver coins) again Meio xerafin and dobrado xerafin (half and double)

COINAGE OF KING JOHN V:

Rodrigo Da Costa was the first viceroy during his reign. During his tenure he issued 4 different series of coins in gold. In 1728, John V Replaced Effigy with cross of Sao Tome. Denominations of 12, 10, 8, 5, 4, 2 ½, 2 and 1 Xerafins. Prior to St. Thomas, St. Philip and St. George cross were also used but prior to 1706 (Da cunha 1995).

Major four types:

- A. Obverse: Laureate head with legend and date,
Reverse: Coat of Arms (Fig. 3)
- B. Obverse: Coat of Arms,
Reverse: Cross (not for circulation)
- C. Obverse: Cross of the order of Christ with date in its angels,
Reverse: Crowned arms of the kingdom
- D. Obverse: Cross of Saint with 12 X and Date,
Reverse: Coat of Arms

COINAGE OF KING JOSE I:

Son of John V. Francisco De Assis De Tavora was the 1st viceroy during his tenure. Again during his tenure he issued four different series of coins in gold. He introduced denominations in value. Weight differs in his all issues (Da cunha 1995).

Major four types:

- A. Obverse: Cross of St. Thomas with legend and date, Rev: Crowned arms (Fig. 4)
 - B. Obverse: Crowned arms, Rev: Cross of St. Thomas, value (numeral X) and date (Fig. 2)
 - C. Obverse: Crowned arms, Rev: Cross of St. Thomas, value in words (Doze, oito) and
-

date, after 1777

D. Obverse: Josephus or Iosephus, Rev: Crowned coat of arms, without mint mark (Fig. 1)

IDENTIFICATION



Fig: 1

OBVERSE	Bust of <i>Dom Jose I</i> with Mint mark below and Date
REVERSE	Crowned coat of arms

Description:

- JOSEPHUS. I. D. G. PORT. ET. ALG. REX
- JOSE I. DEI GRATIA. KING OF PORTUGAL AND ALGARVE
- Mint Mark: R. (Casa de Moeda do Rio de Janeiro)
- Date: 1775
- Denomination: Escudo (3200 reis approx.)
- Weight: 13.98 gms.

Mint Marks:

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- Mint mark is given R.
- Portuguese coin not minted in Indian Mints
- Milled edge, machine made (Lisbon and Brazil), not in Goa (after 1775)
- Inscriptions include the monarchs of Portugal John (ioannes), Joseph (josephus, iosephus), Maria and Peter (pedro, petrus), and Joao, depending on the date of the coin



Fig: 2

OBVERSE	Cross of St. Thomas divides face value and Date
REVERSE	Crowned coat of arms

Description:

Lettering: 12 X (Xerafin)

Mint Mark: Not given

Date: 1769

Denomination: 12 Xerafins

Weight: 4.84 gms.

Mint Mark:

Casa de Moeda, Goa

- All Sao Tome coins minted in Goa, last in 1841
- Two denominations were produced - 4 and 12 xerafins
- Coins of Goa displayed poor technical ability
- Disparities in weight and shape, and the designs were shabby



Fig: 3

OBVERSE	Bust of Dom John V with Date below
REVERSE	Crowned coat of arms

Description:

IOANNES. V. D. G. PORT. ET. ALG. REX
 JOHN V. DIE GRATIA. KING OF PORTUGAL AND ALGARVE

Date: 1730

Denomination: Escudo (1000 reis approx.)

Weight: 2.64 gms.

Mint Mark: Not Given

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- 1st issue without mint mark was struck in Brazil
- King of Portugal and Algarve: Portuguese coins
- No Indo-Portuguese features
- Most of the coins struck in Brazil and Lisbon mint have no Value given



5 cm

Fig: 4

OBVERSE	Cross of St. Thomas with Date in between and lettering around
REVERSE	Coat of arms

CR. SS. ST. ME (Cruz de Tome)

CROSS OF ST. THOMAS

Mint Mark: Not given

Date: 1764

Denomination: 12 Xerafins

Weight: 4.89 gms.

Mint Mark:

Casa de Moeda, Goa

- Sao Tome
- 12 Xerafins

- Designs are shabby
- 4 Xerafins weighs approx. 1.6 to 1.8 gms, 13mm in diameter
- 12 Xerafins weighs approx. 4.87 gms, 17mm in diameter

Gravimetric Analysis (Specific Gravity Test)

Various types of techniques are employed to know the elements in a particular coin. Analysis can reveal metal percentage, minting techniques. It is Important to analyse the Coins. Reconstruct the economic history. Specific Gravity Test determines the percentage of a particular coin. Weighing the coin in air and then in a liquid (water) (Shah 2012).

Aim : To determine the percentage of metal in the coin

Formulas and Calculations

1. The formula to calculate the specific gravity is as follows:

$$S = \frac{W_a}{W_a - W_l} \times S_1$$

$$2. \text{Percentage} = \frac{S \times 100}{sp \text{ of } m}$$

Where as,

- S = Specific Gravity
- Wa = weight of coin in air
- Wl = weight of coin in liquid (water/acetone)
- S1 = Specific gravity of liquid (Specific gravity of water = 1)
- Sp of m = Specific gravity of that particular metal

Results & Discussions

Table: 1 Measurements & Dimensions

SR. NO.	THICKNESS	WIDTH	WEIGHT
COIN- 1	1.30 mm.	26. 42 mm.	13. 98 gm.
COIN- 2	1. 71 mm.	16. 65 mm.	4. 84 gm.
COIN- 3	0. 72 mm.	17. 92 mm.	2. 64 gm.
COIN- 4	1. 60 mm.	17. 06 mm.	4. 89 gm.

Table 2: Results of the Gravimetric Analysis

<i>S.no.</i>	<i>King</i>	<i>Metal</i>	<i>Weight in air (in gms)</i>	<i>Weight in liquid (in gms)</i>	<i>Specific Gravity</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>COIN-1</i>	<i>Jose- I</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>14.07</i>	<i>13.3</i>	<i>18.03</i>	<i>93.41%</i>
<i>COIN-2</i>	<i>Jose- I</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>4.99</i>	<i>4.67</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>80.3%</i>
<i>COIN-3</i>	<i>Joao- V</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>2.71</i>	<i>2.56</i>	<i>18.06</i>	<i>93.5%</i>
<i>COIN-4</i>	<i>Jose- I</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>4.96</i>	<i>4.68</i>	<i>17.71</i>	<i>91.76%</i>

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