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**COINS OF THE DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY STRUCK
IN THE UNITED PROVINCES OF HOLLAND. COPPER
DOITS 1726-1794. DORDRECHT MINT IN THE
STATE OF HOLLAND**

[Pl. XV]

Doits and half doits were struck in considerable quantities for the Company in the various provincial mints of Holland, Westfrisia, Zeeland, Utrecht, and Gelderland. They were current on the Coromandel Coast, in Cochin, Ceylon and Malacca.

A counter-marked doit of the provincial mint of Holland dated 1735 or 1736 is illustrated, (Pl. XV. 7), as it is the first Dutch Colonial coin with a counter-mark that has come into my possession. Many thousands of doits have been collected and examined with a view to making as complete a collection as possible of the coins which circulated in India and Ceylon.

It is not known if this counter-marked doit is from India, Ceylon, or from further east. It is quite possible, there are others in existence and it is hoped this note may prompt further information from readers who may be in a position to explain the necessity for the counter-mark.

The Dutch counter-marked coins of various countries which were current in Ceylon when they occupied the Island. They even used a counter mark, or hall mark, on their own "Surat" rupees of Colombo and Tuticorin mint of the years 1787, 1788 and 1789, vide *The Coins of the Dutch Overseas Territories, 1601-1948* by Scholten, pp. 148 and 149.

The Ceylon authorities at the time of the English occupation also counter-marked rupees and quarter rupees of the East India Company imported into Ceylon, with a crown, during a shortage of silver currency. (See *Ceylon Coins and Currency* by Codrington, p. 165 and Plate VI, Nos. 166 and 167).

Scholten, in his book, referred above mentions doits with counter-marks purchased in Jaffna and illustrates one of the coins on Plate XVI, No. 1257. His note (1) on page 147 reads :

"We are informed by M. G. A. Van Borssun Buisman, of Wassenaar (Holland), that at Jaffna, during a recent trip

through Ceylon, he bought for his collection a number of different copper doits with the bale-mark of the Company and a counter stamp in the shape of a star ornament, on some on the obverse, on others on the reverse. The purpose and origin of the stamp are unknown to us."

Again, on page 125, Scholten, when referring to the coinage of Borneo, states :

"In October of the year 1812, the country of Maluka on the Island of Borneo was ceded by a resolution of the Sultan to the English adventurer Alexander Hare. When the Dutch Government resumed power, Hare was compelled to leave this independent small state."

"On the doits of Maluka, there is very often a counter-stamp; eight spokes of a wheel (believed to represent the Union Jack); sometimes this counter-stamp is smaller."

The counter-mark on the coin illustrated with this note can not be said to resemble a Union Jack as it is more like a Maltese or St. Andrews Cross, and can not be the one described on the doits of either Jaffna or Maluka. The counter-mark may possibly have been applied to doits in some restricted area of Ceylon by the English, or some other private authority.

C. H. BIDDULPH

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COINS OF THE DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY, COPPER DOITS AND HALF DOITS 1726 - 1794 FROM DOR- DRECHT MINT IN THE STATE OF HOLLAND

[Pl. XV]

The two coins illustrated here, (Pl. XV. 8 & 9) are interesting brockages from Dordrecht mint. They are the first brockages seen of these Dutch Colonial coins in the many thousands collected by me. Their rarity would seem to point to careful inspection after striking at the five mints which produced doits and half doits for use on the Coromandel Coast, Cochin, Ceylon and Malacca, or to the efficient machines used.

The same can not be said of defective coins, mostly badly centered, or double struck, which occur fairly commonly and of which a few from some of the mints will be described and illustrated in another note.

C. H. BIDDULPH



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