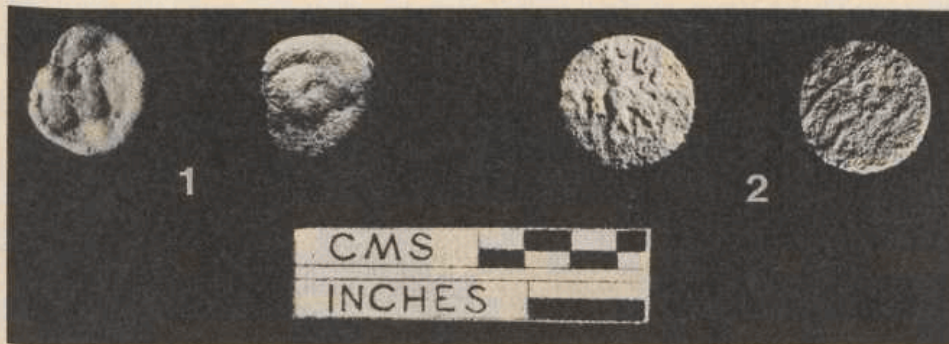


A Short Note on Ancient Coins Found in Nagarjunakonda Valley of Southern Deccan. – During the period of excavation of Nagarjunakonda project by the Archaeological Survey of India, the author got opportunity in 1957 and 1959 to take part in the excavation of the pre-historic human and animal skeletal remains of neolithic and megalithic cultures. Over this vast span of time, the valley did not lose preserving uninterrupted records of the palaeolithic, microlithic, neolithic and megalithic construct, as well as the cultural remains of the historic periods. The historical importance of this place is obtained from its having been the seat of Ikshvaku kings in the beginning centuries of Christian era (K. V. SOUNDARA RAJAN, *Studies in the Stone Age of Nagarjunakonda and Its Neighbourhood. Ancient India. Bulletin of the Archaeological Survey of India* 14, 1958: 49–113).



The strikingly graphic valley lies in Palnad Taluk of Guntur District in Andhra Pradesh at lat. 16°31' N, long. 79°14' E. The road connection of the site is nearly 15 miles from Macheral Railway Station by regular bus service. The valley comprising an overall area of eight square miles, girt by high hills on the north, east and south and flanked by the swift-flowing Krishna on the west and partly on the north, commands a natural strategical situation which lent a favoured position in ancient time.

The author collected ample antiquities from the surface of the valley. Among the antiquities, a good number of lithic tools and household objects like pottery, beads, coins, etc. are of different cultures. Among the tools assemblage, only microliths have already been published (B. C. DUTTA, *Microlithic Tools from Nagarjunakonda Valley. Ethnos* [Stockholm] 32, 1967: 122–140). The present note is intended to record the study on the coins that were made of lead and copper which were obtained at one of the nearby ruins of the Buddhist edifices lying almost at the centre of the valley.

The description of the coins are shown in the following table:

Metal	Description	Shape	Weight	Condition
Lead (Fig.: 1)	Obv: An elephant (front view); trunk cut off.	Almost round	4.0 gm.	Bad and broken
	Rev: Head of an elephant (right profile view) with trunk upraised.			
Copper (Fig.: 2)	Obv: An elephant (left profile view) with trunk upraised; legend marginally.	Round	2.5 gm.	Bad
	Rev: A man (left profile view) walking with a lāthi?			

The dating of these coins are perhaps in the beginning of Christian era.

The mention of these coins are worthy to note, because none of these is recorded in the report of SOUNDARA RAJAN 1958.

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