

A BANTAM COIN FOUND IN CAPE TOWN

The following description and blue-print of a Bantam coin recently found in the excavations for the new dock, Cape Town, was sent by the Honorary Secretary of the South African Numismatic Society. The original drawing and description was supplied to the society by Dr. Keppel H. Barnard, of the South African Museum, Cape Town.

A very interesting coin was recently found in the course of construction of the new Cape Town Docks and presented to the South African Museum by the Graving Dock Construction Company. Considering its immersion in sand under the sea (presumably for many years) it is in fair condition, the inscription perfectly legible.

It is a Javanese coin, minted at Bantam, bearing an inscription in Javanese characters. It apparently dates from the end of the XVth or beginning of the XVIth century; at any rate before the inscription on Javanese coins was changed into Arabic under Mohammedan influence towards the end of the XVIth century.

A similar coin is described and figured in Netscher and Van der Chijs' "*De Munten van Nederlandsch Indië* (1863). It is of copper, 3 Ned. inches in diameter, perforated with a hexagonal hole of about 1 Ned. inch diameter. The inscription reads "Pangeran Ratoe." The reverse is blank.

The gist of the comments made by the above authors is as follows:

As there is no date on the coin its period cannot be determined with exactitude. Raffles dates it as 1489, a conclusion based on the

