

The Discovery Of Coins In Bogak, North Sumatera An Indication Of Economic Activities

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Abstract. In January 2008 at the bottom of the sand in Bogak Beach in front of Fisherman's Housing Estate (Perumnel) in Hamlet XII, Bogak Village, Tanjung Tiram Sub-district, Batubara Regency, North Sumatera Province, a ship was found. After investigation, it was revealed that the ship is a relic closely related to the life of the community in the area at least at the beginning of the 18th century when many sailors and merchants from different countries and nations engaged in economic activities. In addition to the discovery of the ship, ceramics from China and VOC coins years 1734, 1752, 1760, 1780, 1781, 1788, and 1790 were also found at the same time. This research tries to uncover to explore the historical and archaeological sources in Tanjung Tiram Sub-district and describe the role of those coins in the economy of the 18th to 20th century AD. This research employed the approaches of epigraphy, heraldry, and arts, in addition to history. The methods used were data collection, data processing, analysis, and formulation of recommendations. Data collection was undertaken to gather primary data through observation and secondary data (through reports, inventories, Dutch archives, and research findings).

Keywords: coins, economy, life of the community, Perumnel

1 INTRODUCTION

The history of Bogak is closely related to that of Batu Bara, where the area of Batu Bara has been inhabited since 1720 AD, in which at that time there were 5 (five) clans inhabiting this area, namely "Lima Laras, Tanah Datar, Pesisir, Lima Puluh, and Suku Boga". Each of these five clans was led by a chief called Datuk who also led a certain territory. At that time, Batu Bara was part of the territory governed by the Kingdoms of Siak and Johor. To represent the Kingdom of Siak and to head datuk of all the clans inhabiting Batu Bara, a treasurer was appointed from generation to generation. Each datuk was appointed and given a seal by the Sultan of Siak. At that time, the leadership of Batu Bara region was occupied by a treasurer and, below it, a council whose members were elected by the datuk that led the clans simultaneously. Members of the council consisted of:

1. a harbour master, that was selected among members of the clan Tanah Datar.
2. scribes, that were selected among members of the clan Lima Puluh.
3. spies, that were selected among members of the clan Lima Laras.
4. penghulu batangan, that were selected among members of the clan Pesisir.

The name Batu Bara (Batubahara) has been listed in literature in the 16th century meaning "paying tribute to King Haru" based on the report of the delegate of the British and Penang Governments, namely John Anderson who visited Batu Bara in 1823 and wrote it in his book entitled "Mission To The East Coast Of Sumatera". In 1885, the Government of the Dutch East Indies paid compensation to the Government of the Kingdom of Siak, resulting in the independence of the kingdoms in East Sumatera from the Kingdom of Siak. Afterwards, those kingdoms would deal directly with the Government of the Dutch East Indies under the agreement called Political Contract (which consisted of 27 articles). This Political Contract included several kingdoms such as Langkat, Serdang, Deli, Asahan, Siak, and Pelalawan (Riau), as well as a number of small kingdoms such as Tanah Karo, Simalungun, Indragiri, Batu Bara, and Labuhan Batu. In 1889, the residence of East Sumatera was established with its capital in Medan. This residence of East Sumatera consisted of 5 (five) afdeling or regencies, namely:

1. Afdeling Deli directly under the government of the residence in Medan.
2. Afdeling Batu Bara based in Labuhan Ruku.
3. Afdeling Asahan based in Tanjung Balai.
4. Afdeling Labuhan Batu based in Labuhan Batu.
5. Afdeling Bengkalis based in Bengkalis.

At that time, Afdeling Batu Bara was a separate afdeling and its capital was Labuhan Ruku adjacent to Afdeling Asahan. Afdeling Batu Bara consisted of 8 (eight) Landschap (which is equivalent to sub-districts). Each landschap was led by a king. Moreover, the hinterlands of Batak (Simalungun) was also part of the territory Afdeling Batu Bara. Based on the Population Census held by the Government of the Dutch East Indies in 1933, the natives of Batu Bara reached a total of 32,052 inhabitants. After Indonesia gained its independent, Batu Bara Region changed its name and the term landschap was changed to kecamatan (sub-district). Especially for Batu Bara Regency, formerly it was a kawedanan (district). The capital of Kawedanan Batu Bara was Labuhan Ruku and this kawedanan comprised of 5 (five) subdistricts, namely Talawi, Tanjung Tiram, Lima Puluh, Air Putih, and Medang Deras. Then, the term Kawedanan was abolished leaving

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only 5 (five) sub-district offices which were then affiliated with Asahan Region called Asahan Regency whose capital was in Kisaran. In 1969, the community of Batu Bara once formed the so-called Panitia Penuntut Otonom Batu Bara abbreviated as PPOB (the Committee for the Autonomy of Batu Bara) which was chaired by Abdul Karim AS, a public figure and a former member of the Asahan parliament. This PPOB was based in Merdeka Street, Tanjung Tiram Sub-district. Unfortunately, because the Law concerning Autonomy had not been issued by the Government, all those attempts were of no avail. In the reform era about 30 years after the PPOB office in Tanjung Tiram was caught on fire, with the issuance of the Decree of the People's Consultative Assembly No. XV/MPR/1998 asking President to implement Regional Autonomy, precisely after the enactment of the Law No. 22 of 1999 concerning Regional Government and the Law No. 25 of 1999 concerning the Financial Balance between the Central and Regional Governments which further reinforce the meaning of the implementation of Regional Autonomy in a real and responsible manner and justify the expansion or division of a region into more than one region, as set out in Article 6 paragraph 2 which reads "Regions can be divided into more than one region". This law provides a basis for the struggle of the community of Batu Bara to be an autonomous regency capable of governing itself in an attempt to improve the welfare of its people. At that time, the economy of Bogak Region had started running. It is characterized by the discovery of various coins. Research findings show the discovery of VOC coins, the currency of the Kingdom of Great Britain, the currency of the Dutch East Indies, the currency of the East India Company, the Victoria Queen currency years 1734, 1752, 1760, 1780, 1781, 1788, and 1790.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Coins

Coins can be classified into several types, namely dirham, piti teboh, pati buntu, pitis, krishnala, ma, gobog, kepeng, gulden, dukat, duit, and stuiver. In general, coins may have one of the following shapes: a round shape without a hole, a flat and round shape with a round hole, a flat and round shape with a hexagonal hole, a flat and round shape with a rectangular hole, and a flat and round shape without a hole (Anonymous, 1999).

1. Nederlandsche East Indie

This currency had a flat and round shape without a hole and was made of silver. It was worth 1/20 gulden (guilder) and made by the publishing house Royal Mint Belanda, Koninklijke Leidong Munt, Utrecht, Belanda. There was a picture of the royal crown and the number 1887 was written on the right and the left, under which the word cent was written. Moreover, the outside circle reads Nederland Indie. While on the reverse, new Javanese script was written (round the edge of the currency), which reads: sapnyaba rayutus rupiyah, and in the middle of it there was Arabic script which reads: sakdu ratus rupiyah.



The front



The reverse

Figure 1. Sakdu Ratus Rupiyah

2 The Currency of EIC (East India Company)

The currency of the Kingdom of Great Britain or the currency of EIC (East India Company) in 1880. In the center of it, there was a picture of a heart that was divided into four parts, the upper part read V, the right side read I, the left side read E, and the bottom part read C.

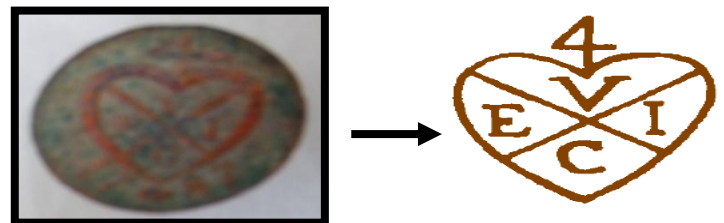


Figure 2. The Currency of EIC (East India Company)

This currency was printed by EIC because investors were interested in activities promising high profits despite high risks and the main objective was to control 'new and backward' areas, primarily those producing metals ranging from gold to silver and commodities that could be sold in Europe (such as spices). Bogak Region in particular and Indonesia in general became the arena to conduct the trade of such commodities (Boediono, 2016).

3 The Currency with a Picture of Queen Victoria on it and the name Queen Victoria and inscribed on it



Figure 3. The Currency of Queen Victoria

On the front of the coin, there was a picture of Queen Victoria of the Kingdom of Great Britain. The coin was made from bronze and printed firstly in 1819 - Alexandrina Victoria was born in Kensington Palace, London, England on 24 May 1819 and died on 22 January 1901 at the age of 81 years. She was crown Queen of the Great Britain and Ireland in 20 June 1837 and the Queen of India in 1 January 1877 and ruled those regions until her death in 1901. The Victorian Age was the culmination of the industrial revolution, an important period of social, economic, and technological change in Great Britain. At

that time, the Kingdom of Great Britain reached its peak and became an unbeatable superpower.

4 The Currency with Arab Script



Figure 4. The Currency with Arab Script

Inscribed with the year 1219 H = 1804 M in Arabic. The Malay Arabic script reads: satu kaping. The other side has worn out.

5 The Currency of Neder Indie 1886



Figure 5. The Currency of Neder Indie 1886t

On the front of the coin, the words Neder Indie 1886 were inscribed. The other side has worn out.

a. Coins That Indicate Economic Activities



Figure 6. Coins Carcass of a ship

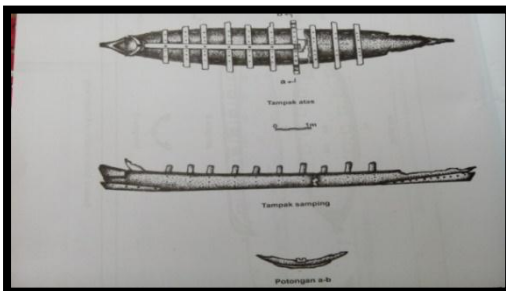


Figure 6. Coins An Image of a ship

In Bogak Village in Tanjung Tiram, Batu Bara, a 300-year-old ship was found. In terms of technology, this ship was a wooden ship although its bottom still used a keel which

remained quite related because canoes were still used. There are two canoes belonging to Tebing Tinggi and Serdang Bedagai, these ships belonging to Datuk Bogak are confirmed to be far more modern and older.

3 METHODS

Based on problems in such research, the methodology used is the more precise analysis of history tracing. As well as the descriptive method was selected as the way in solving the problem. Then the data in the analysis of this descriptive method with a qualitative approach. The qualitative approach so that it is more in reference to the approach of the description or overview of the objects examined, based on the data that appear as is, and describe systematically will facts the situation factually and closely. This research tries to uncover to explore the historical and archaeological sources in Tanjung Tiram Sub-district and describe the role of those coins in the economy of the 18th to 20th century AD.

4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Result

From the collection in various museums, the technology used to make wooden ships was extremely sophisticated, even ships discovered in the coastal areas of South Sumatera, Jambi, Lampung, and Riau do not compare with the ship Datuk Bogak Bandar Rahmadsyah in terms of the technology adopted to make the ship. The size is not the parameter to assess a ship, rather the technology to make it and its construction. When compared, the ship discover earlier still used the same ship-making principle, and the ship Datuk Bogak Bandar Rahmad is a great discovery. This means that the Bogak community formerly were superior in technology. Moreover, if viewed from the pattern of the ship which remained common, in fact the pattern of ships in Indonesia basically did not differ significantly, but physically, it can be said that a ship has a wide hull. Perhaps, it can be assumed for the time being that the shape of the ship is the same as that of the ship locally known as perahu tembong in Cirebon, Java Island and highly reliable when dealing with big waves. Passengers might think it is very horrible as the ship will swing continuously. But the possibility of sinking is very small and it is estimated that the ship is about 10 to 12 meters long while its hull is 3 to 4 meters wide, and its height is one and a half meters. In terms of technology, the ship is very flexible when dealing with waves and supported by different types of wood in each ship construction. A ship's keel and mortar have a separate wooden base made from ivory wood. The lock technology was adopted to join the ivories and mortars, and the nails were made from wood. Then, on the other side, metal patination was found to connect the keel and the mortar as well as ivories. It is estimated that the ship functioned as a cargo or commercial ship, rather than a ship used in mining activities. In terms of the load capacity, the ship could carry 15 tons of load and might function for the purpose of inter-island and state trade. When viewed from the structure, the ship used two sails, namely the main sail (a large one) and the supporting sail (a small one) and supported by paddles. In the steering system, the steering wheel tended to be mounted in the rear of the ship, then under the keel, a condom-like object

was mounted for security because each ship is expected not to fight against waves or rocks, but abilities to deal with such conditions were found in this Datuk Bandar Rahmadsyah ship. This is why this ship used a different type of wood for its, i.e. the one which was not hard but the soft wood used as a bumper to help the ship sailed in mud or sand and this technology was not found in ships discovered in Indonesia and canoes did not compare with it. The Batu Bara community may be proud because in the past they were superior in terms of technology to the other society.

4.2 Discussion

In addition to the discovery of the ship Datuk Bogak, a carcass of a Dutch ship was also found at the same time about 2 kilometers away from the beach. When Bogak Village was burned down by the Netherlands, Datuk Bogak along with five other people sailed on a canoe day and night in order to sink two ships of the Dutch soldiers. This was done at the time the Dutch soldiers attacked the village and did not expect it, not to mention the absence of guards who stationed on it. On that occasion, two ships, of large and medium sizes, belonging to the Netherlands, were successfully drowned by breaking the hull using a spear not far from Bogak Village, or precisely in front of the house of a shipbuilder, approximately two kilometers from Datuk Bogak residential areas. It is estimated that the size of the two Dutch ships drowned was larger than the ship Serumpu. Then, several meters from those Dutch ships, they swam and dived until they managed to make the hull of the ships leak. After drowning those ships, Datuk Bogak attempted to escape, but he was caught by the Dutch soldiers. Based on the observations, it is revealed that in the area around the place where the ship was discovered, no woodwork wrecks were found, for example wood shavings. This might be interpreted as an indication that the ship was not in the place where it was built. In connection with the existence of the ship in the location where it was found, the following can be concluded. The ship was found at the bottom of the beach because of deposition that has lasted for a long time. The ship allegedly anchored there deliberately and gradually the sedimentary materials brought by water covered the ship. With the passage of time the sedimentary layers covering got thicker. Then, as a result of abrasion which was quite strong and lasted for a long time, the layer of soil that previously covered the ship finally disappeared and part of the ship's body came to surface. In order to prevent competition among Dutch merchants, 6 (six) chambers of commerce from the Dutch provinces and cities, namely Amsterdam, Delf, Middleburg, Rotterdam, Hoorn, and Enkhuizen founded a trading company named Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie aka VOC in 1602. The Dutch Government supported the VOC's business by appointing a commissioner with the rank Governor-General based in Batavia, namely Pieter Both (1610-1614). Trade also encouraged the emergence of an important process, namely monetization, i.e. the use of money as a medium of exchange. Trade and monetization evolved and mutually reinforced the growth of trade encouraging the growth of monetization, which in turn facilitated and expanded trade activities, and eventually such trade expansion resulted in a greater demand of the medium of exchange. At that time, there was no standard

currency in the archipelago, but various means of exchange circulated and were used by society simultaneously. In general, there are two groups of currencies circulating in large quantities, namely (a) copper currency of small value (including the one mixed with black and white lead) in various forms and origin (China, India, the Netherlands and so on) and silver currency of high value (from the Netherlands, Spain, the U.K. and so on). As currency of small value, the distribution of the copper currency was wider than the silver currency (Boediono, 2016). There are two main trading centers in the archipelago, namely around the Malacca Strait and in the area of the Java Sea, all of which were linked to the large Asian-European trade route. In order to facilitate the trade traffic and payment of salaries of the staff, VOC was granted permission to bring in the currency applicable in the Netherlands as a means of payment. Since money of small value was needed in a large quantity, VOC is allowed to print money in Indonesia. Examples of money applicable during the VOC era were Gulden, Gouden Javas Rupij, Stuiver, and Doit (Bank Indonesia, without the year: 15). In the Dutch East Indies, the currency Gulden was circulated during the VOC era in 1876, money worth $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, and 3 gulden. After VOC was dissolved in 1799, the currency Gulden known as Scheepjes Gulden was circulated because on this currency made from silver there was a picture of a sailboat. The money circulated was worth $\frac{1}{16}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and 1 gulden (Bank Indonesia, without the year: 42). In 1783, VOC made and distributed golden currency, namely Gouden Javase Rupij aka Rupiah Djawa. It was made in Batavia from 16 grams of gold with a gold content of 0.833 ((Bank Indonesia, without the year: 38) As for doit, it was made in the Netherlands and brought by VOC to Indonesia to be used as a means of payment in 1726. Given a high demand for money of small value, the Dutch government granted VOC permission to make money called doit with the emblem of VOC displayed on it. This currency was made in Batavia and Surabaya and it was made from copper and tin ((Bank Indonesia, without the year: 39). In the dictionary, the word *duit* or *duiten* means money or currency (Wojowasito, 2006: 168). The currency printed by VOC and used in Indonesia was made from cheaper metals (black lead began to be circulated in 1633, followed by copper and their mixture in 1636.) Only three centuries afterwards, i.e. in the 19th century, this region had standard currency, the Dutch East Indies's gulden, as the power of the Dutch East Indies over Indonesia got increasingly stronger (Boediono, 2016). According to Boediono, VOC gained profits from its ability to print and circulate money (other than that of the profit or benefit from trade activities) called seignorage. Seignorage refers to profits obtained as a result of the value differential between the intrinsic value of the currency circulated (the price of copper or other metals which each currency contained) and the value of the currency itself is worth (the value indicated on that currency). If the later is greater than the first, then the the party circulating/printing the money will enjoy the so-called seignorage. VOC used copper money to purchase crops from farmers and estates and received the proceeds from the auction of the commodity in Europe in the forms of gold or silver money. Transactions generated profits (in certain conditions caused losses) for VOC derived from the exchange rate differences between the two metals. So, during the VOC

era, there was the so-called foreign exchange trading (Boediono, 2016).

5 CONCLUSION

In the past, Bogak played a vital role, especially in the 18th century to the 20th century, as can be seen from the relics found, both the ship and European currency, and this supported the statement that trade had existed between the kingdoms in the coast of East Sumatera and Europe. In addition, the discovery of cannons further reinforces the presumption of the involvement of Europeans in East Sumatera. The ship is a cultural heritage object closely related to the life of the community in the area at least in the early 18th century when many sailors and merchants from various countries and nations enlivened economic activities. Moreover, ceramics from China and VOC coins years 1734, 1752, 1760, 1780, 1781, 1788, and 1790 were also found. Another significance of the knowledge of ancient currencies is to contribute to advances in science related to history, archeology, environmental science, economics and general knowledge, especially development of history. Another urgency is the practical significance, namely being able to use data on the past which is narrated, and as an attempt to explore local sources of history in regions by seeing how economy can be determined using currency, especially in the area of Bogak Beach, Tanjung Tiram, Asahan regency, North Sumatera Province. Hopefully local governments can make policies to examine history and development in the history of the economy in regions, and preserve it.

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