




*past for a positive future*

*Kerala Council for Historical Research*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2009-'10



The object of history is, by nature, man; it is the science of men in time...

Behind the features of a landscape; or tools and machinery; or the most formal written documents, or the institutions that seem entirely remote from those who established them, are the men whom history seeks to grasp.

Marc Bloch





Kerala Council for Historical Research

# Annual Report 2009-'10

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## Prologue

**K**erala Council for Historical Research [KCHR] chaired by Professor K. N Panikkar is an autonomous institution committed to scientific research in history and social sciences. Funded by the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of Kerala, KCHR is a recognized research centre of the University of Kerala and has bilateral academic and exchange agreements with various Universities and Research Institutes in India and abroad. KCHR strives to integrate advanced research and scholarship with historical-social consciousness through its projects and programs.

As a recognized research centre of the University of Kerala, KCHR offers interdisciplinary doctoral and postdoctoral research programs in the faculty of social sciences. KCHR is committed to the generation of intellectual resources in the domains of research, publication, documentation, training and co-ordination.

## International Research Project

### a. Muziris Heritage Project (Pattanam Archaeological Research)

The Muziris Heritage Project (MHP) is a flagship initiative of the Government of Kerala, in which KCHR played a pioneering role. The project envisages retrieval of the historical heritage of the Kodungallur-Paravur region, heritage conservation with elements of responsible tourism and history education incorporated. The path-breaking multi-disciplinary research by KCHR at Pattanam acted as the springboard of the inter-departmental initiative called MHP. Besides providing academic assistance to the MHP, KCHR spearheads the international and multi institutional archaeological research at Pattanam.

KCHR was successful in planning and executing the archeological research for the last four seasons at Pattanam, which includes excavation, exploration, surface and



under-water surveys and post excavation studies. KCHR organized multi disciplinary archaeological excavations at Pattanam since 2007. The excavations at Pattanam could attract global attention and have brought out important evidences on the vibrant maritime trade with Mediterranean, Red Sea and Indian Ocean rims, which can probably rewrite the history of ancient maritime contacts.

### Pattanam Excavation - 4th Season

The fourth season's excavation at Pattanam commenced on 3rd February 2010 and ended on 18th June 2010. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Thrissur Circle, was a collaborating partner. A number of Universities and Research Institutes in India and abroad were either participants or research collaborators. Main objectives of the excavation were to reconstruct the life at Pattanam in the early historic and Iron Age periods, investigation of overseas contacts, establishment of cultural sequence and estimation on the extent of the Pattanam archaeological site. Four main trenches of 7 x 4 meter, separated by 1.25 m baulks, were opened at the Padamadathil plot. Eight trial trenches of 1.5 x 2.5 m were dug on the boundaries of the site to locate the extent of the site and understand the variations in stratigraphy and depositional history.



*Decorated pottery*

### The 4th season finds

Pottery: As in the previous seasons, both local and foreign pottery fragments continue to be the dominant cultural artifact. During this season, the local pottery sherds alone number a staggering two million. Dense habitation in the Early Historic period is obviously indicated by the abundance of finds in the corresponding strata. The small and medium sized terracotta bowls seem to be the most prevalently used ones since almost two-thirds of the rims excavated belong to this category. Cooking vessels were fewer in number, going by the presence of soot particles.



*Local pottery sherds*



*Mediterranean amphora sherds*

The pottery carries the fingerprints of the people of ancient Tamilakam and can be a reflector of their social and physical environment. It is also an indicator of their mastery over tools, skills and cultural interactions. The diagnostic pieces (rim and base), those with designs, grooves or impressions, edge ground and those with other distinct features, are sorted, documented and conserved. Unlike most Indian sites where the body sherds of coarse ware are usually discarded after weighing and numbering, we are storing them for further studies. They can also be designed as souvenirs or museum exhibits.

The imported and fine pottery assemblage comprises Roman, West Asian, Indian Rouletted Ware (IRW) and a host of other unidentified fine wares. The number of Roman amphora and Terra Sigillata sherds excavated at Pattanam continues to be impressive and it is perhaps the largest assemblage of Roman pottery in India. It will have deeper implications in understanding the Roman role in Indian Ocean trade. This season alone brought out over 2,000 amphora sherds.



*Terracotta rim at 345cm depth*



*Turquoise Glazed Pottery sherds*





*Dr Derek Kennet, West Asian ceramic expert at Pattanam*

The West Asian assemblage consists of green-blue glazed Parthian/Sassanian ceramics (Turquoise Glazed Pottery) and torpedo jar sherds. Their number is around 1,400. According to West Asian expert Dr. Derek Kennet of Durham University, who visited Pattanam this season, the West Asian ceramic assemblage suggests the commercial significance of Pattanam during the Roman, pre-Roman and post-Roman phases. The chronology as he proposes starts from the 3rd century BC with the 'fish plates' of the Parthian period and through the Sassanian period, to the 9th century A.D. If scientifically established it would unravel the Euro-

centric notions that have tended to downplay the West Asian role in the maritime history of the Indian Ocean.

The IRW also provides critical evidence to effectively challenge the Euro-centric perspective promulgated by Mortimer Wheeler. This ware illuminates the trade dynamics within India which in turn would have contributed to the development of long-distance maritime trade. The stratigraphic distribution of IRW suggests that Pattanam had been a commercial site even before the arrival of West Asians or Romans. The occurrence of IRW in the pre-Early Historic layers provides an insight into the fact that trade was predominantly South Asia-based and inspired at this early time.

*Soakage jar found 4 m down in the trench*



Further, the dominant presence of IRW in the Indian Ocean rims may point to the importance of Indian Ocean exchanges in the development of Roman trade. Pattanam is the first site on the West coast of India to provide such a large assemblage of IRW. This season alone produced over 2,300 sherds.

When did human habitation begin at Pattanam? High-precision AMS <sup>14</sup>C dating on charcoal samples reveals that it was in the Iron Age phase (around 1000 B.C.) that native settlement began. This is further supported by the presence of Iron Age artefacts/antiquities such as Black and Red ware (BRW), red coarse ware and iron objects in the aeolian sandy layers at depths varying from 340 cm to 370 cm.

*Panoramic view of the four trenches in 2010*





Samples of agate, chalcedony, beryl, crystal, carnelian and garnet beads



Glass beads



Inlays and intaglios made of semi-precious stones



One of the most exciting moments of this season was the discovery of a BRW sherd at a depth of 370 cm from a layer that was considered sterile. Indeed that layer was sterile, but for that extraordinarily shiny, tiny sherd! This sherd, the only artefact to be recovered from that depth, is any excavator's delight. This sherd was a reminder of the historiographic bias that tended to overlook the 'local'; the Euro-centric notions that treated the 'local' as inferior and early human interfaces as unilateral. This sherd and other evidence from the early habitation layers of Pattanam can sketch afresh the evolution of Pattanam into a multicultural commercial site and its role in Indian Ocean exchanges.

Metals: In metallurgy, Pattanam seems to have registered amazing achievements. These could have begun in the Iron Age phase. It may be assumed that the expertise in iron technology soon extended to other metals, especially copper, gold and lead.

About 80 cm above the earlier-mentioned BRW sherd, an exquisite miniature gold axe was found at a depth of 284 cm to 292 cm, from a dark brown



*Roman pillared glass fragments*

*Cameo blank*

(Munsell 7.5 YR 3/2) loose sandy clay locus which also had local pottery and charcoal fragments. It may be remembered, the axe has universal credentials as a key pre-historic tool. Initially they had no hafts and were made of stone. As the use of metals became widespread, especially iron, this tool/weapon could have played a major role in human empowerment. Equally significant was the way it became a symbol of power and domination. The gold axe of Pattanam seems to be an ornament and its story could be unique.

Personal Adornment: Objects of personal adornment seem to have had a pride of place at Pattanam. Many of the copper and gold objects appear to be fragments of ornaments or cosmetic tools such as antimony rods. Lapidary items such as stone beads, cameo blanks, micro inlays, pendants and glass beads are substantial quantity



*Semi precious stone rough-outs*





*Brahmi script on rim sherd*



*Frankincense*



*Miniature golden axe*

and variety. As in earlier seasons, the semi-precious stone debitage in the Early Historic layers implies that lapidary workshops were active at the site. The artisans of Pattanam seem to have been familiar with advanced stone-cutting technology.

Glass fragments: Excavation at Pattanam Archaeological site also revealed large number of glass fragments of varying size and quality. They include the pieces of tablewares and daily use vessels. Fragments of green/blue Roman pillared bowls were significant finds.

Cultural Sequence: Though no aligned structural remains were found, large quantities of building materials such as brickbats,

*Wooden spikes down 4m in the trench*



*Copper coin*







*One of the 18 wooden spikes*



*Iron objects*

Early Historic and Medieval roof tiles, large quantities of iron nails and terracotta ring wells, soakage jars etc were excavated. It is interesting that except for one intact corner tile and one triple grooved Early Historic roof tile, the whole assemblage of bricks and tiles was battered and fragmented. Did continuous activities of re-use or disturbance at the site result in so much debris? Or is it that this season's trenches were dug where structures did not exist? Fortunately, the gross destruction somehow is confined within cultural layers without confusing the sequence. Based on the stratigraphic, artefactual and chronometric indications, five tentative cultural phases could be defined at the site - Iron Age [? 10th c BC to 5th c BC]; Iron Age - Early Historic transition [4th c BC to 2nd c BC]; Early Historic [1st c BC to AD 4th c]; Early Medieval [AD 5th c to 10th c] and Modern [AD 17th c to the present]. There is lack of evidence for habitation (probable desertion?) of the site during the 11th c to 15th c period.

*Research Team*







2000 year old triple grooved roof tile



Antimony rod



Lion faced corner tile

Broken Rim with Brahmi script: This rim sherd with pre-firing marks of four Brahmi letters was found at a depth of 138 cm. This find has a special significance considering the scantiness of inscribed potsherds at Pattanam. This is the first pre-firing pottery inscription from Pattanam, though some sherds with post-firing graffiti were found in the earlier excavations. The letters are identified as 'daa' (?) 'ta', 'ni' (?), 'ka'. Comparative study of scripts from contemporary sites in Tamilakam as well as the Red Sea port sites of Berenike and al-Qadim (Myos Hormos) may shed more light on this find. The dearth of inscriptions and graffiti on potsherds could be due to perishable nature of writing media – palm leaves or papyrus. It may be recalled that the AD 2nd century Muziris document, the legal contract between a Muziris merchant and a shipping agent, was on papyrus. An interesting find of this season in this connection was an iron stylus — *ezhuththani* or *naaraayam*.

Botanical Samples: All the four main trenches had peat formation at circa 4 m depth.



Sri. M.A.Baby, Minister for Education and Prof. K.N.Panikkar, Chairman, KCHR at Pattanam





*Researchers from Italy and France at Pattanam*



*Dr Thomas Isaac, Minister for Finance at Pattanam*

Peat is a spongy layer of botanical remains deposited over a long period of time. Due to slow oxidation, the decomposition is slow and the plant sediments survive centuries, and subsequently transform into fossils. Peat was seen below the Iron Age layers and further down in the natural layers. Besides organic sediments such as roots, leaves, bark and seeds, the peat layer included frankincense.

A team from Oxford University led by Professor Chris Gosden and Dr. Nicole Boivin had visited the site, opined that the organic preservation at the site is remarkable for a tropical context. The Oxford University has signed a memorandum of understanding with the KCHR to provide archaeo-science facilities for the post-excavation studies of the Pattanam samples. Eighteen wooden spikes of circa 15 to 30 cm length elliptically arranged at a depth of 4 m in Trench No XVIII was another important feature excavated this season. Dr. P.K. Thulasidas, Dr. Thomas P. Thomas and Dr. A.R.R. Menon, scientists from the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Thrissur, visited the site to collect samples.

**Coins:** About 40 coins, round or square in shape, were unearthed this season. Some of them are heavily corroded. All are made of copper alloy, except one lead coin. Most are Chera coins with bow and arrow and elephant symbols from the Early Historic levels (140 cm to 250 cm depth). These can shed light on the state and polity as well as market dynamics that prevailed during the Early Historic period. Foreign coins, however, are conspicuous by their absence.

*DGP Sri. Jacob Punnoose at Pattanam*



*Archaeological Field School at Pattanam*







*Sri. P Govindapillai feeling a Roman amphora sherd at Pattanam*



*Dr M G S Narayanan at Pattanam with Dr P J Cherian and Dr M Nambirajan*

### Institutions collaborating with KCHR in the Pattanam Excavations

The University of Oxford, UK; The British Museum, UK; Durham University, UK; The University of Rome, Italy; Bryn Mawr College, USA; St. Lawrence University, USA; University of Delaware, USA; The University of Southampton, UK.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI-Thrissur Circle); Deccan College, Pune; The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad; Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Thrissur; Institute of Physics (IOP), Bhubaneswar; MS University, Vadodara; The Geological Survey of India (GSI), Kerala Unit, Thiruvananthapuram; The Centre for Earth Sciences Studies (CESS), Thiruvananthapuram; National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore; The Tamil University, Thanjavur and National Research Laboratory for Conservation (NRLC), Lucknow.

*Dr K Rajan (Pondicherry University) at Pattanam*



Research Team: Dr. P. J. Cherian was the Director and the Co-directors were Dr.

M. Nambirajan (ASI), Dr. V. Selvakumar (Tamil University), Dr. K. Rajan (University of Pondicherry) and Dr. K.P. Shajan (United Kingdom).

Dr. Preeta Nayar (KCHR) was the Antiquity Registrar. The trench supervisors were Dineesh Krishnan (KCHR), K.P. Rajesh (KCHR), Vijimol P.K. (KCHR), Abhayan G.S. (ASI), Ajeesh Krishnan (ASI) and Madhavi K. (KCHR). Vasudevan K. (KCHR) and Jaseera Majeed (KCHR) were in charge of pottery documentation. Smithi Nathan (Oxford University) and N. Krishnapriya (KCHR) were in charge of the collection of botanical samples and geological samples respectively. The drawing, sketching and conservation functions were by K. Lakshmi (ASI) and Sarath Chandra Babu (KCHR). Survey and trench layout were done by L.R. Rakes (ASI). The photo documentation was by photography design students of the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad. The videography was executed by the Ernakulam unit of the Centre for Digital Image Technology



*Some members of the Oxford team at Pattanam*

(CDIT), Trivandrum. Students from the Universities of Oxford, Rome (Tor Vergata), Paris (Sorbonne), University College London (UCL) and various Indian universities participated in the excavations. A select number of school and college students were imparted training in the Field Archaeology School.

### **Pattanam visitors**

The excavation site at Pattanam attracted the attention of the people of all walks of life from ministers, academicians, researchers, students, officials, writers, politicians to general public.

*Zacharia, Sashikumar and Chinta Ravi in a discussion with Pattanam team*





*Dr Madhavan Nair,  
then Chairman, ISRO,  
with the winners of  
History Walk programme*



## Summer vacation project for school children

### Charithranweshana Yathrakal III

Charithranweshana Yathrakal (a history walk) is a project launched and conducted by the Gazetteer Department in association with the Director of Public Instructions, Thiruvananthapuram in 2000. KCHR subsequently undertook the programme and Charithranweshana Yathrakal III was organized in 2009 – '10. This project is meant for UP/ High School students inside and outside Kerala. The intention is to make school children sensitive to history and history writing and also to train the younger generations in methods of historical enquiry and writing. The Charithranweshana Yathrakal- III in 2009 received wide attention like the previous ones. School children were assigned the task of writing the history of a family or life-history of a grandfather/mother. More than 1400 students participated in the competition. First, second and third places in UP/High School levels were given cash prizes, certificates and mementos. Sri G. Madhavan Nair, former Chairman, ISRO gave away the prizes to the winners.

## Ongoing Projects of KCHR

### a. Digitising Kerala's Past:

Digitising Kerala's past is a project to conserve the documents and photographs relating to the social, cultural, historical and scientific heritage of Kerala. A state wide village to village campaign to digitize privately owned historical records, images and valid documents is envisaged in this project. One mobile digitizing unit would tour selected Panchayats and the people's archives campaign would culminate in the establishment of a Digital Archives.





*Prof. Osmund Boppearachchi, Numismatist & Director, FCSR, Paris at KCHR*



*Dr Shinu Abraham, St Lawrence University, USA at KCHR*

### **b. Contemporary History Archives of Kerala:**

This project aims to create and maintain an internet repository of data related to various aspects of contemporary life of Malayalis across the world. It will document the everyday life of non-resident Malayalis. Since it is conceived as 'people's archives', all can contribute to and access the repository. The archive will be open to all. Generation and documentation of data with participation of maximum number of people, the employment of scientific methods in data generation are the major objectives of this project.

### **c. History of Malayali Migrants and Migrant Communities**

KCHR proposes to collect, compile and publish materials of Malayali migration history, written accounts, oral articulations, lived experiences, narratives and photographs. KCHR proposes to build a resource centre with facilities for online consultation and submissions. This will encourage research projects on the history of Malayali diaspora.

### **d. Writing Local/Micro Histories, Life Histories and Institutional Histories:**

Academic and organizational support is being offered to Local Self Government Institutions (LSGI) and cultural organizations to undertake research, writing and mapping the local/micro/life/institutional histories. This involves activities like survey, collection, analysis, editing, compilation of the data and monographs.

## **Proposed projects**

### **a. Historical Atlas for Kerala**

The effort is to locate, update and document all archeologically and historically significant sites, artifacts and monuments of Kerala and create a comprehensive database for research. This is expected to eventually generate a digital Historical Atlas



*Dr K N Panikkar exchanging  
the MOU with  
Dr Chris Gosden, School  
of Archaeology, Oxford  
University*



for Kerala to be linked to the official website of the KCHR.

The methods would include survey of literary and oral sources, updating of available data through site visits and published references, GPS readings and visual documentations.

KCHR has done a preliminary survey of central Kerala with special focus on Kodungallur and Paravur area and identified many archaeologically and historically important sites and monuments. The proposal is to extend it to other parts of Kerala in a systematic manner.

### **b. Archaeological explorations**

Limited exploratory studies were conducted in Kerala especially on the eastern hilly tracts of Kerala where archaeological remains such as dolmens, cists, urn burials, cave paintings, Neolithic celts and few coin hoards were reported since the colonial period. Using the available archaeological, historical and geological data from both sides of the Western Ghats, the project envisages systematic explorations in the area through surface survey and scientific documentation. The exploration will be multi-disciplinary in method, taking into account the geological, ecological, archaeological and historical aspects of the region.

This research endeavor has special significance in the context of the KCHR excavations at Pattanam and its dated data which needs corroboration through the identification of habitation/commercial locations in the hinterland.

## **Collaborative Projects and Memorandum of Associations**

a, An Memorandum of Understanding was signed among University of Oxford, London, the Oxford Archaeology Ltd., and KCHR to work together and explore the possibilities of developing advanced research related to Pattanam excavations in the Muziris Heritage Project. The MOU further pledges to work together to advance

heritage conservation activities and promote the exchange of research scholars, trained personnel and students for conducting collaborative research.

b, The Minister for Education, Govt. of Kerala and the Director, KCHR met the Italian Ambassador to India at the Italian Embassy in Delhi and discussed the possibility of the establishment of an Indo-Italian international study centre for historical and archaeological studies at Pattanam. In the luncheon meeting hosted by the Hon'ble Ambassador, he promised to take up the matter with the Italian Government and various Universities in Italy.

c, KCHR is identified as the nodal agency in Kerala by the National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities. The KCHR Director attended the ASI workshop on the preparation of the data base of built monuments, antiquities and sites.

d, The Department of Anthropology, University of Bergen has expressed interest in organizing an international conference on "Rituals" under its project "Challenging the State: Transmutations of Power in Contemporary Global Realities" (CHATS), and would support the conference by contributing an amount of six lakh rupees.

e, With financial support from Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, it was decided to conduct a Local History workshop early next year on "Collection and Preservation of Historical Data (Oral and Material evidences) at the village level under the project "Kerala Public Sphere since 1857".

f, It has been resolved to institute three in-house fellowships in the bio-archaeological remains, i.e. botanical, zoological and anthropological, in collaboration with Deccan College Pune, University of Pune and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology Hyderabad.

## KCHR Library



KCHR has a well equipped library and research resource centre with a fairly large collection of books on Kerala history and society. Malayali family history, biography and local history collections, Kamala Surayya archives are some segments of KCHR contemporary history archives. KCHR library is also enriched with reference books on Indian and World History and Kerala Society besides periodicals and journals. The library houses 9785 books. KCHR acquired 468 books on various subjects in the



*The archival collections of Mrs. and Mr. C.P. Matthen, were gifted to the KCHR by their grand-daughters Mrs. Elamma Thomas and Mrs. Mariam Ram*

year 2009-2010. The Institution subscribes 19 Journals -7 International and 12 Indian Journals. The Library received 130 books as gifts in the period under report. We express our gratitude and appreciation to Prof. K.N.Panikkar, late CP Mathen's family and late Abu Abraham's family for donating documents, journals and their collection of books to KCHR Library and Resource Centre.

## KCHR Friends Forum

The KCHR Friends Forum received good response during the year 2009-2010 from the academics, researchers, students and general public. We have 129 life members and 521 annual members. This year 69 annual and 13 life members enrolled in the Forum.

## Seminars and Lectures

### a. History Colloquiums

1. A history colloquium by Prof. Osmund Boppearachchi, Director of Research at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS. Paris) on "Sigiria Pleasure Gardens and the International Trade in the Indian Ocean in the 5th century AD" was organized on 4th January 2010 at KCHR
2. A lecture on "Craft production and emerging complexity: Pattanam glass beads and their role in the early Indian Ocean Trade" by Dr. Shinu Abraham, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, St. Lawrence University, USA was organized on 11th January 2010 at KCHR.

### b. Public Lecture

Lecture on 'The Technology of Ancient Large Statuary in Italy' by Dr Alessandra Guimla Mair, Vienna, Italy, on 26th September 2009 at KCHR.

### c. Memorial Lecture

Puthupally Raghavan Memorial Annual Public Lecture – 'Reviving the idea of scientific temper : Ten theses for creating a secular common sense' by Dr. Meera Nanda, Visiting Fellow of Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Studies, JNU, Delhi on 26th October 2009 at 4 pm at the Fourth Estate Hall.



*Dr Alessandra Guimla Mair- metallurgy expert at KCHR*



*Dr Meera Nanda- Puthupally Raghavan Memorial Lecture*





## Participation in Academic Events

Prof. Cherian, Director, KCHR participated in the seminar organized by the Archaeological Survey of India and Indian Navy at New Delhi.

During November – December 2009, the Director visited the following universities / institutes at their invitation.

1. The ancient port of Muziris: evidence on Indian Ocean exchanges from Pattanam, Kerala, India. Conference on 'Ancient Indian Ocean Corridors', University of Oxford & University College London.
2. Archaeological evidence for early historic maritime exchanges from Pattanam, India; prospects of inter-disciplinary research, Workshop on 'Global Geographies: the Indian Ocean in historical perspective', Royal Asiatic Society. (London).
3. Roman Footprints at Muziris: Archaeological Evidence from Pattanam, India, Lecture at University of Rome, (Tor Vergata).
4. Pattanam and Indian Ocean exchanges, archaeological evidence with special reference to West Asia, Lecture at Hebrew University. (Jerusalem).
5. The Early Historic ports of the Malabar Coast and the archaeological evidence from Muziris and the Red Sea port of Berenike, Seminar on 'Select Ancient Ports : Location, Trade and Hinterland', Maritime History Society. (Mumbai).
6. Roman Footprints at Muziris: Archaeological Evidence from Pattanam, India, Lecture at Cassino University. (Italy).
7. Muziris and the trade between India and Rome: Archaeological evidence from Pattanam, India, Lecture at University of Durham. (UK).
8. Textual and Archaeological sources to study Indian Ocean Exchanges with reference to Pattanam, India, Lecture at University of Leeds. (UK).

## Academic Programmes

### a. Internship Programme

Internship facilities are offered to under-graduate Indian/overseas students for taking up short term internships or social science assignments. During 2009-2010, KCHR provided internship facilities to students from Loyola College, Chennai, St. Stephen's College, New Delhi and University of Tuscia, Italy for durations ranging from one to six months as part of their degree curriculum package.

### b. Fellowships and Scholarships

KCHR offered both academic and monetary support to researchers from various disciplines and Universities in India working on themes related to social science theory/ historiography/ Kerala history.





### 1. Scholar in Residence Fellowship

Scholar in Residence Fellowship is offered to support the writing / completion of research articles or monographs. The selected scholar is obliged to remain resident fellows at KCHR. This fellowship is aimed to promote advanced research output in the broad spectrum of the social sciences and is competitively open to all candidates cutting across disciplinary boundaries and nationalities. We have received many applications from renowned scholars and their applications are under scrutiny.

### 2. Fellowship for Revising PhD Thesis

This fellowship supports scholars to revise/modify their Ph.D theses for publication. Dr. T K Anandi for revising her PhD thesis 'The impact of changing land relations and social and political movements on Nampudiri women', Dr. Sebastian Joseph for "Change and continuity in the forest policy of Cochin 1800 – 1947", Dr. A Shaji for 'Communal protest and caste consciousness in Travancore – It's genesis and growth (1891- 1947)' availed this fellowship in the academic year 2009- 2010.

*Dr Frederico Romanis  
with some students of the  
Greek -Latin course*



### 3. Fellowship for Post Doctoral Research

This scheme is meant to support PhD holders to pursue their research by helping them define and design an area/theme or post doctoral research. Scholars who have undertaken social science research at PhD level on any aspect of Kerala society/history or social science theory are considered for this fellowship. Two scholars Dr. U V Shakkeela and Dr. Joseph Skariah received the PDF fellowship in 2009 – '10 period.

### 4. Ph.D Fellowships

KCHR Doctoral fellowship is offered to research scholars to pursue Ph.D programme in any of the Indian Universities or at KCHR on themes related to Kerala Society and History or social science theories. In the 2009-'10 academic year, four students registered for PhD in history were selected for this fellowship. They are Mr. Shinoy Jesinth, Ms. Jani Chungath and Ms. Rani S Pillai from Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady and Mr. K P Rajesh from Calicut University.



## Short Term Courses

a, Epigraphy Course : The second batch of South Indian Epigraphy Course with Dr.Raghava Varier as the Course Co-ordinator concluded with the final examination on 29th August 2009 and results were announced.

b, Greek Latin Foundation Course : The short term course in Greek and Latin classical languages with special reference to sources on Indo-Roman trade history conducted from 27th July, 2009 to 31st August, 2009 with Prof. Federico de Romanis, Associate Professor, University of Rome as the Course Master had 27 students from various disciplines and professions.

On 24th December 2009, Dr G Madhavan Nair, Ex Chairman, ISRO, Bangalore, distributed the certificates of both the Diploma Courses in a meeting chaired by Dr. KN Panikkar at the KCHR.

## Administration

### a, Governing Body

A fifteen member Executive Council with nine academic members holding office to a maximum of six years and one third of them retiring on seniority basis every third year is the Governing Body of the Institution. The Vice – Chancellor of Kerala University, Secretary, Higher Education Department, Secretary, Finance Department, Director, KCHR, Director Archaeology Department and Director Archives Department are the ex-officio members. The nine academic members are Dr.Y.Subbarayalu, Dr.P.M.Rajan Gurukkal, Dr. P.K. Michael Tharakan, Dr. Kesavan Veluthat, Dr.K.N.Ganesh, Dr. K.M. Sheeba, Dr. M. Vijayalekshmy, Dr.K.Rajan, and Dr. K.V.Kunhikrishnan. Dr. K.N.Panikkar is the Chairman and Dr. P.J.Cherien, the Director.

To monitor the implementation of the aims and objectives of the Council, KCHR has subcommittees like Academic, Publication, Research, Finance & Administration with the Chairman, KCHR as the President and Director, KCHR as the convener.

### b. Committee Meetings

Various committee meetings are held regularly or to take decisions in policy matters. The two statutory executive committee meetings held this year were on 26th October 2009 and 6th January 2010. Finance and administrative committee meetings were held on 7th July & 21st September, 2009 and 4th January 2010. Research and Publication committee meetings were held on 4th January 2010 and 6th July 2009 respectively.

### c. KCHR Funds and Audit:

The Budget proposal for Rs.556 lakhs under Plan and Rs.60.50 lakhs under Non-Plan was submitted to Government of Kerala and State Planning Board for the year 2009-10, against which Rs.110.00 lakhs under Plan and Rs.5.00 lakhs under Non-



Plan was provided under the Head of Account: 2205-00-800-71 and released as per the details furnished below:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Amount	Account
01	GO (Rt) No.358/10/H.Edn. dated 20/02/2010	₹ 36,67,000.00	Plan
02	GO (Rt) No. 614/10/H.Edn. dated 24/03/2010	₹ 13,33,000.00	Plan
03	GO (Rt) No.709/10/H.Edn. dated 31/03/2010	₹ 60,00,000.00	Plan
04	GO (Rt) No.1910/09/H.Edn. dated 17/11/2009	₹ 5,00,000.00	Non-Plan
	Total Grant received under Plan	₹ 1,10,00,000.00	
	Total Grant received under Non-Plan	₹ 5,00,000.00	

#### Audit:

The Finance & Accounts Committee held on 7th July, 2010 and the Executive Council meeting held subsequently authorized the Director to appoint M/s. Varma & Varma, Chartered Accountants, Thiruvananthapuram, in place of M/s. Kumar & Biju Associates, Trivandrum, to carry out the statutory audit of the Books of Accounts and financial transactions for the year 2009-'10. M/s. Varma & Varma, Chartered Accountants have carried out the audit and the audited statement of accounts viz. Receipts and Payments, Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the year 2009-2010 were presented before the Council and approved. The audited statements of accounts were furnished to the Accountant General (Audit) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram also.

The audit team from the office of the Accountant General (Audit) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram had carried out the audit for the year 2009-2010 from 01/07/2010 to 09/07/2010 and no major irregularities were reported.

#### d. Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) Fund

KCHR holds permission of the Government of India for receiving funds coming under FCRA. This year KCHR received Rs.6,48,200.65 (Rupees Six lakhs forty eight thousand two hundred and paise sixty five only) from University of Bergen for conducting "International Workshop on Rituals" in collaboration with them. This amount was credited to our Account No.II – SB-57027232509 with SBT, Vellayambalam, Thiruvananthapuram. This bank account is reconciled monthly and there is a credit balance of Rs.8,86,326.65 (Rupees Eight lakhs eighty six thousand three hundred and twenty six and paise sixty five only) as on 31st March, 2010, including the receipt of Rs.4025.00 and Rs.4096.00 as interest on 31/05/2009 and 30/11/2009 respectively. The Annual Return under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976, duly certified by M/s. Varma & Varma, Chartered



Accountants, was submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India within the stipulated time.

## Publications

### a, Pattanam Interim reports

- i, Cherian P. J., Selvakumar V., Shajan K.P. and K.Rajan, (eds), *Pattanam Excavations: Interim Reports, 2007, 2008 & '09*, (KCHR, Trivandrum)
- ii, Cherian P. J., Nambirajan, Selvakumar V., Shajan K.P. and K.Rajan, (eds), *Pattanam Excavations: Interim Reports, 2010*, (KCHR, Trivandrum)

### b, Publications on Pattanam in journals, magazines etc.

1. Realising the Real, *Kerala Calling*, Govt. of Kerala, 2010
2. Pattanam Puravasthu Sasthra Gaveshanathinde Shastragadiyum  
Praadhyanayavum, *Sasthragathi* Calicut February 2010, 11-19
3. Chronology of Pattanam: a multi-cultural port site on the Malabar Coast, *Current Science*, Vol. 97, no: 2, 236-240.
4. Maritime traditions of Malabar coast and the findings of Pattanam excavations, in K.Paddayya et.al., (eds), *Recent research trends in South Asian Archaeology, Prof HD Sankalia Birth Centenary Volume*, (Deccan College, Pune). 321-31.
5. Pattanam in Cochin as a Potential World Heritage Site, in T P S Nair (ed), *India: Yesterday and Today*, (Trivandrum).

### c, Forthcoming Publications

1. *Londonum Parisum*. Re-print of the book by Barrister G.P. Pillai
2. *Mahishashatakam*. a Sanskrit text translated by Dr. Kesavan Veluthatt
3. *Encyclopedia of Malayalam Proverbs and Oral Traditions*
4. *Latin-Malayalam Dictionary* Compiled by Dr Kesavan Veluthatt
5. *The Case of Kolezhuthu and Malayalam Records* by Prof.M.R. Raghava Varier
6. *Malayalam records from Oriental Section of the Bibliotheque Nationale de France* by Dr. M.R. Raghava Varier

## Academic Affiliations & Student Affiliations

KCHR offers three types of academic affiliations and each category has a fee structure. For foreign nationals, affiliations are granted pending Government of India approval.

1. Affiliation meant for scholars to supervise researchers affiliated at KCHR or associate or collaborate in KCHR projects and undertake research based on resources available at KCHR.



2. Research student affiliation meant for doctoral and post doctoral candidates for consulting KCHR research resources related to their area.
3. Student affiliation meant for students to participate in KCHR research projects.

During the period from 2009-2010, academic affiliations were granted to the following research scholars: Dr Derek Kennet, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Durham, UK; Dr. Blet Lemarquand, Research Engineer, Orleans, France and Dr Peter Magee, Dept. of Archaeology, Bryn Mawr College, USA; Ms. Marta Zugaro, University of la Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy and Smiti Nathan, University College, London, UK.

## Future Plans

### a. Fifth season's excavation at Pattanam

Fifth season's excavation will commence in January 2011. The excavation programme aims at confirming the status of Pattanam as an ancient port city and trade emporium on the western coast. The excavation is expected to reveal more tangible evidences to understand the role of Pattanam in the Indian Ocean trade, the cultural and chronological sequence of the site, lay out of the port town, industrial output and technical legacy, cross cultural movements, paleo environment and the state and polity of the region.

### b. Establishing Site Museum and Archaeological Park at Pattanam

Government of Kerala has budgeted Rs.2 crores towards the purchase of land and related requirements. KCHR has initiated steps to landscape the site and set up an archaeological site museum.

### c. Campus with infrastructural facilities and museum

A proposal for 10 acres of land was submitted to the Government of Kerala to set up a KCHR campus with facilities such as library, research resource centre, conference hall, faculty space, administrative office, scholars' hostel and an open history/ archaeological museum.

### d. Workshops and Seminars in collaboration with the British Museum

The British Museum, London and KCHR (Dr. Roberta Tomber and Dr. P J Cherian) were awarded 30000 pounds by the British Academy to conduct international workshops on the topic "Indian Ocean exchange and the archaeology of technology" over the next three years. Each workshop will focus on a different category of the excavated artifact assemblage from Pattanam and use that as a springboard for inquiries into the broad issues within Indian Ocean exchanges.





### e. Surface Surveys and Explorations

Field surveys will be organized in Ernakulam and Thrissur districts to identify early historic sites and collect archaeological, anthropological and topographical information.

### f. Post Excavation Research

Besides the multi disciplinary excavation engagements, the Pattanam archaeological research requires training of research personnel, cutting edge scientific investigations, publications, conservation procedures and display of artifacts. KCHR gives high priority to the multiple task in the post excavation research as well as in developing a people centered model archaeological site at Pattanam.

### g. Short Term Courses

To organize short term courses in ancient Indo-Roman numismatics in collaboration with Viterbo and Rome University and in classical Tamil in collaboration with Tamil University and Institute for Classical Tamil.

## KCHR Staff

The Academic staff includes the Director, Research Officer and Academic Co-ordinator (in the UGC scale). The Administrative staff includes Finance Officer, Secretary to Director, Publication Assistant, Office Assistant, Library Assistant, Peon, Typist, Driver and Sweeper (in state government scale & contract basis). KCHR also has Research Assistants.

The selection procedures to various posts except that of the research officer were completed and Dr.V.Dinesan, Sri.K.P.Rajesh and Sri.Dineesh Krishnan joined duty as Academic Co-ordinator, Publication Assistant, and Office Assistant respectively. As decided in the Executive Council, the services of Mrs. Sunanda Nair for the post of Secretary to the Director and Mr. K.B. Dileep Kumar for the post of Peon were regularized after complying with the formalities with effect from 1st July 2009. Dr.V.Dinesan, Academic Coordinator, was relieved from duty with effect from 18th November 2009, as per his request and consequently, the second ranked candidate Dr.Preeta Nayar was appointed.

## KCHR Online

KCHR website is located at [www.keralahistory.ac.in](http://www.keralahistory.ac.in) . Information on the centre and current activities are updated in the website from time to time. The website on Pattanam excavations is under preparation.



## Visitors to KCHR

- a, Dr. Roberta Tomber, British Museum, UK, the ceramic expert collaborating with the Pattanam Excavations, visited KCHR from 23rd November 2009 for two weeks for analyzing the amphora sherds from Pattanam and has submitted a report on the Roman pottery sherds. She reports that the last season dig at Pattanam has brought forth fragments of Spanish Catalan amphorae.
- b, Dr. Shinu Abraham, USA, the bead expert collaborating with the Pattanam Excavations was at KCHR for a month from July last to August midweek for analyzing the beads from Pattanam.
- c, Dr. Federico Romanis, University of Rome, Italy as the course Master of the Greek Latin Foundation Course from 27-07-2009 to 04-09-2009.
- d, Dr. Derek Kennet, University of Durham, UK, TGP expert collaborating with the Pattanam Excavations was at Pattanam for a week for analyzing the turquoise glazed pottery excavated from this site.
- e, Dr. Rick Jones, Reader in Roman Archaeology, University of Bradford, UK.
- f, Ms. Smiti Nathan, Oxford University visited the Pattanam site for the collection of biological remains.
- g, Dr Arianne de Saxce, Post Graduate Researcher, University of Paris Sorbonne, France partook in the Pattanam excavations for a week.
- h, Ms. Marta Zugaro, University of la Tuscia, Italy, as a six month research intern at KCHR and the Pattanam excavations.
- i, A team from Oxford University consisting of Dr. Nicole Boivin, Senior Research Fellow, School of Archaeology ; Prof. Chris Gosden, Chair of European Archaeology, School of Archaeology; Mr. David Jennings, CEO, Oxford Archaeology; Dr. Dorian Fuller, Reader, Institute of Archaeology, Dr. Damien Robinson, Director, Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology & Dr. Dario Nappo, Oxford Roman Economy Project visited the Pattanam site.

We take this opportunity to express our thanks to our collaborating institutes, experts, well-wishers, KCHR Friends Forum members, academics and those who have extended critical support and co-operation to us. We look forward to continued support.

Prof. K.N. Panikkar  
Chairman

Prof. P.J. Cherian  
Director



Think of life as an immense problem, an equation, or rather a family of equations, partially dependent on each other, partially independent....it being understood that these equations are very complex, that they are full of surprises, and that we are often unable to discover their "roots"

Ferdinand Braudel



## Early historic Indian Ocean exchanges



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