

Dr. Irving L. Finkel

(The British Museum, London, UK)

Visits Kerala

From 24th to 26th September 2015

“A
Great
Adventure:
The Ark before
Noah!”

At Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi



past for a positive future

Kerala Council for Historical Research
(KCHR), Thiruvananthapuram

College of Fine Arts
(CFA), Thiruvananthapuram

Kochi Muziris Biennale Foundation
(KMB), Kochi

Association of British Scholars
(ABS), Thiruvananthapuram & Kochi Chapters

&

British Council

Invite you to the public lecture by

Dr. Irving L. Finkel

renowned Assyriologist and Archaeologist on

“A Great Adventure: The Ark before Noah!”

25th September 2015 at 11.00 am

Fourth Estate Hall, Press Club,
Thiruvananthapuram

&

26th September 2015 at 6.30 pm

David Hall, Fort Kochi

Prof. P. J. Cherian,

Director, KCHR would preside over the function

You are cordially invited to attend the public lecture

Prior intimation would be appreciated

(kchrtvm@gmail.com – 9495626707, 9496706416 & 9447137651)

(Join us for a cup of tea & snacks)

On 25th September 2015

- 10.00 am : Visit to KCHR
11.30 am : Public Lecture at Fourth Estate Hall, Press Club Road, Thiruvananthapuram
Ph: 0471 232 5701

- Welcome : Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair
(President, ABS, Thiruvananthapuram Chapter)

Dr Finkel would release the 9th season Pattanam excavation report & “The Pattanam bowl” souvenir. Shri. B Srinivas, IAS, Secretary, to Higher Education Department, Government of Kerala & Smt. Jaya G Nair, Scientist/Engineer, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram would receive.

- Presidential remarks : Prof. P.J. Cherian
(Director, KCHR)
Lecture : **Dr. Irving L. Finkel**
(British Museum, London, UK)
Respondent : Dr. D. Babu Paul (Author of Bible dictionary “Veda Sabda Ratnakaram”)
Q & A session :
Vote of Thanks : Prof. A. S. Sajith
(Principal, College of Fine Arts, Thiruvananthapuram)

Programme

On 26th September 2015

- 10:00 am to 1:00 pm : Visit to Pattanam archaeological site and interface with researchers and students of Indian Institute of Archaeology , Kochi

(An exhibition of artefacts excavated at Pattanam site would be arranged in honour of Dr Finkel)

- 6.30 pm : Public Lecture at David Hall, Opp. Parade Ground, Fort Kochi, Ph: 0484 266 8421

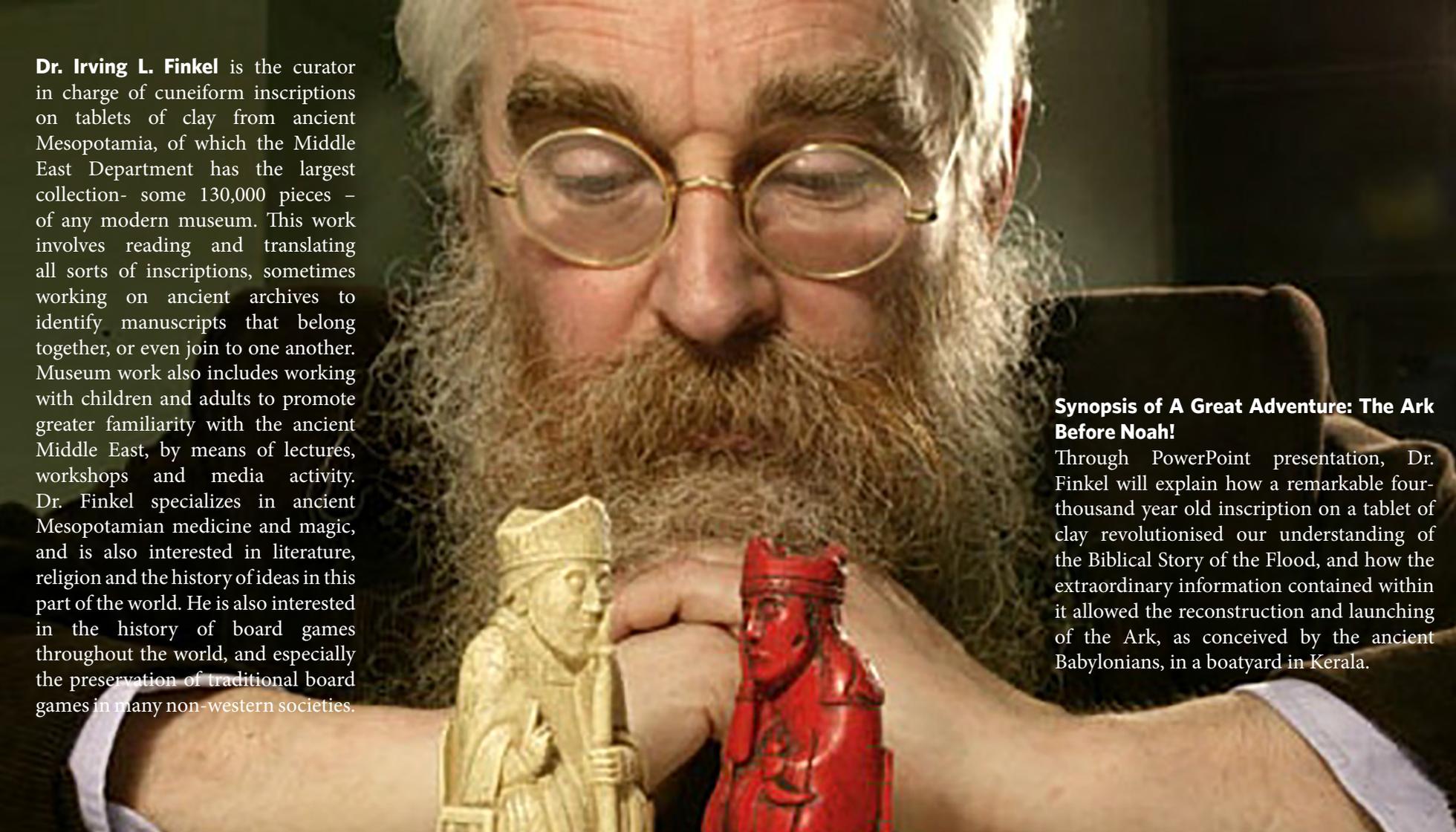
- Welcome : Dr. Christy Fernandez
(President, ABS Chapter, Kochi)

- Presidential remarks : Prof. P. J. Cherian

- Lecture : **Dr. Irving L. Finkel**

- Q & A session :

- Vote of Thanks : Shri. Bonny Thomas
(Trustee and Research Co-ordinator, KMB, Kochi)



Dr. Irving L. Finkel is the curator in charge of cuneiform inscriptions on tablets of clay from ancient Mesopotamia, of which the Middle East Department has the largest collection- some 130,000 pieces – of any modern museum. This work involves reading and translating all sorts of inscriptions, sometimes working on ancient archives to identify manuscripts that belong together, or even join to one another. Museum work also includes working with children and adults to promote greater familiarity with the ancient Middle East, by means of lectures, workshops and media activity. Dr. Finkel specializes in ancient Mesopotamian medicine and magic, and is also interested in literature, religion and the history of ideas in this part of the world. He is also interested in the history of board games throughout the world, and especially the preservation of traditional board games in many non-western societies.

Synopsis of A Great Adventure: The Ark Before Noah!

Through PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Finkel will explain how a remarkable four-thousand year old inscription on a tablet of clay revolutionised our understanding of the Biblical Story of the Flood, and how the extraordinary information contained within it allowed the reconstruction and launching of the Ark, as conceived by the ancient Babylonians, in a boatyard in Kerala.



British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and build trust between them worldwide. For more information, please visit: www.britishcouncil.in



The Kochi Biennale Foundation:

The Kochi Biennale Foundation is an independent not-for-profit organisation that programmes and executes cultural and creative activities, amongst them the Kochi-Muziris Biennale. KBF seeks to strengthen art and cultural infrastructure in India through multi-disciplinary research, educational activities and architectural interventions.



The Fine Arts College, Thiruvananthapuram:

Started functioning as "School of Industrial Art" around 1862, it has evolved into the College of Fine Arts, a leading professional institution affiliated to the University of Kerala. CFA offers graduate programmes in Painting, Sculpture and Applied Art. CFA community is committed to artistic excellence, innovative experimentation and critical thinking.



The Association of British Scholars (ABS), Trivandrum & Kochi Chapters:

The Association of British Scholars (ABS) is a national forum to facilitate the networking of Indians who have studied or trained in the UK. ABS India aims to strengthen the Indo-UK relationship by harnessing the resources, expertise and potential of every ABS chapter through networking, sharing information and hosting social, cultural and intellectual activities. More information and membership details from www.britishcouncil.in/programmes/uk-alumni/join-association-british-scholars-abs



past for a positive future

Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR):

A trans-disciplinary social science research centre located at Thiruvananthapuram is an autonomous institution affiliated to the University of Kerala and funded by the Higher Education Department, Government of Kerala. KCHR has been conducting archaeological excavations at Pattanam in Ernakulam District since 2007. The excavation has captured global academic attention and its findings have potential to rewrite the maritime history of the Old World.

Indian Institute of Archaeology (IIA)
The academic centre of the KCHR at Pattanam, IIA aspires to develop the Pattanam site into a model archaeological park and an inter-disciplinary learning hub. It is committed to scientific practises with human face.

His new book

THE ARK BEFORE NOAH

DECODING THE STORY OF THE FLOOD

Publication: 9 October 2014

Irving Finkel wears several academic hats. As well as being in charge of the British Museum's 130,000 clay tablets, he looks after its collection of board games and has launched the Great Diary Project to "provide a permanent home for unwanted diaries of any date or kind".

What links Mesopotamian inscriptions and the humdrum diaries of elderly ladies from Carshalton?

"I had this sudden epiphany that diaries were like clay tablets," he says. In 4,000 years' time, the shopping lists of elderly ladies in Surrey will be pored over with fascination. Finkel sees his mission as rescuing artefacts of the past – clay tablets, obscure Indian board games, the diaries of ordinary people – before they are swept away, a latterday Noah constructing a cultural ark."

- Stephen Moss

TO ARCHIVE THE PAST
REFINE THE PRESENT
INFORM THE FUTURE

DIGITIZING KERALA'S PAST

The KCHR also has a similar initiative - 'Digitizing Kerala's Past' (DKP)- to conserve the cultural and intellectual legacy of Kerala society. One segment of the DKP aims to digitize and transcribe old diaries and to document "A day in your life" – a sort of diary writing. To know more about the project as well as to read or transcribe the diaries of Smt. Eliamma Matthen (1894-1962) please visit www.dkp.kchr.ac.in

Kerala Council for Historical Research

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www.kchr.ac.in



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'Scholarly and droll . . . it is a joy.'

Bettany Hughes, *The Times*

THE ARK BEFORE NOAH

DECODING *the* STORY
of *the* FLOOD

IRVING
FINKEL