

PATTANAM



EXCAVATIONS

2011

PHOTOGRAPHS



past for a positive future

Kerala Council for Historical Research



Virtual projection of the arial view of the Pattanam excavation site



Excavation site owned by KCHR (Padamadathil Parambu)



Tent and other amenities coming up at the site



The laying out of trenches begins



Laying out the trenches



Laying out the first trench



Work began at 6.30 am after a 45 minute yoga session and ended by 2.30 pm



Pattanam team on the first day of the fifth season, Feb 7th 2011



Digging is on



Soil sifting inside the trenches



Sifting for artifacts



Sorting, numbering and weighing of Pottery sherds



Each pottery sherd is carefully washed, dried, sorted and conserved. Body sherds are stored in the ringwells seen. Total potsherds so far number 4 million



Prof Rick Jones, Director Pompeii excavations (Italy) giving a presentation on Pompeii digs



Digital database for Pattanam
Discussion with IT consultant P Deepak



Discussion on documentation, stratigraphy and finds took place on all working days at 7.30 pm



Daily discussions sometimes went beyond trench reportings- Pattanam team with Dr. Melvyn from UK



Tamil Brahmi inscription "*Amana*" meaning "Jaina" found on a pot rim

Banded glass bead and moulded glass gaming counters



Indian Rouletted Ware suggestive of Buddhist trade links were found in large numbers (3410)

Iron nails and objects



Fascinating range of semi-precious stones found at Pattanam

Turquoise Glazed Pottery (TGP) indicating Mesopotamian links (Parthian/Sassanian) (861)





Semi- precious stone debitage



Pillared Roman Glass



Pattanam lapidary workshops
made finely crafted beads



Mosaic designed and
painted glass fragments



Copper coins from Pattanam

Spindle whorls or gaming counters?



Stone moulds for making beads and rings



Pattanam has the highest number of Terra Sigillata ever recovered from an Indian site (111)

Mediterranean amphora sherds marked an all time high in this season (2779)



Pinkish pottery of unknown provenance provisionally named Pattanam Ware (186)



Pendant from an upper layer - who wore it?

West Asian torpedo jar sherds with inner coating of bitumen (1986)



Chinese ceramics from the modern layer (66)

Terra Sigillata with the stamp V I L



Terra Sigillata objects - stopper, base with an animal figure, disc, etc

Terracotta lamps





Burned clay floor feature found in the Early Historic layer spread across three trenches



Toilet feature found at a depth of 4m with three pots placed one over the other



Terracotta Ringwell



The lowermost jar of the toilet feature



A virtual view of the open trenches (with real section photos) measuring 10x10 m at Padamadathil plot.



Excavating the toilet feature



Searching for artifacts from the contents of the earthen toilet



Hand made grooves on mud blocks found from the burnt clay floor feature



Measuring the earthen toilet feature found at 4 m



Probing into the natural layers below 4 m for peat and geo samples



Collecting geo-samples from the natural layers

Typical example for a post hole cutting through modern to early historic layers





Archaeology field school 2011, for school and college students



Archaeology field school



Learning to measure the elevation of the site



Exploration on the outskirts of Pattanam village



Dr. KN Panikkar, Chairman KCHR and Dr. J. Prasad, VC Sankaracharya University visited Kesavan family - seen with his kids



Remembering Kesavan

Paying tributes to Kesavan's memory





The team with the recipients of the Green Archaeology bicycles



Green Archaeology inauguration by Hon Minister for Education Sri M A Baby



Green Archaeology bicycle distribution by Dr KN Panikkar



Getting ready for a green revolution



Inauguration of the Inter University Centre
for Material Culture Studies
- a joint venture by Sree Sankaracharya University
Kalady and KCHR



Roberta Tomber
Mediterranean ceramic expert (BM)



Team from CESS, Tvm. collected soil samples
for anthropocene study of the
Pattanam sediment layers.
Dr. KP Shajan with Dr TN Prakash



Dr. Rick, Dr. Tomber and Dr. Melvyn with Dr. Cherian



Ms. Carmen engaged in the geo-physical
survey at Pattanam



Ms. Ania engaged in the geo-morphological
studies at Pattanam



Pattanam team with KCHR Chairman Dr. K N Panikkar



Discussions with researchers



Visitors to Pattanam from far and near



Settling of accounts and payments was a Saturday routine



Young citizens of Pattanam watching the excavations - the usual visiting time was from 4 pm to 5.30 pm

Colombo Conference Photographs





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