

Classical Languages

A Window to the Ancient World

SHORT TERM COURSE IN GREEK AND LATIN

with special reference to written sources on Indo-Roman trade



PROSPECTUS & APPLICATION FORM



Kerala Council for Historical Research

KCHR is a premier social science research institute committed to scientific and interdisciplinary historical research. It is an autonomous non-profit organization attached to the Department of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Kerala and affiliated to the University of Kerala. It has academic links with research institutions and Universities inside and outside the country. Research, publication, documentation and training are the major domains of KCHR activities. KCHR offers doctoral, post-doctoral, internship programmes and short term courses in social theory, research methods, epigraphy, classical languages and palaeography.



KCHR undertakes research projects at national and international level and is committed to unearthing the history of

Kerala, in terms of its relation with other regions of the world. It also undertakes projects to enrich the historical social consciousness. It provides research guidance to non-academics enabling them to engage in local history research, publish articles, essays and monographs. KCHR publications include twenty-seven volumes of seminal significance to research on Kerala Society. A sophisticated and well-stocked library is being developed at the KCHR. The holdings are projected to include an exclusive collection of volumes and documents on Kerala History and Society.



Scholars and the general public can access the research resources of

KCHR by joining the KCHR Friends' Forum. Student, Annual, Life and Institutional Membership options are available.

GREEK and LATIN with special reference to written sources on Indo-Roman trade

Rationale, Objectives and Background

The interdisciplinary modes of intellectual enquiry pre-suppose exposure to and understanding of areas that lie beyond the conventional disciplinary boundaries and limits of super-specialty investigations. The commitment of KCHR to advanced historical knowledge has always taken into consideration the importance of interdisciplinary, comprehensive and collaborative research. The Indian epigraphy course at KCHR, attracted students from a wide-range of disciplines such as engineering, archaeology, business management, physical sciences, languages, film, art and history. The proposed part time course in ancient Greek and Latin languages is an offshoot of the interdisciplinary archaeological research undertaken by KCHR at Pattanam as part of the Muziris Heritage Project. The course hopes to provide a comprehensive understanding of the Early Historic Period in which Malabar Coast opened up cultural and commercial interfaces with the Mediterranean as well as the Red Sea and Indian Ocean rims. The fact that the original written sources of the period are mostly in ancient Greek and Roman, makes this course a window to the life and times of the Roman Empire and an opportunity to enrich and enlighten minds.

The short-term and part-time courses will expose the students to ancient European writing systems. The emphasis would be on Greek and Latin languages and their scripts. Beyond learning the scripts, the students will have the opportunity to make sense of ancient writings and review their interpretations. The variety of ancient sources - literary, epigraphic, papyrological, ostraca, numismatic - all written in classical languages will be made use of to study the history of the period they represent. It would further train the students to contextualize the Indo-Roman trade within the socio-economic realities of the Roman Empire.

This initiative is an outcome of the International Research Exchange agreement signed between KCHR and the University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy. The purpose of the agreement is to establish and facilitate mutual cooperation in educational programmes, research activities, exchange of technical and scientific information, expertise and personnel.

Qualifications

Open to all irrespective of age, academic, professional qualifications.

Course Fee

The course fee will be Rs. 5,000/- to be paid at the time of admission.

Duration and Schedule

The course will last six weeks, five days per week, four hours per day. (Morning 7.30 am to 9.30 am and Evening 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm) The course for the first batch commences on July 27th 2009 and concludes on September 4th 2009. Day time classes may also be considered depending on the preference/convenience of the students/faculty.

Venue

KCHR, Vyloppilly Samskrithi Bhavan, Nalanda, Thiruvananthapuram-3

Prospectus & Registration Forms

Available from the office or can be downloaded online. The last date for the receipt of application is June 30, 2009.

Faculty

Dr. Federico De Romanis, Professor, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", is the Course Master. This well known epigraphist and scholar in Roman history is an academic associate of KCHR.

The Syllabus Aims to Introduce the Students to

- Ancient Greek and Latin writing systems.
- Greek and Latin grammar: declensions, verbal systems, syntax.
- The critical reading of the major Greek and Latin texts related to Indo-Roman trade: Strabo, *Periplus Maris Erythraei*, Pliny, *P. Vindob. G 40822*. *P.Oxy 403 Cosmas Indicopleustes* etc.
- The numismatic and inscriptional evidences related to Indo-Roman trade.
- The socio-political institutions of the Roman Empire and its economic peculiarities.

Lesson Plan



A. Linguistics Greek and Latin Grammar

First week (July 27th-31st): *Alphabets. Nouns. Adjectives. Pronouns.*

Second week (August 3rd-7th): *Verbs. Syntax.*

B. Reading Documents

Third week (August 10th-14th): *Periplus Maris Erythraei 1-15; Pliny, Naturalis Historia VI 100-103.*

Fourth week (August 17th-21th): *Periplus Maris Erythraei 16-30; Pliny, Naturalis Historia VI 104-106.*

Fifth week (August 24th-28th): *Periplus Maris Erythraei 31-45; P. Vindobonensis G 40822.*

Sixth week (August 31th-September 4th): *Periplus Maris Erythraei 46-60; Ptolemaeus, Geographia VIII.*

References will also be made to other authors like Strabo, Mela, Seneca, Tacitus, Cosmas Indicopleustes, to inscriptions from Puteoli and the Coptos-Berenike road and legends on Roman coins. Ancient maps like Peutinger Table related to trade routes will be introduced.



Reading List



Greek and Latin Grammars can be downloaded from the web. Greek and Latin Texts will be provided on CD Rom.

L. Casson, *The Periplus Maris Erythraei, Text with Introduction, Translation, and Commentary*. Pp. xvii + 320; 18 maps. Princeton University Press, 1989, Princeton 1989.

F. De Romanis, A. Tchernia, *Crossings- Early Mediterranean Contacts With India*, New Delhi 1992.

G. Parker, *The Making of Roman India*, Cambridge 2008.

S. Sidebotham, *Roman Economic Policy in the Erythra Thalassa*, Leiden 1986.

P. Turner, *Roman Coins from India*, London 1989.



We must go abroad into the histories and literature of the world
- Tertullian

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