



SHORT TERM COURSE
The Muziris Papyrus and the
Indian Ocean Trade in Antiquity
August 6th – 18th, 2012

PROSPECTUS



The Kerala Council for Historical Research [KCHR], established in 2001, is one of the premier research institutes in Kerala dedicated to inter-disciplinary research in 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 programmes. KCHR devotes its intellectual resources and academic resolve to achieve excellence in the domains of research, publication, documentation, training and co-ordination.





Short-Term Course on the Muziris Papyrus and the Indian Ocean Trade in Antiquity

Background

The KCHR is leading the multi-disciplinary and multi-seasonal archaeological research at Pattanam since 2006. The excavations have brought forth important evidence for India's ancient maritime contacts with West Asian, African and European regions. The academic impact of the project could bring into it outstanding institutions like the University of Oxford, the British Museum, the Durham University, the Georgia University, the University of Rome, the Delaware University, the Institute of Physics (IOP) Bhubaneswar, the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore, the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad and many others.

The present short-term course on the Muziris Papyrus and the Indian Ocean trade in antiquity is the outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the KCHR and the University of Rome in 2008. In 2009 we could organize an intensive short-term foundation course in the classical languages of Latin and Greek. This academic association has also led to other collaborative initiatives in field studies and post-excavation research.

Muziris Papyrus

The short-term course on the Muziris Papyrus, is expected to explore a 2nd century CE trade document in ancient Greek to discover the unknown aspects of the trade links between India and the Mediterranean world. The papyrus document is presently housed in the Austrian National Library in Vienna. It records a loan agreement for financing a commercial enterprise to Muziris, signed by a merchant and a financier from Alexandria, Egypt, and a description of the cargo of a ship Hermapollon sailing back from Muziris. A fresh study of the document, along with the

discoveries from the Pattanam excavations can provide new perspectives on Indian Ocean trade in antiquity.

Course Master

Dr. Federico De Romanis, Professor at the University of Rome (Tor Vergata), a preeminent scholar in ancient history.



Image of Muziris Papyrus

Duration

Two-weeks from the 6th to the 18th of August 2012 (six hours per day; Sunday holiday).

Venue

KCHR premises or another convenient place in Trivandrum

Eligibility

Open to all interested in the topic irrespective of age and academic qualification. Familiarity with the use of internet and a laptop will be helpful to the participants.

Limited Seats

The number of participants is restricted to 50. Apply at the earliest and not later than 23rd July 2012. Admission requirements need to be completed by the 30th of July 2012. KCHR would help the outstation students to identify accommodation facility.

Course Fee

Rs. 3,000 (Rupees three thousand only) has to be paid on or before 30th July 2012 as Cash/ Money order/ DD drawn in favour of Director, Kerala Council for Historical Research, payable at Thiruvananthapuram

Prospectus and Application forms

For free prospectus, syllabus and application form please contact, The Academic Co-ordinator, KCHR, Nalanda, Vyloppilly Samskriti Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram. Phone: 0471 2310409, 6574977. Email: kchrtvm@gmail.com

Schedule, Course Contents / Syllabus

1. **August 6th 2012:** Greek alphabet. Reading the transcription of the texts of the papyrus. Introduction to Papyrology. Papyrological websites.
2. **August 7th 2012:** Basics of grammar. The grammar of the texts of the 'Muziris papyrus'. Reading the Muziris papyrus.
3. **August 8th 2012:** The contract of the recto: previous interpretations. Checking the readings of the recto text.
4. **August 9th 2012:** The contract of the recto: previous interpretations. Checking the readings of the recto text.
5. **August 10th 2012:** The contract on the recto: a new interpretation. Ancient maritime loans contracts.
6. **August 11th 2012:** The financier and the merchant of the Muziris papyrus. The Indo-roman trade in the Roman economy.
7. **August 13th 2012:** The text of the verso: previous interpretations. Checking the text of the verso.
8. **August 14th 2012:** The text of the verso: oddities of an evaluation. Checking the text of the verso.
9. **August 15th 2012:** How much pepper did the Hermapollon carry? Pepper production and pepper consumption in the Ancient world. Checking the text of the verso.
10. **August 16th 2012:** Items other than pepper: Muziris and its Eastern connections. Checking the text of the verso.
11. **August 17th 2012:** The empire, the merchants and the tax collectors. Fiscal aspects of the India trade. Reconstructing the text of the verso.
12. **August 18th 2012:** A diachronic comparison between Roman, Arab, Chinese and Portuguese import of black pepper.



past for a positive future

Kerala Council for Historical Research

Vyloppilly Samskriti Bhavan, Nalanda

Thiruvananthapuram – 695 003, Kerala

Tel : 0471 2310409 / 6574988; email : kchrtvm@gmail.com

www.keralahistory.ac.in