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# HENRY BAKER COLLEGE MELUKAVU

Department of  
History

2018-19

ACADEMIC  
YEAR

## FROM DARKNESS INTO MARVELLOUS LIGHT

Henry Baker College, Melukavu Is a Christian, Minority, Co-Educational, Government-aided Arts and Science College Established In 1981, affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala.

**POSTGRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES**  
**2018-2019**

**I. ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES**

**1. Commemoration of Quit India and Hiroshima Nagasaki Day.**

The Post Graduate Department of History commemorated Quit India and Hiroshima Nagasaki day on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Staff and students of the department assembled in the auditorium at 1.20pm. Dr. Beena Paul, HoD of the Dept. of History presided over the meeting. Josna Sebastian of I BA delivered a speech on Quit India. Anu Sugunan, I BA recalled the Hiroshima Nagasaki incident. In order to pay tribute to our National leaders and great freedom fighters, Anjaly Sreekumar and team sung patriotic songs in the meeting. In the meeting students took an Oath of Peace by holding white flags. History Association Secretary, Aravind Shaji, IIBA, recited an oath to the students. The meeting ended at 2 pm. Forty four students attended the programme.





## **2. History Association Inauguration**

Inauguration of the History association was held on 01/10/2018 at 10 am in the Seminar hall. Dr. Beena Paul HOD of PG Department of History welcomed the gathering. Dr. Gireeshkumar G S, Principal of the college, presided over the meeting and delivered the presidential address. Chief Guest of the meeting Dr. Jenne Peter, Assistant Professor, Union Christian College inaugurated the association programmes. Aravind Shaji, Association Secretary proposed vote of thanks. The meeting ended at 10.30 am. 96 students participated in the meeting.



### 3. Caricature Competition.

As part of the 149<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary celebration of Mahatma Gandhi, Dept. of History conducted a caricature competition for students of the college. The competition was held in the audio visual room. 8 students participated in the competition. The winners were

1. Thomas.J. Ajay II BA English
2. Amegh P.P- III BA History.

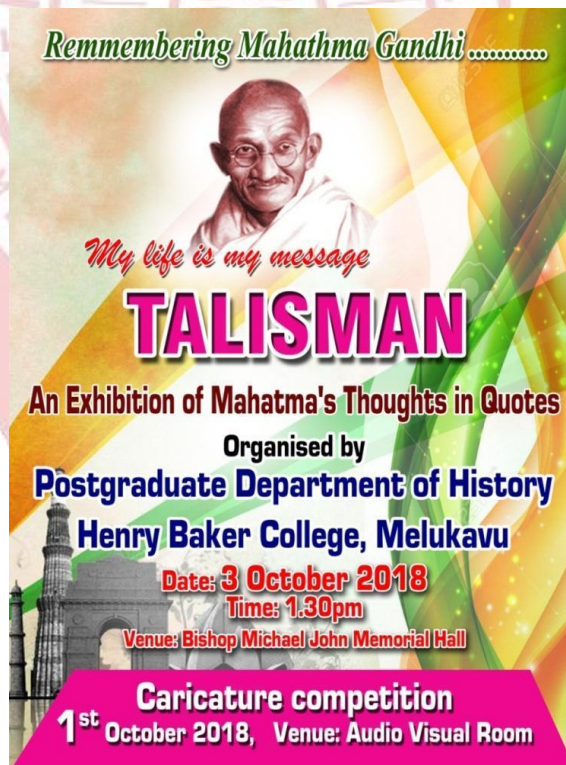






#### 4. Commemoration of Gandhi Jayanthi & Exhibition 'Talisman'

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018, an exhibition titled 'Talisman' was organised by the Department of History in the seminar hall. Gandhian thoughts in quotes were exhibited to think and reflect on. The exhibition was inaugurated by the College Principal Dr. Gireesh Kumar G.S. On the occasion, prizes of the caricature competition were distributed. The exhibition continued for 2 days. Teachers and students of the different departments rallied round to see the exhibition. The exhibition was informative and inspiring.









### **5. Cultural Programme**

Cultural programme for the students of the Post graduate department of History was arranged on 15/10/2018 in the seminar hall at 1.20.pm. Emmanuel T, IBA & Alan C Jose II BA sung Malayalam songs and Annie Summer Andrews I BA History sung an English Song. Monoact was performed by Anu Sugunan, IBA and Archana P. I MA History. The meeting ended at 2 pm. 65 students attended the programme.



## II. ALUMNI MEETING

Seventh annual alumni meeting of the Postgraduate department of history was held on 26/01/19 in the College Seminar Hall. Association president Adv. V.P. Nazer presided over the meeting. Dr. Beena Paul, Head of the Postgraduate Department of History welcomed the gathering. Dr. Gireeshkumar G.S inaugurated the meeting and delivered the keynote address. Dr. Raju D. Krishnapuram, Rtd. HOD Malayalam, Prof. Ajitha V.R, HOD Hindi Department, Dr. Nisha Joseph, Department of History, Prof. Korah Jacob, HOD Economics Department, Subheesh Ramankutty, Secretary History Association and Prasad. K.K, talked in the meeting. Many alumni members brought their family members along with them. The meeting ended at 1.00pm. Inaugural meeting was followed by a photo session. After lunch cultural programmes were arranged. Mr. Suraj Palakkaran, alumni (cine artist), Binu A.R, and Mr.Biju T.R performed mimicry. . The meeting ended at 4.00 pm. Number of participants exceeded 150. Three executive meetings were also held prior to the Alumni meeting, for the better conduct of Alumni gathering.







An alumni meeting of the 1998 pre-degree batch was also arranged in the same year. Alumni members together with their family assembled in the college. Sri. Johnson Kuruvilla welcomed the gathering. Dr. Gireeshkumar G.S, Principal of the college presided over the meeting. Dr. Beena Paul, HOD, Department of History, talked in the meeting. Sheeja and Amose, former students of the batch shared their memories. Rev. P.D. Joseph, Rtd. Professor, Department of Politics and Dr. Nisha Joseph, Department of History were present in the meeting.



#### **IV. STUDENTS TOUR**

Student's tour of IIIBA History was conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018. 18 students went to Ooty and Kodiaknal accompanied by Dr. Beena Paul, and Mr. Krishnadas Chinnappan.



#### **V. ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS**

##### **I**

##### **1. Interview with Kovilmala Ilayaraja**

Teachers from the department of history visited Kovilmala, a Mannan tribal settlement and met Ilayaraja on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018. He described their life in their Kudy, customs and traditions. He also talked about their social life and their interaction with non-tribal people. He said marriage with non-tribals are at present very high and non-tribals marry Mannan tribes for their landed property. They had a unique custom to protect their people. He also shared his anxiety about their dissipating tribal language.

##### **2. Interview with a veteran CSI Christian missionary Mr. Joseph Mundasseril**

Oral History club members of the History department visited and interviewed a veteran CSI Christian Missionary Mr. Joseph Mundasseril on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018,

at Poomala, Thodupuzha. Mr. Joseph was 97 years old and his wife Aleyamma, 89 years old. They shared their hazards in the missionary field and many early churches were the results of their hard-work. The Interview unravelled the life and work of an early missionary.

### **3. Interview with an agriculturalist Mr. Achuthan Narayanan, Valavoor**

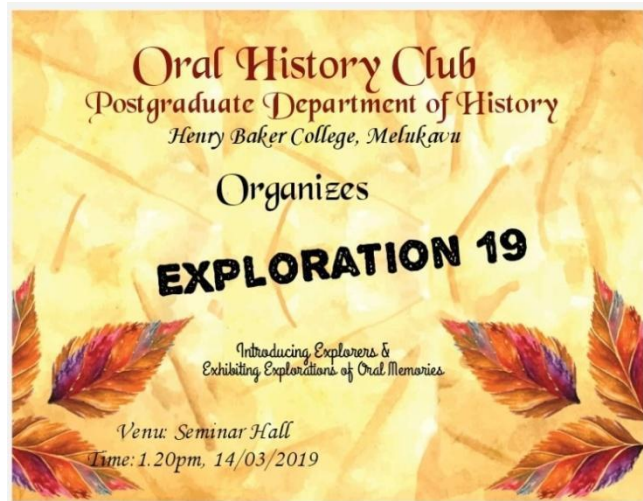
On 12th March 2019 Krishna KS, I MA history student, interviewed Mr. Achuthan Narayanan, a 97 year old agriculturalist, living at Valavoor. He shared his memories of childhood, relationship with the community, knowledge on farming and about the festival of harvesting. The interviewer got the opportunity to record the age old experiences related to farming.



## **II. Exploration 19**

Oral history club of the Post Graduate Department organized 'Exploration 19' on 14th March at 1.20 pm in the Seminar Hall . Dr. Nisha Joseph, Assistant Professor welcomed the gathering. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Beena Paul, HOD of the Post Graduate Department of History. Dr. Gireeshkumar G. S Principal, Henry Baker College, delivered the keynote address. The meeting was to introduce the Oral history explorers and a video presentation on the exploration of oral memories was also arranged. During the occasion documented interviews were also released. Ms. Krishna KS, I MA History shared her experience at the time of interview.





## VI. FIELD VISITS

### 1. Megalithic Site at Kurumannu

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, I & II MA students, HOD Dr. Beena Paul and archaeologist Dr. Jenne Peter conducted a field survey in a megalithic site at Kurumannu, 6km away from the college. Students got the opportunity to visit a megalithic site. The site had a number of dolmens and Dr. Jenne explained the different aspects of the dolmen. She also explained the possibilities of megalithic settlements in the region. For the first time students got the opportunity to visit an archaeological site, which belonged to the pre-historic period. Students were also astonished to know that the surroundings of the college were once pre-historic settlements.





## **2. Visit to cave at Mankombu**

Hearing about a cave in Mankombu, staff and students of the Department of History decided to explore the place. Dr. Beena Paul, HOD History, Dr. Nisha Joseph, Assistant Professor; Sri. Krishnadas Chinnappan and Kum. Bency Mohandas, Assistant Professor on Contract and students Chinnu George , Asha Venu , Ajith V.R , Muhammed Aby, Aravind Shaji and Abhijith Abhilash visited the cave on 2/03/2019. The team was accompanied by Dr. Cyriac Jose, Assistant Professor in Archaeology, St. Thomas College, Pala. Natives helped us to reach the cave. Cave was mud made. It has five chambers. The mouth of the cave was very narrow. According to the natives the cave has existed for over hundred years. But no human occupation is possible in the cave. Dr. Cyriac after examining the site has an opinion that the cave is not man made but natural.





### **3. Visit to Urali Tribal Settlement Pattayakudi, Idukki**

On 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019, fifteen first year postgraduate students and two teachers (Dr. Nisha Joseph and Mr. Krishnadas Chinnappan) from the department of History visited Pattayakudi tribal settlement. Pattayakudi is one of the oldest Urali tribal majority areas in Idukki district. The team met Ur Mooppan Mr. Jayarajan and Kunjunj (an elder man from the community). The staff and students got the opportunity to interact with the representatives of the Urali tribe. Ur Mooppan described their culture, traditions, festivals, beliefs, tribal treatment, educational backwardness etc... Mr. Kunjunj, an aged man, spoke about their worship of forefathers, special vows and offerings paid to them, and their hardships during the rainy seasons. The team also interacted with Mr. Gangadharan, a performer of Urali art.



The crew also visited Meenoliyampara, a tourist centre, also famous for Megalithic monuments. The team also visited many Kudis. The visit to Pattayakudi was a wonderful experience for the staff and students.



#### **4. Visit to Sastrayan, SSUS Kalady**

P.G students along with their tutor Mr. Krishnadas Chinnappan visited *Sastrayan*, SSUS Kalady as part of fulfilling their academic pursuits. The objective of the exhibition was to improve the learning experience of young generation and to promote interest in scientific technologies from close quarters.



**@Sastrayan, SSUS, KALADY**

## **VII. RELEASES**

### **1. Manuscript Magazine**

Eighth volume of the Manuscript Magazine, 'Historica', was released on 15/3/2019. Dr. Manojkumar P.S, Associate Professor, Sree C Achuthan Menon Govt. College Kuttanellur released the volume titled 'Desam'. Details for the magazine were collected by IIIBA students. They collected and recorded the details of all institutions in Melukavumattom. Students also conducted a survey of the shops and establishments in Melukavumattom. Data of the survey was attached to the magazine as an appendix. The purpose of the work was to find out the local history of the area concerned.

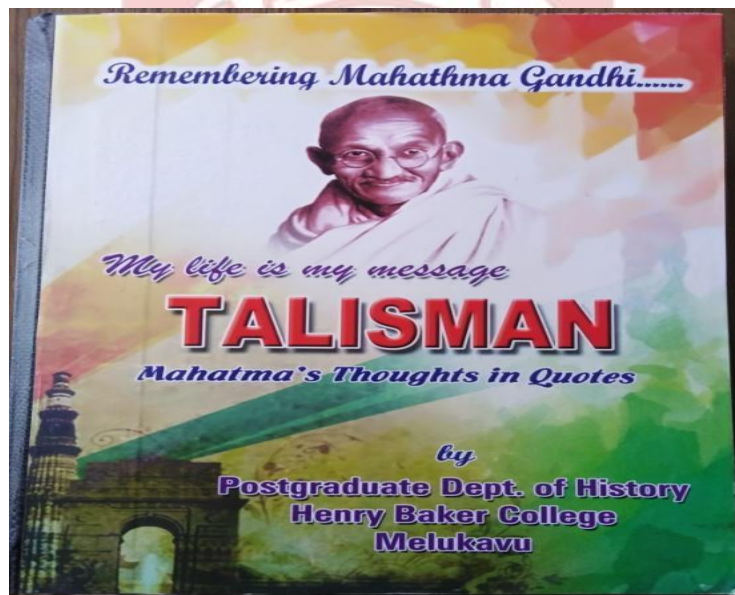
### **2. Pralayam2018**

Students of the department, particularly IMA and IBA made a photo album of **Great Flood 2018**, titled "Pralayam 2018". This volume was also released on the occasion. Photos from the newspapers are used to make the album. The volume has two parts – 'Flood' and 'After Flood'. Two articles, 'Why Flood' by Ancy. B, II MA and 'Reconstructing Kerala' by Archana P IMA is also included in the volume.



### 3. Talisman

As part of 149th Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations, Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts in quotes were collected and compiled. This was released on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 titled **Talisman**.




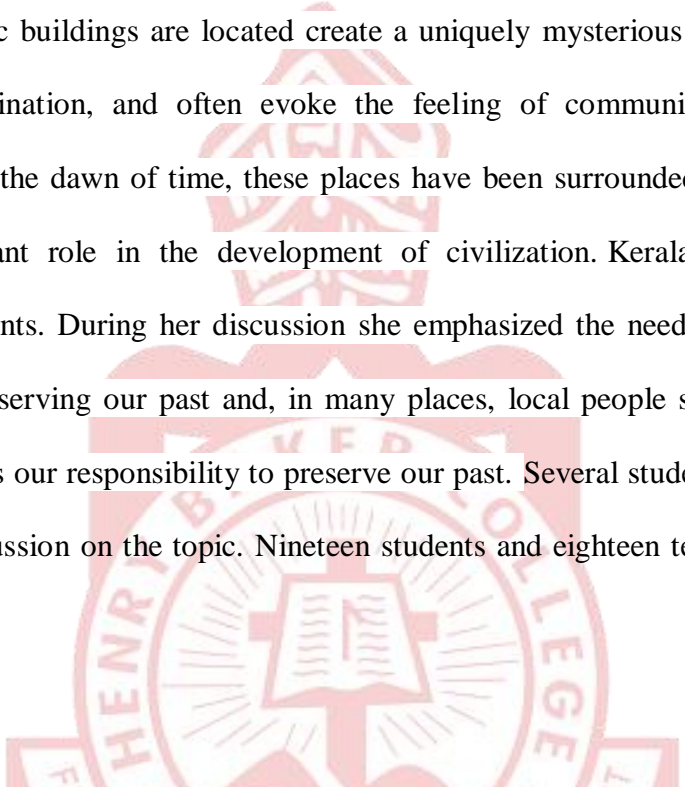
## VIII. ACADEMIC DELIBERATIONS

### 1. Faculty Development Programme on “Iron Age: Burial Monument and Time Frame”

A Professional Development Programme was conducted in the Post Graduate Department of History on 01.10.2018. Dr Jenne Peter, Assistant Professor, U C College, Aluva talked on



**“Iron Age: Burial Monument and Time Frame”**. Dr Jenne Peter, in her power point presentation, exhibited the photographs of various types of megaliths and explained its specialties to the participants. According to Dr. Jenne Peter, the presence of megaliths in cultural heritage is of great importance for most countries throughout the world. These objects exist in all continents, creating a unique network of priceless cultural geosites. Areas on which megalithic buildings are located create a uniquely mysterious aura; they intrigue, stimulate the imagination, and often evoke the feeling of communing with something supernatural. Since the dawn of time, these places have been surrounded by a specific cult, playing an important role in the development of civilization. Kerala is abundant with megalithic monuments. During her discussion she emphasized the need of preserving such monuments for conserving our past and, in many places, local people sometimes damaged such stones. So, it is our responsibility to preserve our past. Several students asked questions and had a live discussion on the topic. Nineteen students and eighteen teachers attended the programme.



**HENRY BAKER COLLEGE MELUKAVU**  
F D C in association with

**POST GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
Professional Development Programme

**IRON AGE: BURIAL MONUMENT  
&  
TIME FRAME**

RESOURCE PERSON : DR. JANNE PETER  
ASST. PROFESSOR, U. C. COLLEGE ALUVA

**VENUE : SEMINAR HALL**

DATE : 01/10/2018      TIME : 10 AM - 3PM



**Dr. Jenne Peter delivering the Lecture (01.10.2018)**

## **2. Extension Lecture**

The Faculty Development Centre of Henry Baker College, in association with the Postgraduate Department of History organized a Professional Development Programme on **“Finding the Local: Methodology and Perspectives”** on 15/03/2019. Dr. Beena Paul, Head of the Department of History, welcomed the gathering. Dr. Gireeshkumar GS, Principal of the college delivered the presidential address. The chief guest of the programme was Dr. P.S Manoj Kumar, Associate Professor, Sree C.Achuthamenon Govt. College, Kuttanellur. He delivered the lecture on **‘Finding the Local: Methodology and Perspectives’**. He opined that the local historian needs to have some preparation before writing a historical account. He/she must have a good grasp of the national history of the country. This does not

mean the memorization of obscure or irrelevant trivia but a familiarity with the general developments and trends of national significance. Dr. Nisha Joseph, FDC coordinator and Assistant Professor of Dept. of History felicitated over the meeting. Sixteen Students and fifteen faculty members attended the programme.



**HENRY BAKER COLLEGE, MELUKAVU**

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
in association with  
POST GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
organises  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

*Finding the Local: Methodology and Perspectives*

Resource Person:  
**Dr. P.S Manoj Kumar,**  
*Associate Professor, Sree C.Achuthanmenon Govt. College,  
Kuttanellur.*

Date: 15 March 2019 Time:10 am-3.00 pm  
Venue: Seminar Hall

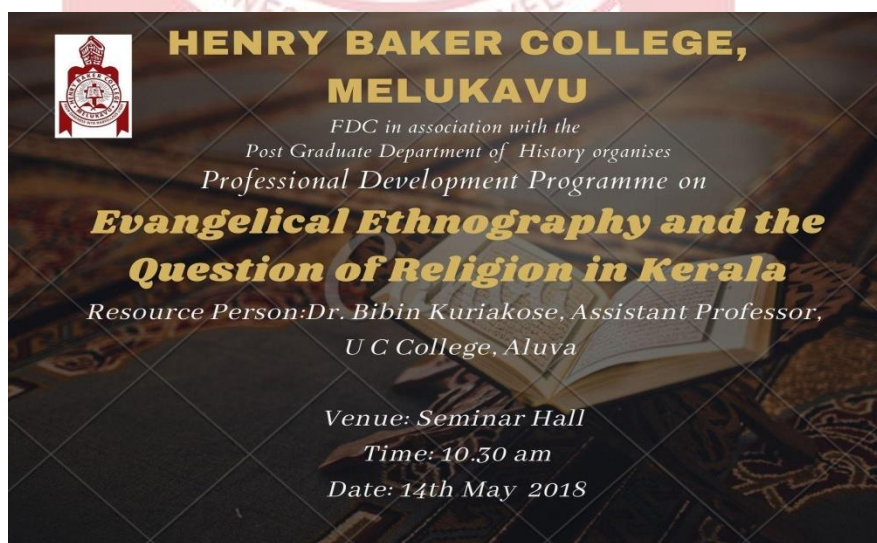




## Dr. P.S Manoj Kumar delivering the Lecture on 15 March 2019

### 3. Extension Lecture

A Professional Development Programme on *Evangelical Ethnography and the Question of Religion in Kerala* was held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The programme started by 10.30 am. Dr. Bibin Kuriakose, Asst. Professor, Marthoma College for Women, Perumbavoor delivered the lecture on *Evangelical Ethnography and the question of Religion in Kerala*. Dr. Beena Paul, Head of the Department of History welcomed the gathering. Dr. Gireeshkumar G.S, Principal of the college presided over the meeting. In his lecture, Dr. Bibin Kuriakose highlighted that Evangelical ethnography is an ever-challenging subject among intellectuals. Most of the backwards came to the mainstream only after the influence of western education, until then they were considered as mere creatures left for work hard in the farms of landlords. Evangelical ethnography reveals the real life of the destitute. Dr. Nisha Joseph, FDC coordinator proposed the vote of thanks. P G Students and teachers participated in the meeting. The programme was concluded by 3.00 pm.





**Dr. Bibin Kuriakose delivering the Lecture on 14.05.2018**

