



CHRISTIAN
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CYRIAC THEVARMANNIL

MAR ABRAHAM, THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST. THOMAS CHRISTIANS IN MALABAR (1508-1597)



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Edited by K.S.Mathew

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Syrian Churches Series XXIII

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Front cover Page:

Image: Mar Abraham's Signature dated 2 January 1578 Ref: Joseph Wicki S.J, *Documenta Indica*, vol. xi, Rome, 1970, p. 45*: & *Ibid*, p.831.

Back cover page:

Image: Ref. Joseph Wicki S.J, *Documenta Indica*, vol. xi, Rome, 1970, p. 41*- Order issued by the Catholic Patriarch Abdisho on 25 August 1566 nominating Archdeacon George of Christ as the Bishop of Palayur, Ref. Joseph Wicki S.J, *Documenta Indica*, vol: VII, Rome 1962 pp. 703-705.



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Syrian Churches Series

Syrian Churches Series was established in 1986 under the initiative of Dr Jacob Vellian to promote the study on the Eastern Churches through research in Syriac language, culture, liturgical tradition and its publication. Twenty-two significant books are published hitherto in this series. We are highly grateful to Dr Vellian who has benignly conceded to expand this series through JET and has consented to have copyright of the published works. The present work is XXIII in the series.



PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Fr Jacob Kollaparambil Educational Trust (JET) is proud and happy to complete the much awaited publication of the doctoral dissertation of late Rev. Dr Cyriac Thevarmannil under the direction of Fr Wicki S.J. on Mar Abraham, the last Chaldean Bishop of the Syrian Catholics of India. JET delightfully undertakes this venture in consonance with the objectives objectives of the Trust and the importance of the work. The recent attention on the studies related to Mar Abraham, the mine of sources found in this dissertation thanks to the masterly guidance of Fr Wicki S.J., an erudite scholar in the history of the Church in India during the Portuguese period, the possible light that this work would bring in to the dark areas and ages of the Syrian or Chaldean connection of the Syrian Church of Malabar, etc. are the general drives behind this undertaking.

There are some special reasons also that prompted JET to undertake this initiative. Mar Abraham has a vital relation with the Thekkumbhaga or Knanite Community. When the life of Mar Abraham was at threat from the Portuguese, the Knanites took him to Kaduthuruthy and Kottayam. These places were strongholds of the Knanites and were away from the Kingdom of Cochin with which the Portuguese colonial power had good relations. The Knanite community is indebted to him as well. The Churches of Kaduthuruthy, Kottayam, Kallissery and Chungam were built or rebuilt during his regime. The big granite Cross at Kaduthuruthy also was erected in his tenure.

JET believes also that it's the duty of the Trust to recognize and honour this laudable work of Late Rev. Dr Cyriac Thevarmannil, a Syro-Malankara Rite priest of the Archeparchy of Kottayam *pro Gente Suddistica* (for the Southist People). He was one among the two priests of the Archeparchy of Kottayam



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ABBREVIATIONS

Arch.Secret.	= Archivum Secretum Vaticanum
ARSI	= Archivum Romanum Societatis Jesu
BPP	= Bullarium Patronatus Portugalliae
BPPA	= Bullarium Patronatus Portugalliae Appendix
BO	= Bibliotheca Orientalis Clementino Vaticana
Go a-Mal	= Goanae Malabaricae Epistolae

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