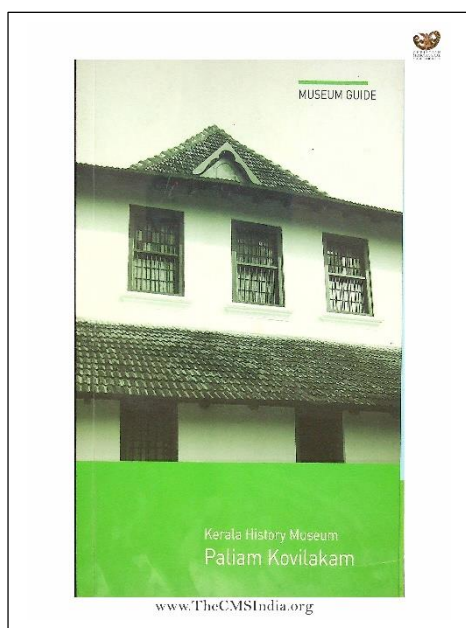
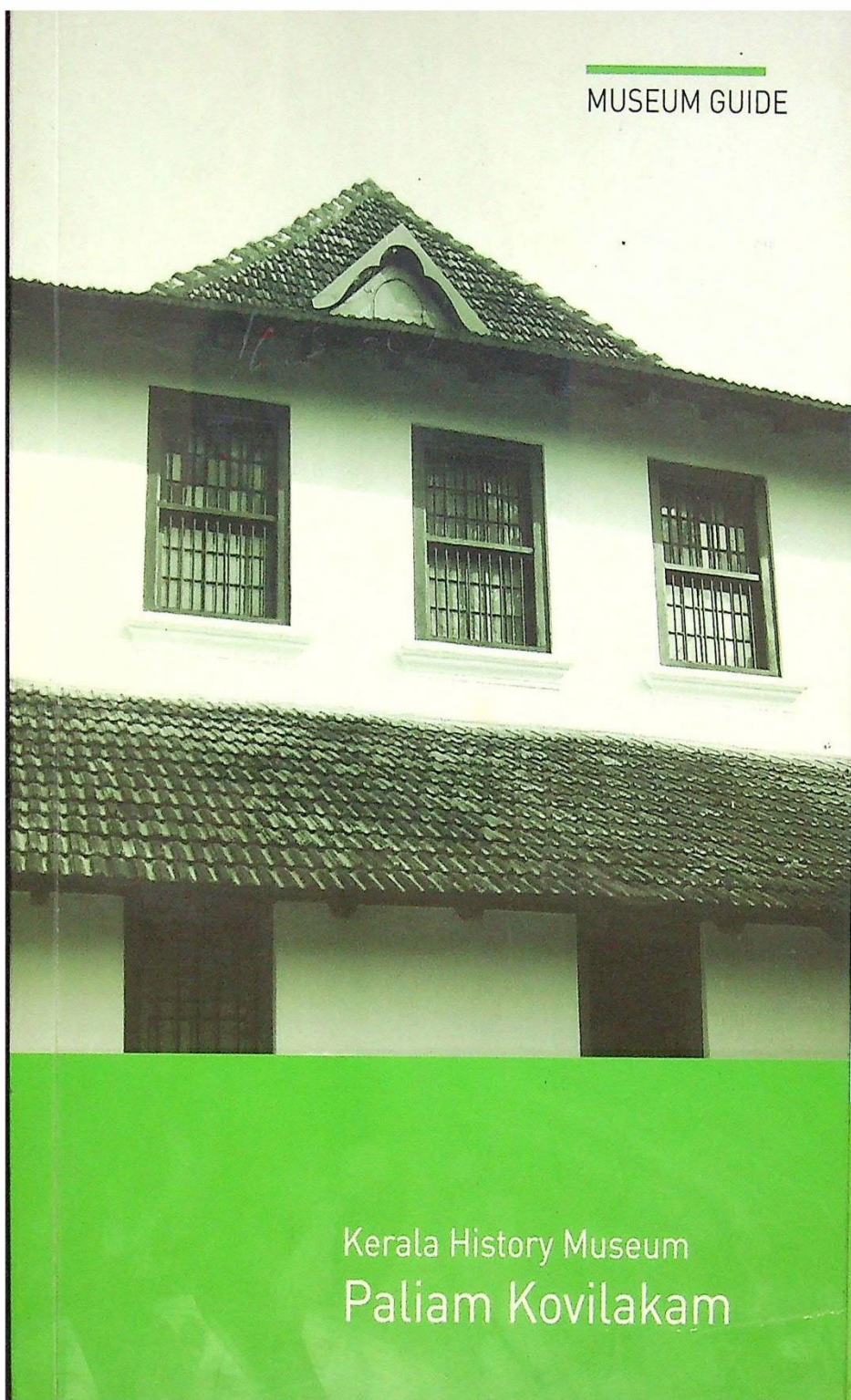


Kerala History Museum_Paliam Kovilakam



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MUZIRIS HERITAGE PROJECT – OTHER MUSEUMS

Paliyam Nalukettu



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Chendamangalam Synagogue



The life of Jews in Kerala, and their social relationships

Paravur Synagogue



The history of Jews in Kerala, their migration, rituals and beliefs

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Muziris Heritage Project

In ancient times, Muziris was a renowned trading centre. Later it grew into a melting pot of civilizations. Arabs, Jews, Romans, Greeks and Chinese came here.

The famed 'Muchiri' mentioned in ancient Tamil epics later became Muyirikode, kodumkoloor, Kodungallur and Mahodayapuram. It was the Yavanas (Foreigners) who gave the name 'Muziris' to Muchiri, the illustrious port town which was situated somewhere along the coast of Periyar river. In the torrent of time, all the insignias of the glorious days of Muziris port were washed away!

The objective of Muziris Heritage Project is to showcase the significance of the heritage of Muziris to the present generation. Some of the remnants of the great past have been preserved as History Museums. Paliam Kovilakam Museum is one among them.

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Paliyam Kovilakam

The main residence of Paliathachans. 'Paliathachan' is the title given to the Karanavar (Head of the Family) of Paliyam Noble Family. During the 17th and 18th centuries, they held the posts of Prime Minister and Chief of Army of the kingdom of Kochi.

As loyal Ministers, Paliyathachans defended Kochi against various domestic and foreign threats. During those times, Kochi was a land of battles over rights with the Portuguese, Dutch and English, Kochi also faced frequent attacks of Zamorin, the Mysore Army and threats from Thiruvithamcode.

The stages of evolution of Kochi Kingdom, the importance of paliyam family and the life of nobility in the 'Post-Swarupam' period constitute the theme of this museum.

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Paliam Copper Plates

Paliam chepped

A copper plate (Chepped) found from Paliam. There are two copper sheets and it is a document about donation of land by King Vikramaditya Varagunan to the Buddhist temple, Sreemulavasam.



A copper plate from 1663

An agreement signed by King of Kochi with the Dutch for the protection of his country. The importance of Paliam is evident in this agreement. It was written on 22 March 1663 CE (322, according to Puthuvaypu calendar). It contains ten pages written on two sides of five copper sheets.

25

Paliam Kovilakam

Paliam partition deed of 2436 pages is considered to be longest partition deed in Asia

1600

Attipper ola
(document transferring freehold rights) Villarvattom king hands over freehold rights and powers over his property to Paliam.



1621

A donation

Mention about the King of Kochi, Gangadhara Veerakerala Thirukovil, donating Azhikal region to Paliath Ittinnan Kumaran Achan

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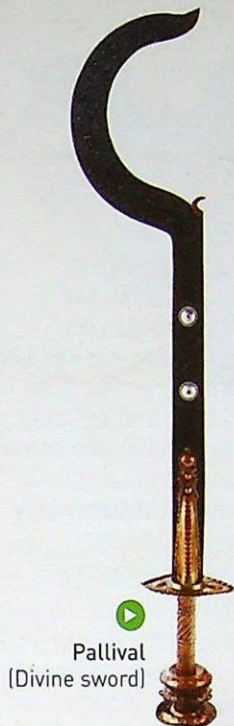
Van Goens

Governor General of Dutch East India Company (1678-1681). He was born in Reese, Germany, on 24 June 1619. He led the Dutch force in Ceylon(Sri Lanka) and India. Following a treaty he made with the lord in the elder matrilineal branch, he took upon himself the mission to protect Kochi. He recaptured Kollam town and Pallippuram fort from the Portuguese, and conquered the Kodungallur fort in 1662. According to the treaty, the lord of elder branch was enthroned as king of Kochi. He has written about his stay in Ceylon and Kochi.



Hendrik Adriaan Van Rhee de

The Dutch military officer who led the preparation of the famous book Hortus Malabaricus. Born on 13 April, 1636, he came to India as a common soldier in the Dutch army. During the battle for the capture of Kochi fort in 1662, his ability was noted, and in 1669, he became the commander of Kochi. With the help of local physicians he collected details about the herbal plants in the Malabar region, which was later published under the name Hortus Malabaricus.



▶ Pallival
(Divine sword)

Komaram (The Oracle)

Komaram dance is a major ritual that forms part of Bhagavathi puja (puja to the Goddess). The one who performs the dance is called Velichapad (Oracle). Velichapad purifies himself by taking bath, wears red silk, ties bells around his waist, wears a red thechi flower garland around his neck, and holds a sword in his hand. He goes into a trance while dancing and the word he utters at that time are divine and is considered as words uttered by the Goddess. Out of which some are commands and the karanavar of the tharavad has to obey them. The Kumaramchira para festival in Kanni month (September-October) and Kottilakkavu para festival in Thulam (October-November) begin with the Komaram dance performed in the Paliam tharavad.



▲ Chilampu
The metal bangle- like ornament worn by the Velichapad when he goes into a trance while dancing. This metallic ornament is filled with small metal or stone balls inside.



▲ Aramani
An ornament that is tied around the waist of the komaram. When the komaram dances, the bells in the aramani jingles along with the chilampu, and both together create a prayer-filled atmosphere.

A Meeting Point of Religions Confluences

The Kottayil Kovilakam was the headquarters of Villarvattam swarupam. When all its properties were transferred to Paliam, it included Kottayil Kovilakam too. It is curious to see the Lord Krishna temple atop the hill where the kovilakam stood, along with a Jewish cemetery at the foot of the hill and a Christian church next to it, all standing side by side. Adjacent to the Holy Cross church is the Vypeekotta Seminary. These institutions stand testimony to the religious tolerance promoted by the Villarvattom King and Paliam noble family.



1. Vypeekotta seminary 2. Jewish cemetery
3. Holy cross church 4. Lord krishna temple

The first printing press in South India was started in Vypeekotta seminary.



MUSEUM GUIDE

KERALA HISTORY MUSEUM- PALIAM KOVILAKAM

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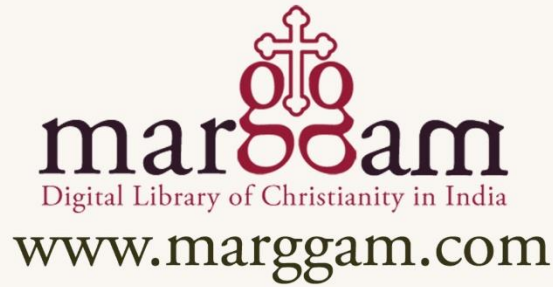
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