

Loyola College (Autonomous)
Chennai – 600 034

Department of History

Hiralal Gupta Endowment Lecture

Theme: “History and Sangam Literature”

Speaker: Dr. Anthony Selvanathan, Head and Associate Professor, Department of Tamil, Loyola College, Chennai-34.

The Hiralal Gupta Endowment Lecture was organised by the Department of History, Loyola College on 1st March 2017 which was held at Lawrence Sundaram Auditorium. The Endowment Lecture began with a prayer song invoking the blessings of the lord almighty. Dr. I. Princes, President, History Association welcomed the gathering.



Dr. Fatima Vasanth, Deputy Principal, Loyola College while felicitating remembered the efforts of the department of history in organising the periodical endowment lectures and the relevance of the theme of the endowment.



Dr. Fatima Vasanth, Deputy Principal

Mr. Jim Jabez, II M.A History honoured the speaker a shawl and Mr. Vidyadaran, Joint Secretary, History Association presenting him a memento. Mr. Sukumar, III B.A History introduced the speaker.



Mr. Vidhyadharan, II. B.A.



Mr. Jim Jabez, II M.A.

The speaker explained the importance of the ancient Tamil literature and kept the students in splits and at the same time served as the stepping stone for the students to know about the rich cultural stock of the Tamils. He also said that the *Sangam* age in South India is a landmark in the Indian history. The word "*Sangam*" means a group of persons or an association. He gave the explanations of the *Sangam* age and its literature which was divided into two main groups, that is, *Aham* poems and *Puram* poems. *Aham* poems deals the inner feeling like love, anger etc., and *Puram* deals the outer experience like war, courage, knighthood and heroism.

He highlighted that the *Sangam* sources are mainly used for documenting the early history of the ancient Tamil country. He emphasized that the *Sangam* poems have also been classified on nature as *Thinai*. They are *Kurinji* (Mountainous area), *Mullai* (Forests area), *Marutham* (Agricultural Land), *Neithal* (Coastal area) and *Paalai* (Desert area).

He also threw light on the *Sangam* economy, various towns, ports and trade was carried on between South India and Egypt, Arabia and Malaysia. He informed the gathering that the Romans need spices which were not met entirely by local supply; this brought Indian traders into contact with South-East Asia. In return, India imported topaz, tin cloth, linen, antimony, crude glass, copper, tin, lead, wine and wheat from the Roman Empire. The Romans brought with them to India wine amphorae and red glazed ware which have been found at Arikamedu near Pondicherry. A large number of gold and silver coins of the Romans were found in the Tamil Country. He gave a power point presentation with numerous pictures.



Dr. Anthony Selvanathan presented a video clipping that explained the social and cultural life style of the people during Sangam age. He concluded stating that the *Sangam* age ended around 3rd century BC with the invasion of Kalabharas from the north. The lecture was followed by an interactive session where the speaker nicely responded to the questions raised by the students.



Mr. Jai Ganesh, II B.A.



Mr. Akhilan, Research Scholar, LISSTAR



Mr. Yogeshwaran, II B.A.

Dr. I. Princes, President, History Association delivered the vote of thanks which was followed by the National Anthem. Ms. Pathmavathy, II M.A History was the master of ceremony.