



Maritime relations between Kollam and the portuguese – A review

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ABSTRACT

India has an ancient and glorious maritime history and tradition in which the Kerala Coast occupied a position of pride from very early days. The coast of Kerala has a rich and long maritime heritage. The geographical situations and economic resources made this country a great trading and maritime power. Kollam is an important trading town with a well set up Port. It had trading relation with Chinese, Arabs and other oriental world. Kollam is an old sea Port town on the Arabian coast had a sustained commercial reputation from the days of Phoenicians and the Romans. The place was famous for trade in cotton, pepper, ginger, cardamom and other articles of merchandize. Moreover plenty of fish, rice, bananas, fruits and pulses available there. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to establish a trading centre at Kollam. The present paper seeks to analyze the maritime intercourse between Kollam and the Portuguese. The arrival of Vasco Da Gama at Calicut in 1498 brought Kerala into the arena of international politics. Thangasseri in Kollam is one of the earliest settlements of the Portuguese. Certainly, the impact of the early colonizers on Thangasseri is very deep. It brought about far reaching changes in the socio-cultural and religious map of the city. It is true that the arrival of Portuguese made many socio-economic changes in Kerala. The Portuguese policy of establishing their supremacy cannot be confined to trade alone.