

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034.

Report on the Special Lecture on Archaeology - Excavations and Techniques – Scientific Dating by Dr. G. Maheshwari

The department organized a special lecture to rear the interest of students in the subject on Archaeology. On 05th October 2015 Dr. G. Maheshwari, Superintending Archaeologist, Temple Survey (South India), Archaeological Survey of India, Fort St. George, Chennai delivered the lecture. This lecture was **dedicated to Dr. Jhaved al-Assad, the great Archaeologist of Syria who became martyr for protecting the heritage of Palmyra** before ISIS militants. The lecture was in a PowerPoint Presentation in which the speaker brought out her excavation. The session had its beginning when Dr. L. Selvanathan, Head, Department of History welcomed the gathering Where he underlined the strenuous works of Archaeologist in finding our hidden past.



Dignitaries Rev. Fr. Secretary and Dr. Maheswari

The Guest of Honour for the function was Rev. Dr. S. Lazar S.J, Secretary, Loyola College. In his felicitation, Rev. Fr. Secretary spoke in depth, how archaeology had helped in forming the modern political science and as a sociologist cited the relation of the subject with humanity. Rev. Dr. S. Lazar S.J who is also illustrious alumnae of the department remembered the days when he was a student here. The Department thanks Rev. Fr. Secretary for felicitating the students who have shown exemplary talents in Ovations'15, the cultural festival of Loyola College with a bouquet.



Felicitation: Rev. Dr. S. Lazar S.J, Secretary, Loyola College



Rev. Fr. Secretary felicitated the student-participants [Ovations'15] – Mr. Suresh of III B.A. History received a floret

The one-hour long special lecture was on the excavations of Satavahana Temple site in the Medak District of present day Telangana. The historic excavation proved that it was a Buddhist site and She explained about the pre excavated site, the marshes and the mound which was excavated. The advantages of horizontal excavation was explained in which the layers of different periods are found clearly. "The art of pottery tells a lot about social and cultural history as well as the artistic intricacies of that period" the archaeologist noted.



Delivering the lecture: Dr. Maheswari, Superintending Archaeologist, ASI, Chennai

The archaeologist shared her personal experience on the different models of potteries extensively excavated from sites. The material remnants of past needs to be grouped according to ages and all these processes should be done with utmost care. “The small carelessness of archaeologist is the greatest sin committed to humanity” spoke the speaker on the careful excavations done by her.



Student Participants

Dr. Maheshwari spoke in detail about the findings made by archaeologists by showing series of photographs. A pit with so many skulls of both man and animal and a small stone platform in front of *Garbagriha* is ‘Balimandapa’ (Platform for Sacrifice). Like that, following the idea of *Vaasthukala* (Indian Architecture) in excavating temple sites will be useful for excavation without much damage. She also showed photographs of variety of excavated artifacts including vast collection of coins from the Satavahana site in Medak.



Mr. George Joseph III B.A

Mr. Vidyadaran I B.A.

Mr. Muthamil Mudalvan III B.A

In the last phase of the lecture she spoke in detail on various forms of Scientific Dating in Archaeology. The students were very much fascinated to hear about the processes of Carbon 14 dating which determines the age of artifacts which undergoes the test. She welcomed the department students to have internships in the prestigious Archaeological Survey of India.



Mr. S. Mahendranath, Student Secretary proposed the vote of thanks

The Reflections on the speech was provided by Mr. S. Mahendranath, Secretary of Loyola History Association. He spoke on the vivid scopes of Archaeology in various nations and said it is the only branch of humanities which is so much scientific in character and relies on material evidences. He mentioned the role of Archaeology in tracing the early history thus giving evidence to the evolution of Socio-Economic-Political history of the civilization. The special lecture came to an end with his vote of thanks.