

The Taproot of Printing

If you seek the generations changes in printing technology, you have to follow the foot prints of Chintamani Press. Starting from the old eagle press and travelling through the Offset press, it now glands at the Digital expecting to accept more challenges that the future holds. Chintamani was one of the leading publications of that era. Maybe it is the only one of its kind surviving the out raught of time.

Pallath Raman a literature and his brother Krishnan started Chintamani Press solely with the purpose of boosting the Reformation movement in Kerala. Taking head to the advice of the great sage Shree Narayana both the brothers decided to migrate into the world of letters, which would enlighten the minds groping in darkness for want of proper guidance. The predecessors of Raman and Krishnan were involved, in toddy business as their means of living. Gurus message to their generation to impart knowledge to the world around inspired Ramakrishnas to lay the foundation for a printing press in 1905.

Pallath Raman father Koran had a toddy shop close to the present Jose Theatre at Jaihind Market in Thrissur. Taking Guru's advice into their heart the brothers erected a printing press at the place, where the toddy shop existed. Though places changed over and over again the printing heritage continues unchanged.

Kerala Chinthamani

Kerala Chintamani was a newspaper daily at that time. There is historied evidence of this daily having a circulation of 550 copies. Mookoth Kumaran and Balakrishna Panikker were the editors of this newspaper once.

Politics and social development were the theme that this daily had paid special attention too kunnath Janardha Menon was its first editor.

Pallath Raman

Poet, Novelist, Play wright

The above three adjectives blended harmoniously in the versatile personality named Pallath Raman, Even many other qualities too to his credit! He authored nearly 40 works including novels, poems and plays. Thus college lecturer was a member of various committies created for the development of education. Apart from that some and his works were an, integral part of school and college curriculam.

Chintamani, was the wheel stone, that sharpened Ramans literacyzeal. His association with Balakrishna Panikker and Moorkoth Kumaran Played a role in developing his literary career. Amritapulinam, Vanabala, Vilasakumari, Rajasthanapushpam etc. we some of his works. He also did a short poetic work name satyakanti on Sree Narayana Guru.

Great Poet Pallath Memorial @ Kochi

There are quite a few land marks viz. Mahakavi Pallath Raman Cultural centre, Raman Memorial Hall and Pallath Raman Memorial Cultural Fest at Kochi, but his birth place Thrissur doesn't have anything worthy to cherish his memory. The Chintamani Press he planted and nurtured is his only memorial in Thrissur.

He did his schooling at St. Thomas School, Thrissur. He became a teacher, and taught at St. Thomas School at Ollur and Vellachira. He was a professor at Victoriya College, Palakkad. After retirement in 1948 he settled at Thiruvananthpuram. He started a magazine named purogama, and ventured into establishing a film production unit namely shree Narayana Films.

He continued to lead a hectic life at Tvm till he became a memory in 1950. As he had spent in his life away from Thrissur, he would not have got enough time to make a deep impression the minds of the people here. Hence his alienation.

The Fourth Generation at Chintamani

Pallath Raman's brother and successors continued to guide the flag ship Chintamani with unfailling zeal. The letter press was introduced at the time Krishnan's son Chandrabhanu. that press had to be manually operated by foot. Later a motor took the place of foot.

By the time Chandrabhanu's sons Sidhan Pallath and Soman Pallath took over the reins printing had changed into Offset. The fourth generation Pallath Prasad, now lead their printing through the Digital.

Chintamani continues to forge ahead making use of the changes taking place in printing technology not as a mere industry but striding over obstacles and leaving milestones in its path.