

Literary Figures

Kodungalloor Kunjikuttan Thampuran (1868 -1914)



- Born on 18 September 1868 .
- His nickname is "Kunjikkuttan". Real Name is Rama Varma
- His father was Venmani Achhan Nambudiripad and mother was Kunjippilla Thampuratti.
- Known as KERALA VYASA for his single-handed, word-by-word, metre-by-metre translation of the entire Mahabharata within 874 days as Bhasha Bharatam.
- Kunjikkuttan Thampuran started two literary movements in Malayalam: Paccha Malayalam (Pure Malayalam) and Puranetihasa Vivartanam .
- Pacha Malayalam avoided the influence of Sanskrit while Puranetihasa Vivarthanam was Translation of Itihasas and Puranas to Malayalam.
- He learned Tarka Shastra from Vidwan Kunhirama Varman Thampuran and Jyothisha from Valiya Kochunni Thampuran.
- He started writing poetry in ME 1047. At the age of 16, turned full-time to writing poetry.
- Started in Sanskrit. Turned to writing poetry in Malayalam under the influence of Venmani Achan and Venmani Mahan.
- His first book "Kavibharatam" was published at the age of 22.
- **Notable works:** "Pachamalayalam ,Puranithihasa vivarthanam, KaviBharatam, Ambopadesham.
- His wife Kodungallur Koippalli Pappiyamma
- At the age of 39, when Pappiyamma died, he married Thrissur Kizhakke Srambil Kuttipparu Amma.
- Later he married Sridevithampuratti of the Zamorin family.
- He died on 1914 January 22 at the age of 48.
- **Works:** 14 in Sanskrit. In Malayalam: 18 poems, 11 Ruupakams, 16 Gathas, 38 Khanda Kaavya, 3 in health, grammar, 18 translations.
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KeralaVarma Valiya Koyi Thampuran (1845 -1914)



- Known as KERALA KALIDASAN as he translated Kalidasa's Sakunthalam to Malayalam as **Abhijnana Sakunthalam**.
- Another work “Mayoora Sandesham” was on the line of Kalidasa's MeghDoot in which he has used the peacocks of Haripad temple to send his messages to his wife, the Maharani, in Trivandrum.
- **Visakha vijaya** was another famous work.
- He absorbed selected Western influences and combined with native Sanskritic elements in poetry, drama and prose!
- He was a member of the Royal Parappanad Family.

Kandathil Varghese mappilai (1857 -1904)



- He is the founder of **Bhashaposhini Sabha**, ‘ Bhashaposhini’ magazine and Malayala Manorama.
- ‘Abrayakutty’, an independent drama, Malayalam translation of William Shaekspere’s drama ‘Taming of the Shrew, ‘Keerthana Mala were some of his contributions to Malayalam Literature.

Kumaran Ashan (1873 – 1924)



- N. Kumaran Ashan was born on 12 April 1873 in a merchant family belonging to the Ezhava Community in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala.
- He is also known as Mahakavi Kumaran Ashan, the prefix Mahakavi, awarded by Madras University in 1922, which means “great poet” and the suffix Ashan means “scholar” or “teacher”.
- He was also a philosopher, a social reformer and a disciple of Sree Narayana Guru
- He got a job as a primary school teacher and an accountant to a wholesaler at the age of 14, he quit the job two years later to pursue higher studies in Sanskrit.
- He undertook a studentship in poetry under Manamboor Govindan Asan.
- He wished to learn Yoga and Tantra and worked as an apprentice in a Muruga temple at Vakkom.
- Got the title as **MAHAKAVI from madras university**. Kumaranasan was the only poet in Malayalam who became mahakavi without writing a mahakavyam.
- Disciple of Sri Narayana Guru.
- Became **SNDP Secretary in 1903**

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- Worked in **Vivekodayam Newspaper**
- He died aged 51 as a result of a boat accident in January 1924 while traveling to Kollam from a function in Alappuzha.

Vallathol Narayana Menon (1878 – 1958)



- Became GREAT POET after the work maha kavya Chitra Yogam
- Famous work : Ente Guru Nathan
- Ulloor published his mahakavya Umakeralam , the second maha kavyam in Malayalam.

Ulloor S Parameswara Iyyar (1877-1949)



- One of the Triumvirate poets , along with Ashan and Vallathol
- Works: Pingala, Karnabhooshanam, Bhakthideepika.

G Sankara Kurup (1901 -1976)



- The first winner of the Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary award, for his renowned work Odakkuzhal in 1965.
- With part of the prize money he established the literary award Odakkuzhal.

Changampuzha (1911-1948)



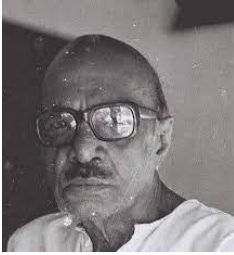
- Renowned for his work titled Ramanan which was based on the life of Edappalli Raghavan pillai.

O Chandu Menon (1847–99)



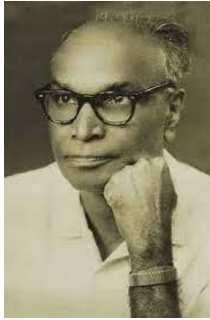
- Recipient of prestigious Rao bahadur Award,
- Wrote first Malayalam Novel with all Lakshnas, titled Indu Lekha, (First Malayalam Novel was Kundalatha written by Appu Nedumgadi).

Vaikkom Muhammad Basheer (1908 – 1994)



- Recipient of Padma award.
- Calicut university honored him with the title of “Doctor of letters”.

P Keshav Dev (1904-1983)



- Central Academy award winner for “Ayalkkar”.
- Autobiography: Ethirppu
- Notable works: Odayil Ninnu, Nadhi, Bhrandalayam.
- One of the exponents of progressive Malayalam Literature along with Basheer and Thakazhi.

Thakazhi Shiva Sankara Pillai(1912-1999)



- Known as “Kerala Mopasang”
- Recipient of Jnanapith Award for the epic Novel “Kayar”
- Also bagged Kendriya Sahitya Academy award for the novel “Chemmeen”
- Kainikkara Kumara Pillai was his Guru
- His work “Thottiyude makan” is considered as the first New Generation Novel.

- Thakazhi (film) is a documentary on Thakazhi made by M. T. Vasudevan Nair

Ponkunnam Varkey (1910-2004)



Bagged Vallathol Award and Ezhuthachan Award.

S K Pottekkatt (1913 -1982)



- Bagged jnanpitham award for this work “Oru deshathinte Katha”
- Received Kerala Sahitya Academy award for “Oru Theruvinte Katha” which was written based on the story of Mittai Theruvu (S.M. Street) in Kozhikode.

Mooloor S. Padmanabha Panicker (1869 -1931)

- He is known as “Sarasa Kavi”
- Notable work: Kavi-Ramayanam, deemed to be the motivational force behind the 1936 Temple Entry Proclamation.
- Built Mezhuveli Anandabhootheshawara Temple

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Pandalam Kerala Varma(1879-1919)



- The author of the first complete mahakavya in Malayalam titled Rukmamgadacharitham
- He was the owner and Chief Editor of Kavana Kaumudi, the first Malayalam periodical, which was also the first to introduce special issues in Malayalam.

Cherusseri Namboothiri(1375 - 1475)



- Author of the famous poem Krishna Gatha, which is used for daily recitation as an act of worship of Krishna during the Malayalam month Chingam.

Thunchaththu Ezhuthachan(1495-1575)



- Known as the father of Malayalam language.
- He translated the two Hindu epics, the Ramayana and Mahabharata, to Malayalam for the common man with the mingling of the Sanskrit and Dravidian languages
- Ezhuthachan's other major contribution has been in establishing an (51 character) alphabet system equivalent to Sanskrit instead of Vattezhuthu, the 30-letter script of Malayalam
- The highest literary honour instituted by the Kerala Government is known as the "Ezhuthachan Award"
- Theekkadal Kadannu Thirumadhuram (2004) by C. Radhakrishnan: a novel written by C. Radhakrishnan that sketched Ezhuthachan's life and journeyed through the emotions he must have gone through.

Kunchan Nambiyar (1705-1770)

- Famous Malayalam poet, performer, satirist and the inventor of Ottamthullal.
- Kunjan Nambiar has composed works for three types of thullal: otan, Parayan and sheetankan.
- Notable Works: kiratham, ghoshayathra, bali vijayam, panjathanthiram kilippattu

V.T. Bhattathiripad



- V.T. Bhattathiripad was born in 1896 in Kaippilly Mana at Kidangoor, a village near Angamaly.
- He was the one who conducted the first mixed race marriage in Brahmin Society.
- His drama 'Adukkalayilninum Arangathekku' in 1929 was a turning point in the prevailing society.
- In 1931, V.T. Bhattathiripad conducted 'Yachanayathra' from Thrissur to Chandragiri river, Kasargod to enable the poor children to get education.
- Kanneerum Kinavum is his autobiography.

C. Kesavan (1891-1969)



- C Kesavan is one among the pioneers among the leaders who formed Travancore (Thiruvithaamkoo) State Congress.
 - The famous Kozhencherry speech was made by C Kesavan in 1935 May 11.
 - C Kesavan was elected as the chief minister of Thiru-Kochi state in 1951.
 - C Kesavan made the statement "If a Temple is destroyed, that much superstition is destroyed"
- It was C Kesavan, who mentioned Karl Marx as 'Bhagvan Karl Marx'.
 - The autobiography of C Kesavan is 'Jeevitha Samaram'.
 - C Kesavan died in 1969 July 7.

