

Stellarchives Updates.....

One of the highlights of this year's activities of the Stellarchives was the participation of the Archivist Ms. Gita Balachandran in the 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, held in Miami, Florida from 13 to 16 May 2015, in which her poster titled "Combining Indigenous and Modern Technology in the Conservation of Archival Material in Stella Maris College, Chennai: A case study." was exhibited. The poster illustrates the herbal methods of preservation that are used in Stellarchives and explains their effectiveness. On her return the archivist shared her experiences with the faculty of the College.



Gita Balachandran at the Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, held in Miami, Florida from 13 to 16 May 2015

- ❖ This year, the annual meeting of the Stellarchives representatives was held on 24th July, 2015. The chief objective of this meeting was to brief the representatives from the various departments about the aims and objectives of the Archives and to elicit their collaboration. The representatives were asked to concentrate this year on collecting theses and synopses from all the faculty - both past and present - who have completed their doctorate, so that they can be preserved in the archives



Meeting of the Stellarchives representatives - 24th July, 2015

- ❖ Stellarchives had many visitors during the academic year 2015. One among whom was Mr. G. Sundar, Director of the Roja Muthiah Research Library. He commented: “Very impressive archive. It shows the hard work and dedication of the archivist and the staff. Keep up the good work. I wish you all the very best”
- ❖ Mr. Kumaran Sathasivam, an alumnus of IIT Madras. He visited Stellarchives to get some ideas to develop the existing Heritage Centre at IIT of which he is in charge. He remarked: “A truly commendable effort of documenting the college’s heritage. Do continue with the same zeal.”
- ❖ Three faculty members from Mount Carmel College, Bengalure came to study the Stellarchives for setting up an archive at their institution.
Comment by the staff "Really amazing work. We have learned so much from Prof. Gita. Her passion and devotion to the institution is so evident. We realize we have miles to go, before we reach this level. The vision, the insight is hard to match. Certainly has been a revelation and a great journey".



- ❖ Stellarchives was used extensively by the students of the College for garnering information on the following occasions.
 - The Condolence meeting of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at Stella Maris
 - The 68th birthday of Stella Maris College
 - Madras Heritage Week
 - Times of India for their article on Stella Maris College (for which they collected information and photographs) in the Independence Day issue
 - The archivist prepared a PowerPoint Presentation titled the “Celebration of Life in God” for Sr Angela Hurley’s memorial service with information from the digital material in the archives. The presentation also included material from a former student, Suraksha Rao, who was a student of the College when Sr Angela Hurley was the Superior of the Convent.
- ❖ The following writers autographed their books during their visit to Stellarchives:
 - Ms. Bama Faustina, one of the first Dalit women writers and now a popular voice for Dalit women autographed her work “Sangati”
 - Ms. Shobha Warriar journalist and author of “The Little Flower Girl and Others”

- Mr. Imayam, prominent Indian novelist autographed his novel “Pethavan”
- Mr. Cho. Dharman, another well known subaltern writer autographed his work “Koogai” translated by Vasantha Surya



Mr. Imayam, & Mr. Cho. Dharman Ms. Shobha Warriar Ms. Bama Faustina

The Stellarchives Coin Collection: A new Initiative

Coins tell a fascinating story of times of yore and are still widely used for monetary and other purposes. The history of coins - extending from ancient times to the present - is related to economic history, the history of minting technologies, the history depicted by images on coins, and the history of coin collecting itself.

Stellarchives now has a collection of about 600 coins, with coins from **five of the seven** continents of the world!



(Asia) 1 Pice - India 1944



(Europe) 1 Krone -Norway 1950



(Africa) 20 Cents - Mauritius 1877



(South America) 10 Centavos - Argentina 1898 Rare



(North America) 5 cents – Canada 1922

The collection also has a few rare coins.



Coins were first made out of scraps of metal, and ancient coins were produced through a process of hitting a hammer positioned over an anvil. Stellarchives has few such coins.



The early coins of Travancore were manually struck by hand which were beautiful. But many of them (especially the common copper coins) did not survive due to the humid tropical climate of the region and hence they are very rare. Stellarchives is proud to house a few such coins



This coin is from the princely state of Gwalior and has the name “Shri Madhav Rav Ma Scinde Bahadar” 1953 inscribed on it.

Other Achievements of Stellarchives

- ✓ This year **the gallery of portraits of the Principals** of Stella Maris College was completed.
- ✓ Some important **newspaper clippings** from 1947 regarding the College have been uploaded in the College Website
- ✓ Stellarchives has also started collecting digitising the **student lists of the College** and also the **log book** of the College in chronological order.

Stellarchives is grateful to all faculty and students of the college - both past and present - who are extending help and support in our endeavour.

The future holds vistas of other activities which will enhance the preservation of the heritage of the College.