CHAPTER VI
PRESENT CONDITION OF THE FORTRESSES AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIETY.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) established in 1861, is the premier organization for the archeological research, and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation, maintenance of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance. Alexander Cunningham was appointed as the first Director General of ASI. The attention of the government was drawn for undertaking repairs and conservation, protecting the ancient monuments from falling into disuse taken into consideration and tackle the archeological problems of the whole country. It also stressed on the need for conservation of monuments stating that it was the bounden duty of the Government to prevent its own servants from wantonly accelerating the decay of monuments. The department was entrusted with the task of doing a complete search over the whole country, and a systematic record and description of all architectural and other remains that are either remarkable for their antiquity, or their beauty or their historical interest.

In 1901 John Marshall was appointed Director General and a new era started in Indian archaeology. His principles on archaeological conservation are still valid and are followed even by modern conservation experts. On India becoming a republic and adopting the Constitution, the following functions relating to archaeology pertaining to the Union and the
State Government were made: Union: ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains, declared by the Parliament by law to be of national importance; State: ancient and historical monuments...other than declared by parliament to be of national importance. Besides these two categories, both the Union and the State would have concurrent jurisdiction over archaeological sites and remains other than those declared by Parliament by law to be of national impotrance. The activities in post-Independence India saw great strides and development in the field of Archaeological Survey of India. At present there were 24 Circles looking after more than 3600 monuments. The following Acts were enacted for better preservation and maintenance of monuments and also to prevent illegal trafficking of antiquities and art treasures. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958, Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 are important in this connection. In addition to the above periodical amendments, regulations were added to cope with the changing scenario and to protect the monuments. One such action is the declaration of Prohibited area, 100m from protected limits and further 200m as Regulated Area from the prohibited limits, to prevent encroachments and unregulated constructions near proteted monuments. The Treasure Trove Act 1878 and the Ancien Monument Preservation Act 1904 are also in vogue in addition to the above mentioned legislations. As such the St.Angelo and Bekal Fortresses are under the list of national protected monuments for their historical, archaeological and architectural value. Accordingly these two centrally protected coastal fortresses are declared and notified in the year 1921 and currently maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India, Thrissur Circle.

It was in 1944 that for the first time the conservation of ancient monuments was taken over by the Archaeological survey of India, with its own engineering staff specially trained for the purpose. Growth of vegetation on both the fortresses is very serious problem leading to the rapid disintegration of these monuments. In Bekal and St.Angelo, the ASI at
present uses tree killer to kill the trees growing on these fortresses. Another important point is
the proper preservation of the environment of the fortresses. The natural environment, which
provided scenic grandeur and natural protection to the fortresses, must be preserved in its
pristine form. This aspect is of great importance at this juncture when new roads, industries,
etc., are coming up. Location of hotels and other facilities for tourists must also subordinate
themselves to the monuments and aesthetic considerations and proprietary should govern
their placement.

i. Types of conservation and preservation carried out at St. Angelo and Bekal
fortresses

The ruins of coastal fortresses are like the footsteps on the sands of history. They
played an important role in the political and military affairs of the country. The need for
preserving this rich heritage is thus obvious. Archaeological Survey of India carried out
tremendous work towards the preservation of coastal fortresses particularly in Kerala with
regard to St. Angelo and Bekal fortresses. Once they were full of jungles and filled with
vegetation, mass and lichen, and most of the laterite rampart walls were breached out and
mostly in dilapidated condition due to the vagaries of natural calamities and human
vandalism. The noble ramparts and bastions where once guns roared in defense of empire and
kingdom have to be preserved in their original form. Following methods of preservation were
carried out at these fortresses.

Pointing

Wherever necessary lime mortar pointing has been done. The joints of the walls are
immediately deeply raked out to get rid of all loose dirt or old mortar and to destroy the roots
of weeds, grasses, or jungle, which may not grow anymore in them. All accumulations of soil
or debris on both the fortress roofs and other flat surfaces are removed and wherever the old plaster is disintegrated a new coat of plaster of lime concrete with proper thickness as per original form mixed with coloring matter has been added.

**Sea waves:**

The sea waves cause enormous damages to the Cannanore fortress particularly on southern and western sides. Most of the bastions and rampart walls are damaged by the waves. Large number of granite boulders is dumped all along the sides of the seashore to stop the sea wave erosions from further damages. The rampart walls are also damaged due to salt wind and the soluble salt gets into the pores of the stones while sand grains abrade the surface. During the humid seasons the soluble salt goes into the solution and more of evaporation is taking place. The soluble salt comes out on the surface and in this process, any impediment in the way is removed by force thus causing damage to the stones. The coastal winds have their own action on the fortresses; it carries angular sand particles that cause abrasion and scouring on the monuments when the sand particles strike against the surfaces with considerable speed. The stone surfaces are properly cleaned and consolidated, and preservation done by the use of surface coating chemically consolidated and preserved in its original condition.

**Water Tightening:**

The major Conservation works are water tightening to the top of the rampart walls with laterite stones, and recess pointing to the wall to check the water percolations. Apron to the fortress wall to check water percolation into wall has also been carried out. The chocked drainages pass all along the fort wall and newly discovered structures have also been cleared.
out for easy flow out of water towards moat. The basement of cannons at Cannanore fortress has also been re-laid as per original form.

**Underpinning:**

In both the fortresses all along the ramparts walls and pathways wherever necessary the work of underpinning has been carried out.

**Recess pointing:**

Recess pointing has been done in most of the rampart wall portions in combination with mortar to check water percolation. In Bekal though the wall portions are protruding to sea and the sea waves do not hit the fort walls because the fortress is built in high altitude.

**Garden:**

In both the fortresses garden branch of archaeological survey of India started their activities. According to the landscape, grass and varieties of natural plants are laid out and trees are planted to develop the environmental condition. The excavated and newly discovered ancient residential structures and drainages, underground passages, pathways, are properly conserved and brought into their original condition. The Archaeological Survey of India has already sent the proposal to UNESCO for considering the proposal of declaring these two coastal fortresses as World Heritage monuments very soon. The periodical studies on these two coastal fortresses brought to new light the hidden secret about them. The Cannanore and Bekal Fortresses were not publicly familiar. But today they are the best tourist destination for Indian as well as world Tourists. There are enough evidences brought to light
and preserved in their original form, which are to be seen and appreciated. The Portuguese architectural elements and indigenously built Bekal fortresses are well-preserved monuments of Kerala.

ii. Impact of the Portuguese Fortress on the Society.

Religious Changes: The religious history of Cannanore is a shining example of toleration and catholicity where Muslims, Gujaratis, Parsis, Konkanis, and Christians lived along with Hindus even from a remote age. Burnassery is an illustrious example of Anglo-Indian culture still surviving in Cannanore. There are about fifteen persons proficient in the Portuguese language, and descendants of these Portuguese converts have distinct cultural activities in customs of marriage, dances, parties, etc. from other Anglo-Indian communities. The Holy Trinity Church cemetery displays many tombstones of the Portuguese. The St. John church near the headquarters hospital had one time separate dungeon to lodge Portuguese prisoners. A detailed study of the church records of the above said churches in Cannanore is likely to throw many more interesting facts about the historic city of Cannanore following the advent of Europeans that opened its modern history.

Secular education: The traditional socializing agents namely the hierarchy of Hindu religion and the traditional centers of education i.e. salais or mutts, Kalaris, and eluttupalli, came to be challenged by the secular education that was introduced by the Europeans. The hierarchical order of the traditional society began to crumble with the rise of the egalitarian values of this secular education.

126 Ibid., pp. 88-89.
**Conversion:** The object of Portuguese attempts was not only conquest but also conversion. It was natural that an army of missionaries followed the fleet and it was a common thing to find the cross and the sword in permanent alliance with the same objectives of conquering lands for the king of Portugal and winning souls for the king of Heaven. Their commercial programmes obliged the creation of the factories along the coastal regions under the jurisdiction of the respective captains and governors. The colossal fortresses which were scattered all over the East are massive monuments of Portuguese glory. The Portuguese surnames which may be heard in all parts of India, testify eloquently to Portugal’s meteoric passage, which, although ephemeral in various parts, exercised powerful influence and left lasting traces on the whole of India.

**Social Services:** The most significant of the Portuguese contributions to public welfare was the construction of hospitals at such settlements for the care of the sick.

**Hospitals:** Almost all the Portuguese colonies and towns had hospitals attached to them for taking care of the infirm. The hospitals were provided with food, medicines, clothes, and all other necessary things needed for the treatment of the sick by the Portuguese government. The Portuguese hospital at Cannanore, was considered the best in India during the sixteenth century because of the good quality of air, and water\(^{127}\). The surgeon attached to this hospital had to look after the sick at Calicut too.

**House of Mercy:** In addition to the hospitals a new institution broadly dedicated to care of poor, sick, orphans, widows, and the handicapped was established in all these Portuguese

strongholds in Malabar such as Cannanore, Cranganore and Quilon. The original intentions behind the foundation of the misericordias were to teach the simple people, to look after the formation and education of the abandoned children, punish the erring and the evil-doers, console the sad through the visit of the hospitals, forgive the sinners, pray for the widows and the dead, redeem and free the prisoners and slaves, cure the sick and help them cover the naked, give food and drink to the needy, supply lodging facilities to the pilgrims, and to bury the dead. In a letter written by Gaspar Rebello, Vaz, Ruy Guomez, Gaspar, Drarte Vaaz, Joam Barbosa, Fernando Vas and Antonio Pyres from Cannanore on 15 December 1554, there is mention about the Misericordia in Cannanore. The wounded soldiers particularly the Portuguese and native Indians had to be taken care of by these Misericordia attached to the fortress.

**Churches:** churches were also established in all the fortresses for the religious practices of the native Christians as well as the Portuguese residing in the various ports of the Malabar Coast. There were two churches in Cannanore one in the fortress and the other the church Santa Maria da Victoria near the sea. Monasteries of various religious orders also were founded in the cities adding to their development. Special favours and privileges given by the Portuguese to the converted Christians plus the possibilities of employment in the factories and the towns attracted numerous people to become Christians and inspired them to settle in the urban areas. In this way the Christian population increased heavily during the 16th and the 17th centuries.

**Schools:** Portuguese government also established institution for teaching the children to read, and write in Cochin, Cannanore, and Quilon. The poor students of the land were given food

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and other necessary things by the Portuguese government. The missionaries in Cannanore taught the children to read and write. Thus various institutions were established to meet the requirements of the increasing population in the coastal towns of Malabar.\footnote{Afzal Ahmed, \textit{Portuguese trade in Seventeenth Century 1600-1663 A.D.}, New Delhi, 1991, pp.175-177.}

It is believed that future exploration and excavation in and around the Cannanore fortress will bring numismatic and other habitational evidences.

### iii. A STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF ST. ANGELO AND BEKAL FORTRESSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General features</th>
<th>St. Angelo Fortress</th>
<th>Bekal Fortress</th>
<th>Significant Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Cannanore District, Cannanore taluk, Moppila bay</td>
<td>Kasaragod district, Kanhangad taluk, Pallikare village, Pallikare beach</td>
<td>Both are Situated near the Arabian Sea coast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latitude</td>
<td>11. 52’N.Lat: 75. 27’E.Long</td>
<td>12. 23’N. Lat: 75. 2’ E Long</td>
<td>Both are built on the naturally formed terraced character of the laterite formation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longitude</td>
<td>Cannanore Rly station. NH 17</td>
<td>Kanhangad Rly station. NH 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rail way station</td>
<td>NH 17</td>
<td>NH 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period of Construction</td>
<td>1505-1507 A.D. Portuguese Period. Build by Dom Francesco Da Almeida.</td>
<td>Nayakas of Ikkeri (Keladi) Build by Sivappa Nayaka, 1645-1660 A.D.</td>
<td>Both are built on Laterite Bed rock (Natural out crop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Area</td>
<td>11.97 Acres</td>
<td>36.4 Acres</td>
<td>Both are built with Laterite blocks.</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan</td>
<td>Triangular</td>
<td>Roughly Polygonal</td>
<td>Both Fortresses are built with laterite stones cut out from the outcrop within the site itself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material used</td>
<td>Laterite stones, Lime mortar, for binding and plastering.</td>
<td>Laterite stones, Mud mortar, for binding.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Sizes</td>
<td>Various sizes are used, examples: Length 74, width 35, thickness 20 cms, 60x30x20, 60x30x15x, 70x35x15, 33x18x18, 70x35x20, 95x45x20, 80x40x20, 65x35x20, 75x35x20, 55x30x20, 72x38x20, 128x60x20, 32x15x20, 80x45x20 cms.</td>
<td>Different sizes of stones used and some of them are mentioned below: Length 72 x width 40 x thickness 58 cms, 69 x38 x 51 cms, 35 x35 x 10 cms, 40 x25 x 15 cms, 50x 25x 15 cms, 50x 35 x 15 cms, 40 x25x 10 cms, 55 x35 x 15 cms, 54x 28x 15 cms, 40 x30 x10cms, 77 x24x 22 cms. 67x33x45cms,</td>
<td>Almost all stones are dressed well, but compared to Bekal fortress the St. Angelo fortress stone blocks are well dressed and geometrically placed well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rampart walls, Pathway or walk wall</td>
<td>Height 10.70 Meter, Width or breadth of the wall is 17 meter maximum approximately.</td>
<td>Height 15 meters approximately based on the second bastion and the three-tired bastion no 15 Width or breadth of the wall is 4.30, 6.55, and 8.40 meter measured underneath of the Undergrounds passage.</td>
<td>The height of the rampart walls is varying in place to place according to the undulation of the natural outcrop. Both the walls are tapering on elevation. Pathway or walk walls are noticed only in Bekal fortress along the inner side of the rampart walls with a flight of steps leading to the spacious battleground of the bastions. Whereas in St. Angelo fortress the rampart walls are built in bungalow types with double wall technique, with terraced type so that the patrolling can be done walking on the</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rampart walls are terraced types built in double wall technique, very wide in breadth, on the top of the rampart wall the flag post and lighthouse are built, even traces of soldiers bunkers or tents basements are noticed in St. Angelo fortress, which is very unique in Portuguese bungalow type</td>
<td>Bekal fortress rampart walls are built in Indigenous model the heavier blocks of stones are used in base while the smaller stones were set in diminishing order. The rampart walls</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Entrance Gate, Bay gate, subsidiary gate, and jetty area.</td>
<td>Height of the two-leaf door is 3.41 meter, and 3.15-meter width, made of teak wood, with iron spikes. On left side of the door a postern (wicket gate) of 1.10-mtr heights, 60cm width is noticed. It is believed and there is a surface evidence also noticed by self that there must have been a bay gate on the southern or eastern side of the sea.</td>
<td>Height 6.00 meter, 2.90 meter width, The second gate measured 7.10 meter, Height, 4.05 meter width, connected with the two square guard chambers of 15.40 x 15.40 meter. Apart from these two gates there are three underground passages for quick escape of the inmates of the fortress.</td>
<td>Both the Main entrances are facing Northern side of the Fortress, connected with the drawbridge over the Moat. The entrances are connected with the zigzag rampart walls to confuse the enemy, the Bekal entrance shows the similarity with Vijayanagar fort gate of indigenous and the St. Angelo fortress gate is of European.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
from where all the goods of imported and exported must have brought inside the fortress (factory) and the Portuguese people those who came through the ships must have come directly from jetty area to inside the fortress through boats. The jetty area could have been little away from the fortress most probably near the present day Arakkal family museum. The northern side present day main entrance could have been used for local people those who were daily coming and going for day to day work inside the fortress and for draining out rain water from inside the fortress to moat this passages could have been used in Bekal. There is no any evidence for bay side gate for main movements of people. On the western side a small secondary gate was noticed for going towards seaside.
<table>
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<th></th>
<th>the fortress and for elephants, horses movements etc.</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moat: The moats are dug out from the natural outcrop of the Laterite rock and they are used for the construction of the fortresses ramparts walls, bastions, and other inner structures this was the ancient techniques of construction of fortresses and moat even it is noticed in Indus valley Civilization at Dholavira Gujarat, fortress</td>
<td>Length: 225.70 meter from northeast to north west direction, Wide: 30.05 meter Depth: 8.50 meter, approximately, on the southern side of the inner fortification in front of the Captain house a inner moat is noticed, east to west measured 68.70 meter length, 7.75 meter Wide, 4.50 meter depth approximately with drawbridge.</td>
<td>The left side moat length is 324.5 meters, and right-side moat length is 47 meters on both the side moat is running all along the north side and submerges into the Arabian sea on east and western side. The Wide is 14.50 meter, with 3.25-meter present level depth.</td>
<td>Both the Moats are noticed on the northern side of the fortresses and connected with the drawbridges, surrounded and protected by east, west, southern sides the Arabian sea; originally the moat waters are connected with the sea so the enemies could not ventured into the fortresses so easily. The moat at St. Angelo fortress is always filled with water whereas at Bekal it remains dry.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
of Harappan period, by self.

| Battles and Cannons, Loopholes, gunpowder grinding stone, Merlons, Embracers, etc. Elevated bastions are built in both the fortresses. On the northern side of the St. Angelo fortress recently scientific clearance brought to light a triangle old fort along with dry moat. This could have been done in order to |
| St. Angelo fortress bastions are triangle or square, or rectangular roughly, there are only three bastions are intact, at eastern side, northeastern side, and northwestern side, they are measured as 19.30x12.15x12.10, the height of the bastion is 8.35 meter from the ground. Northeast bastion is 34x25.30 mtr square, on the top paved with granite slabs platform, the height of the bastion is roughly 10.70 meter, the Northwest bastion is 24.30x16.50meter, the | Bekal fortress bastions are almost drum shape, with slight tapering on the top just below the merlons. Large number of loopholes are noticed in rampart wall and bastions, presence of gunpowder grinding stones are also seen inside the bastions, altogether there are fifteen numbers of bastions are noticed and their sizes, are noted in every bastions, there are two tired, and three tired bastions are also noted in this | There are more than thousand loophole are noted in the rampart walls, and bastions of Bekal fortress, whereas at St. Angelo fortress the bastions are geometrical patterns double walled system very strong in compare to Bekal, it can withstand the bombardments. The Bekal soldiers depend on mostly indigenous weapons like sword, pistol, bow and arrow, spears, etc, Whereas the Portuguese soldiers used huge cannons, mounted on the top of the rampart walls, and |
prevent the land side attack hence towards the land side in both the fortresses a moat dug out for protection measure and care was given much on land side.

| Thickness of embracers walls are 3.75 meter. The northeast bastion to northwest bastion the long rampart wall length is about 370.50, meter and about 17.00 meter breadth is noticed. | Fortress, apart from bastions there is also watchtowers inside the fortress, and outside the fortress near the sea side on east and west are very noteworthy. | Bastions and ships. Steps are provided from the bottom of the rampart wall to bastions. On the eastern side of the bastion at St. Angelo fortress still there is a Dom shaped watch tower can be seen. |

| Stables, In St. Angelo fortress we could see long horse stables of single and double horse stables having 82.65 meter length, of 42 numbers of double stables, and 9 numbers of single stables noticed. | Bekal fortress we could not see such specific stables it might have been used in open space for keeping or looking after the elephant, horses and other animals as it was a Indian practice. | Horse and Elephant stables are noticed in some of Indian fortresses, the Portuguese were importing horses from African countries and they were supplied to Vijayanagar through Cannanore fortress is significant of horse stables at Cannanore. |

| Durbar hall and Captain House. St. Angelo fortress was looked after by the chief of captain | Bekal fortress the recent excavation brought to light | Both the fortresses are constructed on the Arabian sea coast, the |
appointed by the king of Portugal, and still there is a huge bungalow inside the fortress that is now used as Archaeological office, built in an elevated place as if citadel of the fortress, the captain was in charge and controller of the Portuguese fortress and the inmates. The captain bungalow is measured 7.50x27.60x27.60 meter, built on raised platform of 6.30-meter height.

large number of residential buildings and one of them was identified probably of the Durbar hall, which is built inside the fortress protected with special moat, watch tower. The imposing hall is measured 40.22x9.50 meter, built of laterite blocks, and a raised platform at the central portion of the north with 5.90x5 meter noticed. A circular tank, which was scooped out of the bed rock, with toilet block also noticed, this Durbar hall may possibly belong to Nayakas.

St. Angelo fortress is specifically built as Portuguese factory cum fortress and it was controlling the trade in India, and having connection with other Portuguese fortresses in India and west, whereas the Bekal fortress was a headquarters of the raja of Ikkeri to control their southern part of their territory as well as to control their internal trade. St.Angelo was specifically for trade purpose, and the Bekal fortress was for administration of their territory, as well as for local trade.
of Ikkeri, the Nayakas of Ikkeri had control over this area and Bekal was their fortress on the southern part of the kingdom during the 1640-1660 A.D. of Sadasiva Nayaka period.

<p>| Temple/ Church | St. Angelo Fortress, inside a church is noticed facing south which is believed to be one of the earliest church in Cannanore, which must have been dedicated to Nossa Senhora da Victoria. | The excavation at Bekal fortress yielded a structure at sector BKL II located in front of the watchtower and is a significant massive structure with square mandapa. The entry to the temple is on the eastern side and a closed water chute (pranala) was exposed in the | Since the St. Angelo fortress is a Portuguese fortress and a Church was also constructed inside the fortress for the worship of their God for their safety and security, similarly the Nayakas of Ikkeri or Keladi also dedicated this temple for their <em>Ishta devata</em> for their day-to-day worship. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Underground secret passages, Prisoners cells, Ware houses/storehouse, and Magazine room.</th>
<th>mandapa, which served drain out the water from the area.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In St. Angelo fortress altogether there are five secret cells and one passage noticed underneath of the rampart walls, meant for prisoners, and they are very dark inside which are not visible to the naked eyes from outside, and the prisoners can not escape very easily. There is a magazine cell dug out directly on the ground surface with a small circular entrance on the top so that one can jump inside and keep all the magazine inside the earth without knowing</td>
<td>Bekal fortress there are three undergrounds passages are noticed they must have been used for quick escape during emergency period as well as for draining out the rain water from inside the fortress towards moat to sea. Magazine room, built inside the citadel near the watchtower with wagon-vaulted roof of Indo Portuguese style. Tippu Sultan must have been used this structure during St.Angelo fortress we could see the ware house or store for keeping all the commodities to be exported until the ships arrival and they were made ready by drying them under the sun light everyday then packing them, so many laborers were engaged in this works and it was a Trade center of the Portuguese India. Whereas at Bekal the atmospheres are different it is mostly used for administration, and military headquarters of the ruling dynasty.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
anybody and it is located near the sea. A warehouse or store was noticed which must have been used as storing the commodities, before they are loaded into ships.

| Water facilities. | In St. Angelo fortress there are altogether three wells are noticed and they are still providing drinking water to the inmates of the protected fortress. The tombstone of Dutch Governor is found. The Dutch epitaph of Susanna Weyerman and Godfried Weyerman | In Bekal fortress altogether there are sixteen wells are noticed in different forms like stepped tank, deep well dug out inside the fortress with sloping approach probably used for elephants, and horses, some of the dry wells are noticed inside the middle of the moat, since these area are under acquit tropical conditions. |
| Water facilities. | Tank, deep wells, cisterns | It is understood by this comparative analysis that both the fortresses are built with all facilities to be provided for the inmates of the fortresses and for the animals too. The Bekal fortress was a headquarters of Ikkeri raja king to look after the administration of the territory and maintenances of the military power. St. Angelo fortress was a |
who died on the 28th
March 1745, on the
other side of the stone
lie buried the children
of Wayerman. Godfried Weyerman
was Governor of
Cochin from 1761 to 1764

region needed
ever sources hence large
dug out inside as
well as outside the
tfortresses. In Bekal
fortress we don’t
find any such
tombstones it may
be the one reason
that the Hindu
tradition never
permits them to
bury their dead or
cremate inside the
fortress.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antiquities</th>
<th>St. Angelo fortress we come across pottery sherds of jar handles, large number of Chinese Celadon wares with designs, large number of red wares, consisting of</th>
<th>Potteries, like red ware, buff ware, black ware, and glazed ware types like dishes, bowls, and vases, storage jars. The Porcelain wares can be</th>
<th>The antiquities found inside the Bekal fortress indicate the importance and military nature of the fortress. The structures inside the Bekal fortress such as watch tower, magazine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
holes, and other objects. pots, cups, bowls, jars, porcelain wares, plates, etc. A broken fragment of gray ware containing Chinese letters shows the overseas contact with China and Cannanore. A stone statue depicting a warrior seated on the horse also found. No coins so far reported from the St. Angelo fortress. Large number of iron cannon balls were collected from the fortress, similarly iron nails, locks, chains, spear, sword, and an iron slab of 90cm x 60cm with 2.5cm thickness noticed which is still having good condition.  

| classified into two, Porcelain of milky white in colour, and plain glazed ware of late medieval period. | Terracotta seal 2.20 cm diameter and a curved projection in the backside having three-lined legend inscribed in Nagari script where only one is clearly identified. Sri Vira, Krishna Pratapa Raya, and the other two seals bear Persian letter’ Hai’ which is the initial letter of Hider Ali. | Coins; Bekal fortress yielded large number of coins like 554 no’s of copper small coins, copper house, are of military in nature while Durbar hall, mint house, etc, have royal affinity. Large number of Ikkeri Nayakas coins, Seals with Nagari letters, and the structures of fortress indicating similarities of Vijayangra of Hampi, since the Nayakas were once their subordinate. Whereas the St. Angelo fortress is unique in its nature and it is the only existing Portuguese fortress in Kerala, coast, bungalow type architecture which is introduced by the Portuguese only, and it is called Manueline style named after Portugal King Dom Manuel double wall |
| without any corrosion. | ingots (700 nos) kiln for minting coins, copper coin mould, lead slag, Paise coins of Tippu Sultan, Puducheri Silver Panam, British East India coins, Terracotta seal with Nagari legend, cash coins of Ikkeri Nayakas, were discovered. Beads made of terracotta, lamps, toy wheel fragments, sling balls, Talisman made of copper, gold ornaments, a statue made of bronze having rifle in his hand in standing posture also found. | system of construction very stronger than the Bekal fortress, still withstand the vagaries of nature near the western coast, which built little earlier than the Bekal fortress. |
From Cannanor port mainly pearl, pepper, and gems of every variety exported and imports were mainly coral, lead, tin etc. It will be noticed that the trade that the Romans carried on with Malabar was practically in the same commodities as those in which the Portuguese traded at a later time. This port of Cannanore had also carried on great commerce with Mecca and Surat. According to Ibn Batuta, the Mammalis and Khoja were merchant princes to whom Cairo and Damascus were as familiar as Calicut and Cannanore. Once Bekal fortress must have been under the sway of Kolathiri rajas of Malabar. But there is no sufficient evidence. Future exploration excavation may bring new light on this subject. However, the structure inside the fort such as watchtower and magazine house, are military in nature while durbar hall, mint house etc. have royal affinity.

Excavation brought to light remains of kiln along with charcoal and ashy deposits, copper ingots, coin mould, defaced and unstruck coins, melted pieces of metals, small iron implements, terracotta seals, corroded coins, cash coins of Tippu Sultan etc suggest that for minting ‘copper cash coins’ Bekal mint was probably established by Tippu Sultan in 18th century at Bekal fortress. Thus the structural remains of temple, seals recovered from the Durbar hall, copper cash coins of Nayaka provide ample evidence to prove the presence of Ikkeri Nayakas in the Bekal fortress during 17th century. Bekal fortress played as regional headquarters of the Nayakas of Ikkeri, and trade and administration of their territory was looked after from here, and their military was stationed inside the fortress. Whereas St. Angelo fortress was as international port and it had contact with different countries.