The idea of this research dawned upon me while hearing the lectures of Prof. K.S. Mathew as one of his students in Pondicherry Central University during 2002-2004. With all optimism I determined that I would prepare myself to learn the Portuguese impact on Cannanore. While going through the published works on Indo-Portuguese relations and reading the details about urbanization in Medieval India, I realized that serious work on Portuguese settlements in India would be worthwhile. A serious study on Portuguese contacts with India necessitated the learning of Portuguese language. It would be more advantageous to learn it in Portugal than in India. Therefore I contacted the Instituto Camões of Portugal to enable me to pick up the essentials of Portuguese language. The Institute awarded me the fellowship to do a course in Portuguese language in the Faculdade de Letras of the Lisbon University during the summer of 2008. After completing a course in this University I did an advanced course in the Universidade Nova Lisboa.

With the linguistic equipments I decided to consult the original sources in various depositories of Portuguese documents. Fundação Oriente came forward to help me with a short term fellowship to enable me to consult the required sources. In view of these fellowships I was able to work for a year in the European archives and libraries.

While preparing project work, attending seminars, learning languages, doing courses and travelling in Europe and Indo-Portuguese centres, I realized that the topic of research covers a wide area. The gathering of material for this study involved visits to Portugal, Spain, Italy, France and England. I am greatly indebted to Institute of Camões, Fundação Oriente, and Institute for Research in Social Sciences and Humanities (IRISH), Nirmalagiri for making these visits possible. I would like
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Times flies so fast mists soon shroud the early beginnings of the Portuguese history in Cannanore.