CHAPTER V:

EXPLORATIONS

For finding out the antiquarian remains of Kerala, extensive field works were carried out for two seasons from February to May of 1972 and 73. The area covered was very extensive. All the eleven districts of Kerala, starting from Canannore to Trivandrum were explored. The whole area of the Western Ghats, wherever it was approachable was explored. Likewise, the middle land and coastal area were also explored. Though these areas were covered, it is possible that in the vast territory many sites might have remained unexplored.

Exploration in the middle and coastal lands were difficult, because every inch of the land in those areas were brought under cultivation or occupied, thus destroying all the evidences of antiquities. Deliberate destruction of monuments are also done at certain places. The Western Ghats are not approachable at all places, due to the lack of proper roads and the presence of wild animals.

The heavy monsoon rains of the two seasons in a year have adversely affected the archaeological objects. The
materials on the surface are eroded or washed away, leaving only the heavy ones on the surface. The objects exposed to sun and rain will also be damaged or destroyed gradually. Moreover, in coastal areas and in middle lands, vast paddy fields exist where water stands throughout the year. All these factors had a retarding effect on the field work.

However, the explorations brought to light 71 sites. Out of these sites, one is a microlithic site, forty-one are megalithic sites, and twenty-nine are historical sites. The microlithic site is at Pallatheri, near Palghat. The megalithic sites are distributed throughout the state and the megaliths discovered from all these sites are above four-hundred and fifty. The types of megaliths found in these sites are dolmens, cists, cist circles, rock-cut caves, multiplied hood stones, stone-alignments and urn-burials. The important sites discovered of these monuments are Kondazi, Nadappakund, Elanad, all in Trichur district, Poika in Ernakulam district and Alampetti in Idikki district.

Among the historical sites, majority of them are temple remains from various parts of Kerala. Few Hero Stones belonging to 7th/8th centuries are found from
Poulpalli of Calicut district. Other historical sites are few in Kerala.

A taluk-wise description of the sites with the antiquities found from them are given below in alphabetical order.

**Microlithic site.**

*Dist. Palghat.*

*Taluk - Palghat.*

**Pallatheri (pl. No. 26.4)**

Pallatheri is about 8 Kms. south-east of Palghat, on the Palghat-Para road. The site is about 500 meters south of Pallatheri on the bank of a big water tank. It is a cultivated plain area sloping slightly to the east. From this area, late-stage tools were collected. The tools include two scrapers, two blades and few flakes. They are all of quartz. The presence of flakes along-with tools shows that this was a factory site also.

**Megalithic sites. (pl. No. 7,1)**

*District - Canannore.*

*Taluk - Canannore.*
Begankunnu:-

The site is on a small laterite hill, half a kilometer east of Mayyil. On the west slope of this small hill, there are four rock-cut caves, near to each other, made in the laterite rock with their entrances facing west. One of the monument was partly opened by the laterite stone-cutters. The cave had a rectangular entrance and the cave proper had a vaulted roof. Black - and - red pottery were reported to have been found from the monument.

Cavanissery:-

Three kms. east of Kannapuram railway station, near the St. Martin Hospital, three rock-cut caves were brought to light on a small hillock while removing laterite rocks for constructional purposes. These caves also had the same structural features noted above.

Taluk - Kasaragod

Kukkamom. (Pl. nos. 7c, g.)

Kukkamom is three kms. east of Kalikkadavu. It is a hilly area and on a small hill lying in the north-south direction, there are six cist-circles scattered in an
area of about 800 meters. The cists are made of granites, while the circle stones are of laterites. Both granite and laterite stones are available on the site itself. In some cases, the cover stones of the cists are seen above the ground. Few are partly damaged due to coconut plantation.

Kalikkadavu (Pl. no.8,8.)

Half a kilometer west of Kalikkadavu bus-stop, on a somewhat laterite plain is the site. There are more than a dozen rock-cut caves are seen in an area of about 200 meters. Some of the caves which were already opened by the local people had a rectangular entrance which leads to the cave proper which were oblong in plan and had a vaulted roof. The floors of the caves are in level with the court-yard of the entrance. The dome shaped roofs of the caves had circular openings. From one of the caves, a large red pot was found out by the author.(pl.no.8.c).

On the right side of the Kalikkadavu bus-stop, about 50 meters to the south, a large urn-burial was reported to have found out, while preparing a panchayat road. It was
a plain ash-coloured jar. No objects were reported to have been discovered from the urn.

Taluk - North Wynad.

Padinjaraethara:-

Eight kms. north of Kalpetta town, in Padinjaraethara, an urn-burial was found while preparing the land for agriculture. The urn-burial came to light from a level ground and was in a broken state. The workers reported that the urn was buried about 25 mtr. below the surface and was covered by a roughly round granite slab. No objects were reported from it.

District - Malapuram
Taluk - Eranad

Anampara:-

On a small laterite hillock, four kms. north of Vandoor, in a cashew plantation, there are fifteen megalithic monuments of two different varieties. Thirteen of them are cist-circles. The biggest of them has an outer diameter of 6.7 meters and the circle stones are all of laterite, which is available on the site itself.
Two of the monuments are multiple-hood stones, both near to each other. They are made of dressed laterite blocks. There were more monuments of this variety in the area, but destroyed in recent years, as could be judged by the strewn remains.

Kacherikunnu:-

The site is on the southern slope of a hill which is one and a half km. west of Edavanna. The number of the burials and their distribution in the area are difficult to be ascertained. Many of them were removed by tapioca cultivators. But some of the red earthen jars with slightly pointed base reported lead one to infer that they possibly belong to the Megalithic culture. All other evidences were destroyed.

Nallandanni:-

One km. north of Nallandani bus-stop, an urn-burial site was reported while digging a road by the local Panchayat. On the site there were three urns placed about half a meter below the surface, near to each other. The fragments of those urns were found lying scattered at the site.
Pathappirium:

About two kms. south of Edavanna is the site called Pathappirium. Three different varieties of megaliths were noted in an area of about 500 meters, on a laterite plain. The types of megaliths noticed on the site include urn-burials, port-holed cists and stone-circles. The urn-burials had cover stones of various shapes such as circular, rectangular etc. The number of urn-burials noted were more than fifteen, but there are indications that their numbers would be much higher.

The port-holed cists came to light when the laterite stone around it was removed for other purposes. They were seen about half a meter below the surface of the rock. The port-holes were found on the eastern orthostats of the monuments. Although a number of objects like pottery and iron objects were reported from them, except an iron dagger (pl.no.33.c), no other objects were available from the monuments.

The other variety seen on the site is stone-circles made of laterite stone. The area inside the circles are filled with laterite soil and granite stone chips to an height of about one meter above the surface of the ground.
Pathippara:-

At Pathippara, in a rubber estate, west of Nallanda, an urn-burial was noticed. The burial has a round cover stone of granite. The urn is partly exposed on one side.

Puzhakkadavu:-

An urn-burial site was reported at Punchakolli, near Puzhakkadavu. The site is on the eastern side of a hill near Puzhakkadavu bus-stop. It is covered with thick forest and the burials were brought to light while cutting the land for a road. In the road-cutting, three broken urns in a row were observed. The covers of those monuments were missing.

District - Calicut.
Taluk - Calicut.

Chelavoor:-

A rock-cut cave was reported at Chelavoor which is on the road to Wynad from Calicut at a distance of 20 kms. from the latter. The cave came to light while the area
was dug for agricultural purposes. The cave had a dome shaped roof and was circular in shape with benches at the base. From the cave, pottery, iron objects and bone pieces were found out. They are preserved in the Archaeological Museum at Trichur.

**District - Palghat**

**Taluk - Alathur.**

**Kannachiparutha:**

One Km. west of Valculambu, on a small hillock, there are six ruined dolmens in an area of about hundred meters were noticed. Excepting some of their upright slabs, no other parts of the monuments are seen.

**Kornapara:** (pl. no. 9.a.)

Kornapara is about two Kms. east of the above noted site. The site is on a hill top, forested with big trees and thick bushes. All over the hill top, scattered here and there, there are more than twenty-five dolmens were found out. Multiple dolmens are also present among them. The orientation of the majority of them are east-west. At the base of some of the monuments, granite chips are heaped and a
circle of stones around it. Many of the dolmens are in ruins.

**Munippara:** (pl. no.e.l)

This site is about three kms. west of the above noted one, on a densely forested hill lying in the east - west direction. There are five dolmens on the site and are comparatively small in size, near each other.

**Nannangadi:** (pl. No.n.c.)

The site has got its name due to the existence of dolmens there. The site is about two kms. south - west of Mangalam dam, on a small hillock. The whole area of the site was densely forested before. Recently, the forest was cleared and the area was brought under rubber plantation. At the site, there are eleven megalithic monuments of the dolmen variety. But many of them are in ruins. The orientation of these monuments are east - west. The intact monuments has three to four up-right stone slabs on which the cover stones are kept. The granite stone for their construction were available at their site itself.

**Pallatheri:**

Eight kms. south - east of Palghat town is Pallatheri.
Half a km. south of Pallatheri, in a Bhagavati temple compound, eleven monuments were found in an area of about hundred meters. Ten out of them are slab-cists and one is a cist-circle. Some of the slab-cists are multi-chambered.

District - Trichur.
Taluk - Thalappally:

Cherakunnu:

Cherakunnu is in the Pananchery village, five kms. west of Pechi Dam. The site is on a level ground, presently cultivated with tapioca. On the site, there are six megalithic monuments of the cist-circle type distributed in an area of about fifty meters. The cover stones of those cists which were seen on the surface were reported to have been removed by the cultivators. The circles has got an average of five meters of outer diameter.

Elanad:

Elanad is ten kms. south of Pazhayannur town. At Elanad, near the Forest Ranger's Office, in the teak plantation, three cist-circle were noticed. They have
an average diameter of six meters. The cists of all the three monuments are seen outside, but the covers of these do not exist, probably they were removed by someone.

About a km. south of this site, one more cist-circle was noted at Thirumani forest. This monument has the same features as that of Elanad ones.

Kondazi: (pl. nos. io-0.)

The site is on a bare hill, half a km. north of Kondazi Service Co-operative Bank. The hill is lying in the north-south direction. On and around the hill there are more than hundred dolmens lying scattered in an area of about one km. The orientation of most of the monuments are east-west. Many of the dolmens are in clusters (multiple dolmens) with a common circle around them. The cover stones of many of these dolmens are supported by either three or four upright stone slabs. The base of these monuments and around it, are filled with granite stone chips and soil.

Matoor - Kavu:

The site on a temple compound, one km. west of Konnamachi. Many urn-burials were reported to have been found in the temple compound and in the nearby areas. Exploration
in that area; revealed one urn in a laterite cut section, measuring 1.25 meters in height and 1 meter in breadth at the broadest point. Many urns were said to have been removed from the site by the laterite stone cutters. Pieces of bows of black-ware were seen on the site, but too fragmentary to collect.

Meenakshipeth:

About one km. north-west of Elanad is Meenakshipeth. The site is on the northern slope of a small hill covered with dense forest. On the site, there were more than fifty urn burials, all of them reported to have come to light while the land was being prepared for tapioca cultivation. Excepting a few, many of them were destroyed by the workers. An intact urn (pl. No. i.a.) found on the section of a cutting is 1.10 meters in height and 1 meter in breadth at the broadest portion. Almost all the urns had cover stones.

Along with urn - burials, there were three slab-cists also. These slab-cists also were reported to have removed by the workers. From one of the slab-cists an iron
dagger was found by the author (pl. no.33.d). Pottery and other antiquities from these monuments were destroyed by the labourers.

Nadappakund:

Nadappakund is seven Kms. south of Pazhayannur town, on the road to Elanad. The site is on the east side of the road on a hill-top planted with teak. On the hill, scattered here and there, in an area of half a Km., there are more than twenty-five cist-circles of the transepted-cist circle variety. Many of them are in groups with a common circle of stone around them. The stones used for their construction are available on the site itself.

On the east side of this site, on a hill lying in the east-west direction, there are more than twelve monuments of the same variety were discovered.

Pazambalakode: (pl. no.11a)

Five Kms. south-east of Tiruvilluvamala town is Pazambalakode. The site is on a plain ground. On the site there are twenty-three megaliths spread in area of five hundred meters. Out of these monuments, nineteen of them are stone-circles, two are slab-cists and two of them are multiple-hood stones. The outer diameter of
these circles vary from 4 meters to 11.10 meters. The circles are made of huge dressed laterite stones. The slab-cists are of granite stones and are near to each other. In the case of multiple-hood stones, there is a circle of sectorially dressed clinostatic laterite stones, although they converge towards the top, they did not join up and leave a big circular gap in the middle. (pl. Nos. u.e.)

Pazhayanu-padam:-

Pazhayanu-padam is about ten kms. south of Wadakken-cherry town. There, on the side of a paddy field, on a somewhat level ground, there are five monuments of the cist-circle type. The outer diameter of the circles vary from six to nine meters. One of the circles has got an outer circle of granite stones, attached to the main circle, on the west side.

Thonnorkara:-

The site is on the western side of a paddy field, four kms. west of Chelakkara town. At the site, a number of urn-burials were reported to have been unearthed by the workers while preparing the land for agricultural purpose. But excepting one, all were destroyed. An urn found on the site was 1 meter in height and .75 meter.
in breadth (pl. Nos. 12a.). The urn had incised oblique line designs on its shoulder. No antiquities were reported from those urns.

**Taluk - Mukundapuram.**

**Vettilappara:-**

Vettilappara is on the road to Sholyar from Chalakudi. In Vettilappara rubber estate, in 'D' division, Block No. 9, there are three damaged dolmens. The first one which is near the plantation road is a very huge dolmensid cist with double stone circles. The second and third ones, near to it are without circles of stones and their cover stones are missing.

**District - Ernakulam.**

**Taluk - Kunnathunad.**

**Arakkappady:-**

The site is about ten kms. south of Perumbavoor town on the road to Kolencherry. On the side of the road an urn burial site came to light when that area was cleared for preparing a road. A number of urns were reported to have found from the site by the workers with a number of
antiquities like pottery, and iron objects, but none of them were preserved by the workers. At present, sections showing the presence of urns can be noted.

Keezhillam:-

Keezhillam is in between Perumbavoor and Muvattupuzha. The site is about one and a half Km. east of the St. Thomas High School in a rubber plantation. Four megalithic urn-burials were reported to have been discovered from the site while the land was dug for planting rubber. The urns were kept about .25 meter below the surface. An heavily corroded iron object was reported to have been found out from one of the urns.

Trikkalathur:-

Urn-burials were reported from this site. The site is about three Kms. south of the above site. The burials were recovered while digging for the foundation of a building. Six urns were found on the site, below the ground level.
Poika:

Poika is one Km. south on the Kothamangalam - Idamalayur road, about twenty Kms. north-east of Kothamangalam. The area of the site was densely and brought under forested till recently. The area was deforested recently. The megalithic site there lie in the valley between two hills which are lying in the east-west direction. On the site there are five monuments of two different varieties. The first and the most noticeable one is a dolmenoid cist circle near the damaged Poika Shiva temple. The circle has an outer diameter of ten meters and the circle is made of huge granite stones. The dolmen is made of five upright slabs on which the cover stone is kept. The cover stone is 5.50 meters in length and 2.75 meters in breadth. Near this monuments, on the west side there are two small slab-cists, comparatively smaller in size. There are two more slab-cists, lying slightly north of the above mentioned monuments.

Vadattupara:

Vadattupara is a beautiful small village, about half a km. west of Poika. There, scattered in an area
of about one km. on the hill tops and plains, thirteen monuments belonging to the variety of dolmen with or without stone circle around them. One monument is very prominent with an outer diameter of nine meters. It has got circles around it and on the outer side of the circles, there is a square wall to it, made of laterite rocks. Almost all the dolmens are in a damaged condition.

District - Idikki.

Taluk - Devikulam

Alampetti:

Alampetti is about seven kms. north of Marayoor, on the Udumalpet road. The site is on the north side of the Alampetti bridge, on the slope of a thickly forested hill, lying in the north-south direction. At the site, there are more than forty dolmens scattered on the rock-tops in an area of about five hundred meters. Almost all the dolmens are multi-chambered with east-west orientation. In some of the dolmens, where the upright slabs supporting the cover stones are short in length, granite chips are piled up to support it.

Anakulam:

The site is one km. west of Adimali town, on the
north slope of a very high hill, lying in the east-west direction. At the site four dolmens were noted. All are multi-chambered.

Chillian Para:-

Chillian Para is in the Vellathuval village of Devikulam taluk. The site is on the western slope of a hill. A number urns were reported have been found out on the site by the cultivators. Most of them were destroyed while preparing the area for cultivation.

Marayoor:- (Pl. No. 12.b )

This is a vast megalithic site occupying an area of more than two and a half kms. References to this site is found in many books. In and around Marayoor there are a number of beautiful hills and the megalithic monuments are distributed all along these hill tops and valleys. All the megaliths noted on the site are of the dolmen variety and their number goes above hundred and fifty. They are of various sizes. Majority of them are rectangular in plan with single or more cells. The biggest of the dolmens measures 9.50 meters in length and 4.25 meters in breadth at the broadest point and 1.50 meters in height. The breadth and height varies from point to
point. The cover stones of these monuments are very heavy ones; in one case it is more than 10 meters in length and 5 meters in breadth.

In the case of single chambered rectangular dolmens, the eastern orthostats have a hole. The single chambered dolmens are small in size compared to the other variety. Some of the heavy dolmens are protected by making walls on four sides of it with rectangular dressed stones. (Pl. No. 12 c) This type of monuments are seen only in this area of Kerala. For the construction of these monuments, the stones are available on the site.

Some of the heavy dolmens are being used as houses by Mala-Pulayas, a hilly bribe of Kerala.

Munippara:-

The name of the site itself indicates the existence of dolmens there. The dolmens were considered as the abode of 'munis' (saints) till recently. The site is in the Konnathadi village on a hill top. There are two dolmenoid cists at the site, both damaged.

Half a km. west of the above site, on the same hill, another dolmen was also noted.
Muthuvamkudy:—

Muthuvamkudy is in the Chenkalam valley plantations, six kms. north of Vellathuval town. The site was a thickly forested area and it was brought under pepper plantation recently. The site was brought to light when the forest was cleared. Although there were a number of monuments present, many of them were destroyed by the planters. However, five of them still exists. Two of them are port-holed cists. These were brought to light while making pits for planting plantains. One of the port-holed cist measured 2 x 2 meters (pl.no./3.a). The cist is divided into two chambers at the middle with a longitudinally kept stone at a half depth. This slab have a circle opening at the middle connecting the two chambers. The eastern orthostat have a hole in the middle of it called port-hole and cists with port-holes are called port-holed cists. Different varieties of pots, and iron objects were reported to have been collected from it by workers. But none of them were available from the site.

There upper slabs of the cists seen on the south side of the above noted monuments, indicate the presence of cists underneath.

Near the port-holed cists, few urn-burials were also reported. The oral report indicated that they were kept
side by side, covered by a big stone slab.

**Taluk - Udempenchola:**

**Mullanhand:**

The site is on a hill lying in the north-south direction, north of Puppara. It is a densely forested area. On the site, there are eleven dolmens, most of them damaged. They have an east-west orientation.

Just near the Puppara bus-stop, on the right side of the road to Kumali, in a tea plantation a stone alignment is present. The monument is made of thin and flat granite stone slabs kept in a line in the north-south direction.

Half a km. west of Puppara, in a eucalyptus plantation, there are more than a dozen dolmens all in a damaged state. Only the upright stones are seen standing on the site.

**District - Kottayam:**

**Taluk - Changanassery:**

**Thottakkad:** (Pl.No.43A)

Three rock-cut caves were brought to light recently when the area was cleared for agriculture. The caves are
near to each other and are identical in design. All the caves are scooped into the laterite rock and has square openings from the west side. The opening leads to the caves which are slightly oblong in plan. These caves have got a roughly circular opening towards the top. The caves are connected to one another internally with the help of two circular holes. The rock-cut caves are not neatly executed as compared to their counterparts in Cochin and Malabar area. From the caves pot sherds of black-and-red ware were reported.

About twenty-five meters west of these caves, two urn burials were also reported to have been discovered by the workers. Although no antiquities were found in them, they had all the features of a megalithic urn-burial.

Historical sites - Temples. (pl. 90.15 a)

District - Cannanore

Taluk - Cannanore

Kannapuram:-

About one km. east of Kannapuram railway station on the side of a paddy field, the remains of a small temple were noticed. Only the basal portion of the temple remains
It is a sandhara temple, rectangular in plan. No sculptures were seen in the ruins.

Taluk - Hosdurg:

Cheruvathur:

Two kms. east of Cheruvathur, on the top of a hill, the remains of a small sandhara temple, rectangular in plan was recorded. Excepting the laterite side walls and the portion below it, all other parts have collapsed. The devotional image of the temple was found missing, but it was found out later from the bank of a river near the temple by the author. It was a beautiful image of Vishnu belonging roughly to 16/17th centuries, so the temple also can be roughly dated to this period.

Near the Cheruvathur bus-stop, on the east side of the road, there are the remains of a temple called locally Ghakrapuram temple. This is also a sandhara temple, but circular in plan. It has a conical roof. But the roof was partly collapsed and the Vishnu image present inside it was broken to many pieces. This image also has the
same iconographical features to the above noted Vishnu image.

Narayankannur: (pl. no. 13 c)

Narayankannur is about eight Kms. south of Payyannur town, on the sea-shore at the foot of Ezhill Mala. There an ancient sandhara circular temple with a minor shrine is present. The main temple belongs to 11th century, as evidenced by a Vattezuthu inscription on the sopana of the temple. The main shrine is sandhara with circular plan and conical roof. Excepting the main shrine, all associated buildings are collapsed. Inside the main shrine, a broken image of Narasimha was noted.

Half a Km. north of this temple, there is a laterite rock-cut temple. The temple has three rooms arranged in the east-west directions. The first room from the west which is square in plan might have been used as the garbhagriha. But no devotional object is seen inside it.

District - Calicut
Taluk - South Wynad

Pazoor: (pl. no. 14 a)

Pazoor is ten Kms. north of Kalpeta town. There is
a small temple dedicated to Shiva. The temple is rectangular in plan. The mandapa is in ruins and only the granite base of it remains. The temple base is also of granite. From the architectural style of the temple, it can be dated to 14/15th century.

Just near Pazoor, half a km. south of it, there is one more temple which is in complete ruins. Excepting few laterite stones lying scattered, no structure is visible. From the temple site few bronze objects (Pl. Nos. 54, 55) which may be offerings to the temple by devotees were noted.

Pozuthana:

Pozuthana is three kms. north of Pazoor and here also the remains of a small temple was noticed in a thick bush from a distance. Only the base of the temple remains at present and it is rectangular in plan. An image of Vishnu is present in the ruined temple (Pl. No. 48a) But it is in a thorny bush, so it could not be studied in detail.

Poulpalli:

Poulpalli is about twenty kms. south of Sultan's
Battery. This area is heavily forested. The occupation of the forest land by people recently brought to light objects of archaeological importance. The remains of two Siva temples were noted in the forest by the writer. The first one is east of Poulpalli town. At the site a beautifully sculptured stone Nandi is present with slight damages (pl. no. 14, b). The remains of the temple are seen in the front of it. But from the remains, to infer the type of the temple or other aspects of it are difficult. The second temple remains noted is also in a forest area, west of Poulpalli. Here also only the Nandi was seen at the site. It was in many pieces.

Puthangadi:-

Puthangadi is a small village, two Kms. east of Panamaram town in south Wynad taluk. At this place there are three temples of archaeological importance. The first one is a small temple, rectangular in plan having a big image of Ganesh, 1.25 meters in height and 1.5 meters in breadth. The image belongs to 14/15th century. But the temple is a recent construction.

Just near this small shrine, there is a big temple, completely made of stone (pl. no. 14, c). The plan and
style of this temple is different from the temples of this area. The temple has an entrance hall and this leads to a pillared open hall followed by the garbha-griha. The garbha-griha is closed from three sides and the opened side faces the pillared hall. This temple belongs to about 16/17th century.

Half a km. south of this temple, another temple built in the same pattern is present:

**Sultan's Battery:**

In the middle of the town of Sultan's Battery, the remains of a temple is present. The temple is in a highly damaged stage. But it could be inferred that it was built on a square plan. Near the ruined temple, a small shrine is present in which a huge image, similar to that of Puttangadi is present.

**District - Calicut**

**Taluk - Calicut**

The remains of small temple at Koduvalli, about
twenty-five kms. east of Calicut was noted during the exploration. This temple is also in ruins, but it is built on a rectangular plan. No images were seen in the remains.

**District - Malappuram.**

**Taluk - Ernad.**

**Ambalamkandi:**

The site is just north of Mampad town, in the Ernad taluk. There, the remains of a temple was noticed at a place called Ambalamkandi. This temple is also in a completely ruined state. However, it was found that it was a sandhara temple built on a circular plan.

**District - Palghat.**

**Taluk - Palghat**

**Pallatheri:**

Pallatheri is about eight km. south-east of Palghat town. Near Pallatheri, on the right side of the road from Palghat to Para, there is the remains of a sandhara temple, comparatively big in size. Only the lower portion of the
temple is intact at present. The temple is built on a circular plan with granite stones. This temple can be dated to about 15/16th centuries.

District - Trichur
Taluk - Chowghat.

Palayoor: -

Palayoor is about thirty kms. north of Trichur. This place was one of the earliest settlements of Jews and Christians. The Jewish Chronicals and legends talk about Palayoor as one of the centers of Jewish settlements in Kerala. St. Thomas, the Apostle of Christ is said to have founded one church at Palayoor. Near the present Palayoor church compound, the remains of a temple was recorded. Only 8 stones used for the construction was noticed at the site. Some of the remains of it are kept in the churches Jubilee Memorial Museum.
Taluk - Thalappally:

Chelakkara:-

Two Kms. west of Chelakkara town, there are the remains of two temples, both rectangular in plan. The first one is on the bank of a big tank. It is a sandhara temple and few sculptures are noted in it. (pl. no. 15. a). But the deity of the temple is missing. The second temple is also rectangular in plan, but in ruins. Both the temples can be dated to 16/17th centuries.

Elanad:-

South of Elanad town, there are the remains of two small rectangular temples, both near to each other. Only the basal portions of the temples remain; at present and from the ruins of the temples, no sculptural objects were noted.

Little south of this temple, a big circular temple of which the granite basal part is present which is without much disturbance. It is a sandhara type of temple belonging to 13/14th centuries. The inner part of the temple is filled with the temple collapse.
Taluk - Trichur.

Kannara:-(Pl. No.15 &)

This place is about five kms. west of Peechi irrigation dam. At this place, the remains of a completely collapsed temple was noticed. Excepting sculptures and few slabs, no structure of the temple is seen. In the ruins, the image of Vishnu and Dwarapalas are seen. The images can be roughly dated to 15/16th centuries.

District - Ernakulam.
Taluk - Muvattupuzha.

Bhuthathankettu:--

The remains of a temple, rectangular in plan, was noted. The lower part of the temple only remains at present. It is made of granite stones.

Poika:--

Poika is about ten kms. north-east of the above noted site. The area of the site was forested before. When the forest was cleared recently, the remains of a rectangular temple was brought to light. It is a Shiva temple as evidenced by a broken linga present at the
centre of the temple.

District - Kottayam:
Taluk - Kanjirappally.

Mukkutjuthara: - (M. No 15. C)

Mukkutjuthara is about three kms. south-east of Erumeli town. Here, the remains of an early temple was found in the middle of a rubber estate. This was a sandhara temple circular in plan with the entrance from west. The temple has only a circular base at present.

District - Idikki:
Taluk - Parrmade:

Kumaly:-

About six kms. south-east of Kumaly town, on the top of a very high hill, deep inside the forest, the remains of a somewhat large temple complex was found. The local people call it as the "Kannaki temple", built in the name of Kannaki, the prince - heroin of Chilappadikaram written by Illanko Adikal. The temple has a high compound wall which is more than six meters high, for all the sides.
The main gate of the temple is from the north with a stone arch. Inside the temple compound there are three small shrines apart from the main temple.

The main temple stands somewhat on the middle of the temple compound (Pl. No Ia). It is not very big in size. Upto the it is completely made of stone. The super structure of the temple is highly worn out and so, no images or designs are noticeable. The temple has an open front portico which leads to the garbhagriha, where the deity was installed. The image of the deity is missing. Near to it, on the north side, there is a small shrine completedly made of stone. This shrine also has a small portico in front and a closed rectangular room inside. It has a flat roof. North of this shrine, near the gate, there is one more shrine of the same plan. On the east side of the main temple, a small single celled shrine, without any image was also seen.