

# QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

24<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2019

### REPORT

#### **The Inauguration of Literary Association**

The Literary Association was inaugurated on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2019 by an erudite and renowned member of the teaching fraternity, Dr. C. Sivaraman, Associate Professor of English, Presidency College. Dr. Anita Balakrishnan, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of English welcomed the gathering. She stated that Literospectrum would always be a platform for the students to showcase their inherent talents and was very happy to announce that an English play would be staged. She hoped that like the Tableau, the Play would also become a part of the tradition of Literospectrum, in subsequent years. The dignitaries and students lit the traditional Kuthuvillaku. Dr. Maria Preethi Srinivasan appreciated and thanked the head of the Department for steering the Department towards excellence and introduced the Chief Guest highlighting his many accomplishments. This was followed by the Chief Guest's Inaugural Address. He elaborated and elucidated on the topic, "Poetry: a site of conflict and confluence." It was a scintillating lecture replete with citations and examples from literature and also transdisciplinary in approach.

The play "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was performed by the students of the Department of English. The students created history with their excellent performance, commendable mastery of lengthy dialogues and also delivered it with aplomb and emoted effortlessly. The Chief Guest appreciated the histrionic skills of the students and also congratulated Ms. Sangeetha for mentoring the students. The programme came to a close with the Vote of Thanks proposed by Niveditha of II PG. She thanked the Chief Guest, Principal, HOD, the entire department of English, the Literary Association Committee, the Tutors, Non teaching staff and the students for their overwhelming support, guidance and participation.

The Literary Association Committee organised a 2 day cultural extravaganza for the students. With a view to ensuring participation with complete involvement and also to boost the competitive spirit, the theme of Multiculturalism was given to the students. Further, a culture was assigned to each class to widen the scope for originality and variety. African and Russian cultures were assigned to PG classes and the UG classes were given Greek, British and Indian culture. As envisioned by the team, the students added colour, flavour, beauty and grace with their spirited participation. Ten events were conducted: 6 off stage events were Breakfast Briefing, Collage – Funk from Junk, Miniature Making, Face Painting – Masque it up, Rangoli and Tableau, 4 on stage events were Paper Presentation, Ramp Walk – Spot Light, Phone Photography and Dance – Trip the Lights. The students exhibited a delectable variety of food of each culture which included sausages, bacon, poached eggs, sandwiches, Greek yogurt, pita bread and tsuki, loukumates, akara, shakshuka sandwich, ananas

sandwich, Russian veg salad, arbut soc, Russian salad wraps, rava brinji , vangibath, gongura pachadi, apam, paruppu payasam and coconut water.

The models displayed of the Globe theatre, London Bridge, the island in The Tempest, the Zeus Temple, Amphitheatre, the ancient musical instruments of India, Pre Colonial Africa and an African Village were very informative and interesting. Rangoli and Collage events were very colourful and representative of the respective culture. The tableau transported the audience to the world of Medusa, Anna Karenina, the Igbo tribe, the magical world of Harry Potter and also through the busy bazaars of Hyderabad.

The Paper Presentation event helped the students to hone their research skills. In the Phone Photography event, a student had clicked a picture of the Freemason's Society in Chennai and compared the architecture with that of the Greek architecture. While another student compared the Marina Lighthouse with that of the first lighthouse built in Alexandria. The event Ramp Walk brought on stage Black Madonna, a student personified as Africa, Achilles and Hector, Romeo and Juliet, the royalty of Russia and the dancer Mastani. The participants of Ramp Walk were cheered by the spellbound audience. The dance event was a lively one with a spectacular display of Russian folk dance, Tap dance, vibrant tribal dance, Greek traditional dance and Dandiya dance.

The enthusiastic students had researched and learnt about different cultures in the most exciting way and the experience of Literospectrum would be cherished by each one of them forever.

### **Valedictory of Literary Association**

The Valedictory of the Literary Association was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2019. Dr. David Wesley, Assistant Professor of English, Madras Christian College was the Guest of Honour and he spoke on the topic "The Three Walls of Theatre." It was a precise and concise talk highlighting the role and scope of drama. The poem "Cattle Thief" was dramatised by the students of the Department of English. The actors used the stage, the area before the stage and some actors who were seated amidst the audience made a dramatic entrance. This element of surprise accentuated the dramatic effect of the performance and made the audience spellbound. Dr David Wesley appreciated the performance and distributed the certificates and medals to the prize winners. The Rolling Trophy of Literospectrum 2019 was given to II MA class for securing the maximum number of gold medals.