

London based writer/Novelist Karoor Soman has been awarded this year's Kallikkad Foundation Award. The award, in memory of noted film maker and script writer Kallikkad Ramachandran, comprising Rs.10001, citation and an ornamental plaque was presented by Kerala's Home Minister, Kodyeri Balakrishnan at function held in Trivandrum Press Club. On behalf of Karoor Soman, his brother Karoor Varghese accepted the award from the Home Minister. The award was in recognition of Soman's contribution to Malayalam literature, especially to overseas Malayalees. The event was held on the 8th death anniversary of Kallikkad Ramachandran.

The meeting was attended by Kerala State Chalachitra Academy Chairman, KR Mohanan, D Rajan, Kollam Thulasi, Ravi Vallathol, M P Sukumaran, T K C Jose, Karamana Ravi and several friends of Kallikkad Ramachandran.

Mavelikara born, Soman has written several novels, dramas, short

Kallikkad Foundation Award for Karoor Soman



Stories, Essays, Travelouges etc. Initially, he started writing poems for children's magazine. His radio drama Kartanittu and Karmekham were broadcasted by Trivandrum and Thrissur radio stations in Kerala. His controversial drama "Erulandanja Thazvara" presented at his school in Thamarakulam caused problems, which eventually made him to leave for north India.

However, he continued his work and later reached Middle East. In 1985 he published a musical drama "KadalKara".

The Pravasi section of Kerala Sahithya Section later, accorded him Bhashamithram awarded, presented by then Chief Minister Oommen Chandy for three decades of his continued service to promote Malayalam Literature and Arts in Indian states and various countries.

His second musical drama "KadalInakkare Embassy School", the first Malayalam drama from Gulf Countries, received several awards including Videsha Malayalee Sahithya Award presented by late Prime Minister Narashimha Rao in New Delhi.

His other novels 'KathanaMaza Nanajapol' received Parapuram Award, 'Kanal' won World Malayalee Council Award, 'Kinavukalude Theeram', picked up Lipi Foundation award and first Malayalam novel from Europe 'Kaalpaadukal' obtained Europe-American Malayalee Samajam Award.

His recent novel KanaPuranga, based on three generation of Malayalee life in Britain, published by Sahithya Sakakarana Sangam (a govt. publishing house) is now available from National Book Store. Karoor Soman is currently based in East Ham in London and some of his books are available from East Ham Library. These books include novels, essays, travelogues and poem. *He can be contacted by email- karursoman@yahoo.co.uk*