

# THE CEYLANKAN



Newsletter of the Ceylon Society Of Australia

(a suggested name for the official newsletter of the 'Ceylon Society Of Australia')

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## Newsletter # 2, April 1998

### EDITORIAL

Our official inaugural meeting was a great success. The numbers present were just right to make the meeting flow well and the business session--usually a boring part of any meeting --was handled with great aplomb. And, of course, we were once again indulged with a delicious supper (perhaps this is why Sri Lankans appear such a contented lot!!). The "Ceylon Society" - for want of an official name- is fortunate in having an excellent triumvirate in charge in Hugh, Michael and Vama. We can look forward to a good well organised future, and the enthusiasm shown at the inaugural meeting, means there is good support from many people.

During our first few meetings we discussed the possibilities and then decided that the popular vote by the total membership would be far more appropriate than foisting the foundation members' choice on the majority. So here is a good selection to choose from and these could be voted on at the next meeting.

Our newsletter should have its own name also, and some possible choices are listed here as well. As the Society develops, the newsletter will in all probability become registered, and a title would be appropriate. The name on the title page in this edition is only one idea, we need others so we can nominate what

we as a group feel is the best. Again, suggestions are needed, what do you think would be a good 'mast head'? It would be great to have these two items settled so we can get on with having the Society established with a permanent name.

Think about your choices and let us vote on them at the next meeting on Saturday, May 2nd.

As stated in the minutes of the last meeting, the next meeting will have as its theme "**Tea and its History in Ceylon**". It should be an interesting session as several members have an intimate knowledge of this most important part of the Island's commercial history and development since the 1860s. It is not only the facts and figures that are interesting but the anecdotal material that makes up a more complete picture. Reading "**A Hundred Years of Ceylon Tea**" is a really wonderful account of how it all started and the development of the industry, but the story of the lives of the planters and their workers need to be told too.

One of the sad things on the establishing of our Society is the losing of the inaugural chairman, Chris Puttock. It was the initiative, drive and enthusiasm of Chris and Hugh that started the Society, and it certainly has stimulated many of us to want to help with its development



## OUR TREASURER

Among people interested in the Society are some authors, both published and unpublished. Vama Vamadevan is one of these. Vama studied at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya from 1952 to 1956 and obtained an honours degree in Geography. He joined the Officer Corps of the Ceylon Police as a Probationary Assistant Superintendent and served in Kandy, Homagama, Matugama, Nuwara Eliya and Colombo. He served in various capacities both in the Uniform Branch and the Special Branch. In the course of his work, he has travelled widely in the United Kingdom, Europe, Israel, India and Malaysia. By the time he had finished his career in the Police, he was Commissioner of Police for the City of Colombo from 1978 to 1990 and was promoted deputy Inspector-General of Police. Vama and his wife Charmaine now reside in Sydney, Australia.

His book is: "THE CEYLON WE KNEW"- a journey into the recent past...he also writes on and off to Sri Lankan newspapers. Vama is Treasurer of our new Society.

## ABOUT BOOKS



Dr Kappagoda made the interesting suggestion that our Society assist Ceylon book collectors by giving valuations of

rare books. As a sequel to that, we decided that we would publish the going prices in the Antiquarian Book market.

Investing in antiquarian books, any financial advisor will tell you, is a wise investment, depending on the book's condition. Obviously a book in mint condition will attract a premium price as opposed to one in poor condition. But then again, a book in poor condition which is very rare can achieve a good price. Generally, prices appreciate, the older the better. At the recent Sydney Antiquarian book show, there was a copy of the first Australian book printed (only 4 are known in existence) for sale at over \$250,000 (cannot remember the exact price!).

So, care for your books. Don't handle them too much if they are valuable. New books often show an initial depreciation, then, as the book becomes more scarce, particularly if it is a limited edition, the price can appreciate.

The usual "J Curve".



## Some Prices..

Here are some recent prices supplied by Vama Vamadevan:

\*BAKER SW: Eight Years Wandering in Ceylon. London 1855, marginal water stains & slightly foxed 8vo. 424 pp.....\$250

\*BAKER E.C.S: The Game Birds of India, Burma & Ceylon. 2 vols. London 1921 8vo....\$600

\*CAVE HW: Golden Tips. Lond 1901. Gilt edge. 476 pp. Corners rubbed. fold map.....\$175

#COOMARASWAMY A.K.: Medieval Sinhala Art. 3rd Ed. Sri Lanka. 1975. 341 pp(First edition is rare to come by and much more expensive).....\$100

\*DAVY J.: An account of the Interior of Ceylon etc. Lond. 1821. 530 pp. fold map. pp torn and book restored.....\$2500

@HATTON, J.: The New Ceylon. 1st Ed. Lond. 1881. 8vo. maps, gilt, etc.....\$200

%LEGGE W.V.: A History of the birds of Ceylon. 1st ed. 2 vol. Lond. 1878-80 Deals with 371 species.....\$2500

\*MILLETT M.W.: Jungle Sport in Ceylon from Elephant to Snipe. 8vo. Lond 1914 268 pp. Uncut copy.....\$250

^TENNENT Sir Emmerson: Ceylon: an account etc. 2 vols. Lond. 1860. 5th ed. Revised. 8vo. 2 folding maps.....\$375

~TENNENT Sir E.: The Natural History of Ceylon. Lond. 1868. gilt. reissue of 1861.....\$200

+GAASTRA, et al. Dutch-Asiatic Shipping. (VOC). 1st Ed. 3 vol. The Hague. 1979.....\$20



ROBERTS M.: People  
Inbetween. Sri Lanka. 1989.  
389pp. ....\$125

## Key

- \* - Berkelouw, Antiquarian  
Booksellers, 'Bendooley' Old Hume  
Highway, Berrima
  - # - The Oldbook Room, Benjamin  
Way, Belconnen, Canberra, ACT 2617
  - @ - Source not on record.
  - % - Bernard Shapero Rare books, 32  
St George St, London. W1R 0EA
  - ^ - Bibliophile, 24 Glenmore Rd,  
Paddington, 2021.
  - + - G J Bestebreurtje, Brigittenstraat  
2, PO Box 364, 3500, AJ Utrecht, The  
Netherlands
  - ~ - The Cornstalk Bookshop, PO Box  
336, Glebe, NSW, 2037
- V. Yamadevan**

## SOME GENEALOGY

Recently I purchased "People Inbetween" by Michael Roberts, Ismeth Raheem and Percy Colin-Thome. The book itself is an absorbing history of the Dutch Burghers, and anyone who is interested in the history of Ceylon will find this volume, the first of I believe four dealing with different aspects of Lanka's past, exciting and stimulating and exceedingly well researched. Naturally of course I looked in the name index to see if any of my forebears were listed and there were several, including my great grandfather, Edward Hussey Prins. What I found most intriguing was the following on page 92 where reference is made to the

development of a new estate in Kolpetty, Colombo:  
..... "These holdings were augmented by the houses that were built on the Crown lands in Colombo, especially in the "Marandahn Cinnamon Gardens", that were continuing (as of the 1830s) to be purchased till the 1870s if not later. Our analysis of one list of such buyers shows that, between 1867 and 1873, 28 individuals whom we deemed Burgher purchased 36 lots, virtually all over an acre in extent, adding up to 65 & 1/4 acres, for the total sum of Rs. 83,898. If one treats Rs. 4,900 or more than one allotment as a cut-off point, the principle Burgher buyers were John Carl Fernando, A.O. Fernando, A. O. Joseph, T. G. Morgan, E. H. Prins, J. W. van Geyzel, F. van Langenberg, and Edward Weinman....."

I have in my possession a copy of a letter from my great grandfather EH Prins, dated October 11th 1872, which states... "Haarlam House from which I date this letter is my own property. I purchased the land in Oct 1867. When Papa was alive & he told me, when I build a house on the land to call it "Haarlam", because the Prins family comes (or came) from Haarlam in Holland....."

Researching family history can have little gems of great satisfaction when tieups like this occur.

**D. Goodrich**

## MEET OUR CHAIRMAN

*Hugh Karunanayake was elected Chairman of our Society at the Public Meeting held on 28th February 1998. It was Hugh together with his friend Chris Puttock who took the original initiative to form the Society. The foundation meeting held in the evening of 30th August 1997, was at his residence, and it led to the eventual formation of the Society.*

*Hugh has had a long and abiding interest in antiquarian matters relating to Sri Lanka. His interests also cover a wide variety of subjects from art and architecture, natural history, and antiquities, to the study of the Portuguese, Dutch and British periods of occupation. He owns a unique and extensive library of antiquarian books on Sri Lanka including a substantial collection of maps, prints, and old postcards. For him the acquisition of knowledge or ephemera on Sri Lanka has never been from a purely acquisitive angle. He is ever ready to share his knowledge and the interests he has as a collector. As all of us know, Hugh has always been willing to give of his time, effort and knowledge, in discussing or researching any aspect of Sri Lanka. It is fitting therefore that the task of guiding our Society through its formative years, has been entrusted to him.*



Hugh has a B.A. in Sociology from Peradeniya University. He worked in both the public and private sectors in Sri Lanka, lastly as the Deputy Director, Save the Children (U.S.A.) in Sri Lanka. He presently works as Manager Community Services, Hornsby Shire Council and lives in Wahroonga with his wife Tulsi, sons Harsha and Sumal and daughter Dilukshi.

## Wanted

Information and/or books on woodcarving in Lanka. As I am interested in this art form and know very little about Lanka's woodcarving heritage, any assistance would be welcome--Editor.

## DID YOU KNOW ?



Sri Lanka has been called many names during its history. The Arabs called it Zaylon, the early

Portuguese, *Tenarezim* and *Ternasser*, meaning 'delightful land'. To the Persians, it was *Serandid*, and to Arrian, a Greek author, it was *Pallessimonda*. Erastothenes named it *Tapobrana*, (*Taprobane*) meaning 'unknown dwelling' or 'hidden land', which the Greeks also named Sicily and Cyprus. The early Sinhalese called it *Lancab*--'Oderiferous Land',

though they also called it *Sinhaladwipa*. The Brahmins, *Lanka*. To the Chinese, it was *Simonda*, - 'marvel of the world', or *Pa-ou-tchow*, 'the Isle of Gems'. Other names were *Chinilao*, later corrupted by the Portuguese to *Chilao*; (*Ceilao*), *Scrilanca* (paradise). The Portuguese called it by other names too, *Trante*, *Caphane*, or *Hibernard*, and of course the Dutch used *Zeylon*, (*Zeilan*). Some say that the name *Ceylao* derives from the word *Celao*, meaning 'merriment'. Pliny and Ptolemy called it *Salica*, (*Salike*) after certain salt pits, and the Malavares, instead of *Ceylon*, say *Tranate* or *Ilerane*. Perhaps *Sri Lanka*, deriving from the original Sinhalese, will remain the permanent name. It seems more appropriate!!

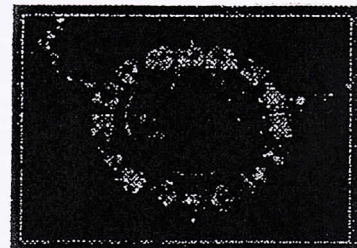
**This newsletter needs articles on any subject about Sri Lanka. Why not share your knowledge and expertise on a topic of your choice with members of the Society!**

## DID THE HOPE DIAMOND COME FROM SRI LANKA ?

The Hope Diamond is reputed to be the most famous museum

piece in the world. Over 5 million people view it each year in the Smithsonian Institue, surpassing even the number of visitors to the Louvre in Paris. This gem, the largest deep blue diamond in the world, has a recorded history from 1666 when Jean Baptiste Tavernier, a french jeweller sold it to King Louis XIV of France, from whom it went to his grand son Louis XV and finally to Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette.

Very little is known of the earlier history of this gem, long associated with personal tragedy. It has been conjectured without any definite evidence, that the gem was mined in India. Legend has it that Tavernier hired a thief to steal it from the eysocket of a Hindu god in Mandalay. But that story does not stand up to scrutiny through corroborative evidence.



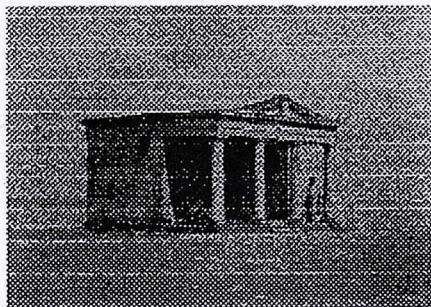
George D Winius in his book "The fatal history of Portuguese Ceylon", states that the first known owner of the Hope diamond was Don Felipe Mascarenhas, the Viceroy General Of Ceylon since 1648. Tavernier who knew the Viceroy well wrote that "there never was a Viceroy half so rich as Don Felipe Mascarenhas. He possessed a great quantity of



diamonds - all stones of great weight, from ten to forty karats - two notably which he showed me while at Goa. One was a thick stone weighing 57, the other 67 1/2 karats, both being clear of good water and Indian cut." It is on record that when Louis XIV bought the Hope Diamond from Tavernier, it was 67 karats in weight. It is possible therefore, that the stone came from the possession of Mascarenhas. The Viceroy Mascarenhas was notorious for his illegal confiscation of wealth from both lay and spiritual institutions under his control. While in Ceylon, he is alleged to have trafficked illegally in jewels, cinnamon and elephants, selling them directly to rulers in India, especially the King Of Golconda. It is possible therefore that the Hope Diamond was acquired in Ceylon by Mascarenhas, and this sheds a new light on the history of this famed jewel.

## LOST HERITAGE

*The Galle Face Guard House*



With this issue of our newsletter, we introduce a feature which looks at items of heritage significance in Sri Lanka which

have been lost forever. Many of these are buildings, monuments, or natural resources of cultural, social, and historical value, that have been lost through neglect, wanton destruction, or natural disaster. Some had to yield to the process of modernisation and redevelopment. We will illustrate each item with a photograph, and provide a description as best as our research would permit. Readers who can contribute to this series are invited to contact the editor.

We begin the series with the old guard house which stood at the Fort end of the Galle Face Walk, opposite the old Parliament building, on the western side of the present 'roundabout'. As the picture above - taken 65 years ago by Plate & Co - shows, the building stood in solitary splendour with the sea as a backdrop. Built in the 18th century, this heritage building dated back from the period of the Dutch occupation of Sri Lanka's maritime provinces. It was once a police station standing just outside the walls of the Fort, and later a guard room. By the side of it, was a large block of wood called the 'whipping post', which stood for over a century and removed in the 1920's. The whipping post had been used by both the military and civil authorities as the place where sentences for public flogging was administered. R.L. Brohier in his book *The Changing Face OF Colombo* refers to the whipping post and quotes a local rhymester

who broke into verse upon its removal thus :

*But those who knew you all these many years*

*Will miss you ( though you lately slant-wise stood)*

*Weathered and worn, an object fit for years*

*A sorry chunk of wood*

*Somesay that you were erst a whipping post*

*Others that once you bore a lamp on high*

*To light the coast*

*For men and ships gone - by*

The guard room itself represented the classical lines of colonial Dutch architecture, and had an outer verandah with roof high columns. It was at one time used as an office of the Boy Scout Association and withstood many attempts at its removal. It was finally demolished in the 1960's to make way for the extension of the marine drive.

## REMINDER !

Don't forget the next meeting of the Ceylon Society of Australia.

2 May 1998

Willow Park Hall

25 Edgeworth David Avenue

HORNSBY

Commencing at : 6.30pm



## A TRIBUTE TO ROLOFF BENY

Roloff Beny is widely acclaimed as a photographer whose creative ingenuity heralded a new approach to the art of modern photography. Beny, a native Canadian, went to Europe to study art in 1948. He remained there long enough to be heavily influenced by the art of the ancient and classical world, which later was to dominate his photography.

Not surprisingly, of the 16 books that he created in collaboration with renowned essayists, those that featured Persia, Ceylon, Greece and Rajasthan are considered photographic classics.

Another book, titled *The pleasure Of Ruins*, also an outstanding work, encompassed all the attractions of the ancient world much to the delight of the connoisseur.

The essence of Beny's photography was in his ability to portray the beauty of the whole subject from a microcosm, a nuance, from which he was able to capture through the camera the whole story behind the subject. Beny, who travelled to most parts of the island, was a great admirer of Sri Lanka, its culture, its people, and its way of life. His untimely death in 1984 denied the world of further exquisite contributions from his prolific creative genius.

## Beny's Mis-Adventure 'In Island Ceylon'

John Lindsay Opie accompanied Roloff Beny on many of his trips within Ceylon and contributed the text and anthology for *Island Ceylon*. Opie later relived the following story in the book *Visual Journeys: Roloff Beny* by Mitchell Crites :

*Roloff and I had been in Ceylon for about two weeks when the accident occurred. Except, of course, it wasn't an accident at all. It was the curse of the Lord Kataragama.*

*I urged Roloff to begin in the southeast with a visit to the shrine (in Kataragama)...I had been told that according to ancient custom anyone arriving in the area of the shrine should at once pay the deity a visit and possibly make an offering of a coconut...So as soon as we arrived at the guesthouse where we were supposed to stay, I suggested that we make a brief pilgrimage and pay our respects. It was already late afternoon, however, and Roloff had other ideas. He wanted to get to the game reserve (Yala) before it closed at sundown.*

*Reluctantly I agreed...our guide, a Muslim named Hasan, found a barefoot cook's assistant who said he could drive, and we set out for Yala in a run down zebra-striped jeep...As the sun sank lower, it gradually dawned on me that we were lost... 'faster...faster' Roloff kept repeating, and grimly the driver obeyed...The driver's foot*

*pressed spasmodically to the floor ; we shot forward , out of control, around a sharp curve. And there , almost in the middle of our path, stood a huge jack tree.*

*The driver screeched on the brakes but it was too late. Bang! We nicked the tree. Hasan and I, in the back seat under the canvas roof, were flung forward but were unhurt. The driver literally flew out of his seat, described a perfect arc through the windscreen, and landing on his two feet, ran off. As for Roloff, he too was hurled over the windscreen through the air, straight at the tree. The jeep followed him, crunched itself into the trunk and pinned Roloff in position.*

*....Hasan said he would run to the entrance of the game park - not far off - and try to find a car ....Half an hour eked by when , lo and behold, Hasan pulled up in a tiny car...We now humped our way, with terrible groans from Roloff at each ditch in the road, for almost an hour through the pitch black jungle, till we finally reached a village with a hospital...Roloff wouldn't move from the car until someone had come and injected him with a crooked needlefull of morphine. At last we got him in a bed and checked for snakes and bird droppings, and decided there was nothing else we could do till morning. Next day we found that Roloff had been strapped into tight bandages and all but devoured by mosquitoes. I*



swathed loosely like an immobile cocoon. 'Now, Hasan' I said, 'take me to the shrine of Lord Kataragama'...I spent the rest of the day at the shrine which was as fascinating as I hoped. I carried out the customary rites to the letter.

Meanwhile, following calls to the Tourist Board requesting an ambulance for Roloff, whose leg had begun to swell up and whose three fractured ribs were causing considerable pain...someone finally arrived.

'We couldn't find an ambulance, you see, so we brought this instead....hope it will be all right..'

'But that's a hearse?'

'Yes, sir, you see, we can slip Mr Beny in here where the coffin goes, and he will be comfortable...yes?'

There was nothing else to do. Roloff was given a massive dose of morphine and strapped in place....We had to drive as slow as possible so as not to bump Roloff unnecessarily. It took nearly six hours to reach Colombo. Because of the black hearse and the procession of cars, we looked exactly like a funeral; and as we passed through the town, people would come out to bow in reverence...Roloff, helped by the morphine, thought he was dead and had gone to paradise : all he could see through the glass top of the vehicle were palm fronds and flower trees sweeping past under the still blue sky and he knew he

was in a hearse - hence he must have been dead.

At last we arrived in a beautiful garden-set hospital in Colombo. Unfortunately, however, it was New Year's eve and the accident wards were filled with drunks and casualties. The only room available was in the maternity ward. So all night long Roloff heard mothers screaming and fireworks blasting off outside his window...This time he decided he was in hell.

## A Continuation....

Brian Parker picks up this remarkable and amusing story where Opie left off:

On New Year's eve 1968 I was asleep in the Joseph Fraser Nursing Home and was awoken by the noise of fire crackers going off at midnight.

My room was on the upper floor, so I wandered out onto the verandah to see if I could see any rockets. Looking down below, I noticed that there was somebody else awake who was standing directly below me, but all I could see was the regular exhalation of cigarette smoke.

I called out "Happy New Year" and this figure came out into the view and returned the greetings and asked me if I wanted a drink. I decided to go down and join him.

His name was Campbell, an American who was heading up J Walter Thompson Advertising Agency and he had a bottle of imported brandy. We sat on the

edge of the verandah with our legs in the drain and started yarning about a wide range of subjects. As the level of the bottle went down, the conversation became rather silly and we thought everything we said was uproariously funny.

After one rather raucous out-burst we heard a moaning from the room next to Campbell's, which at the time and with over half a bottle finished, made us laugh even more. I am afraid to say there was a lot of moaning and a lot of laughing going on. We were just about to finish the bottle when the night sister came along. She refused a drink and ordered us back to our rooms in that starched and efficient way of the Sister-In-Charge. On inquiring who the moaner was, we were told that it was a Canadian photographer called Roloff Beny. The name started another round of giggling.

I really didn't think we made that much of a comotion!

Brian says that John Lindsay Opie's recollections wrongly state that Beny was in the maternity ward. *Editors note* : At least Opie's recollections about the drunks seems to be spot on!

## EPILOGUE

Roloff Beny's *Island Ceylon* was published in 1971 in what appears to be a limited edition and sold initially for approximately Rs100. It is now a much sought after book in Sri Lanka and mint copies sell for as much as Rs



It is now a much sought after book in Sri Lanka and mint copies sell for as much as Rs 20000. It is, without doubt, one of the most beautiful books about Ceylon/Sri Lanka that has ever been published.

**Contributors :** Brian Parker, Hugh Karunanayake, Alistair Jackson-Smale, Michael Sourjah.

## Wanted

Ceylon cookery Books wanted for purchase :

Rare Recipes by Grace Van Dort (1919)

Cookery Book for Ceylon & India

by A.M. Haufsrau (1915)

Art Of Ceylon & Indian Cookery by F.I. Danial (1917)

Indian & Ceylon Cookery Made Easy

by Anil de Silva (1972)

Ceylon Cookery or Native Cook's Assistant (1881)

Alcoholic Drinks buy G.A. Lisbo (1895)

Ceylon /Sri Lanka Collectibles wanted for purchase :

Old menu cards from hotels and restaurants

Air Ceylon menu cards

Old tariffs from hotels

Old Ceylon tourism promotional leaflets

**Contact : Godfrey Perera**

Ph : 03-05620495

Books Wanted for inspection only

For research on family tree and publication of new book

Autobiography of a Peria Dorai by William Boyd (1889)

**Contact : Paddy Mitchell** Ph: 02-9745 3763

Information Wanted

For research : On the Canals of Ceylon, the Colombo Harbour and the Colombo Harbour Breakwater

**Contact : David Goodrich**

Ph : 02-4567 1205

Fax : 02-9890 1366

## MARSHMELLOW DESSERT



**2PKTS OF MARSHMELLOWS (2X250gms)**  
**1 CARTON SOUR CREAM (300mls)**

**1/2 CARTON SWEET CREAM (300mls)**  
**2 CANS OF MANDARIN SEGMENTS (2X310gms)**  
**1 CAN PINEAPPLE PIECES (450gms)**  
**2 PASSIONFRUIT**

*Mix together*

*No juice from cans*  
*Fridge to set.*

*Tastes even better made a day before consumption.*

**YUM!**

## Wanted TO Buy

Past issues of Ceylon Causerie, Loris, Plates Annual, Ceylon Observer Annual, and Times Of Ceylon Annual.

**Please contact : Hugh Karunanayake**

(02) 94890941

**This newsletter needs articles on any subject about Sri Lanka. Why not share your knowledge and expertise on a topic of your choice with members of the Society!**



## THE WRITING OF TEA, TYTLERS AND TRIBES

BY THE AUTHOR - *BERYL T. MITCHELL*

Writing has been my hobby since my forced early retirement from work due to illness. Being Manager of a very busy H.C.F. Branch Office proved to be quite stressful, especially after I earned the dubious distinction of being the very first manager to be held up by a knife-wielding robber demanding the days takings! Three consecutive holdups were more than my constitution could take!

Being of Eurasian descent, I am irretrievably connected to Ceylon, England, and Scotland, and have always had the yearning to find out more about my roots. This natural inquisitiveness was fired by my mother's constant tales of her life as a young girl in a British/Sinhalese household, and so I started jotting down events, places, and my own memories of my childhood.

Doug, my husband, helped enormously with jogging my memory, and the tea planting data. When my mother passed away in 1981, I think it was good therapy to remember her and write down everything I could remember of her and her life. I also suddenly realised that I wanted my children to know more of her and Dad, our previous life in Ceylon, and this then extended to our other ancestors.

Nothing was written in order, I simply wrote on any piece of paper I could find at the moment, and filed it away. Memories, I discovered had a way of popping up at all sorts of times and places, usually triggered by events, conversation, family gatherings. At that time, as I was still working, I did not even have a clear idea of what I planned to do with the information. I just wrote.

Very soon I was waking up early, and could think and rewrite my memories clearly at this time. And this is what I did. The idea of getting all my data into order and in book form started taking shape, and I started going to creative writing classes at the Strathfield Evening College with this in mind. The classes were very helpful in teaching me to organise myself, and while I was attending those classes, I was working out a plan of how to set out my store of writings in consecutive form.

Once I had a list of the proposed headings for each chapter, I found I could research and enlarge on each subject. This took a very long time as I had to wait, sometimes months, when I wrote away for information. Kolitha Ratnayake, the Assistant General Secretary of the Ceylon Planters Society was very helpful, getting me information on great grandfather R.B. Tytler and grand father R.S. Duff Tytler. My brother in law Alistair Jackson Smale's extensive library on Ceylon books were a constant source of information and research, and two visits back to Sri Lanka helped me to get to the Archives Office in Colombo where my husband Doug and I spent some very valuable time.

By the time I had done about three terms of the creative writing classes, I gathered enough courage to show my rough manuscript to the teacher. She immediately suggested that I give it to someone of Sri Lankan background to read and comment, and she suggested I send it to Professor Yasmine Gooneratne whom she had heard speaking at some venue. I took the bull by the horns, packed a copy of the manuscript, and posted it to Yasmine who I had never known, never even met! And she liked my story!

Professor Gooneratne encouraged me to proceed with my project, suggested some minor corrections and gave my wavering self-confidence a great boost. From then on, we discussed titles, and some reference books I might like to read.



After Doug and I had scrutinised the manuscript dozens of times, I gave it to my sisters and brothers, my two daughters and son to read, and they approved of it. After all it was their lives too which were going to be exposed.

Looking for a publisher was the next hurdle. Nobody wants to know a new writer with her first MS! Four publishers I sent my manuscript to, took three months each to look at it, and then politely declined, saying the story was good, but they did not think it would generate enough sales to make it worth their while. I turned to books and leaflets from The Writers Centre, Rozelle, where I became a member, and after interviewing three publishers in Sydney (one of whom I had to pay \$ 100 just to talk to) I decided to try other states.

Seaview Press in S.A. seemed the most compatible, and after viewing copies of several books they had previously published, I decided to accept their offer. I used a discount they gave me for belonging to the Writer's Centre, to have the manuscript edited by the owners who also operate as Professional Editing Services, and so enhanced the production. Doug, Malcolm Chaney, my nephew-in-law and I decided on the cover design, and our daughter Helene used her expertise as a photographer to get a good picture of the painting I wanted for the cover. Having photographs inserted in the book was going to make the production much more expensive, as was also the inclusion of a colour photograph on the cover, but I wanted it anyway, and felt the extra cost was well spent.

I decided 300 copies would be a good start, and found I needed to have a budget of \$ 20 per book to complete production, transport, and advertising in all the States, via the newsletters of Ceylon Societies. My budget did not cover the cost of a book launch either here or in Sri Lanka, so it has mainly been sold by word of mouth advertisement, and through my family and friends who have acted as agents.

I had, primarily, set out to put down my experiences and research for the benefit of the up and coming generation of my family, but then realised there was no previous record of planting life or people of my family situation in the fifties and sixties and so my book filled a much needed nook. I have had numerous letters telling me how much my book reminded readers of their own lives on the estates of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and so I feel I have produced something of lasting value to the memory of the Mother Country.

I have not finished with writing - in fact - I keep honing my skills with continued classes at the Wesley Centre School for Seniors. I hope to write more about the early days of planting in which my ancestors were involved, bringing in Kandy which was their "watering hole". There is also so much more about my ancestors in England and Scotland I have learned since starting on my project.

Regarding suggestions on how the Society could help authors, I feel (for self published books) collating a list of editors, publishers, indexers, and helping to launch, and therefore publicise a book, would be much appreciated.

TEA, TYTLERS AND TRIBES - an Australian woman's memories of tea planting in Ceylon  
By Beryl T. Mitchell - available personally from the author, at 35 Weldon Street, Burwood.  
N.S.W. 2134 - Ph (02) 97453763. Price \$ 30.00 plus \$ 5.00 if sent by post.



## Coffee Planters In Ceylon (circa 1868)



Standing from left : John Martin (Bearwell Estate, Talawakelle), John Mcleod (Kandienlena Estate), John Stronach (Union Estate), ? Hudson ,

Seated from left : James Bissett (Face partly covered, Katahoola Estate. Nawalapitiya), person in front of Bissett unidentified, William Makenzie, Humphry Humphreys (in waist coat, Ritnageria Estate), man behind Humphreys unidentified, Edward Heelis (Langdale Estate, Lindula), Willie Allen (surveyor), Sir James Elphinstone (proprietor Logie Estate), Robert White (musician), William Smith (Cragie Lea Estate), man next to White unidentified, Jack Tyndall, E. B. Hurley (Telegraph Department), Aleander Souter (Westhall Estate), ? (Thom).





WRITING PAST COLONIALISM - a major new series from

CASELL (U.K)

*THIS INSCRUTABLE ENGLISHMAN: Sir John D'Oyly, Baronet*

BRENDON GOONERATNE and YASMINE GOONERATNE

Sir John D'Oyly (1774 - 1824) accomplished in 1815, through shrewd diplomacy and the creation of a very efficient intelligence network, what had for three centuries been deemed impossible: the peaceful annexation on behalf of the British Crown of Sri Lanka's fiercely independent mountain Kingdom of Kandy. Yet in the process D'Oyly (created a Baronet for his services, and regarded at the time as the *beau ideal* of the Colonial Service) voluntarily exchanged the prospect of further honours at home in England for permanent exile. Was D'Oyly merely the Crown's 'obedient servant', constructing (as has been suggested) a blue-print for British domination? Or had he permitted himself to dream a romantic dream? His intellectual interests had turned, following his arrival in Asia, to oriental languages and literature; he simplified his diet, and he was for many years the only member of the British administration in Ceylon capable of understanding the people of the island through their own language. Were his voluminous notes and writings, which documented the ancient codes according to which the Kingdom had been governed in pre-British times, motivated by a desire to preserve the Kingdom or simply to control it? Why did a former acquaintance fail to recognize this 'Cingalese hermit' and an English missionary accuse him of being 'a worshipper of Budhu'? What was the nature of his relationship with the Matara poet Dona Isabella Cornelia Perumal with whom he exchanged elegant verses? What kept this inscrutable Englishman in Ceylon against repeated requests from his family that he return home? This study of D'Oyly's conduct, motives, and seemingly contradictory personality, set against the background of a feudal Asian state catapulted by colonization into a 19th century dominated by Eurocentric concepts of morality and 'oriental' exoticism, and by utilitarian notions of 'civilization', unravels the cultural and psychological implications of colonial rule for both colonizer and subject, providing a reliable and penetrating account of the imperial experience.

Contents: Introduction \* 'Cultured Generations' \* 1801 - 1805: 'Harbours of our choice' \* 1805 - 1810: 'The Noblest Chase in the World' \* 1811 - 1815: 'Obedient Servant' \* 1815: 'A common bond of peace' \* 1816 - 1817: 'Translating the Nation' \* 1818 - 1821: 'Madness of War' \* 1822 - 1824: 'Omne Solum Forti Patria' \* Notes \* Bibliography \* Acknowledgments \* Index