

The Ceylanikaum



The Journal of the
CEYLON SOCIETY
of AUSTRALIA

ISSN 1836-8646 Journal 56 Volume XIV Number 4 November 2011 Editor: Doug Jones



(Founded in 1997)

The Ceylon Society of Australia

Keeping Our Heritage Alive

PRESIDENT

Harry de Sayrah OAM, JP
Mobile 0415 402 724
harold.166@hotmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr Srilal Fernando

SECRETARY

Thiru Arumugam
Int. + 61 2 8850 4798
thiru.aru@gmail.com

TREASURER & PUBLIC OFFICER

Upali Dharmakirti
Int. + 61 2 9986 0337

3 Viola Avenue Warriewood NSW 2102

upalid@optusnet.com.au

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Ron Murrell

Int. + 61 2 9484 4070
ron.murrell@gmail.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sunil Fernando
Int. + 61 2 9476 6852

PUBLICATIONS

Sunil de Silva
Int. + 8021 2328
sunsil@optusnet.com.au

EDITOR/LIBRARIAN

Doug Jones

int. + 61 2 8677 9260
109 Oakhill Drive Castle Hill NSW 2154

dougjay20@gmail.com

SOCIAL CONVENOR

Chandra Senaratne
Int. + 61 2 9872 6826

charboyd@iprimus.com.au

MELBOURNE CHAPTER CONVENOR

Shelagh Goonewardene

Int. + 61 3 9808 4962

shelaghlou@yahoo.com.au

COLOMBO CHAPTER

Convenor/Local President

Chulie de Silva

077 777 2220 email: chuls201@gmail.com

Local Hon. Secretary

M.D. (Tony) Saldin

+94 777 363366, 244 0769 (office)

email: saldinsojitz@sltnet.lk

Local Hon. Treasurer

M. Asoka T. de Silva

Int. 011 282 2933

desilvaasoka@yahoo.com

EX-OFFICIO

Dr Robert Sourjah

Int. + 61 2 9622 2469

robertsourjah@yahoo.com

Tony Peries

Int. + 61 2 9674 7515

srini.p@bigpond.com

Ron Murrell

Int. + 61 2 9484 4070

ron.murrell@gmail.com

LIFE MEMBER

Hugh Karunanayake

Int. + 61 2 9980 2494

hkaru@optusnet.com.au

Srikantha Nadarajah

Int. + 61 2 9980 1701

vsnada@bigpond.com.au

Contents

• Our Readers Write	4
• Changes in Colombo	5
• D.J.Wimalasurendra – Pioneer Ceylonese Engineerby Thiru Arrumugam	6
• Saradiel holds Ceylon's serenity under siege by Tony Saldin	10
• Language of coins and currency in Sri Lanka by Dr Kavan Ratnatunge	14
• Jaffna – the gateway to early Sri Lanka by Vama Vamadevan	17
• The Pavilion at Montreal's Expo '67 by Geraldine de Saram-Jansz	18
• Meals Ammi Made.....	20
• Book Reviews by Hugh Karunanayake	21
• Gamini Goonesena – Farewell to a Legend by Hugh Karunanayake	22
• Nature Notes by Stefan D'Silva	24
• Synopses of Meetings	25
- Thiru Arumugam	
- Dilhani Kumbukkage	
- Chulie de Silva	
• Bookshop & Web Resources	29
• Births, Marriages & Deaths in Ceylon 1846	30
• Notice Board	33

How to become a Member of the CSA

Who can become a member of the CSA? Any person with a common interest relating to the historical heritage of Ceylon/Sri Lanka and wishes to share that interest with like-minded people worldwide is welcome to seek membership. Please contact any of the following for further details:

In **Sydney**: Contact: Treasurer Upali Dharmakirti 3 Viola Avenue, Warriewood NSW 2102 Phone: 9986 0337

Email: upalid@optusnet.com.au

In **Melbourne**: Contact: Convenor Shelagh Goonewardene Phone: 9808 4962

Email: shelaghlou@yahoo.com.au

In **Colombo**: Until further notice members are requested to deposit subscription money/cheques at a HSBC ATM machine or transfer to the HSBC electronically. The information you require is for ATMs: Account Name: Ceylon Society of Australia, CSA Account Number- 008-044109-001 - e Transfer above plus: HSBC Swift Code- HSBCLKLX
Annual subs: LKR3000.00

Annual subscription is A\$30
(Pensioners & Students in Australia A\$20).

From the Editor...

This issue marks the final Journal for 2011. We like to believe that the fare served made absorbing reading and inspired our readers to further study the ancient, medieval, pre-and-post colonial culture and heritage of Sri Lanka - with many treasures still to be unearthed. The results of such research are the very flesh and blood of the society's flagship The Ceylankan. Some of our finest articles have come from readers who found a creative moment inspired by a contribution from another reader. Creativity can be infectious, indeed!

In this issue, we have a contribution by Dr Kavan Ratnatunge writing on the "Language of coins and currency in Sri Lanka" - an article that cries for deeper study. President of the Numismatic Society of Sri Lanka, Dr Kavan invites readers to log on to his website for further information. Then we have Thiru Arumugam going back to the days when he was an operations engineer at Sri Lanka's Laxapana Power Station, as he pays tribute to a pioneer Ceylonese engineer D.J. Wimalasurendra. Absorbing reading! Also Geraldine de Saram-

Jansz (from Canada) was prompted to pen her recollections of Montreal's Expo '67 on reading Shelagh Goonewardene's article on George Keyt. Meanwhile, Hugh Karunanayake pays glowing tribute to, arguably, Ceylon's greatest cricketer, the late Gamini Goonesena, Tony Saldin comes to grips with the banditry of Ceylon's own 'Robin Hood' Saradiel and that indefatigable scribe, Vama Vamadevan gives us another glimpse of Jaffna. Then there are the regular features - Book Reviews, Books & Web Resources, Synopses of Meetings, Nature Notes and Notice Board.

Your editor is of the expectation that he will soon have more contributions from readers of the journal coming his way. Sorry to cry 'poor' but the literary larder is near-empty. That is a sad state for anyone to be in, worst of all an editor. So help a lame dog over the stile and get those literary contributions coming in.

Also, keep writing those letters to the editor as well. We all like to know what you think about the articles published or if you have some new fact to share on a topic you read.

Christmas and the New Year are heading our way at a gallop. Looking for a present for friends and relations? May I suggest to you all that you offer them one year's Gift Subscription of the journal? (See Page 29 for details).

I take this opportunity to offer all our readers our sincere Compliments for the Coming Season.

About the Ceylon Society of Australia

The CSA is a non-profit organisation, incorporated in Australia. Its main objectives are to foster, promote and develop interest in the cultural heritage of Sri Lanka, especially the post-medieval period when this country was first exposed to, what we now call, globalisation. Apart from publishing the journal - **The Ceylankan** which has attracted much international appreciation - the Society holds meetings quarterly in Sydney, Melbourne and Colombo. Most importantly, it is non-political and non-partisan and studiously steers clear of political and similar controversial issues. CSA is not a formal, high profile Society but rather, a gathering of like-minded people, open to receiving and

imparting new ideas, who greatly enjoy a quarterly meeting in reasonably modest and intimate surroundings. While Sydney is home to the parent body and looks after the needs of the society in all of NSW and the ACT, the Melbourne Chapter covers members and others residing in and visitors to Victoria; the Colombo Chapter caters to CSA members in and passing through Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lankan public! Members of the public with an interest in the study of Sri Lankan history, culture and heritage - the young members of the public are especially welcome! - are invited to attend. Admission to these meetings is free, while donations to defray expenses are much appreciated.

Our Readers Write

Childhood memories of Talawila

Your article about St Anne's Church Talawila brought back a flood of memories as my grandfather (who died in 1930) and my father went on regular pilgrimages there for the August feast, and I accompanied my parents yearly until I started working. My father, born in 1893, had memories of travelling there by bullock cart, as a child, though I cannot imagine it was all the way from Colombo. He did recollect that the carts set off at 2.00 am or 3.00 am and stopped by 10.00 am to spare the bullocks from the heat of the day.

As you said, Talawila is on a peninsula and up to the late 40s we parked our car off the metalled road at a point where many, many vehicles were parked and walked or rode in a cart across the narrow neck of land, mostly sandy scrub, up to the church. Because this crossing would have been intolerably hot by late in the day, most people arrived at the parking place near daybreak. By about 1950, the metalled road to the church was completed.

My father had a house in what was called "Sea Street", comprising of a large verandah, two bedrooms leading off a "dining/lounge" room and a fenced backyard where simple meals were cooked in the open and where there was an "ablutions" area. There were no bathing facilities save at public wells for that purpose, as opposed to drinking wells. The entire house was of cadjan construction with thin cement floor. The house, and all the many others around the church, was rented from the church authorities who also let out a row of stalls to shopkeepers selling religious artefacts and small, cheap toys, flashlights and hurricane lanterns. I think meat, fish and vegetables were also on sale, well away from the church.

Our family had a large wooden chest containing a folding table and chairs and some cooking utensils, which were kept in an annex of the church. Camp beds were taken from home but all the younger folk slept on mats on the floor. Some of our extended family usually stayed with us and others rented houses in the vicinity. In keeping with the spirit of a religious pilgrimage, nobody brought or consumed alcohol, not even beer, though large family groups formed after dinner and chatted till late, mindful that everyone attended morning mass as well as the evening

service. On the Sunday (feast day) there was a sung high mass with several celebrants and the Bishop of Chilaw officiated, as well as preaching a long sermon. After mass and benediction, the famous statue of St Anne was taken on a short procession through streets immediately surrounding the church, while the faithful threw handfuls of *pori* (popcorn) instead of flowers.

Although a good many Colombo dwellers went to Talawila, the large majority of worshippers came from the immediate surrounds as the Negombo/Chilaw seaboard has a predominantly Catholic population and a lot of the people who lived within a couple of days cart travel came in carts, around which they set up "house".

A feature I recall clearly from the early 40s, but not after, was the exorcisms being performed, just outside the church, which our parents did their best to keep us children from watching.

TONY PERIES

Oh! those thorny places

The Rambler started it all, with his passion for thorny places when sharing with us his private cactus garden. Then he went further to mention cactus gardens in the USA and other places. I am not a known fancier of succulents and other prickly plants but what caught my interest was his reference to the cactus gardens on the rooftop of Singapore's Changi International



• On the rooftop at Changi.

airport. Spending some in-transit hours there recently, I ventured up to the rooftop of Terminal 1 only to learn that it was on Terminal 2, some distance away. Having got there with my hand luggage in tow, I was then told that I would find the cactus garden on Terminal 3, which called for a rail car trip, to and fro. With no signage for directions and no one seemingly having a clue as to where it was located, my determination was the only thing going for me. I lumbered on and lo and behold! there it was, a pleasant place to relax and sip on a cold brew.

(Continued on opposite page)

Changes in Colombo

New faces are at the helm in our Colombo Chapter and there is no doubt Colombo will continue its magnificent work in keeping our heritage alive. Even though work commitments have stationed Convenor/Local President Chulie de Silva in Dhaka (Bangladesh) she is committed to the CSA mission in Colombo.

Chulie has two dedicated people who will be assets to the Chapter. The CSA welcomes Mohamed Dalkein (Tony) Saldin as the Secretary and M. Asoka T. de Silva as the new Treasurer.

TONY SALDIN

Tony is employed as General Manager Sri Lanka, for Sojitz Corporation, a Japanese trading company, with more than 100 offices worldwide, who are involved in import/export, joint venture development projects and inter-overseas trade. He is currently the President of the Sri Lanka-Indonesia Friendship Association (SLIFA) and Vice President (Social & Cultural Affairs) of the Mabile Malay Association. He was also Assistant Secretary-General of the Sri Lanka Malay Confederation (SLAMAC), the umbrella body of Malay Associations in Sri



Tony Saldin

Our Readers Write ... (Continued)

But there was still a minor hiccup; the gardens were in the throes of refurbishment.
RIVIKULA

Congratulations to the team

Thanks very much for this Upali [Dharmakirti] – I think I have another three or four prospective members, who I am sure, will benefit as much as I have from the exceptionally high literary standard of the magazine. My congratulations to the entire team of the Ceylon Society of Australia and my personal appreciation to Doug for his literary masterpiece on Talawila.

I was also very impressed with ECT Candappa's work on 'Editors of my time in Sri Lanka'.

JEREMY DE LIMA

Gourd of Assisi?

Walking back to our hotel after dinner with a group of pilgrims in Assisi (Italy) I spied this

Lanka. He is a regular writer to the newspapers on the military history of the Sri Lankan Malays during the Dutch and British colonial periods. He is an old boy of Isipathana College, Colombo.

ASOKA DE SILVA



M. Asoka T. de Silva

Currently the Editor of the English version of "Vidurava", the science magazine of the National Science Foundation, Asoka is also Guest Editor for the *Journal of the National Science Foundation*. His

professional career commenced at the Coconut Research Institute (CRI) Lunuwila in November 1955 as a Research Officer in Soil Chemistry where his research focused on micronutrients and sulphur. In May 1977, he moved from CRI to the National Science Council (NSC) (predecessor of NARESA) and served as the Assistant Secretary General there. He has published over 85 research papers and scientific publications in a professional career spanning a period of more than 55 years. His book titled: **Evolution of Technological Innovations in Ancient Sri Lanka**, was launched in March 2011.

He holds a BSc (Lond) degree in Chemistry and Botany and a MSc (Lond) degree in Agricultural Chemistry.

luxurious vine in a residential backyard. It was quite dark but with the aid of passing car headlights we found the vine bearing a profusion



of Sri Lankan bitter gourd (karavila). Had to record it for posterity.

DOUG JONES

D.J. Wimalasurendra - Pioneer Ceylonese Engineer

By Thiru Arumugam

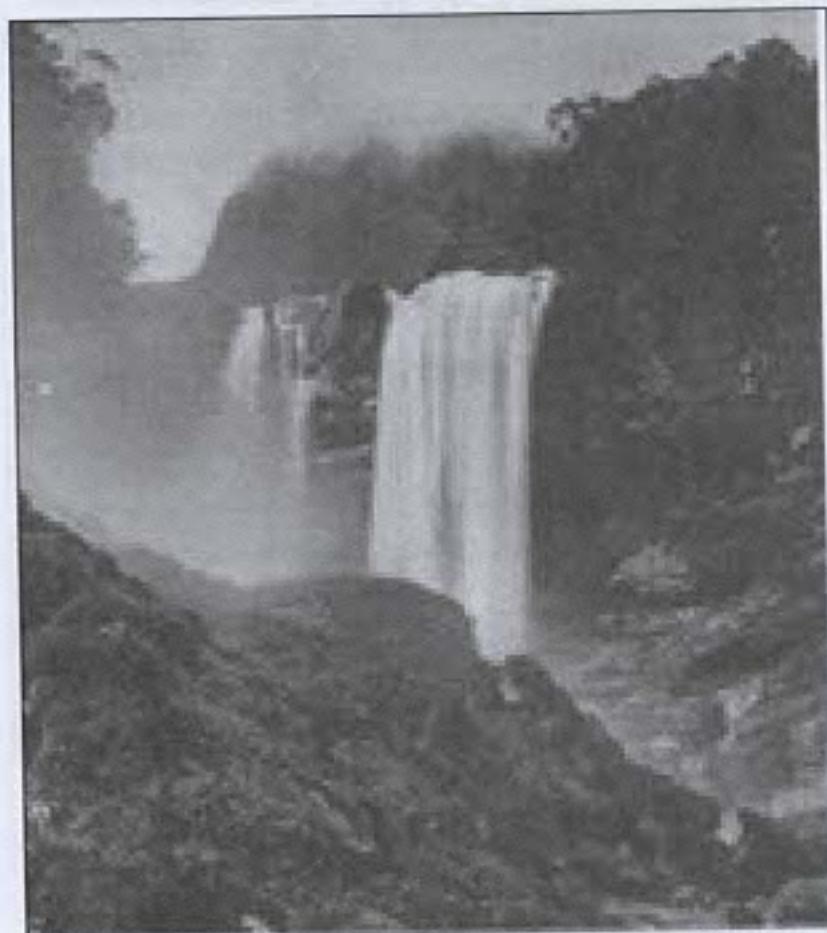
The author who worked for two years as an Operations Engineer in Laksapana Power Station in the 1960s writes: "I still marvel at this man [D.J. Wimalasurendra] who in 1923 had the vision to lay out a proposal for the development of the hydro-electric potential of the two valleys which has been followed almost exactly over the years and will be completed in a couple of years time."

D J Wimalasurendra (1874 - 1953) was a pioneer Ceylonese engineer and was almost certainly the first Ceylonese to qualify as a Chartered Civil Engineer as well as a Chartered Electrical Engineer, a rare dual qualification which very few Ceylonese have achieved since then. His father was a jewellery craftsman from Galle who had mastered the art of engraving on diamonds. When Governor Sir Arthur-Hamilton Gordon heard of his skills, he got him to engrave his seal on a diamond which the Governor wore as a pendant. Later, when he met Queen Victoria in London she noticed this pendant and asked him where it was carved because the art of engraving diamonds was unknown to British jewellers. The upshot was that Queen Victoria sent for Wimalasurendra Senior, gave him a room in Windsor Castle for a few months and asked him to train British craftsmen. In return, she awarded him the rank of *Mudaliyar*.

D. J. Wimalasurendra studied at Ananda College where he was the first student to pass the London Matriculation examination. Had there been an University in Ceylon at that time, he would have automatically gained entry to it. He joined the Public Works Department (PWD) Government Factory in Kolonnawa as an Apprentice. In 1893, when the Government Technical School (later to become the Ceylon Technical College) in Maradana started a Diploma in Civil Engineering course, he enrolled with the first batch of students. After completing the course, he was appointed Head Overseer in the PWD in 1898. He later sat for and passed the Graduate Membership examination of the Institution of Civil Engineers, London and was promoted as a District Engineer in the PWD in 1904 and was posted to Diyatalawa.

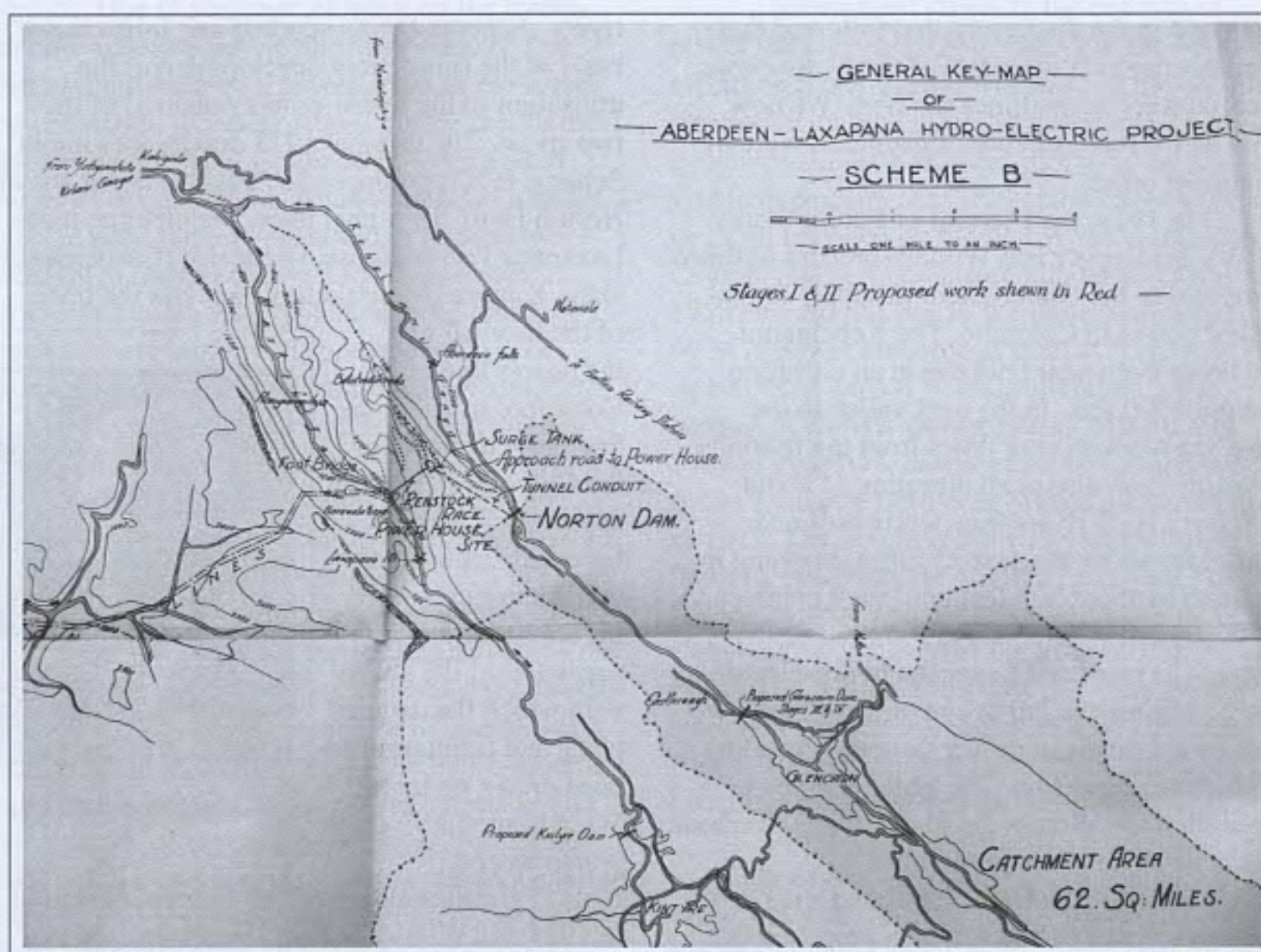
The upcountry railway line had reached Bandarawela by 1894 but progress on the last leg from there to Badulla was very slow. One of the reasons for the delay was the problem of crossing the Demodera gap. Soon after the

Demodera railway station site was selected, it was discovered that there was a wide and deep gorge below. Provision had to be made for it to be crossed and something had to be done to overcome the problem. The only way of crossing this was thought to be a ten mile detour, until Wimalasurendra suggested the ingenious idea of the railway line looping around itself like a snake and passing under the station through a tunnel and crossing the gorge over a nine arch masonry viaduct. The result is the well known tourist attraction of the 'Demodara loop' with substantial saving in track length, cost and travel time.



• Laxapana Falls.

Another of his assignments when he was at Diyatalawa was to prospect for gold in the Maskeli Oya in the foothills of Adams Peak. Ian Van Geyzel, a Boer prisoner-of-war from Transvaal, who was also an engineer was assigned to assist him. When they came to the Kiriwan Eliya waterfall downstream of Maskeliya, Van Geyzel remarked that there may not be solid gold here but there is liquid



• Wimalasurendra's Scheme B Proposal of 1923 which shows Norton Dam, Tunnel, Penstock, Laxapana Power House, Glencairn (Castlereagh) Dam and Kintyre (Mousakelle) Dam. The author found the map in the Archives Reference Room in the Australian National Library in Canberra. It has not been reproduced elsewhere before.

gold in the energy of the waterfall. This started Wimalasurendra thinking about how this energy could be tapped and it became a life-long quest for him. He promptly re-named the waterfall Laxapana Falls because he calculated that it had the potential to light up 100,000 light bulbs (i.e. Laksa-pahana). We now know that his assessment was correct to a point - this was amazing because of the very limited hydrological data that would have been available to him.

In 1915, although he was already a Chartered Civil Engineer, he decided to qualify as an Electrical Engineer. He took long leave and proceeded to London where he enrolled in a sandwich course at Faraday House. He passed the qualifying examinations and returned to Ceylon in 1917. His first assignment after his return was to design and build a small hydro-electric scheme in Nuwara Eliya using excess water from Lake Gregory. The Provincial Engineer said that Wimalasurendra's scheme was not practical, but Wimalasurendra nevertheless went ahead and

built the scheme which subsequently provided electricity to Nuwara Eliya for many decades to come.

In 1918 Wimalasurendra read his path breaking paper titled *Economics of Power Utilisation in Ceylon* before the Engineering Association of Ceylon, now known as The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka. This paper was the launching pad for hydro-electric power development in Sri Lanka. He assessed the hydro-electric potential of the Mahaweli Ganga and the upper reaches of the Kelani Ganga and said that if the potential was exploited, then Ceylon can start large scale industrialisation, electrification of tea and rubber factories and electricity supply can spread beyond the larger towns. Furthermore, he said that the availability of cheap power can be used for the electrification of the railways, but this has yet to be implemented to this day. The majority of the audience was overwhelmingly British engineers and Rylands, his superior officer in the

PWD said in the discussion that followed that Wimalasurendra's estimates of the hydro-power potential were seven times too high. We now know that Wimalasurendra's estimates were of the correct order.

In 1919, the Director of Public Works (DPW), his Deputy and Wimalasurendra outlined a proposal to the Government to supply hydro-electric power to Colombo. The Kehelgamu Oya flows from near Dickoya at an elevation of about 4000 feet. In the next valley to the south, the Maskeli Oya flows from the foothills of Adams Peak also at an elevation of about 4000 feet. Both rivers flow westwards and parallel for about the next 25 miles dropping in elevation to about 300 feet until their confluence just upstream of Kitulgala to form the Kelani Ganga. The proposed Laxapana hydro-electric scheme utilises the fall in elevation of these two Oyas by a cascade of power stations, including a trans-basin diversion. The generated power is transmitted to Colombo by high voltage overhead lines, a distance of about 60 miles.

In 1921, the DPW submitted a revised proposal called Scheme A which proposed the utilisation of the Kehelgamu and Maskeli Oyas in three stages, with a final installed power of 71 megawatts (MW). It must be remembered that the total power load in Colombo at that time was about two megawatts and the Government could not foresee how such a vast amount of power could be utilised. In 1923, Wimalasurendra proposed an alternative, cheaper proposal which he called Scheme B. In this Scheme the final output would be 54 MW, but in the first stage only 17 MW of generating plant would be installed and this would be sufficient to meet the demand of the Western Province for the first three years from commissioning. The first stage consisted of a 90-foot high dam across the Kehelgamu Oya at Norton Bridge, a 8100 foot long tunnel to convey the water under a mountain range to the next valley, a 60 inch diameter pipeline to drop this water to the Laxapana power house 1500 feet below on the banks of the Maskeli Oya where there would be three generators rated at 5.6 MW each.

The Government consulted Evan Parry, one of the world's leading authorities on hydro-electric power at that time. He visited the site and highly commended Wimalasurendra's Scheme B on its engineering merits and said that it was the most economical development of the two

rivers. Scheme B was adopted and forms the basis of the subsequent development of the utilisation of the hydro-power potential of the two rivers. The original 1923 design drawing of Scheme B is reproduced (on Page 7) and it shows Norton Dam, the tunnel trace, the pipeline route, Laxapana Power House, Glencairn (Castlereagh) Dam, Kintyre (Mousakelle) Dam and the trace of the take-off of the power line to Colombo. In 1924, the Secretary of State for the Colonies in London approved Scheme B for construction and in his letter expressed his appreciation "in particular of the ability with which the detailed plans and estimates had been drawn up by Mr Wimalasurendra". High praise indeed.



• Wimalasurendra postage stamp (1975)

Construction work on Scheme B started in 1924 and Wimalasurendra was surprised to find that although the Scheme had been designed by him and he was the Chief Electrical Engineer in the PWD, he was to play no role in the project. He was asked to hand over all designs and drawings to Hughes, a relatively junior British engineer who had no hydro-electric experience. Hughes was appointed Construction Engineer and asked to report directly to the DPW. Disappointed at the turn of events, Wimalasurendra applied for commuted half-pay leave and left for England on a long holiday.

Complete mess

When he returned in 1925, he found that the work on the Scheme was in a complete mess. Three million rupees had been spent and there had been severe over-expenditure on several items without approval and some structures had been incorrectly built. The new DPW who had just been appointed decided to stop all work on the project.

In 1927 the Legislative Council decided to appoint a Select Committee which included D. S. Senanayake to investigate what had gone wrong with the project. Referring to Wimalasurendra, their report said that the DPW had "failed to utilise to advantage the services of the only man available who had any first hand or intimate knowledge of the works".

Due to stoppage of work on the hydro-electric scheme, the Government realised that there would soon be a power crisis as the diesel power station in Pettah would not be able to meet the rapidly growing Colombo power demand for much longer. It was decided to build a steam turbine powered power station in Kolonnawa, initially to consist of two 3 MW generators. Wimalasurendra was appointed to be directly in charge of building this power station. The opening ceremony was in March 1929 and the Governor named it after himself as the Stanley Power Station. Wimalasurendra was the only Ceylonese present at the opening ceremony.

In September 1929, Wimalasurendra reached the age of 55 years and decided to retire without asking for an extension of service. In June 1931, he contested the Ratnapura seat in the first State Council elections and was duly elected. While he was a State Councillor he campaigned for the resumption of work on the hydro-electric scheme but because of the great depression and the collapse of export prices for tea, rubber and coconut, the Government had to cut down capital expenditure to the absolute minimum. In 1937, he re-contested the Ratnapura seat but he was not re-elected.

In 1937, John Kotalawala was the Minister for Communication and Works and he was able to get the State Council to pass a resolution to resume work on the hydro-electric scheme. Only four Councillors voted against the proposal, two Englishmen and Dr N. M. Perera and Philip Gunawardhana. Tenders were invited for the work and in 1939, the contract for the civil work was awarded to Hindustan Construction Company and the mechanical and electrical contracts were awarded to three British firms. However, with the outbreak of World War II later that year, all work stopped again. The contracts were re-awarded after the war ended and the 25 MW Laxapana Power House was finally opened in October 1950.

Before the 8100 foot long trans-basin tunnel was filled with water, 74-year old Wimalasurendra rode through the tunnel on a trolley. When he emerged at the other end he said: "Although it was not my good fortune to execute the Scheme I had originated, I am happy that I have lived to see it brought to fruition by my countrymen and that I should have in the evening of my life, been able to see the light, the dawn of which I beheld fifty years ago....".

Subsequent stages in the cascade of power stations in the two valleys in the hydro-electric scheme were constructed as the demand for electricity increased. An additional 25 MW of generators in the Laxapana power house and the Castlereagh Dam near Dickoya were completed in 1958, financed by the first World Bank loan to Ceylon. Sadly, Wimalasurendra passed away in 1953 and did not live to see these completed. A 50 MW power station was built at Norton Bridge in 1965 and named Wimalasurendra Power Station. A 75 MW power station was built in 1969 at Polpitiya, downstream of Laxapana and the Mousakelle Dam near Maskeliya completed in 1972. The 100 MW New Laxapana Power Station, alongside the original Laxapana Power Station, was completed in 1974. The 60 MW Canyon Power station at the head of Laxapana falls was completed in 1989. The final power station in this scheme is the 35 MW Broadlands Power Station which is presently under construction and is due for completion in 2014.

All this arose from the vision and foresight of one man who battled against all the odds. He was ridiculed by his peers who could not comprehend how Ceylon could ever utilise what they considered to be vast amounts of power. In fact at one stage the DPW transferred Wimalasurendra from Colombo to a remote outstation as he said that access to libraries and sources of information in Colombo seemed to be feeding "his flights to the realms of fantasy"!

DEFTLY DEFINED

Beauty Parlour: *A place where women curl up and dye.*

Chickens: *The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.*

Committee: *A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.*

Dust: *Mud with the juice squeezed out.*

Egotist: *Someone who is usually me - deep in conversation.*

Handkerchief: *Cold Storage.*

Inflation: *Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.*

Mosquito: *An insect that makes you like flies better.*

Raisin: *A grape with a sunburn.*

Secret: *Something you tell to one person at a time.*

TONY SALDIN confronts the nation's most notorious bandit...

As Saradiel holds Ceylon's serenity under siege

During the latter half of the 19th century, in the far flung and mighty British Empire under the reign of Queen Victoria, one of its minor colonial outposts in South Asia called Ceylon continued to thrive steadily amid its halcyon environs and caring inhabitants.

However, such instances of serenity are usually marred by the occasional bandit who emerges from a backwater and disturbs the peace and tranquility of the passive villagefolk. Such a situation arose in Ceylon sometime in the year 1863.

The British colonial government in Ceylon became seriously concerned about a character that was becoming a nuisance to the Administration in the precincts of Utuwankande, Mawanella in the Kegalle District. Such nuisance appeared in the form of a daredevil of a man called Saradiel, a bandit of sorts, who operated with his gang of robbers in that part of the country.

Deekirikewage Saradiel was born in 1832. He was the eldest son of Deekirikewage Adasi Appu, a tobacco merchant, hailing from Haldanduwa in the Chilaw District. His mother was one Pitchohamy from Utuwankande.

The young Saradiel began his early studies in the Illukwatte Temple School. After some time, he left for Colombo and was employed as a barrack boy in the Ceylon Rifle Regiment cantonment in Slave Island (now Kompannya Vidiya) in Colombo. In the midst of barrack life, Saradiel began to learn the art of using a gun and other weapons from the experienced Malay soldiers.

One day, Saradiel was caught in the act of committing a theft and was summarily dismissed from service. He then returned to Utuwankande and began a life of crime.

Saradiel launched his criminal career by getting involved in the Arrack Go-Down robbery, which caused him to flee to Chilaw

with the Police hot on his heels. His father, who was at that time in Chilaw, apparently disappointed with the declining character of his son, refused to help him. Saradiel evaded the police authorities for some time and traced his way back to Utuwankande. However, on a tip-off by an informant, he was arrested by the Mirigama Police at Pillawate. Saradiel was agile enough to fatally stab the Police informant before he was caught.

On 3 July 1862, Saradiel was produced before the Justice of the Peace, Negombo, who committed him to fiscal custody in Colombo. He was detained in the Hulftsdorp Jail awaiting trial by the Supreme Court for assault and stabbing.

In the early hours of 29 November 1862, during the morning coffee break, Saradiel, in a daring escape bid, scaled and jumped off the prison roof. Apparently a friend, one Magiris Appu, a peon, also from Utuwankande, had



• *Deekirikewage Saradiel under guard of a member of the Ceylon Rifle Regiment.*

helped him. Shortly after this daring episode, Magiris Appu was sentenced to six months' hard labour for helping Saradiel escape.

Saradiel returned once again to Utuwankande, where he was arrested by the village

constable, Baba Sara and was summarily dispatched to Colombo in the custody of a police constable and several fiscal peons. Saradiel was pinioned and handcuffed. Those who escorted him were strictly instructed not to un-pinion him even when he had to eat his rice. The escorting party was also instructed not to travel after dark and was ordered to stop only at Police Stations. Notwithstanding such strict instructions being imposed to ensure that Saradiel was safely brought to Colombo and incarcerated, he miraculously escaped. With his handcuffs on!

What really happened was that, contrary to the instructions given, his arms were un-pinioned at a place called Balapane and they failed to pinion him again. The only Police Station at which they stopped was the one at Ambepussa. Apparently, the constable and fiscal peons had, to their detriment, allowed Saradiel's stepfather to join the party. This man is believed to have bribed the guards and given them enough liquor to drink.

A five-pound reward was offered for Saradiel's arrest. The following description of Saradiel Appu was published in the Government Gazette Extraordinary of 10 January 1863: **"Birth place:** Uttoowankandy. **Residence:** Uttoowankandy. **Trade:** Boutique keeper. **Caste:** Wellala. **Religion:** Buddhist. **Age:** 31 years. **Height:** 5ft 3ins. **Hair:** Long. **Eyes:** Hazel. **Complexion:** Brown. **Make [Build]:** Well. **Read and Write:** Both. **School:** Private school. **Family:** None. **Former convictions:** None. **Distinguishing marks:** mark of a mole on the right cheek. **Escaped:** 29-Nov., 1862, from Hulftsdorp Jail."

An Arab trader who had arrived at Galagedera to sell horses was robbed by Saradiel at knife point. Also, two other traders in the vicinity were stabbed since they were suspected to be police informants.

There was a time when a posse of policemen and soldiers, assisted by villagers, headed by Chief Superintendent McCartney, combed the jungles and fields and threw a wide dragnet around the Utuwankande hills in the manhunt for Saradiel. On this occasion, Saradiel created a tactical diversion by stampeding a herd of buffaloes and escaping by courageously hanging on to the neck cord and belly of a galloping buffalo.

Sometime later, Saradiel made a strategic move in shifting his undercover operations to

Aranayake, where the villagefolk witnessed widespread crime. On a request made by the European planters in the area, a Police Station was established in July 1863 at Aranayake. A police sergeant and three constables manned the Police station: all of them Malays. Chief Super-

intendent McCartney also sent acting Sergeant Mendis, who was familiar with the area, to bolster the group. The Police Stations of Hingula, Kadugannawa and Gampola were alerted about Saradiel's dangerous presence and were instructed to assist the new Station.

Saradiel's gang comprised of some daring individuals. The principal characters were identified as Mammala Marikkar, Hawadiya, Bawa, Samath, Kirihonda and Sirimala. The reward offered for Saradiel's arrest was increased to 100 pounds and for each of his henchmen 20 pounds per head.

Sometime in February 1864, on a tip-off, three houses were searched by a Police party headed by Head Constable Amat of Utuwankande. Saradiel was not spotted, but the police party found the following weapons and loot: seven loaded single barrel guns; two pistols; one bag containing ball and two canisters of gunpowder; a pair of boots; two silk umbrellas; one writing box containing paper; 21 pieces of brass vessels; one tortoise-shell box containing 18.7 Rix dollars and one Spanish dollar; one set each of silver and gold studs; one bunch of 50 keys, and silk coats, china coats and woolen shirts.

On 17 March 1864, Head Constable Amat, now hot on Saradiel's trail, received information that Saradiel and Mammala Marikkar were hiding in Saradiel's mother's house. Amat immediately set out with a posse of policemen and stealthily surrounded the house.

Just then, another group led by George Van Haght, Sergeant Muttusamy and Christian Appu who was Van Haght's father-in-law, made an incautious attempt to storm the house.



• *Sabhan memorial at Mawanella.*

Saradiel's mother suddenly raised the alarm, which led to Saradiel and Mammala storming out of the house with their guns blazing.

In the melee, Van Haght was killed, Christian Appu mortally wounded and Sergeant Muttusamy seriously injured. Two others also received injuries. The two desperados escaped; the ambush had failed. Chief Superintendent McCartney then raised the reward for Saradiel's capture to 150 pounds and returned to Colombo a disappointed man.

George Van Haght, a Special Constable, was reportedly under suspension at that time



• Mammala Marikkar under guard of a member of the Ceylon Rifle regiment.

because there was a feeling in the police force that he was not asserting himself enough to apprehend Saradiel. Perhaps such belief spurred Van Haght to make a bold bid to catch Saradiel and prove this position otherwise, finally causing him to die heroically. Christian Appu's heirs received a pension, but it is sad to note that despite Van

Haght's final act of supreme loyalty to the Police Department, his family reportedly never received a pension, probably in view of his being on suspension at that time.

Then one day, luck ran out for Saradiel. One of his confederates called Sirimala, who had become a police informant, told Saradiel to hide in a two-storied house on the Colombo-Kandy Road at Mawanella owned by one Abdul Cader. At the same time he tipped-off Sergeant Mahat and Constable Tuan Saban. The two policemen stealthily entered the house from its rear.

Sirimala then whispered to the policemen, "Here they are," and made a dash, away from the tension-ridden scene. Police Sergeant Mahat immediately took aim and fired, wounding Saradiel. Constable Saban, gun in hand then stormed up the staircase screaming, "The Kandy Police have won the day, the Kandy Police have won the day!" Mammala Marikkar

then fired two shots with his gun, killing Saban on the spot, and missing Mahat. Mahat then positioned himself strategically at a point where he could carefully snipe them if they made a bid to escape.

At this deadly moment, Assistant Government Agent of Kegalle, E.R. Saunders arrived at the scene in a cloud of dust with a company of soldiers from the Ceylon Rifle Regiment and took positions by surrounding the house. The criminals, realising that further resistance was futile, surrendered. Saunders, while making the arrests, struck Saradiel hard with his cane, causing a fracture to his right arm. The same night the two prisoners, Saradiel and Mammala Marikkar, were escorted to Kandy by the Rifles. On the following night, Sergeant Mahat returned to Kandy with the dead body of Saban.

Saradiel and Mammala Marikkar were jointly charged for the murder of Constable Saban and were tried by an English-speaking Jury before Justice Thompson. Advocate Dunuwila refused to appear for the accused. Then Attorneys Purcell and J. Van Langen were assigned to appear in their defense. Both accused were found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging. They were hanged at Gallows Hill in Kandy on 7 May 1864.

The Colombo Overland Observer described the event as quoted by AC Dep, retired DIG of Police, in his book, *A History of the Ceylon Police Vol: 1 (1795-1866)* (Colombo: 1982): "All the available Policemen in Kandy formed part of the procession. The Roman Catholic minister, Rev. Duffo, went with Saradiel from the jail and the Mohammedan Priest attended on the Moorman. It was quite clear that the prospect of death had completely unnerved the two unfortunate men. They were both pale and the Moorman in particular appeared to be greatly affected. Saradiel walked pretty steadily, reading out of a book, which he held in his hand, but the Moorman was quite knocked down, and scarcely once lifted up his head during the walk. The procession passed through the town at a funeral pace until it reached the Hill on which the gallows had been erected."

The bodies of Saradiel and Mammala Marikkar were buried at the Mahaiyawa cemetery in Kandy. A Police guard was maintained over the graves since there was a demand for the bodies.

Richard F. Morgan, Queen's Advocate, who conducted the case against Saradiel and Mammala Marikkar, in his report to the Colonial Secretary commended the zeal and bravery of Constable Saban and Sergeant Mahat for taking part in the arrest of these two brigands who defied law and order, disregarded the might of the British government and terrorised the people.

Constable Tuan Saban of the Kandy Police Station, who died in his daring and courageous attempt to arrest Saradiel on 21 March 1864, is the first regular Police Officer of the Ceylon Police to sacrifice his life in the course of duty, and thereafter every year Police heroes are commemorated on this day.

Sergeant Mahat was promoted to Head Constable and given a monetary reward of 35 pounds. Sergeant Muttusamy was presented with a reward of 20 pounds. Thirty pounds were deposited in the savings bank account of the son of the late Constable Tuan Saban. Saban's widow was awarded a monthly pension of 2 pounds 6 shillings for life.

Posthumous promotion

Incidentally, a posthumous promotion, which was well deserved for Saban, was unfortunately overlooked by the Police Department.

Lapses on the part of the Village Headmen also surfaced during the subsequent investigations. When the Korale was asked as to why he did not make efforts to catch Saradiel, he had replied that: "this is not our work – but the work of the Police force. We have other civil duties to perform". This showed the differences and jealousies arising between the village police and the gradually emerging regular police force.

My uncle, the late Kalabushana Tuan Alaldeen Ibbon Saldin, a longtime resident of Utuwankande, who took a keen interest in Saradiel and his confederates, told me an interesting tale:

One Raban, an overseer in the CGR, who was supervising the laying of railway lines in Yatiyantota, was in possession of a Kreesse (Kris) endowed with "spiritual powers" brought by his ancestor from Java, Indonesia.

A powerful Kreesse is made with several metals, which include a piece of "meteorite", by a master craftsman known as an "Empu," and hence the Kreesse came to be known as "Henaraja Thalaya" (Blade made from the thunderbolt).

Saradiel, whilst visiting his mistress, in the vicinity of the railway lines, had seen the Kreesse and had eventually stolen it from Raban.

The legend goes that whoever has the Kreesse (Henaraja Thalaya) on his person, is virtually "bullet proof". "Henaraja Thalaya" had, with the passage of time, somehow undergone a name change to "Henaraja Thailaya" (Oil from the Thunderbolt). When Saradiel was shot by Sergeant Mahat, the "powerful" Kreesse was not on his person but under his pillow.

Mr. Mass Jaam Cassiere, the late President of the Hill Country Malay Association, also related to me that his father had told him a ditty sung about Saradiel by schoolboys, during his time. One such ditty was:

*Utwankande Saradiel Appu mini maraala
Ara Saban Tuan wedithiyala kakula kedila.*

The Saban memorial on the Kandy road at Mawanella carries the following inscription: "Near this spot in March 1864, PC Sabhan of the Ceylon Police lost his life in an act of gallantry which was immediately responsible for the arrest by Mr E.R. Saunders, Assistant Government Agent, Kegalle of Sardiel and a member of his gang of robbers. Five days previously, George van Haght and Christian Appu were killed and four others wounded in an attempt to effect Sardiel's capture".

Thus ended the saga of Saradiel, sometimes known as the Robin Hood of Lanka.

References: A History of the Ceylon Police Vol:1 (1795-1866) by AC Dep, Retired Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ceylon (Colombo: 1982).

The things they say...

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap. - *Bob Hope*

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you.
- *Winston Churchill*

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty. But everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out.
- *Phyllis Diller*

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.
- *Billy Crystal*

Language on coins and currency in Sri Lanka

by Dr KAVAN RATNATUNGA
(President, Sri Lanka Numismatic Society)

Most of the indigenous coins of ancient Lanka (below) had only symbols. The rare lion and swastika lead coin has Brahmi text along the periphery around the railed swastika. This symbol which is seen cut at the commencement of stone inscriptions by Lankan kings is recognised as the Royal standard of the early Anuradhapura era.



Sri lak viha appears on the 8th century gold *kahavanu* coin (See below). The coins of RajaRaja Chola replaced *lak viha* with RajaRaja. After Lanka was liberated in 1070 we find coins in the names of Vijayabahu, Parakramabahu, Nissankamalla, Sahasamalla, Lilavati, Dharmasokadeva, Buvanekabahu. Most of the coins of latter monarchs are minted in copper. Known then as *Massa* of which large numbers are found in hoards. All these medieval coins had text in DevaNagari.



The 15th century Setu massa (below) are the first Lankan coins with Tamil text. They were issued by the Arya Chakravartis in Jaffna between 1462 and 1597. These copper coins have the *Standing Monarch*, characteristic of most medieval Lankan coins: the word Setu appears below the Nandi bull couchant facing left.





Sinhala text first appeared on a rare Tin-lead *aka* coin (*above*) with the date 1747. The coin was to be pierced with a hole for the purpose of stringing. According to Codrington, they were minted to relieve a shortage of duits for arecanut trade with the Kandyans. This may explain the Sinhala text. This coin is extremely rare and I have seen one only in the British Museum collection.



A Portuguese coin had S:LOVRENCO, as the port in Colombo was named after Sao Lourenco. The 1631 Silver Tanga coin (*above right*) shown has initials on either side of the grill with fire beneath, on which this Christian martyr was burned by Emperor Valerian in the 3rd century.

Dutch coins had the VOC (Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie) monogram of the Dutch East India Company. These crude thick Copper Dump coins were minted locally between 1783 and 1795 in Colombo, Trincomalee, Galle and Jaffna. Colombo (C) had **STUIVER** and Trincomalee (T) had **ST**. The Galle (G) had value in Sinhala text and the Jaffna (I) had Tamil text. (*See author's website for examples*).

Early British coins had a standing Elephant facing left with **CEYLON GOVERNMENT**. The locally minted copper dump coins from 1801 to 1816 had value as a fraction of a Rix Dollar (48 Stivers) and the Silver Dump coins minted from 1803 to 1809 had value in Stivers. The very iconic Silver Rix Dollar coin of 1821 has George IV. All these coins had text only in English.



Currency was issued by the Ceylon Government Treasurer in Rix Dollars till 1825. The logo was Britannia. The text was in English but the value was also given in Sinhala and Tamil. From 1827 currency notes were issued in Pounds Sterling. The trilingual value has been maintained on all coins and currency notes issued in Lanka from 1827 to the present.

Decimal coins were issued since 1870. Coins had the Talipot Palm tree on the reverse till 1942 and the Monarch on the obverse. Coins were issued with Queen Victoria (1870-1901); Edward VII King & Emperor (1902-1910); George V King and Emperor of India (1911-1929); George VI King and Emperor of India (1937-1945); King George the Sixth (1951) and Queen Elizabeth the Second (1955-1957).



Stamps issued from 1857 to 1947 had text only in English. From 1948 to 1972 they had Ceylon, Sri Lanka in Sinhala and Ilankai in Tamil. In 1956 the currency notes interchanged English text to Sinhala. Only the Value appears in English and Tamil. The portrait of Queen Elizabeth II was replaced with the Ceylon Armorial ensign.



When that was used on regular coins from 1963 to 1971 the name of the country, only in Sinhala, was Lanka, although commemorative coins carried the name Sri Lanka. Only from 1969-5-10 was the name of the Bank added in English and Tamil. In 1972 the coins got Sri Lanka in Sinhala, but the name of the bank in English on the Currency notes remained as Central Bank of Ceylon till 1985.

Coins and Currency of Lanka reflect the long history of languages used in the Island over period a longer than two Millennia.

(All coins and currencies referred to in this article are not pictured. More details of these and other coins can be found in the author's website <http://coins.lakdiva.org>)

These laws are universal...

• **Law of Mechanical Repair** - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

• **Law of Gravity** - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

• **Law of Probability** - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

• **Law of Random Numbers** - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

• **Variation Law** - If you change lines (or traffic

lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

• **Law of the Bath** - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

• **Law of Close Encounters** - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are in the company of someone with whom you don't want to be seen.

• **Law of the Result** - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

• **Law of Biomechanics** - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Jaffna – the gateway to early Sri Lanka

By Vama Vamadaven

Since the ending of the civil war in Sri Lanka, I am told there are bus loads of visitors to the Jaffna peninsula from the south as well as from overseas. I thought this might be the most appropriate time to examine the role played by the Jaffna peninsula in the history of Sri Lanka. Going through the corridors of history of Sri Lanka, the Jaffna peninsula emerges as a great gateway for the awakening of the whole island.

As is the belief, Lord Buddha landed on the shores of the Peninsula (Nagadipa). So did other venerated Buddhist leaders such as Mahinda (who later converted King Devanampiyatissa to Buddhism) as well as Sangamitta. Sangamitta, bringing the Bo sapling, the holiest of holy trees for Buddhists and the oldest recorded tree in history, first set foot in Jaffna.

Jaffna, has been the gateway for Buddhism entering the island. The port of Kankasanthurai (KKS) is referred to as Jambukola in the Mahawamsa. It is here that Mahinda from the Court of Asoka of India was received by the envoys of Devanampiyatissa and conducted to Anuradhapura.

The Port in Jaffna which served as the landing place for most of the activities is Urathota (present day Kayts, known as Oorkavilathurai in Tamil). It was also called *cais dos elephantes* or Elephant's Quay. Kayts was the busiest port for exporting elephants. Sheltered by the islands off Jaffna, Kayts was an ideal Port. The shallow nature of the Kayts harbour made it ideal to load elephants for shipment.

This brings us to exploring the role played by Kayts and the Jaffna Peninsula in the export of elephants. The elephants captured in the Wannu Kraals were herded and walked to Kayts for shipment, mainly to India. The shallow waters at which the elephants could cross over to the Jaffna Peninsula came to be called Elephant Pass (Anai-eravu or Elephant passage). The rest of the

route taken by those who walked the elephants to Kayts are dotted with place names connected with elephants.

The place where elephants were shackled and kept was called Anaipanthi. Further towards Kayts was a place called Anaicotta or Elephant Fort - an elephant mart where these animals were sheltered and then bought and sold, and business was brisk.

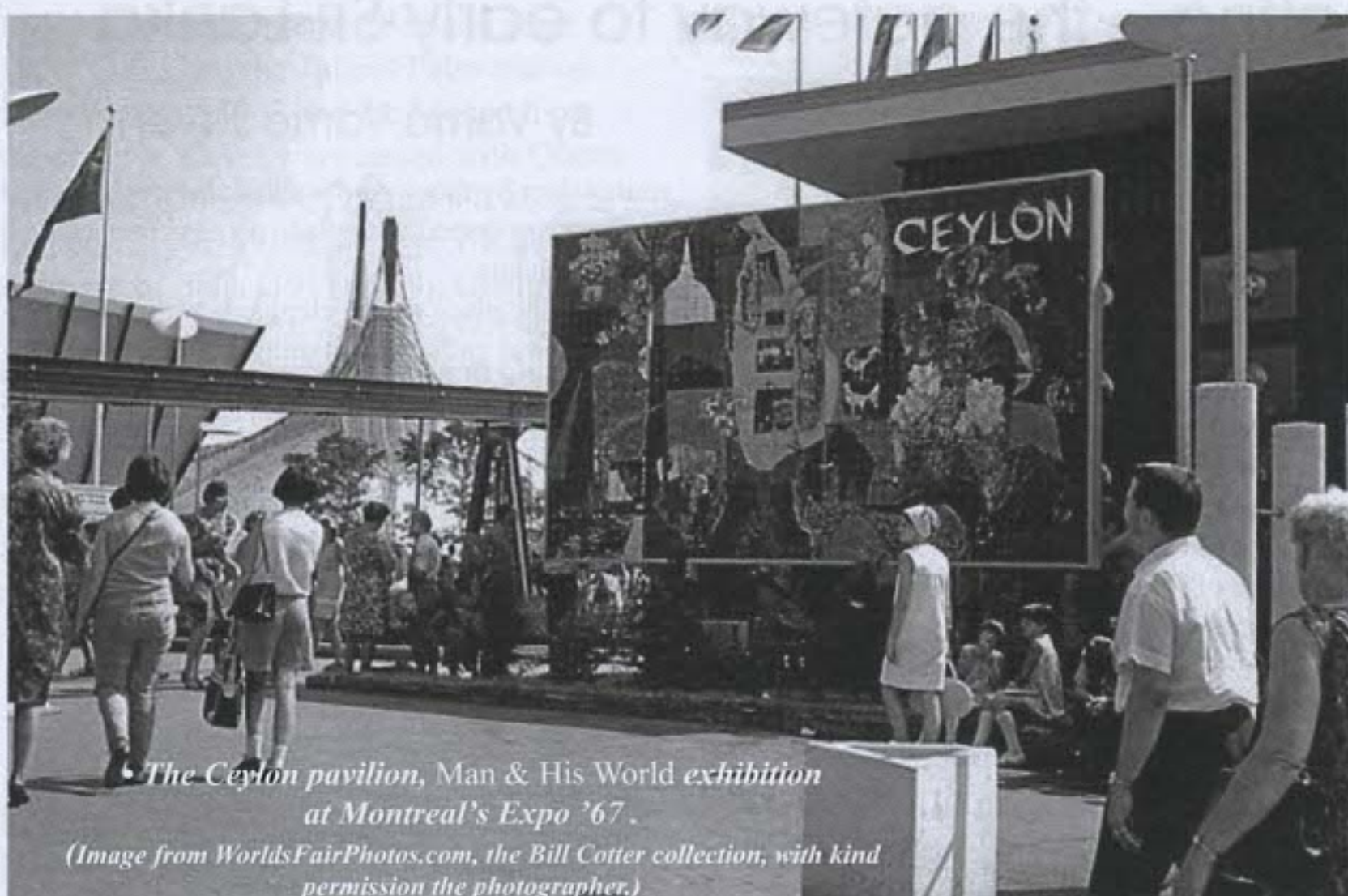
The Sri Lanka elephants had a demand in the world market, because they were said to be easier to train than the African elephants. Unlike the African elephants, some of them, mostly female, did not have tusks or had stunted tusks.

There is unconfirmed speculation that Sri Lanka elephants were bought by Arab traders and found their way to North Africa. The speculation goes to the extent that some of these elephants figured in Hannibal's campaign to cross North Africa.

Just as much as Jaffna played a major part in the arrival of Buddhism to Sri Lanka, it also played a great role, at a much later date, in the spread of Catholicism. Though Catholicism was introduced during Portuguese times, the Dutch who followed, did everything possible to wipe out the Catholic faith and substitute the Protestant religion. It was about this time that Fr Joseph Vaz arrived in Mannar and Jaffna from Goa and set about reviving Catholicism. If not for the efforts of Fr Vaz, the revival of Catholicism in Sri Lanka might not have taken place. It would have probably faced the same fate as did the Maldives, Malaysia, Indonesia and other countries in the region with conversion to Islam.

When Dutch power was on the wane and they had to abandon their strong hold in Colombo, it was to Jaffna that they retreated. This accounts for the numerous Dutch people who stayed in Jaffna at the last stages of Dutch rule, and some of the place names especially in the islands off Jaffna supports that.





The Ceylon Pavilion at Montreal's Expo '67 & Man and His World - recollections by Geraldine de Saram-Jansz

Some weeks before Shelagh Goonewardene's series on George Keyt appeared in *The Ceylankan* my daughter, Diana Perera, asked whether I remembered Keyt's large mural *Lanka Matha/Mother Lanka* that hung in the Sri Lankan Pavilion, remarking that because of its size and fragility there was concern about shipping it back to Sri Lanka and consequently, it was housed in a library on Monk Street in Montreal. Neither my daughter nor a friend - a long time resident of Montreal - could identify its location. My conjecture is, going by its name, that this would be in the older and traditionally French sector of the city. The west end for many years was occupied by the English. Montreal in those days was a two-culture city.

Expo '67 - 27 April to 29 October - was held on Ile Sainte-Helene just south of Montreal City when the world poured into Montreal. Statistics record that over 50 million people of all ages, from all over the world arrived to enjoy a cultural festival that featured many nations as well as the United Nations Organisation.

Internationalism was an important theme, with each country exhibiting a part of their magnificent culture - artwork, sculpture, crown jewels, religions, technological achievement and themes such as "Man and the Oceans". Ninety pavilions represented Man and His World - nations, corporations and industries. The US pavilion's exhibit was Buckminster Fuller's *Geodesic Dome*.

Among famous visitors were Queen Elizabeth II, US President Lyndon B. Johnson, Princess Grace of Monaco, Jackie and Robert Kennedy, Ethiopia's King Haile Selassie, President of France Charles de Gaulle, actor and crooner Bing Crosby and others including Harry Belafonte, the songs he made famous *O' Island in the Sun* and *Yellow Bird* moving gently on the evening air as Caribbean orchestras played on steel drums - 55 gallon metal oil drums whose lids were banged into notes on the musical scale to produce a soft, fluid music marking the ingenuity of an enslaved people.

The Sri Lankan Pavilion was a jewel in the midst of all this fanfare. The very knowledgeable Miss Attygalle was the hostess. I remember very well how she, pointing to the exquisite moonstone carving, explained its elaborate mythology and then moving to the sesath and remarking that the banner was woven according to ancient instructions.

At the conclusion of Expo '67, Montreal decided to continue the exhibition under the new name of *Man and His World*. Our daughter, then only a teenager, with special permission from the Sri Lankan High Commission, was taken on as a hostess. The other hostesses were Neelanthi Kannangara, Sujatha (Mrs. Shelton Jayasekera) and Ayesha Silverstone, sister of Ray de Zilwa.

Recollections of Diana Perera

"The pavilion's arresting architecture was based on the Kandyan Audience Hall, its entrance embellished by the beautiful moonstone. A large stone outer frieze heralded scenes from the Perahera; large, open-work brass rosettes, lit from below, punctuated one wall in grid perfection.

"The main interior chamber was graced on one side by a large stained glass window titled *Lanka Matha/Mother Lanka* by George Keyt, that when lit from within at night made the entire pavilion shine, seeming to sail on air. A second wall had magnificent floor-to-ceiling wall batik panels by Ena de Silva and Laki Senanayake depicting the coconut palm as 'The Tree of Life' in rich colours of red, rose pink, green, turquoise and gold. The room also included a large floor model of a tea plantation and surrounding hills.

"The latter, complimented downstairs by a fine Tea Room and its excellent teas focused on the four main tea growing areas of Uva, Dambulla, Nuwara Eliya and Kandy. The Tea Room also sold packages of loose tea - but its fine marketing detail was the tea caddy, in gold, pink, red and saffron that, basically, sold itself.

"A small mezzanine floor was devoted to fine crafts; hand woven textiles, metal work, finely-tooled wood, sesaths and a polished, oil lamp. A replica of the Goddess Tara, with panels devoted to Sri Lanka's Buddhist heritage and scenic beauty graced the floor."

There were many visitors to the pavilion, frequently packed to capacity. Visitors stood in lines to secure a seat. Besides general visitors outside, there were Sri Lankan students, ex-patriates and westerners who had enjoyed

a temporary sojourn on the island such as our Canadian friends Paul and Irene Smith who were great friends with Dr. and Mrs D.E. Wijewardene (Pamela and Ray's parents) Paul, an engineer who worked on the construction of the Gal Oya Dam while Irene frequently spoke of 'Dr. Wije's' marvellous Buddhist philosophy. Another encounter went like this. The young hostess clad in a saree was asked from where she was. She replied Sri Lanka. Next - was her father Maurice Jansz - yes: Her uncle Trevor Jansz - yes. Her grandfather Eugene Jansz - yes. And thus in good Sri Lankan style, having connected the dots, the enquirer was found to be Reggie Arnold, nephew to Eugene Jansz who with his wife, happened to be passing through Montreal.

On another and different setting - Diana now with a degree in Art History was on the staff of the prestigious and internationally renowned Canadian Guild of Crafts - a gallery devoted to the promotion of indigent art Intuit (Eskimaux) and Native Indian. The gallery hosting visitors from around the world - some casual, others educated into the nature of the exhibits, collectors as well as corporate clients who bought the costly, huge soapstone carvings as gifts sent all over the world. Now a visitor from Australia - again the question - from where do you come? the answer Sri Lanka. Oh! says the visitor: "I had a school friend from Sri Lanka in my class." This happened to be Joan de Saram, now resident in England and sister to the late Christopher de Saram.

At the closure of *Man and His World* my husband suggested we buy a sesath and its accompanying spear. Since then, they have stood these several years in our living room acting as an interesting conversation piece to visitors. Fortunately, a wall hanging of the Kandy Perahera complimented the celebratory sesath and its accompanying spear.

It is hoped this retrospective provides some idea as to the exposure that Mother Lanka received through these two exhibitions and now its current home. French Canadians share a similar *joie de vivre* with the Sri Lankans so that I was sorry to leave the vibrancy of Montreal after a stay of 18 years. French-Anglo-Saxon politics necessitated many businesses to leave this gracious city, one of the oldest in Canada, that stands so grandly on the St. Lawrence River. I am grateful to my daughter for her recollections of that time.



Meals Ammi Made

SPICY RICE BALLS

DAYADARI DEVENDRA

(made by my mother in the 1960s)

Ingredients:

For the rice

Basmathi - 1½ cups; Cinnamon - 1-inch stick;
Cloves - 3; Cardamoms - 3,
1 teaspoonful each of chopped Garlic and Ginger;
2 tablespoonfuls Ghee (for tempering)

For the filling

Chopped spicy sausages or minced meat - 300
gms; a 3-egg omelette, chopped fine (substitute
any filling of choice). Season and mix.

For the batter

Flour -100 gms; Eggs - 3; Milk -1 teacupful;
Pepper and Salt to taste. (Whisk all together and
keep the batter aside.)

Method

After rice is cooked, line a breakfast cup with
the hot rice. Next, put in the filling (say, two
tablespoonfuls). Add a second layer of hot rice to
cover the filling. Press by hand to keep contents
in place.

Now, slip out the rice ball carefully to the palm
of your hand, and shape it, being careful not to let
the filling spill out.

Coat each ball with batter and bread crumbs.

Deep fry till golden brown.

When cool, wrap each in coloured oil paper and
twist the ends toffee-wise.

Accompaniments

Salad of choice or coconut sambol.

Serves six.

BOOK REVIEWS ... (Continued)

account of the history of public administration
in colonial times and its varied impact on the
people it was meant to serve. The book is divided
into two major sections, the first a somewhat
nostalgic recollection of the author's work
as a provincial administrator written much in
the same very readable style as his work in
"Quest for Shangri-La". The second part of the
book deals with his work as Chairman of the
Commissions that he presided over, followed
by some reflections and comments on aspects of
their work. I found his rendering of tales from
the kachcheris both informative and interesting
and his commentaries on their usefulness as well
as other *obiter dicta* should be worthy of note by
policy makers. The part dealing with the author's
work as Chairman of the various commissions
seem to have been approached in a structured
and less informal manner, curbing somewhat his
creativity as a writer, but does provide useful
insights into the functions of those Commissions
and the political environment in which
they operated.

His imprimatur as a highly regarded
public servant certainly adds further weight to the
many observations he makes in the book. The last
two chapters where he discusses public service
reform over the years, and the background to the
emergence of contemporary public administration

in Sri Lanka are contributions which differ
in approach from the main body of the second
part of the book but which I found particularly
interesting. This work is a useful addition to the
sparse literature available on the subject and will
be valuable to both student and practitioner alike.
Anyone venturing into a career in the Sri Lankan
public service will surely do well after a good
reading of this 152 page work.



Congratulations and a Warm Welcome to our New Members

- Jeremy de Lima, Vermont South, VIC
- Mrs Eranthi Palliyaguru, Pannipitiya,
SRI LANKA



ABOUT D.S. SENANAYAKE

It was Sri Lanka's first Prime Minister
D.S.Senanayake's father F.R.Senanayake,
Ceylon's greatest patriot, who nicknamed
him *Kallay John*, Sinhalese for 'wild jungle
boy' because he was high spirited and good
at wrestling.

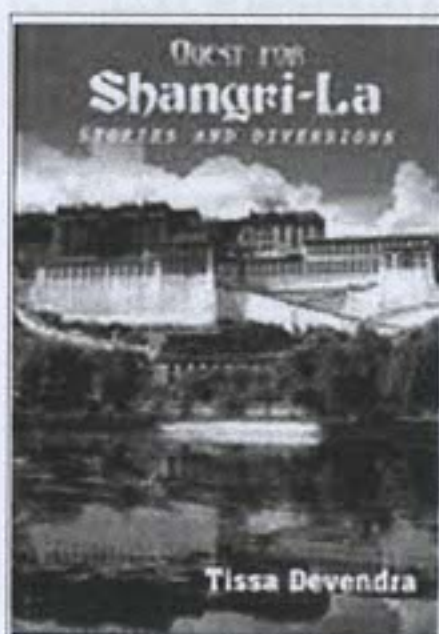


Quest for Shangri-La –Stories and diversions

By Tissa Devendra
Vijitha Yapa Publications

March 2011 Price: Rs 590.00
ISBN 978-955-665-141

BOOKS REVIEWED by **Hugh Karunanayake**



Described by the author as a “window into the long gone world of my childhood and youth” this 200 page anthology of recollections serves as an admirable memoir on the life of someone who grew up in a period of rapid social change in Sri Lanka.

Tissa Devendra had spent his early childhood in Kandy, then in Colombo and upon graduating, served until his retirement as an administrator in the provinces. Through the past eight decades he had been witness to and a participant observer in an urban and rural Sri Lanka that saw radical social and cultural transition. He has recognised the factors underlying these changes, and without having to resort to heavy academic discourse has drawn to the mind of the reader their significance, related in the manner of an avid story teller. The book has all the essential elements of story telling - the variety of characters, the many locations, the different periods of time, and the passion with which a story must be told, all presented in a laid back easy reading style.

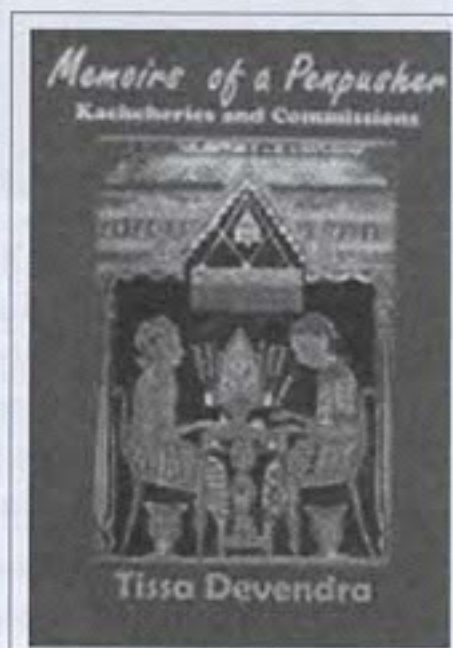
Readers familiar with the folkways and mores so characteristic of Sri Lanka of the past will recognise some of its long submerged and forgotten customs and foibles so delightfully retrieved by the author and rendered so quaint and interesting by his evocative writing. He writes about the long forgotten electric tramways so much a part of urban life in mid- 20th century Colombo; of old schoolmates and schools, personalities of the silver screen of a bygone age, authors, newspapers, old provincial haunts, Jiggs the cartoon character and his corned beef and even paperless toilets! all brought to the reader in the form of a highly digestive narrative.

In bringing his story to the reader the author’s descriptive style of writing enables him to tell his story sans any wallowing in nostalgia that some writers are sometimes prone to, especially when trying to relive days of the past. He has the canny knack of weaving stories around snippets of important items of historical and social significance drawn from Sri Lanka’s recent past and presenting them to the reader in his very readable style of writing. For me, I found most of Tissa Devendra’s stories enjoyable and I particularly liked the resurrection of almost forgotten personalities like Major Davie and his descendant, artist Karl Kassman, and also the murder of Alfred Duraipappa. As could be expected from an anthology of varied stories there is no specific theme running across the book but despite its diversity, holds the readers attention well. The book will serve as an anecdotal chronicle on life in mid-20th century Sri Lanka and while thanking the author for the opportunity to review his work, I recommend it as an enjoyable read to older and younger generations alike.

Memoirs of a Penpusher

By Tissa Devendra
Vijitha Yapa Publications
March 2011 Price: Rs 490.00
ISBN 978-955-665-111

The title of this book gives a good indication to the reader of what to expect in the pages that follow. It is basically a memoir of the author’s career as a public servant and his work after retirement as a ‘resource person’ sought out by governments for further service to the country as Chairman of key national institutions such as the Public Service Commission, the Salaries Commission, and the National Council for Administration. The foreword by Sam Wijesinghe, former Secretary General of Parliament, sets the backdrop to the ensuing narratives with a brief but succinctly presented



(Continued on Page 20)

Gamini Goonesena (16.02.1931–01.08.2011) Farewell to a Legend

A gathering of family, friends, former schoolmates and members of the Australian cricketing fraternity assembled at the South Chapel of the Rookwood Cemetery on Friday 12 August 2011 to bid farewell to the legendary Gamini Goonesena, one of the greatest achievers Sri Lankan cricket has ever known. Former Australian test cricketer and all rounder Alan Davidson, a close friend of Gamini, delivered the eulogy reflecting on his long and distinguished cricketing career and of his gentle and friendly countenance which endeared him to all who made his acquaintance. There were no religious obsequies at the funeral – something which typified the man and his life.

Much has been written about Gamini Goonesena's unique career in cricket which in

an innings victory over Oxford in 1957, stands as the highest ever score by a player in the Oxford-Cambridge series which originated in 1827.

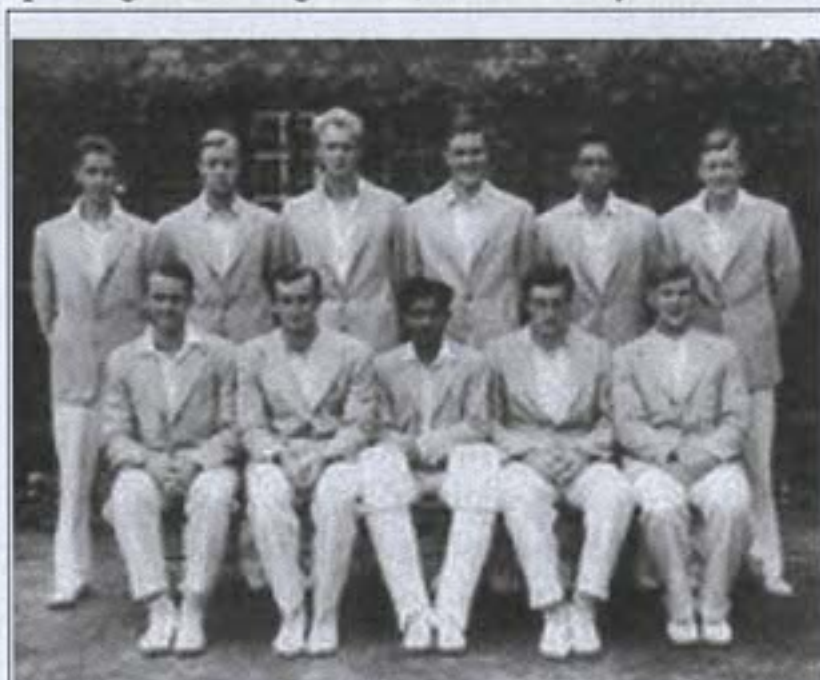
Gamini Goonesena was born in Colombo on 16 February 1931. His elder brother Kalidasa (named after a 5th Century Sanskrit poet) who later came to be known as Karl and went on to become a well-known broadcaster, was born nine years before him – the age difference not getting in the way of a close bonding between the two. Gamini spent his early childhood in Kenya where his father worked and returned to the land of his birth at the age of nine and attended Royal College, Colombo. He cut his cricketing teeth at the Royal-Thomian match of 1947 when he was just over 16 years of age. In a book published by him in 1959 titled *Spin Bowling* he recalled: "I was the smallest boy in my form at school and it wasn't much use trying to bowl fast: the bigger boys could do it so much better and more successfully. At the same time I found that spinning the ball to leg came easily to me". The Royal College coach Col. F.C. de Saram who had an excellent eye and an unrivalled nous for spotting cricketing talent, immediately



Royal College First XI team 1947

• *Standing: T.L. Pereira, A. Anghie, C.H. Gunasekera, D.B. Gunasekera, C. Channugam, S.D.N. Hapugalle, G. Goonesena. Seated: G.L.J. Cooray, Mr F.C. de Saram (Coach) M. Kasipillai (Capt) The Principal, T. Parathalingam, Mr C.E. Belleth, R. Rajaratnam.*

itself is a melange of records, unique achievements and trail blazing feats. To name just a few of his accomplishments, he was cricket captain of Ceylon in the pre-Test era, the first Asian to captain the MCC, was the first Asian Captain of Cambridge University and the player who represented the Gentlemen of England for the longest period of seven years. To cap it all, his innings of 211 when he led Cambridge to



University of Cambridge Cricket Team 1957

(Seated from left): R.W. Barber, E.R. Dexter, G. Goonesena (Captain) C.S. Smith, R.M. James. (Standing from left): D.J. Green, I.M. McLachlan, D.S. Wheatley, G.W. Cook, P.I. Pieris, B. Swift.

(Photo: courtesy of Paddy Brennan/ Krishni Goonesena)

recognised the potential in Gamini after watching him at a practice match almost at the end of the 1947 school cricket season. De Saram, who Gamini always acknowledged as his cricketing mentor, insisted on his inclusion in the Royal team in their blue riband annual match against St Thomas despite the fact that he had not played in any of the run up matches up to that time. De Saram's faith in the 16-year old paid rich dividends with the youngster taking four prized Thomian wickets and enabling Royal to score a great win over the fancied Thomians. The diminutive Goonasena was described by sporting scribes as the 'mighty atom' from Royal. In the following year, Goonasena reaped a match bag of 10 wickets at the Royal- Thomian which was described most aptly in the following day's *Sunday Observer* as "Goonasena's Match".

On leaving school Goonasena joined the Royal Air Force in Cranwell in England as a trainee jet pilot, but abandoned that career to play regular county cricket with Nottinghamshire as a professional. In 1954, he reverted to amateur status on joining Cambridge University which he represented till 1957. His final year at Cambridge was as Captain of the team which included, among others, the future captain of England Ted Dexter. His tenure as a cricketer for Cambridge University was marked by unrivalled success. He remains the only player from either Oxford or Cambridge Universities to have scored 2000 runs and taken over 200 wickets and is easily the best all rounder produced by either of the universities.

With a law degree from Cambridge under his belt, Gamini was appointed to the Ceylon Tea Board and later to the Diplomatic Mission in Canberra and continued his cricket playing for NSW in the Sheffield Shield. In 1966 he represented Sri Lanka on the International Cricket Council in London and in 1981, when Sri Lanka achieved test status he represented the country in Australia.

Gamini Goonasena lived the last five decades of his life in Australia where he met and married his first wife Phillida Douglas-Robertson in 1961. He had three children by that marriage - David, Rohini and Simon. After the failure of that marriage, he wedded Carole Swan in 1977 by whom he had two daughters Krishni and Lilani. The last years were dogged with ill health, mainly with mobility issues but he was always within the beam of the watchful eyes of his doting daughters Krishni and Lilani

and their families, who were at hand for care and support. Gamini was an affectionate father to his children and even the difficult days of his last years, compounded by his fondness for a tippie, did not test the strength of family bonds. Despite his ill health, he attended Karl's funeral in England in 2007, a personal loss which would have had a profound emotional impact on him. Although he had his share of the vicissitudes in life, he was always gregarious and charming company, very humorous, easy going and endearing to everyone who came his way. An excellent raconteur, he was well spoken and as a conversationalist, had that stamp of elegance which distinguished him from the ordinary. It was a treat to listen to him especially when recounting his halcyon days in the cricketing world where he was an unforgettable icon. The Ceylon Society of Australia was privileged to have him address the Society in August 2000 when he spoke of "Cricketing Reminiscences". On that occasion, he recounted several interesting incidents in his career including tips he received on how to play Sonny Ramadhin, regarded at the time as the world's best spin bowler. He spoke of the tour to the West Indies with EW Swanton's team of international cricketers and his amusing experiences sharing a room with pukka sahib Sukhinder Singh, a reluctant carrier of drinks as twelfth man! West Indian cricketer Clyde Walcott later referred to Gamini as the most popular member of the very popular visiting team. Gamini continued to be a member of our Society for several years and would ring me, especially during the Society's early days, to offer words of encouragement. At the Annual Dinner in 2001, when there was an unforeseen gap in the programme for the evening, he readily agreed to make an impromptu presentation, drawing on his cricketing memories. Needless to say it was received with rapturous applause.

Gamini's life has been described as a "good innings" but with his passing Australia has lost its only surviving captain of cricket from Cambridge University and the game of cricket one of its outstanding personalities.

May the turf lie softly on him.

- HUGH KARUNANAYAKE

• See back cover for more colour photographs of the legend.



The Malabar Pied Hornbill

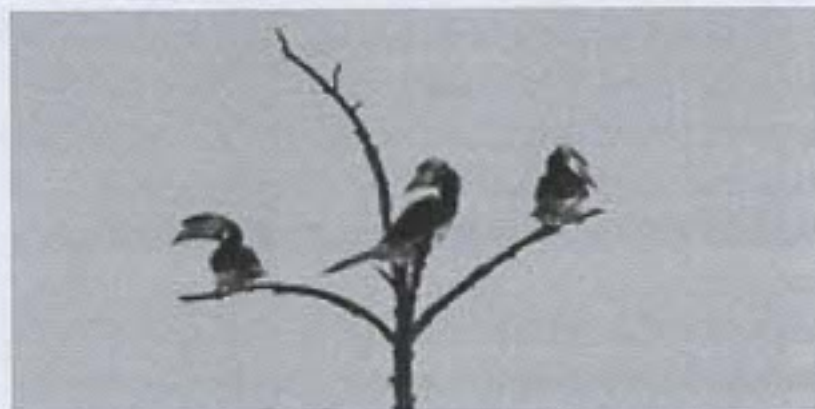
One of the most striking, exotic birds in Sri Lanka. Found in the Dry Zone and one of the attractions in the Yala National Park. This bird is also seen on the ground from time to time and is wonderful to watch in flight. The huge casque on the top of its beak reminds me of a 'flying torpedo' when the bird is in flight.

An interesting aspect of this bird's life is that it nests in the hollow of a tree. The entrance to the nest is 'walled' with a mix of droppings, fruit pulp and mud. The female is 'walled' in – or walls herself in till such time the young have hatched and are fledging. The female then breaks out of the nest and both parents continue to feed the young till they are ready to leave the nest. During the time the female is walled in – the male feeds the female inside the nest.

Found on river bank trees and often perched on tree tops. They are quite shy and one has to be very silent and still to get a good look at them. As the photographs illustrate, they are also seen in large numbers at certain times of the year and they make quite a spectacular sight.



• *Male Malabar Pied Hornbill.*



• *Hornbills at
Balaharuwa Lake.*

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

For interesting information on this bird refer to:

A Field Guide to Birds of Sri Lanka - by John Harrison – Oxford University Press 1999
A Photographic Guide to Birds of Lanka - by Gehan de Silva Wijeyratne, Deepal Warakagoda and T.S.U. De Silva – New Holland Publications 2000
An Illustrated Guide to the Birds of Sri Lanka - by Sarath Kotagama and Gamini Ratnavira

– Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka publication 2010
Sri Lanka- A way of Life - by Stefan D' Silva – page 188.



• *Nest of the Hornbill.*

SYNOPSIS OF MEETINGS

Sydney, 28 August, 2011

There were two Speakers at this well attended Meeting which was chaired by the CSA President, Harry de Sayrah. There was a gathering of more than 100 members and guests. The first speaker was **Paul van Reyk** who spoke on the topic of *How the chow chow got into Christmas cake: An idiosyncratic view of Sri Lankan cuisine*. Paul is a Burgher, born in 1952, who migrated to Australia in 1962 with his parents. They settled in Singleton in the Hunter Valley of NSW. In their back garden, his father grew vegetables like brinjal and snake gourd which were not available in Australian shops at that time. When his mother was expecting, his father took over the cooking and he has never looked back since. Paul is a passionate advocate for the right of Sri Lankan cuisine to take its place among the world's greatest fusion cuisines and is disappointed that so little research has been done on Sri Lankan food and cookery. His own cookery skills emanate from his grandmother's handwritten recipe notes meticulously recorded on a Monitor's exercise book; Chandra Dissanayake's *Ceylon Cookery*; and Hilda Deutrom's *Ceylon Daily News Cookery Book* (first published in the 1920s).

Paul then went on to trace the evolution of food production, how it was cooked and eaten in Sri Lanka and the impact of the waves of foreign invaders into Sri Lanka. The first residents of the country were the Veddahs who now call themselves the *Wanniya-laeto*. They were essentially hunter-gatherers. Their 'hunted' food was mainly meat which included deer, wild boar, iguana (thalagoya), giant squirrel, monkey and elephant. Robert Knox records that the Veddahs first disabled the elephants by hacking their soles with an axe as they slept, before killing them. Knox also states that to preserve the meat they first smoked it, daubed it with honey and placed it in the hollow of a tree, covering the opening with mud and clay. Fish was also part of their diet, which they caught by spearing them or throwing crushed poisonous leaves into ponds and lakes. Their 'gathered' foods included honey, swiftlets nests, yams, edible leaves, wild grains, fruit (jak, woodapple, pineapple and banana) and nuts. Salt, pepper, curry leaves and cinnamon were among the spices that they used.

The next step was chena cultivation. Virgin jungle was slashed, left to dry and

then burned. Rain-fed crops were grown on these plots with minimum attention. After a few seasons of cultivation, the nutrients in the soil would be exhausted and the plot was abandoned and they moved on to a new plot. The main crops that were grown included manioc (cassava), kurrakan (finger millet), maize, green gram, beans and melons.

The next change in food consumption patterns occurred with the arrival of Vijaya and his followers around 500 BC. Although there is no record in historical documents of the food items that were introduced by them, it can be assumed that they introduced foods that were common in the Vedic culture period prevalent in India at that time. This would have included meat from cattle and goats, rice, legumes, pulses, milk, and flat bread. Vegetables would have included cucumber, bitter gourd, brinjal (aubergine), onions, pumpkins, ash plantains and yams. Fruits would have included mangoes and citrus fruits. They would have also introduced spices like cumin, coriander, fennel, fenugreek, turmeric, garlic and ginger.

The next major influence was the South Indian invasions which would have introduced coconuts. Sri Lankan cuisine is the only cuisine that uses coconut milk as the primary cooking fluid. The items introduced by them include drumsticks (*Moringa oleifera*), lime, sera (lemon grass), rampe (pandanus), tamarind and goraka (Malabar tamarind). Sri Lanka is the only country which uses goraka as a cooking ingredient. Food items introduced included pittu, hoppers, thosai and idli.

This was followed by the influence of the Persians and Arabs. The foods that they introduced included buriyani, pilau rice, yellow rice, kuruma curries and godhamba roti. Among the desserts they introduced were muscat, jelebis, wattalappam and the sherbet drink. They also introduced the spices nutmegs, cloves and cardamoms. The Chinese introduced ginger preserves and chow chow (chayote) preserves. That is how chow chow got into Christmas cake! Chow chow is called choko in Australia and is a vegetable pear.

Paul said that from then onwards Sri Lanka cuisine went downhill! The Portuguese in the 16th century introduced corn, tomatoes and chillies. They were followed by the Dutch in the 17th century who introduced roast meat, fricadelles, breudher and lamprais. They also

brought wheat flour and started the baking process. Finally the British came in the early 19th century and introduced English vegetables like cabbage, leeks, carrot, beetroot, lettuce, cauliflower and rhubarb. They also started baking bread and the crumbing of fish. Finally they introduced tea, for which Sri Lanka is truly world famous.

Paul's talk was illustrated with a wide variety of slides. It was apparent from his talk that he is a strong advocate of the richness and variety of Sri Lankan cuisine and that he really appreciates good Sri Lankan food. He remembered with fond nostalgia the tasty food cooked by Rosalind, the family's domestic help in Colombo and her preparation of "istu, bistek and cutliss" ! (stew, steak and cutlets). A lively discussion followed.

The second speaker was **Dinusha Panditaratne** who is a Professor of Law in the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She spoke about her recent book *Pathways to the Peak : Remarkable stories from pioneering Sri Lankan women*. The book is co-authored with her mother, Shalini Panditaratne, a Chartered Accountant who formerly worked for J P Morgan Chase Bank. Dinusha said that the book contains potted biographies of 14 remarkable pioneering Sri Lanka women who achieved great things for themselves.

When she was a schoolgirl in Sydney, her parents pasted a poster on her bedroom wall which had a picture of a young girl and the caption was "If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it". This inspired her in her young days and she hopes that the book will inspire Sri Lankan girls to imagine, achieve, dream and become great in their chosen fields of endeavour.

Dinusha then went on to describe the criteria for selection of the 14 women, the selection was not an easy task. The authors looked for a wide cross-section of fields of endeavour; of subjects who were from all parts of Sri Lanka; who had studied in a wide variety of schools; for older women who had reached the pinnacle of their achievements so that there could be a complete perspective of their lives; who were still living so that they could be interviewed for a more intimate portrayal of their lives; and finally they must have continued to have lived and worked in Sri Lanka so as to be an

inspiration to the Sri Lankan girls reading the book.

The net result is a book which records 14 biographies of pioneering path-breaking women who attained pre-eminence and shattered preconceptions in richly diverse fields, including athletic, artistic, cultural, commercial, educational, professional, scientific and spiritual spheres. They range from Kumari Jayawardena an Associate Professor at the University of Colombo, to Jezima Ismail the Chancellor of the South Eastern University; from Premala Sivaprakasapillai Sivasegaram the first woman to graduate from the Engineering Faculty of the University of Ceylon, to Stella de Silva a Paediatrician who was the first woman from South Asia to obtain the double MRCP from London and Edinburgh; from Premila Diwakara the first woman Senior Superintendent of Police who joined the force as a Constable as women were only recruited at that level in 1958, to Maureen Seneviratne the first woman Advocate and first woman President's Counsel; from Vajira Dias the first woman professional dancer, to Rohini Nanayakkara the first woman General Manager and CEO of the Bank of Ceylon; and so on.

Dinusha singled out the achievement of Bhikkuni Kusuma, one of the first group of Sri Lankan women in modern times who was ordained as a Buddhist Nun in 1996 in the face of intense opposition. She was one of the few girls who studied at Ananda College which is essentially a boy's school. This school is also the alma mater of both of Dinusha's grandfathers. Kusuma said that studying in a boy's school helped her to become fearless and independent. When the news of her proposed ordination in Sarnath, India reached her fellow alumni from Ananda College living in UK, they promptly chartered a plane and flew out to attend the ordination.

Kusuma submitted her doctoral dissertation on the subject of Buddhist Nuns to the University of Jayawardenapura in the late 1980s but never received her PhD due to the long closure of the University due to political disturbances. She later submitted another dissertation on the rules of discipline for ordained Buddhist Nuns to the Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka and was duly awarded the PhD. She now presides at a retreat and meditation centre in Horana.

Dinusha concluded her talk by saying that it is proposed to have the book translated into Sinhala and Tamil next year. The usual Social evening followed the end of the talk.

– Thiru Arumugam

Melbourne 28 August 2011

The speaker **Dr. Tony Donaldson** (PhD from Monash University) presented on “*Ceylon through the eyes of Benjamin Britten and Sir Peter Pears*”. His talk was accompanied by a slide show and two film recordings.

Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears embarked on a world tour in 1955. The time they spent in Asia was the most memorable and influential on Britten’s music. The speaker recently discovered that the pair had visited Ceylon which led him to embark on this investigation. Britten had a life long attachment to sea, fishermen and their boats and spent most of his time in south coast of England (Aldeburgh). When in Ceylon, he enjoyed visiting the Mt. Lavinia beach. During the visit Britten and Pears got to know the artists as well as some exposure for themselves.

At Ladies College they performed songs by Purcell, Haydn, Schubert and Britten. This attracted very interesting reviews. Quite unusual at the time, the performances captivated the audience and made the experience memorable. The English folk song sung by Britten titled ‘Sweet Polly Oliver’ was played during the first half of the talk. Song development and rhythm were a hallmark of Britten’s music. The recital at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels (at Polwatte) was pretty dreadful according to Britten.

During 1950s, a large number of Hollywood film directors, actors, musicians, writers and celebrities visited Ceylon. Among these, Britten and Pears were clearly keen to find out more about the island. The cultural climate which the pair faced was fragmented, though vibrant at times. The North Indian music was regarded as superior to the Sinhala music tradition. The speaker displayed photographs from Sri Lanka Broadcasting Archives which highlighted life during this period.

During the visit, Britten and Pears were linked up with George Keyt and Devar Surya Sena who enabled to transcend the two different cultures without many problems since they were proficient in Sinhala and English. George Keyt

introduced the pair to Kandyan dancers and drumming where a recording was produced. This is still in Red House in Aldeburgh (where Britten and Pears lived). Britten and Pears were invited to Devar Surya Sena’s house in Colombo where he demonstrated his musical instruments. Britten was presented with a manuscript of Devar Surya Sena’s “Sinhalese Setting of the Ceylon Liturgy” (1941). This is also preserved in Aldeburgh archives. Britten and Devar Surya Sena were both interested in folk songs; Surya Sena transferred the songs to western notation.

They also visited Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya and Thomas Lipton’s Tea plantation in Haputale. Britten and Pears visited Ceylon five days after Sir Oliver Goonetilleke dissolved parliament. Soon after leaving Ceylon, Britten wrote a personal letter “*Ceylon like India has just got its independence ... and is going through the same kind of growing pains- but without the wise and patient leaders that India has – like Nehru and many others*”. Britten uses terms such as ‘Ceylonisation’ and ‘madly nationalistic’. He had these impressions of the political scene due to the political climate of that period.

Ceylon gained independence in February 1948. Sir John Kotalawela became Prime minister in 1954 after Dudley Senanayake resigned. In April 1955, Queen Elizabeth visited Ceylon and Sir John’s prestige was raised. After the royal visit Sir John foresaw racial problems in the country. He visited Jaffna hoping to neutralise the situation. However, parliament was dissolved in 1956.

Britten and Pears returned to Britain with oriental influences surfacing in their music. Transferring Sinhala drumming to western medium was extremely difficult. The speaker thought that Britten should have spent more time in Ceylon and come to better terms with local musical traditions.

–Dilhani Kumbukkage

Colombo Chapter- 8 July 2011

After the welcome address by Chulie de Silva, President Colombo Chapter and a brief introduction of the Guest Speaker by the Secretary, Mr.Nihal Seneviratne, former Secretary General of Parliament, reflected on his thirty five years experience in the Parliament of Sri Lanka.

As he perhaps did in Melbourne, he started his address with the introduction of the Donoughmore Constitution of the 1920s, with the arrival of Earl of Donoughmore as Chairman from Britain almost a century after the Colebrook Cameron Commission which brought about communal tensions. The central feature of the constitutional structure was the recommendation of semi-responsible government with powers vested in executive officers controlling financial, legal and executive arms of government, whilst conceding a substantial measure of responsibility to the colonial politicians with commensurate power. The Soulbury Constitution that followed in 1944 bore the stamp of D.S. Senanayake's influence in the concessions made to the minorities.

He then proceeded to the 1972 Constitution and the removal of Section 29 (2) of



• Nihal Seneviratne

the Soulbury Constitution, which provided that no law enacted by Parliament could make persons of any community or religion liable to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of other communities or religions are not made liable or confer on persons of any community or religion any privilege or advantage which is not conferred on persons of other communities or religions. Also, the removal of the provisions of the Public Service Commission. When Nihal asked Dr. Colvin R. De Silva why these two provisions were removed he stated that he had been pressurised to do so. He spoke well of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the World's First Woman Prime Minister and the excellent relations she maintained with India, so much so that Mrs. Indira Gandhi even conceded to Mrs. B's request to cede the island Kachchetivu to Sri Lanka.

He spent some time relating interesting incidents surrounding the defeat of Mrs. B's government by a single vote. As he said, it occurred when the MP for Galle moved an amendment to the traditional Throne Speech, thanking His Excellency for the speech he made on that historic occasion. Dr Dahanayake's Amendment was 'he regrets the house has lost confidence in the Government'. When the final votes were counted by Mr. Seneviratne he told the speaker that Dr. Dahanayake's amendment

was carried by a single vote. Mrs. B after two weeks announced the dissolution of Parliament, even though she could have asked for a Vote of Confidence as two or three members, including Dr. N.M Perera, were out of the country attending a Finance Ministers' Conference abroad.

As regards the 1978 Constitution introduced by J.R. Jayewardene, soon after the sweeping victory in 1977, he said it introduced new provisions like the Proportional Representation Scheme of elections, setting aside the First Past the Post system, and the provision regarding removal of Civic Rights. He also referred to the wide powers vested in the Executive President. He referred to the famous bomb incident in the new Parliament and the attendant circumstances around the incident, which was the signing of the Indo-Ceylon Pact between Jayewardene and Gandhi which was strongly opposed by the JVP. How the bomb was surreptitiously taken into the Parliament by Ajith Kumara to be thrown at the President, but now knowing the mechanism it rolled under the chair of Hon. Lalith Athulathmudali. Many interesting anecdotes concerning Maithripala Senanayake, Sarath Muttetuwegama, and Colvin R De Silva kept the audience spellbound.

Proposing the Vote of Thanks, the Acting Treasurer, commented on the informality, the manner of presentation, the reference to many matters that the listeners had not been aware of (even if they had been contemporaneous with the incidents themselves), the dry wit and the off-the-cuff remarks that characterised the talk.

Mr. Devendra spoke to the members present complimenting all on the large turnout. He said that he was only acting as Treasurer because of Mike's untimely death and wanted a volunteer to relieve him. Daya, much over-worked Secretary had also been asking to be relieved for some time and needed someone to take over duties. Chulie, who is based in Bangladesh was also facing difficulties. Therefore he appealed for volunteers, at least for Secretary and Treasurer. Two members expressed their willingness and, they would be introduced to the membership at the next meeting should all formalities be completed satisfactorily.

— Chulie de Silva

BOOKSHOP & WEB RESOURCES

This is a regular column for the benefit of members (& others) who author books or have books, maps & other collectibles and would like the Society to promote these materials on their behalf. No charges apply to members, **but donations are encouraged from all using this service**. Regrettably, items can be listed only in three (3) consecutive issues. Please contact the editor for further details.

Banking and Business in Sri Lanka

by **V.S.Nadarajah** Foreword by Rienzie Wijetilleke, Chairman, Hatton National Bank.



Published by Kandy Books (2010)

This book gives a non-technical and non-political perspective on economic and social background to developments, especially since independence.

THE HEART IN THE HARP

by **Shelagh Goonewardene**

Foreword by Yasmine Gooneratne

52 Poems and 45 photographs

Poetry for pleasure and spiritual nourishment

Celebrating everyday life

Price: \$20 + \$3.50 (postage and handling to any part of Australia) Order from Shelagh at (03) 9808 4962 or email: shelaghlou@yahoo.com.au

Websites worth a visit

www.ceylonsociety.com.au

www.alluringsrilanka.com

www.walkthetalk.com

www.sellipi.com/srilanka

www.lankalibrary.com

www.gic.gov.lk

Lady Nancy Astor



Nancy Astor, born in Virginia, married an English heir, Waldorf Astor, as her second husband.

When her husband was elevated to the House of Lords, Nancy Astor

ran for his seat in Parliament and became, in 1919, the first woman seated in the British Parliament.

Nancy Astor supported women's rights and, during World War II, worked to keep up the morale of the British people and American troops stationed in the Plymouth area near her home. Nancy Astor was known for her sharp wit.

Selected Nancy Astor Quotations

- We are not asking for superiority for we have always had that; all we ask is equality.
- Women have got to make the world safe for men since men have made it so darned unsafe for women.
- I married beneath me – all women do.
- One reason I don't drink is that I want to know when I am having a good time.
- The only thing I like about rich people is their money.
- The penalty for success is to be bored by the people who used to snub you.
- I used to dread getting older because I thought I would not be able to do all the things I wanted to do, but now that I am older I find that I don't want to do them.
- I refuse to admit that I am more than 52, even if that makes my children illegitimate.



**This Christmas
GIVE A FRIEND
a Gift Subscription of**



The Ceylankan
for just \$30.

Your nominee will have
four quarterly issues
mailed to his/her home.
Please contact the Treasurer
Upali Dharmakirti
(02) 9986 0337

Births, Marriages and Deaths in Ceylon in 1846

Births

January 8 At Colombo, the Hn'ble Mrs Anstruther of a daughter
Jan 22 At Colombo, the Lady of EL Mitford Esq of a son
Jan 28 At Galle, the wife of Mr JG Kern, of a daughter
Jan 31 At Colombo, the Lady of Lieutenant Christopher, R.N., of a son
Feb 5 At Colombo Mrs WB Sproule of a daughter
Feb 11 At Calpentyn the Lady of Simon Casie Chetty Esq of a son
March 9 At Colombo Mrs TG Ohlmus of a daughter
March 11 At Baddegamme Mrs Winter of a son
March 24 At Colombo Mrs JC Gerard of a son
April 3 At Negombo Mrs T Backhouse of a son
April 5 at Yaheelletenne Mrs Starchan of a son
April 6 At Colombo Mrs PE de Zilwa of a daughter
April 16 At Batticaloa, the Lady of W Holderness Esq of a daughter
April 20 At Galle The Lady of the Honorable GC Talbot of a daughter
April 22 At Colombo the wife of Mr WE Vangeyzel of a daughter
April 23 At Madoolkelle Mrs Reid of a son
April 24 At Colombo Mrs PH D'LaHarpe of a daughter
April 27 At Colombo the wife of Mrs PW Herft of a daughter
May 6 At Trincomale, the wife of Mr JC Buttery of a daughter
May 15 At Colombo the Lady of EH Smedley Esq of the Ceylon Civil Service of a daughter
June 8 At Colombo At Colombo the wife of LW Drieberg Esq of a son
July 8 At Colombo Mrs Elliott of a daughter
July 11 At Colombo Mrs Edward De Vos of a son
July 16 At Colombo the wife of Mr GP Mack of a son
July 16 At Jaffna the Lady of H Templer Esq Ceylon Civil Service of a daughter
July 31 At Colombo Mrs Richard Vandort of a daughter
August 4 At Colombo Mrs J Beaven of a daughter
August 11 At Jaffna the wife of AM Ferguson Esq of a daughter
August 12 At Kandy the wife of Rev CC Dawson

of a daughter
August 16 At Colombo the Lady of Rev B. Boake of a son
August 18 At Colombo Mrs Moir of a daughter
August 18 At Pamben the Lady of the Rev Mr Cherry of a daughter
Sep 4 At Colombo the Lady of J Capper Esq of a son
Sep 7 At Colombo the wife of CH de Saram Esq of a son
Sep 8 At Colombo the wife of Mr H Pompeus of a son
Sep 8 At Rambodde the Lady of Captain Fisher of a son
Sep 11 At Colombo Mrs TP Moldrech of a son
Sep 13 At Penang the Lady of Sir W Norris of a daughter
Sep 16 At Colombo Mrs Segar of the Royal Hotel of a daughter
Sep 19 At Colombo the wife of Mr John Hieler of a daughter
Sep 19 At Ootacamund the Lady of AG Fowler Esq of a daughter
Oct 1 At Colombo the wife of F De Liwera Esq of a daughter
Oct 10 At Colombo Mrs Thornhill of a daughter
Oct 13 At Colombo the Lady of Jacob Davies, Baptist Missionary of a son
Oct 13 At Kandy the wife of the Rev Oakley of a daughter
Oct 18 At Colombo the Lady of the Rev JD Palm of a son
Oct 28 At Colombo the Lady of A Walker Esq of a daughter
Nov 3 At Colombo the Lady of W. Clarke Esq of a son
Nov 4 At Colombo the wife of Mr JCG Andrieszen of a daughter
Nov 9 At Jaffna the wife of PF Flanderka Esq of a daughter
Nov 19 At Colombo the Lady of AS White Esq of a daughter
Nov 27 At Ambegomove Mrs McMurtrie of a daughter
Nov 29 At Gampola Mrs JR Tate of a son
Dec 2 At Mount Lavinia the Lady of the Rev Dr MacVicar of a son
Dec 2 At Galle the wife of Mr CA Aldons of a son
Dec 4 At Colombo the Lady of George Lee Esq of a son
Dec 8 At Colombo the wife of Rev A Kessen of a daughter

Dec 17 At Colombo the Lady of Captain Perreau of a daughter
 Dec 22 At Colombo Mrs John Gurvin of a son
 Dec 22 At Trincomalie the Lady of Captain Crofton RA of a daughter

Marriages

Jan 1 At Colombo Major Thomas Bonner CR Regt to Henrietta widow of Captain Maitland of Coldstream Guards
 Jan 20 At Colombo the Revd Johan David Palm to Miss Louisa Anne Wells
 Jan 27 At Utuankandy Mr JH Brohier to Miss LC Loftus
 Jan 30 At Jaffna RW Langslow Esq BA Advocate to Elizabeth Johanna third daughter of the late JG Kriekenbeck Esq
 Feb 4 At Colombo William Clarke Esq MRCS to Martha sister of J Armitage Esq
 March 5 At Galle John G Reddie Esq to Johanna youngest daughter of David Bryce of Calcutta
 March 12 At Batticaloa Revd M Winslow to Mrs Mary Dwight widow of the late Rev RO Dwight
 March 24 At Colombo John Keane Esq to Jane daughter of J Whitaker Esq
 April 1 At Kandy Hon'ble ES Plunket 95th Regt to Caroline Mary third daughter of the late G Templer Esq
 April 7 At Colombo Mr JF Anjow to the widow of Mr SW Matthysz
 May 5 At Colombo Mr FW De Run to Miss EP Ebert
 June 18 At Kandy Louis George Morgan youngest son of the late Lieut Col H Bird to Anna Mairne daughter of Alexander Swan Esq
 June 23 At Colombo Mr JS Beckkenhoff pressman of the Government Printing Office to Miss MS Fernando
 July 1 At Galle Mr James Millar to Eliza Mary only surviving daughter of the Revd W Bridgnell
 July 10 At Kandy John Pressy Scott Esq to Elizabeth widow of J Rainshare EsqMD
 Aug 12 At Matelle WC Vanderspar Esq CR Regt to Henrietta Anne third daughter of ES Waring Esq CCS
 Aug 28 At Colombo Mr A Kronenberg to Henrietta Fredrika widow of the late Samuel Hollowel Esq
 Sep 11 At Colombo WH Clarke Esq to Dorothea Frederica daughter of the late and sister of the present Revd JD Palm
 Sep 24 At Colombo William Green Esq to Elizabeth only daughter of the Revd JD Gogerly

Sep 25 At Colombo CA Kriekenbeck Esq to Miss AEW Vanderstraaten
 Sep 29 At Colombo Mr FT de Silva to Miss Sarah Schoffield
 Oct 2 At Jaffna George S Beatson Esq MD to Mary Jane only daughter of Major Cochrane CR Regt
 Oct 6 At Tutucoreen RC Clark Esq to Eliza daughter of J Roosmalecocq Esq
 Oct 23 At Colombo TC power Esq CCS to Eugene Elizabeth second daughter of late SS Curgenvan Esq
 Oct 27 At Colombo EP Jackson Esq to Miss Jemima Peternella daughter of Mr LW Van Buuren
 Nov 12 at Kandy D Graham Esq CR Regt to Charlotte Hansford only daughter of Captain Lillie
 Nov 19 At Calpentyn Simon Casie Chetty Esq CCS to Miss Sophia Maria Swaminath
 Dec 3 At Kornegalle Mr SG Godlieb to Miss CHC Felsinger
 Dec 22 At Colombo Mr HB Bartholomeusz to Miss Sophia Elizabeth Garvin

Deaths

Jan 10 At Colombo Johanna Carolina Fins widow of the late Mr H De Silva
 Jan 19 At Colombo Jan Jacob Julius Valentyn
 Jan 19 At Galle the infant daughter T Viner Esq
 Jan 20 At Baddegamme Mr Brinkley
 Jan 24 At Colombo Harriet Julia second daughter of HJ Staples Esq
 Jan 29 At Colombo Adriana Henrietta wife of Mr DC Meier
 Jan 29 At Colombo Mariana infant daughter of Mr Charles Loos
 Feb 12 At Kornegalle Arthur infant son of Mr WJ Felsinger
 Feb 19 At Colombo Arthur George infant son of Mr Sansoni
 Feb 19 At Colombo the wife of Simon Casie Chetty
 Feb 21 At Galle Henley Clarke Esq of the Bengal Civil Service
 Feb 23 At Galle Blanche Fredrica youngest daughter of GH Cripps Esq
 Feb 23 At Kaduganawe William Richardson Henderson of Glasgow
 Feb 24 At Kandy John George son of Mr Lyford
 Feb 27 At Pamben Rev G Hole Wesleyan Missionary
 March 1 At Kandy James Davidson

March 5 At Kandy John Armour Esq of the
 Ceylon Civil Service
 March 8 At Colombo Mr M Lennon
 March 13 At Kandy Henry Ingleby infant son of
 EB Templer Esq
 March 15 At Colombo Elizabeth wife of Mr
 Michael Pieries
 March 20 At Sea Miss Clementina French
 March 22 At Kornegalle LF Jobsz of Jaffna
 April 3 At Colombo the wife of Mr T Spencer
 April 4 At Trincomalie Charles Webster Esq of
 the Ceylon Civil Service
 April 20 At Kandy Alice Maria wife of JA
 Dunuwille Esq
 May 5 At Galle JF Lorensz Esq
 May 11 At Colombo Dr McKirdy Editor of the
 Ceylon Herald
 May 14 At Colombo Georgina infant daughter of
 Mr LHS Schockman
 May 21 At Colombo Warren Hastings only child
 of Warren Hastings London Esq
 May 22 At Colombo A de Raymond Esq
 June 2 At Colombo Henry Thomas Fortesque Esq
 June 7 At the Happutelle Rest-house Major TW
 Rogers Ceylon Rifle Regiment
 June 15 At Kandy Walter R Lambe Esq
 June 16 At Kandy Mr Emanuel Mathysz
 June 16 At Putlam Mr Bernard Gunster
 June 17 At Galle CM Anthonisz Esq
 June 20 At Calpentyn Edward Lucian infant son
 of Simon Casie Chetty Esq
 June 30 At Colombo Julia wife of W Mackwood
 Esq
 July 2 At St Lucia CT Staples Esq MD
 July 8 At Galle Lieut Eager CRR
 July 20 At Colombo Mrs Donna Maria Perera
 widow of the late Rev JJ Perera
 July 24 At Colombo the Rev John Anthonisz
 July 30 At Manar Mrs Caroline Maria Jacolyn
 widow of Commandant Brager
 July 31 At Colombo Petronella Joseph wife of Mr
 John Van Twest
 Aug 5 At Colombo AD Proctor Esq
 Aug 11 At Anorajahpoora Mr RF De Vos of the
 Medical Department
 Sep 2 At Colombo Mr MJ Ferdinand
 Sep 9 At Colombo Mr Edward De Vos
 Sep 9 At Kaygalle Dona Rosa Marie wife of Don
 David Samerewira Ratnayake Goonewardene
 Muhandiram
 Sep 15 At Colombo Frances Georgiana daughter
 of CE Layard Esq
 Sep 21 At Colombo Mr WE Van Geyzel

Sep 26 At Kornegalle Emelia Caroline daughter
 of Mr EC Jobsz
 Sep 28 At Colombo Barbara Bridgetina daughter
 of CE Layard Esq
 Oct 8 At Nanapitty Mr John De Silva
 Oct 12 At Sea on board the *John Graham* Sir
 William Reid Bart
 Oct 12 At Nuwera Ellia Georgian Fredrica
 youngest daughter of Mr JW Dow
 Oct 24 At Colombo Dr G Fernando
 Oct 27 At Kandy Mr Peter William De Waas
 Oct 28 At Colombo Mr WC De Run
 Oct 29 At Colombo the widow of the late Mr
 Gabriel Brito
 Nov 1 At Colombo Joseph Frank 2nd son of J
 Inglis
 Nov 3 At Colombo Mr JL Van Geyzel
 Nov 17 At Colombo Mr Simon De Liwera
 Nov 20 At Colombo Mrs JJ Claessen
 Nov 25 At Rambodde Wilmot the infant son Capt
 Fisher
 Dec 1 At Colombo Adelaide relict of EJ Silva
 Esq
 Dec 9 At Colombo Mr John Barrow
 Dec 21 At Trincomalie Caroline infant daughter
 of Color Serjeant Henry Peter
 Dec 22 At Mahare the youngest son of DC
 Ameresekere Modliar
 Dec 24 At Colombo Martinus Pieries Driver of
 the Kandy Royal Mail Coach,
 Dec 28 At Colombo John infant son of Mr J
 Garvin
 Dec 31 At Colombo Mr WG De Vos.

Reproduced from *The Ceylon Almanac and Compendium
 of Useful Information for the year 1846.* Colombo J Gilgot,
 Government Press.
 (Spelling of names as in original text).

Bertrand Russell says...

One of the symptoms of approaching nervous
 breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly
 important, and that to take a holiday would bring
 all kinds of disaster. If I were a medical man, I
 should prescribe a holiday to any patient who
 considered his work important.

—*Conquest of Happiness* (1930)

Mathematics may be defined as the subject in
 which we never know what we are talking about,
 nor whether what we are saying is true..

—*Mysticism & Logic* (1917)



Ceylon Society of Australia

Founded in 1997. Incorporated in Australia.



AGM Dinner & Christmas Carols 2011

**from 7.30 PM on Sunday November 27
at Ku-ring-gai Town Hall, 1188 Pacific Highway
(opposite Telegraph Road intersection) Pymble
PLEASE NOTE NEW VENUE**

Annual General Meeting

for members at 7.00 pm. Nominations for Office Bearers and Resolutions are to be forwarded to the Secretary, CSA by email to thiru.aru@gmail.com or by post to 25, Chiltern Crescent, Castle Hill, NSW 2154.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes of last Meeting
3. Treasurer's Statement
4. Election of Office Bearers
5. Any other business

Informal proceedings start at 7.30 PM followed by our traditional Christmas Dinner for Members and Guests at **8.30 PM** with Carols thereafter from 9.30 PM.

**Cost: \$30.00 per person
Drinks BYO**

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.
Please contact Upali Dharmakirti
on 9886 0337
email: upalid@optusnet.com.au



**Music by IRVY
(IRWIN COEHLO)**



NEXT COLOMBO CHAPTER MEETING

Friday 18 November, 2011
at 5.30 PM

Venue: Auditorium of the Organisation of Professional
Associations (OPA)

Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha is situated mid-way
down Professor Stanley Wijesundera Mw, one end
of which joins Bauddhalola Mw, near the Army
checkpoint leading to General's House and the other
end opposite the Colombo University grounds on Reid
Avenue between the Turf Club & the Colombo Law
Faculty.

Emeritus Professor S.N. Arsekularatne

MBBS (Ceylon), Diploma in Bacteriology
(Manchester); Doctor of Philosophy (Oxford UK);
Previously Professor of Microbiology, University of
Peradeniya, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
Visiting Professor, University of Aarhus, Denmark
Mahidol University, Thailand

will speak on

A scientist confronts the ancient Indian Ola Leaf horoscopes

Interested? Please contact persons below.
No fee for attendance.

- Chulie de Silva, (President) e-mail: chuls201@gmail.com; +9477-777-2220
- M.D. (Tony) Saldin (Secretary) e-mail: saldinsojitz@sltnet.lk; +94 777 363366, 2440769 (office)
- Asoka de Silva (Treasurer) email: desilvaasoka@yahoo.com 011 2822933

MELBOURNE CHAPTER
Final Meeting for 2011

on Saturday 26 November

Premachandra Kumbukkage

B.Arch (Melbourne University)
will present an illustrated talk on

ARANKELE: a forest hermitage in Sri Lanka, its history & architecture

Followed by Book launch of
**'PATHWAYS TO THE PEAK' by Dinusha
& Shalini Panditaratne**
the remarkable stories of fifteen
pioneering Sri Lankan women. (Copies
will be on sale)

A tasty Dinner,
background music and the screening of
'Tropical Amsterdam'
(a short film about the Dutch Burghers in
Sri Lanka)

Dinner tickets \$30 per head
BYO Drinks (soft drinks provided)

Saturday 26 November 2011
from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

St Scholastica's Community Centre
(behind St Scholastica's Church)
348 Burwood Highway, BURWOOD
(Melway 61 D6)

for enquiries & tickets contact:
Hemal 0427 725 740 or
Shelagh 9808 4962

NEXT SYDNEY MEETING 19 February 2012

Speaker

Dr R.K. de Silva

on

• Poetical Sketches of the Island of Ceylon

Further details to be
notified later

YOUR LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS

THE CEYLANKAN is published quarterly. The editor is on the look-out for your literary contributions, be assured that your work will be given careful consideration with a view to publication at all times.

While every effort is made to print material that is relevant and correct, we do not take the responsibility for errors. The editor would appreciate if any inaccuracies are brought to his attention.

Original, previously unpublished, material is sought, preferably of an anecdotal, historical nature, but any material will be considered provided they contribute to the CSA's ideals of being non-racial, non-political, non-religious and non-controversial.

To facilitate the design/layout, we request that your word processing/typing be unformatted. Where applicable, contributors are also requested to annotate bibliographical references to help further research and study by interested members.

JOURNAL REPRINTS

Reprints and some back issues of the Journal are available in limited quantities. The cost to members is \$7.50 per copy. Non-members pay \$10.00 per issue. This does not include postage and handling. P&H within Australia is \$5.00; Asia/Pacific \$10.00; rest of the world \$15.00 per package up to 5 issues.

Contact Hugh Karunanayake Int. + 61 2 9980 2494 or hkaru@optusnet.com.au

WE NEED SPEAKERS

The Society welcomes knowledgeable and academic persons to speak at our quarterly meetings, in Sydney, Melbourne & Colombo. You may have potential candidates for speakers among your families, friends or relatives who live in or visit Australia or Sri Lanka. Our meetings are held quarterly in February, May, August & November of each year. Dates can be arranged to suit the availability of speakers. Overhead projection and PA facilities are also available. If you would like to share your knowledge and expertise among a group of like-minded people, please contact our President Harry de Sayrah on (Mob) 0415 402 724 or Shelagh Goonewardene (03) 9808 4962 (Melbourne) or Somasiri Devendra (Colombo) 2737180.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP... ... PLEASE KEEP IT CURRENT!

We seek your cooperation in updating your subscriptions promptly and that subscriptions FOR 2009, 2010 & 2011 are overdue and those for 2012 are now due. Send a cheque or MO in favour of the Ceylon Society of Australia to the Treasurer, 3 Viola Avenue, Warriewood NSW 2102 or pay direct to the CSA bank account at the Commonwealth Bank: **BSB: 062308 Account Number: 10038725.**

If you do pay by bank transfer, please ensure that your name is mentioned in the bank advice. We have received payments in the past where the bank had no record of the payees' names and we were unable to allocate the payment correctly. If you have made such a transfer in the past without providing your name, please contact Upali with full details of the transfer you made.

Overseas members are kindly reminded to send their remittances by Bank Draft in Australian currency or pay by using SWIFT Code CTBAU2S. Personal cheques in foreign currency cannot be accepted.

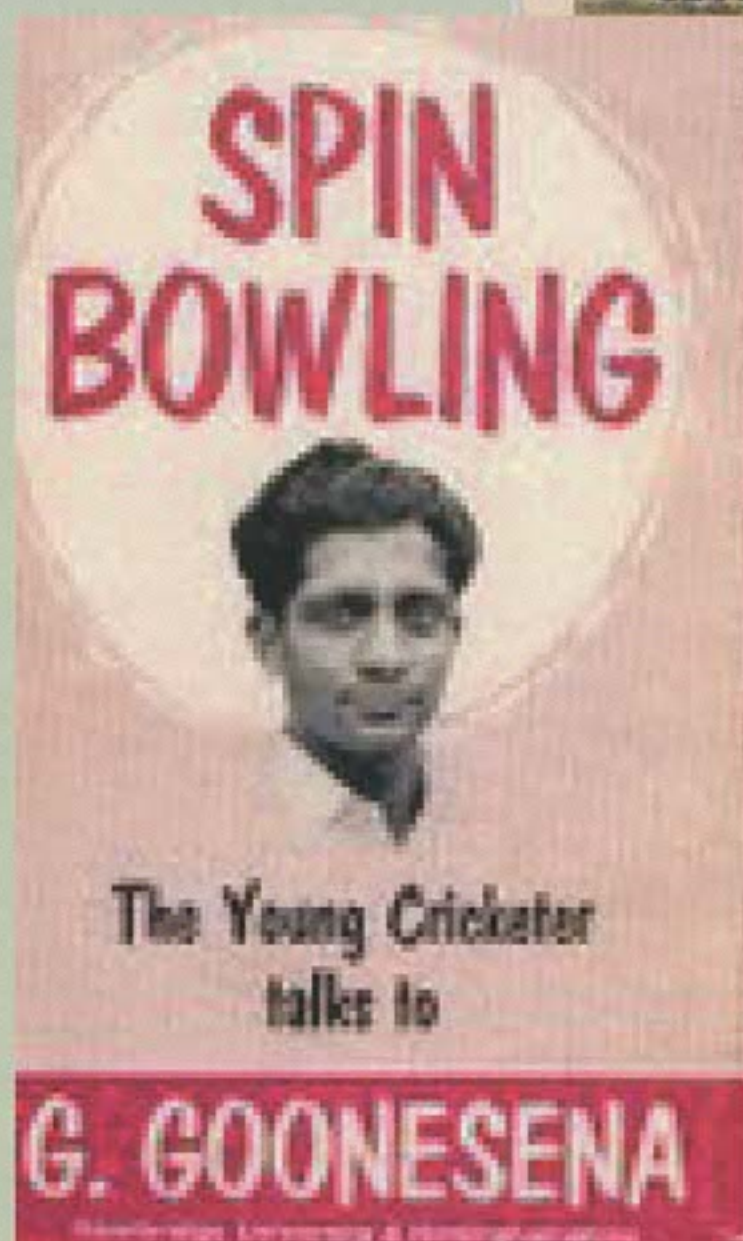
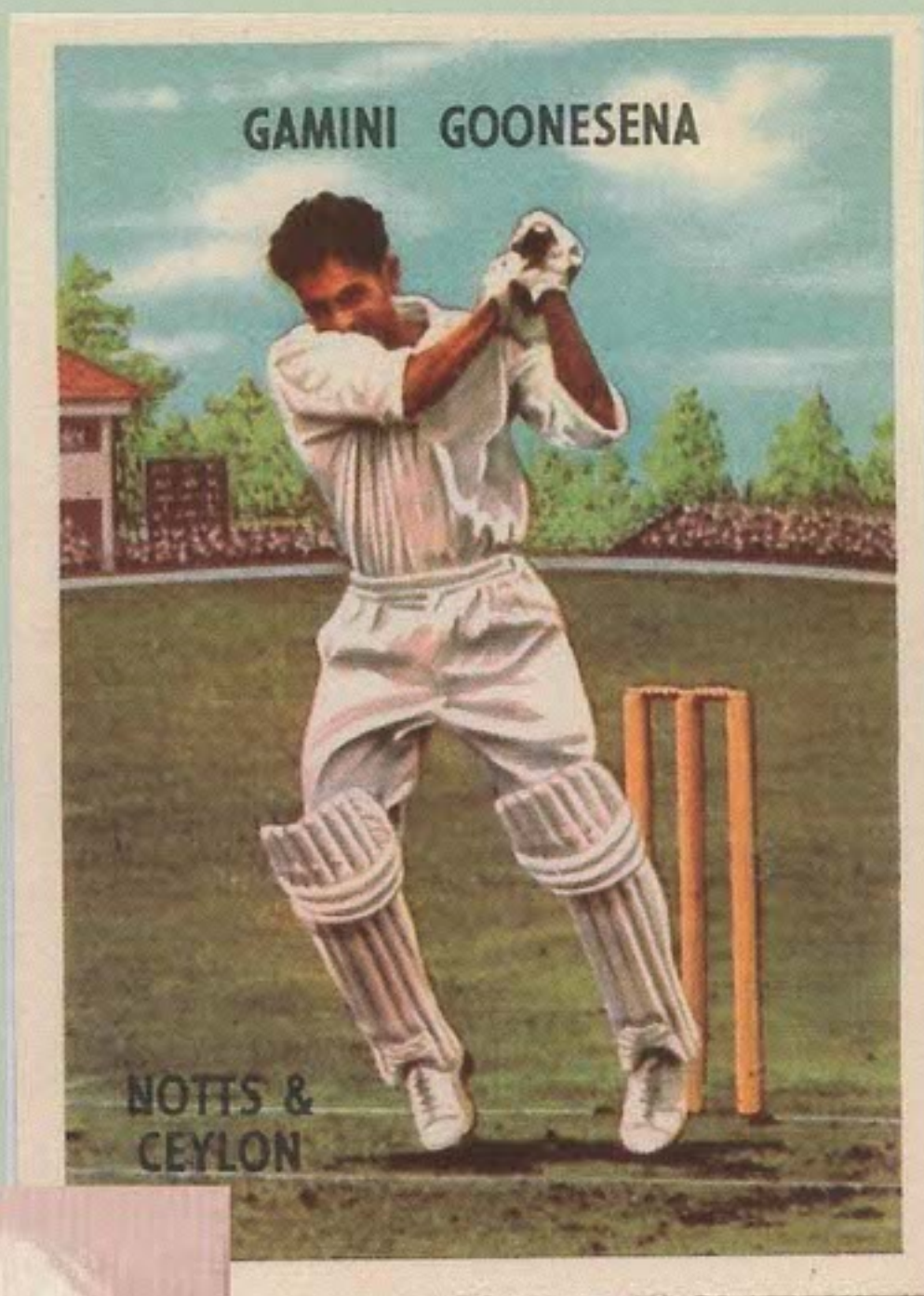
Sri Lankan **resident members** have the option of paying in Rupees. Please refer to inside front cover for contact details. **Annual subscription rates are:** All Members: A\$ 30.00 Australian - resident Pensioners & Student :A\$ 20.00 Sri Lankan-resident members: SL Rs. 3,000. **For details about your subscription status please contact** Upali on Int + 61 2 9986 0337 Email: upalid@optusnet.com.au

OUR SPONSORS

The cost of production of this journal is supported by generous donations from the
• *Lions Club of Bankstown, NSW, Australia, courtesy of our President Lion Harry de Sayrah, OAM JP;*
• *Universal Magazines Pty Ltd of North Ryde NSW 2113; and,*

Farewell to a Legend

Gamini Goonesena making a drive through mid on was printed and published in England together with similar photos of leading cricketers of England in 1958. These pictures were eagerly sought by cricket enthusiasts and the Goonesena photo card is most likely the only one of its kind of a Ceylon born cricketer of that vintage.



"Spin Bowling" was an image of the front of the dustjacket of a book with that title published by Phoenix Books London, 1959. The 62-page publication is based entirely on interviews with Goonesena on the art of spin bowling. It quotes Sir Len Hutton from the London Evening News where he said that Gamini Goonesena was one of the best leg spinners in English cricket.