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The Colombo National Museum (A view from Albert Crescent)

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DEDICATED

**to the Founder, Sir William Henry Gregory,
and to the Past Directors and Staff of the
Colombo Museum.**

1977

COMPILED BY

Dr. P. H. D. H. de Silva

*Director,
Department of National Museums,
Sri Lanka.*

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FOREWORD

One Hundred Years is a significant milestone in the life of an institution. This is especially true when the institution is one that has served not only as the nation's repository of objects pertaining to its cultural and natural heritage but also as the premier research centre on the island's prehistory, archaeology, ethnology, anthropology, zoology, entomology, geology and palaeontology.

The Colombo Museum has closely followed the policy set by its Founder by confining its collections primarily to Sri Lanka, and as the pages of this Souvenir unfold the reader will note the rich collection of material that has been acquired over the last one hundred years through field collections by the museum staff, through donations from the public and through purchase. The collection of over 500,000 books and periodicals and 3500 palm leaf manuscripts in the Colombo Museum Library is indeed an achievement.

Research and publications have kept pace with the growth of the collections. The Museum has been recognised internationally as an important research centre and the Museum Research Bulletin, *Spolia Zeylanica*, which was commenced in 1904, is received by more than 400 exchange partners all over the world.

With the space, funds and skills available the Colombo Museum has attempted to present from time to time a useful exhibition of its collections to the public. To serve a public with varied educational, professional and cultural interests and of diverse age levels is indeed a difficult task. However, we are conscious of this problem and in the years to come museum exhibition will be one of the activities which will receive our closest attention.

Educational programmes have been carried out for many years. Apart from the free guide lecturer service to parties of school children special classes are held for both school children and teachers on request. Public lectures are held and films on cultural and scientific interest are screened. However, there is now a great need to organise a separate museum educational unit with a staff of trained teachers and technicians to serve the needs of schools and teachers. A mobile museum service and better organised travel exhibitions to rural areas are also long overdue.

The Colombo Museum, although it is the National Museum of the Country, has one serious shortcoming. Both national and foreign visitors expect it to house the National treasures of the country befitting its position but this is hardly so. This is a matter which must receive the early attention of Government and must be remedied soon. The majority of our movable National Treasures and the Very important cultural objects must be housed in the National Museum.

The Administrative Reports of the past Directors of the Museum reveal that all was not rosy in their time too. They have been repeatedly beset with financial and staff problems and vivid accounts of such difficulties are recorded which have thwarted their attempts to expand the Museum. A museum of the size of the Colombo Museum cannot continue to be productive unless there is full government support.

However, under such conditions it is a tribute to the past Directors and their staff that the Museum is what it is today. They have set high standards and our present task, is to take the institution at least a few steps forwards and make it closer to fulfilment of the needs of the nation. On this significant day my staff and I rededicate ourselves in the service to the nation whose cultural and natural heritage we are proud to hold in trust to posterity.

I wish to express my gratitude to the President, the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of Cultural Affairs, the Hon. Minister of Education and to all other important personages who sent felicitation messages and also to Messrs. B. Bastiampillai (Senior Lecturer in History, University of Sri Lanka), Ranjit Ruberu (Professor of Education, University of Sri Lanka), Senake Bandaranayake (Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Sri Lanka), R. O. B. Wijesekera (Head, Natural Products Section, C.I.S.I.R. Henry Weerasinghe (Lecturer in Education, University of Sri Lanka) and to Mahinda Ranaweera (Director of Education, Curriculum Development Centre) for their scholarly articles, which appear in Part III of this Souvenir.

P. H. D. H. de Silva,
DIRECTOR.

Department of National Museums,
Colombo 7.
Sri Lanka,

12th April 1976.



National Museum
Colombo
Sri Lanka

PART I

MESSAGES OF FELICITATIONS

V. Jayawardena
President
Sri Lanka

THE HINDU RELIGION, PART I. BY THE VENERABLE
SRI SRI YOGESWARA SWAMI, OF THE
SRI THEVA MATH, TRIPURARAYANA, TAMIL NADU.
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE VENERABLE
SRI SRI YOGESWARA SWAMI, OF THE
SRI THEVA MATH, TRIPURARAYANA, TAMIL NADU.

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SRI THEVA MATH, TRIPURARAYANA, TAMIL NADU.

PART I

MESSAGES OF FELICITATIONS



President's House,
Colombo,
Sri Lanka.

In the history of our country the importance of our National Museum is realised more than ever today. A National Museum is a treasure house of a nation's historical as well as of its social and cultural heritage. It is a centre from which is disseminated knowledge of the country's history, science and culture. It is an art gallery for traditional arts and crafts. The National Museum is the chief centre for the exhibition of all aspects of the culture of the several constituent races of our society.

Modern society changes very rapidly in the face of evolutionary scientific and economic innovations. Hence, there is no better place than a National Museum not only to exhibit our past heritage and the resources we are blessed with, but even more so to draw inspiration from our past to build our future.

At the inauguration of its Centenary it is a matter of great satisfaction to realise that the National Museum has fulfilled the functions expected of it. I thank all those who served the Museum during these 100 years in carrying on a great national undertaking. I wish the National Museum even greater success in the future in educating and instilling a sense of patriotism in the people of our country and in conveying to our foreign visitors knowledge of our heritage.

W. Gopallawa
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

President's House
C. Colombo
Sri Lanka



In the history of our country the importance of our National Museum is
realized more than ever today. A National Museum is a treasure house of a
nation's history as well as of its social and cultural heritage. It is a centre
from which is disseminated knowledge of the country's history, culture and
customs. It is an art gallery in traditional art and crafts. The National Museum
is the chief centre for the exhibition of all aspects of the culture of the people
constituent parts of our society.

History never changes very rapidly in the face of revolutionary scientific
and economic innovations. Hence, there is no reason to think that a National
Museum not only to exhibit our past heritage and the resources we are
rich in but even more so to draw inspiration from our past to build our future.

As the inauguration of the Centenary is a matter of great distinction to
us and the National Museum has fulfilled the functions expected of it
I thank all those who served the Museum during these 100 years in carrying
on a great national undertaking. I wish the National Museum even greater
success in the future in carrying and handling a sense of patriotism in the
people of our country and in conveying to our future citizens knowledge of
our history.

W. Gopalan
President
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA



Prime Minister's Office,
Colombo,
Sri Lanka.

The completion of 100 years of existence of the Colombo National Museum certainly deserves to be commemorated. A National Museum which brings the past and the present together can be considered as a guide to the future. If culture is considered the resultant of the interplay of all aspects of society the National Museum is the gallery which displays that culture. Therefore, the National Museum plays a key role in the planning of a country's present and future national, economic, social and cultural development.

In our efforts to reconstruct the future it is essential to display our cherished past to the future generations as a source of inspiration. The National Museum performs this task very well. For the student it is yet another educational centre while for the research scholar it is a fertile and a rich ground. It also functions as an exhibition gallery of the arts and crafts inherited from the past. Most important is that it serves as a medium of national harmony and international understanding for it is here that all the races—local and foreign—meet each other and exchange knowledge.

The role the National Museum can play in national development, therefore, is immense. The development of a country without corresponding cultural development can never be considered complete and satisfactory and it is in this light that we have to appreciate the contribution towards national development by the National Museum during the last 100 years.

Those who have been associated with the Museum during the last 100 years deserve our tribute for the invaluable and dedicated services rendered during this period. I call upon all members of the staff to continue the high standards maintained in the past and wish the Colombo National Museum a bright and prosperous future.

Sirimayo R. D. Bandaranaike
PRIME MINISTER
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA



Colombo
Sri Lanka

The completion of 100 years of existence of the Colombo National Museum is a cause for celebration. It is a cause for celebration because the past and the present together can be considered as a guide to the future. It is a cause for celebration because the National Museum is the repository of the history and culture of the people of Sri Lanka. It is a cause for celebration because the National Museum is a key to the planning of a country's future and future national, economic, social and cultural development.

In our efforts to reconstruct the future it is essential to dig down to the past and to the history of the country. The National Museum is a key to the past. It is a key to the history and culture of the people of Sri Lanka. It is a key to the planning of a country's future and future national, economic, social and cultural development. It is a key to the history and culture of the people of Sri Lanka. It is a key to the planning of a country's future and future national, economic, social and cultural development.

The role of the National Museum is to preserve the history and culture of the people of Sri Lanka. It is to preserve the history and culture of the people of Sri Lanka. It is to preserve the history and culture of the people of Sri Lanka. It is to preserve the history and culture of the people of Sri Lanka. It is to preserve the history and culture of the people of Sri Lanka.

There are many people associated with the Museum during the last 100 years. There are many people associated with the Museum during the last 100 years. There are many people associated with the Museum during the last 100 years. There are many people associated with the Museum during the last 100 years. There are many people associated with the Museum during the last 100 years.

Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka



Ministry of Cultural Affairs,
Buddhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 7.

I have much pleasure in sending this felicitation message in connection with the Centenary of the National Museum of Sri Lanka.

The National Museum should be commended for its service as a leading institution which helped the people of Sri Lanka as well as scholars, researchers and tourists from various parts of the world to widen their knowledge during the past 100 years.

National Museums occupy a pre-eminent place among all other institutions in their role as centres disseminating knowledge with regard to history, education, science and culture; galleries depicting a country's national heritage; forums attracting various social groups and as institutions guiding the people to plan their prosperity against their national cultural background.

Hence, the Centenary of the establishment of our National Museum, which performs these functions creditably, is for all of us an occasion for rejoice.

May the National Museums of Sri Lanka perform a wider and a greater service in the future.

T. B. Tennakoon
MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Bangkok, Thailand
October 1961



I have much pleasure in sending this congratulatory message on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the National Museum of Thailand.

The National Museum should be commended for its active and valuable contribution which helps the people of Thailand as well as to other countries and to the frontiers of the world to know the history and the past 50 years.

National Museum is a pre-eminent place among all other institutions in their role as a center of research, knowledge, and information, which is not only a source of cultural heritage but also a source of national pride. It is a place where the people find their identity and their national culture. It is a place where the people find their pride and their national culture.

It is the duty of the Government of Thailand to support the National Museum in its efforts to preserve and promote the national culture and to make it a source of pride for the people.

May the National Museum of Thailand continue to be a source of pride and a center of research in the future.

T. B. Tanasorn
MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS



Ministry of Education,
Malay Street,
Colombo 2.

At the outset let me express my sincere thanks for the invitation extended to me, to send a message to the Souvenir published to mark the Centenary Celebrations of the National Museum, Colombo.

I have great pleasure as Minister of Education in sending this message to the "Siyawasa" Souvenir published by the Museum which was under the Ministry of Education for a long period until it came under the purview of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

The nucleus of the Colombo National Museum which was established on 1st January 1877 by the Government under the patronage of His Excellency, Sir Henry Gregory, Governor of Ceylon, was a private institution established 30 years before ie. 1847 with valuable items, though a few in number, of natural science and of cultural value, collected by members of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. This institution developed gradually. His Excellency, Sir Henry Gregory, Governor of Ceylon taking cognizance of the need to expand the services, obtained financial provisions, erected buildings and declared open the Colombo Museum in the present main block as a Government institution on 1st January 1877. A National Museum is a centre which displays the historical, social and cultural heritage of a country. When the outcome of activities of all sections of society is viewed culturally it is hardly possible to find any item that can be left outside the ambit of a museum. A Museum offers a vivid picture of the natural resources, external influences, and changes in different eras of society. Antiquities are of immense benefit as factors and sources for the study of customs, manners, learning and skills of a society. A National Museum is, therefore, a centre which links the different eras of the past with the present.

The Museum plays the role of a guide in providing a glimpse of past events required for the future development of a country. Besides, it serves as an

important educational institution. It is of great use to children in understanding our heritage, the natural resources of the country, the National History, the pattern of life of early settlers and the characteristic features of our culture.

A Museum also renders valuable service to those embarked on higher studies and to scholars engaged in research.

I am glad to state that in the past, our museum has been successful in achieving most of these objectives.

The Museum has now organized a special education programme for school children and teachers. I greatly appreciate the services rendered by the Museum for the development of education.

The efforts of the employees in all grades of the National Museum in performing their services splendidly at the Museum are commendable.

We should be proud of the services rendered by the National Museum for the progress of the country and the international prestige it has won for the country during the last hundred years. It is my fervent hope that this institution will be able to serve the public more and more by expanding its service.

I wish it all success.

Badiudin Mahmud
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

**Maison de Moravske Muzeum,
Brno,
Czechoslovakia.**

Modern museums with their work are not by far directed mere back to the history, to the past, to the preservation of cultural relics of their nation, their country. Equally they must be directed to the present and if they should well fulfil their cultural and scientific mission—even to the future.

This situation is most acute in those regions where social development is most vivid in the present time.

Museums fulfil their mission if they serve the needs and interests of the cultural development of their societies.

The National Museum of Sri Lanka has long and rich past of cultural and scientific work that is well known today far away this frontiers of this—historically ancient, but as to the life—young country.

To further years of its work and development, to the prosperity of its people and even to the prosperity of the international co-operation I wish the Museum many successes.

Jan Jelinik, Dr. Sc.
PRESIDENT,
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
MUSEUMS

ICOM Regional Agency in Asia,
Sapru House Annexe,
New Delhi.

Salute on a Centenary

The Colombo Museum celebrates its Centenary on January 1st, 1977. To survive for a hundred years, during a period of many momentous changes and no little difficulty, may be recognized and given due respect as a merit in itself. When measured in terms of the Museum's achievements of growth in scope and quality of collections, and of service to the community and to the nation, this century represents a most impressive record.

The first museum to be founded in Sri Lanka, the Colombo Museum's mission was clearly defined from the very beginning. As early as 1872, when the Museum was first proposed as a concrete project to the island's Legislative Council, it was described as intended to become "a scientific teaching institution," to provide recreation, but likewise, "instruction to all who seek it." It was then declared to be the response to the clearly expressed and urgent desire of "persons of all classes." The Museum's scope was likewise defined, at that time, as "natural history, antiquities and industrial products" of the country.

The Museum has remained true to this original mandate as it has grown and developed. Its services to public education have always been a major concern, emphasizing research and publication by scientists and scholars, but with the needs of the public kept clearly in mind, whether for school pupils, for University students or for the general visitor, coming to enjoy the exhibitions and to learn from them. It has kept pace with the developments in museological and museographical techniques of the international museum profession. Thus, by leadership of the Colombo Museum, Sri Lanka was among the first Asian nations to become a member country of ICOM, soon after this professional non-governmental organization, so closely connected with Unesco, and subsidized by it, was founded in 1947, and held its first General Conference in Paris in 1948. The Museum has contributed substantially to ICOM's growth and it has participated constructively in its programmes. But also this association has been fruitful to its own national museum development, as the level of its exhibition presentation and of its active and creatively

conceived educational programmes testify—from every point of view representing with distinction international standards.

Natural History received emphasis from the very beginning. The collection representing its multiple aspects are vast, the material for research and publication for scientists. However, its extremely well organized exhibitions on geology, invertebrates and fishes, birds and mammals to mention some of the major galleries well labelled, attractively presented and soundly instructive, are designed to stimulate interest in visitors representing all ages and all levels of education from the country itself and from abroad, and to provide information of a general and useful kind on the rich natural resources of the country, for general public as well as students. The natural history collections and the knowledge about them, of which the museum is the focus is of course, a resource for planning the development and use of natural resources of the country of incalculable value, especially perhaps, to Government in the long range view.

The publications programme, for which the Colombo Museum has long been celebrated in the international scientific community has made the research based on these rich collections widely known among the museums of the world.

But the Arts have by no means been overlooked. The collections are large and of outstanding quality. In recent years antiquities, that is collections and exhibitions of pre-historic and historic archaeology, of the arts of the recent past in all their diversity, have been given increasing attention in exhibition presentation, designed to make what had from the first been distinguished collections, of service to general knowledge by attractive but basically instructive exhibitions. These define and explain the principal periods of art history in Sri Lanka, illustrating them with fine examples of specimens from pre-history and of superb works of art, supplemented by photographs of monuments and by a simple clear text.

“Industrial products” have also had much attention. They are the folk arts and crafts, grouped nowadays under the term ethnography and the collections and exhibited examples reflect well Sri Lanka’s riches in this field.

History was not specifically mentioned in 1872, but with time that has become an obvious expansion of the Museum’s programme. There is now an invaluable documentation on the history of Sri Lanka, represented in historic objects and in paintings and, of course, in the manuscripts of the Library of which the Colombo Museum is custodian.

This summary of fields of activity and of services leaves aside the innumerable ways in which the Colombo Museum has been a cultural leader in the community and in the nation, a stimulus to scholarly and scientific studies and discovery, but even for the general population, a focus of enlightened leadership in cultural interests of every kind.

These few paragraphs, for all their superficiality and generalization, do demonstrate that the Colombo Museum has ample ground for celebrating its Centenary with confidence and, even, with elation, convinced of its value, grown steadily over the years, to the ordinary citizen, to the student community, and to the scientific and scholarly world. All who know it, by fruitful visits or, even only by its admirable publications, will accordingly hail it with enthusiasm in this Centenary Year, express sincere congratulations, and add best wishes for the next hundred years, already so well begun by the International Symposium.

Grace Morley

REPRESENTATIVE

ICOM REGIONAL AGENCY IN ASIA

**Australian Biological Resources
Study Interim Council,**

Scarborough House, Phillip,
P. O. Box 449, Woden A.C.T. 2606,
Australia.

It gives me great pleasure, as President of the Commonwealth Association of Museums, to send you the warmest felicitations from your colleagues in the Association upon the Centenary of the Colombo Museum of Sri Lanka. The Colombo Museum has always been held in the highest regard among Commonwealth Museums and has done much to elevate the standing of your country among those in the Museum profession throughout the world. We look forward to continuing to learn of the advancement of your museum in the years to come.

I send with these felicitations my sincere personal greeting to you as Director. My colleagues and I of the Executive Council of the Commonwealth Association of Museums have greatly appreciated your enthusiastic participation in, and support of the Association. I have always considered it my personal good fortune and gain to have known and respected two of your distinguished predecessors namely Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala and Dr. J. Pearson. It is good to know that the world wide scientific reputation which they established is continuing to develop and expand, today, through your own contributions to museum science.

W. D. L. Ride

**PRESIDENT
COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION
OF MUSEUMS**

**Ulster Museum,
Botanic Gardens,
Belfast.**

The Museums Association in the United Kingdom congratulates the Colombo Museum on achieving its Centenary. Members of the Association have noted with pleasure the high standard of collecting, research and education which your museum has achieved over the last one hundred years and express their wish for its continued success and the maintenance of its valued co-operation and friendship with our museums.

Alan Warhurst
PRESIDENT
MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM

2233, Wisconsin Avenue,
N. W. Washington,
D.C. 20007,
U.S.A.

The American Association of Museums is extremely pleased to salute the Colombo Museum on the Celebration of its Centenary in January, 1977. Our Association, at only 70 years of age, is indeed younger than your august institution. It is altogether fitting that we celebrate this milestone in your history because you have set an example as a professional pioneer in the museum field.

My wish is that your next centenary will be as productive as your first, and that other museums throughout the world will follow in your footsteps.

Joseph Veach Noble
PRESIDENT
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
MUSEUMS

**National Science Museum,
The Ueno Park,
Tokyo, Japan.**

I esteem it a great honour to have been given this opportunity of offering my congratulations on the Centenary of the Colombo Museum.

Sri Lanka and Japan, both being Buddhist countries, have much in common. Moreover, the importance of Sri Lanka's geographical location for the trades and communications between the Orient and the Occident cannot be overlooked in our history. On behalf of the Japanese National Committee for ICOM, I heartily congratulate the Colombo Museum on its memorable Centenary.

In the past 100 years the Colombo Museum has been active in enriching museum materials and conducting researches in the fields of Pre-history, Buddhist art and Natural history, and has gained fame unrivalled in Asia.

Paying a tribute of high praise to the past achievements of the Colombo Museum I express my earnest hope that the Museum will serve as the mainstay among the national museums of Sri Lanka and will contribute to the museum activities in Asia.

Shigeru Fakuda
CHAIRMAN
JAPANESE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ICOM
&
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NATIONAL SCIENCE
MUSEUM, TOKYO

**The British Museum,
London, WC1B 3 D.G.,
United Kingdom.**

It gives me great pleasure, on this auspicious occasion, to express my admiration for the great work undertaken and accomplished by the Colombo Museum during the first hundred years of its existence. That it occupies the premier position in the world for the study of the natural history, archaeology and art of Sri Lanka, goes without saying. But we who are students of your culture, realize with what care and devotion your splendid collections have been assembled, conserved and displayed by a distinguished line of Directors. Also, we keenly appreciate the series of scholarly and popular publications with which you have made your collections known to the world. I feel sure that this enlightened policy will be pursued with equal energy in the future and wish the Museum every success in its endeavours. With this sincere message of felicitations, I should like to associate my colleague Douglass Barrett, Keeper of the Department of Oriental Antiquities.

**T. Wm. Pope Hennessey
DIRECTOR
BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON**

27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Calcutta 13,
India.

It is indeed a matter of great pleasure that the Colombo National Museum is celebrating its Centenary. The Indian Museum at Calcutta or for the matter of that the Museums of this country, have a close relation with those in Sri Lanka in the matter of the study and interpretation of their collections. As bearers of analogous cultures, India and Sri Lanka has so much of common between them. In sculptural iconography, in thematic murals and in comparatively recent arts and crafts, the two countries manifest a oneness and a continuity which are unique and important. In the religious traditions, in the traditions of the Buddha, and the art that grew around them, the two countries profess the same ideology so much so that the forms and expressions reveal the same idioms. The museums in our two countries, therefore, have the same message and have the same knowledge to disseminate. The hundred years of the Colombo National Museum have proved this to be true. I wish the Centenary celebrations a success and the Colombo National Museum continued growth in its activities.

A. K. B. Bhattacharyya
DIRECTOR
INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA

**The Fine Arts Department,
Bangkok,
Thailand.**

The Bangkok National Museum wishes to extend a message of sincere congratulations to the Colombo Museum on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary.

We are certain that the high standards and great accomplishments achieved by the Colombo Museum during its first one hundred years of existence will continue to serve as a model of excellence for those who follow. As coming generations are challenged by the future, the people of Sri Lanka will benefit from their past cultural achievements as exemplified by the Museum collections and research projects. You have every reason to be proud of the Colombo Museum and its staff which so ably maintains high standards in carrying out its goals.

Sharing a common aim of improved museum services, we are grateful for this opportunity to express our best wishes to the Administration and Staff of the Colombo Museum for your continued success.

Sincerely yours,

**Chira Chongkol
CHIEF
DIVISION OF NATIONAL
MUSEUMS
BANGKOK, THAILAND**

**Liwasang Rizal,
Maynila.**

We wish to extend our sincere felicitation to the Colombo Museum on the occasion of her Centenary. Museums have played and are playing important roles in the development efforts in co-operation with governments. Few people realize this so much so that museums get very little recognition.

It is, therefore, worthy to note the achievement of the Colombo Museum. To her go our warmest congratulations.

Godofredo L. Alcasid
DIRECTOR
PAMBANSANG MUSEO, MAYNILA
REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS

Department of Eastern Art,
Ashmolean Museum,
Oxford.

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to send congratulations to the Colombo Museum on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Its notable collections of Ethnology Natural History (including Entomology and Zoology), Geology and Archaeology make it one of the outstanding centres of learning in Asia. These have been painstakingly built up over the years by a dedicated staff of specialists under the guidance of a notable line of Directors. All those wishing to learn about Sri Lanka's resources, her physical constitution, her fauna and flora, and not least her people, with their age-old traditions and customs, will find in the Colombo Museum an inexhaustible store of information. Her history and that of the Buddhist religion preserved in stone and bronze, not only cast a unique light on the glories of the past but delight the aesthetic sense, including as they do, many masterpieces of world art. Let me extend my best wishes for the future of the Colombo Museum as well as congratulations on its past achievements.

J. C. Harle
KEEPER
THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM
OXFORD

**National Museum,
Stamford Road,
Singapore 6,
Republic of Singapore.**

I extend, on behalf of the National Museum, Singapore, very sincere congratulations upon the auspicious occasion of the Centenary of the Colombo National Museum.

Much excellent work has been achieved in the interest of your nation during the past century. We rejoice at your success, and feel certain that more and greater achievements will be accomplished in the future.

The bond of fellowship between our museums has grown rapidly in recent years. It is our earnest hope that this co-operation and dialogue will further develop and strengthen the ties of friendship between our countries.

We extend the very best wishes for the future growth and fresh interests of the Colombo National Museum.

**Christopher Hooi
DIRECTOR
NATIONAL MUSEUM, SINGAPORE**

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SIR WILLIAM HENRY GREGORY — THE FOUNDER OF THE MUSEUM

William Henry Gregory, assumed the Governorship of Ceylon on the 4th of March 1872. The member of Parliament for Rochester, in England, Frank Villiers, who had served as *aide-de-camp* to Sir Colin Campbell, Governor of Ceylon (1841-1847) had created in Gregory a consuming passion to aspire to the administration of the island by, "vivid descriptions of that glorious island." Gregory in turn, confessed to Lady Waldegrave that the "darling object" of his life was the government of Ceylon and, through her



Sir William Henry Gregory

(Original with Major Richard Gregory,
K.B.E.)

intercession, Lord Granville acceded to this request. Thus, Gregory, "turned from the West to the glowing horizon of the East, and to Ceylon, the object of my ambition and my day-dream for many a long year."

Gregory embarked on his administrative career, in Ceylon, with anticipation, eagerness and genuine fondness. The governorship of the island was more than a prized possession or honour to him. This was evident from the enterprize and singularity which characterized his term of office and his subsequent association with Ceylon well into the end of the 19th century. While his period of sway in the island was an eventful one in the development of irrigation, the construction of roads and provision of transportation facilities, the introduction of significant legislation and in short, the adoption of measures for material advancement, it was also an era of cultural and educational growth. It is as a feature of the latter aspect that the construction of the Museum in Colombo, during his tenure of office, has to be reckoned.

The founding of the Museum engrossed his attention *ab initio*. His pursuit of such a venture, in an absorbing fashion, would surprise none if it is viewed in the context of his background. He was the only son of Robert Gregory of Coole Park, Galway, and Elizabeth O'Hara, who hailed from the same country in Ireland. Gregory was educated at Harrow where, quite early in life, he displayed a remarkable distinction in classical learning. Lord Wellesley, who was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in the 1820's, urged young Gregory to imbibe classical literature thereby introducing him to Ovid, Livy and Homer. This supplemented the efforts, taken by his teachers, to divert his interest towards the

classics. The correspondence of Gregory with Wellesley abound with references to and comments on the classics. This background of Gregory created in him a keen admiration for ancient literature, architecture, sculpture and past culture and kindled in him an abiding interest in antiquities and the learning of the past ages.

Moreover, at Iver, Buckinghamshire, where he had commenced his initial schooling, he had demonstrated an interest in entomology. During picnics he would hunt out caterpillars and capture specimens of butterflies, for scrutiny, since entomology was then a rage in schools.

Gregory's early interest in the classics and ancient learning and his passion for entomology, remained unabated throughout his life. "From that day till now, I have never been unfaithful to the classical muse. By land and by sea, at Newmarket and at Ceylon, under the palms in the oases of the great desert, and under stephanotis bowers in Cuba I have never neglected my classics," stated he in later life, truly indeed. Similarly, while Gregory was in Ceylon, he continued his study of insects and impelled by his proclivities he encouraged the publication of a volume, "The Lepidoptera of Ceylon" by Dr. G. H. K. Thwaites, the Director of the Botanical Gardens of the island.

Furthermore, Gregory kept the company of those such as that of Edmund Oldfield of the British Museum from an young age. His friendship with Benjamin Disraeli, who recognised his natural bent enabled him to occupy a vacancy among the trustees of the National Gallery. Although he was no political supporter of Disraeli he was nominated a Trustee of this institution in 1867. His concern in matters connected with the British Museum and the National Gallery lasted as a permanent and inspiring feature of his, all through the years.

Even, as a new entrant in politics, in 1859, he proposed that a Committee of Inquiry

into the British Museum had to be appointed. This was rather a venturesome step for a member of no standing and of little experience and could be explained only as the outcome of his intrinsic interest in matters of cultural character. But, no doubt, there was a need for an inquiry.

In 1854, the Keeper of the Zoological department of the Museum had reported that the collection of zoological exhibits was almost inaccessible and if it was not transferred to drier quarters it would be destroyed in the humid atmosphere. Again, in 1857 Panizzi, the principal librarian, had complained that no specimen in the Museum could be examined without removing two or three others; that a large number of invaluable objects were stowed away in the basement of the building; that owing to a lack of space the Trustees were unable to exhibit their prints and drawings; that the colonnade was defaced with a glass conservatory, crammed with the marbles of Helicarnassus, and that those exhibits from Carthage had been relegated to ill-lit subterraneous regions.

Gregory, in his anxiety to remedy this scandalous state of affairs, suggested that the inquiry should be conducted to find out whether increased space, in contiguity with the existing site, should not be procured or, in the alternative, whether the natural history collections should not be shifted elsewhere. He also suggested an examination of other measures—whether duplicate copies of books in the Library could not be loaned to provincial libraries; whether it would not be advisable to appoint more scientists to the Board of such an important scientific institution; whether some kind of lecture, or explanation, could not be given by the officials to the majority of visitors to whom the vast treasures of the Museum were incomprehensible. The mode through which the Board transacted business, too appeared questionable.

Gladstone opposed Gregory in this venture as he was wont to do so on all subjects

connected with the British Museum even later. Parliament was dissolved and the proposal of Gregory for the appointment of a Committee proved sterile. But it is evident from the ideas of Gregory enunciated in this connection that the Museum was not to function as an ornament of a country but as an useful institution meant for culturally educating the people. This was, as could be seen, an underlying motive in his creation of a museum in Ceylon, and was transparent in his ideas subsequently.

In 1860, a Committee to examine the British Museum was appointed. It was composed of able members and Gregory was nominated the Chairman in view of his increasing interest in the institution and as an acknowledgment of his aptitude for the position. Although, Gregory was imperfectly acquainted with the variety of subjects, which had to be reviewed, yet he was able to inform himself about them since he had the assistance of eminent witnesses, who gave evidence before the Committee of Inquiry. Professors Owen, Huxley and Bell, and Sir Charles Eastlake, Sir Benjamin Brodie and Mr. Layard volunteered with advice and information. The other members of the committee were Sir P. Egerton, Sir G. Grey, Mr. Gathorne Hardy (Lord Cranbrook), Mr. Lowe, Mr. Milnes (Lord Houghton), Mr. Puller, Lord Stanley, Mr. Stirling, Mr. Walpole and Lord Elcho. Sittings were commenced on the 3rd of June and the report was concluded on August, 10th of the year. The principal inquiry was aimed at discovering how far and in what way it was desirable to find increased space for extending the museum building and for advantageously arranging the various collections in it. At the same time, the best means of rendering the available exhibits in display to promote an interest in science and art had to be sought. A division of opinion occurred among the witnesses. Some wanted the natural history collections to be retained in adjacent buildings, while others preferred

the establishment of a separate Natural History Museum.

The Committee, in its turn, favoured an enlargement of the existing building much to the vexation of the government which was keener to execute a proposal of Prince Albert for creating another and separate Institution at Kensington. The other valuable recommendations advocated the transference of the drawings to the National Gallery, the removal of the ethnographical collections elsewhere and the delivery of informative lectures on the exhibits. Again, the hostility of Gladstone rendered the efforts of the Committee futile.

The only gain which Gregory could score consisted in forcing the government to provide a proper structure for housing the natural history collections instead of allowing them to be stowed away in the disused shed built for the Exhibition of 1862, which Gladstone had favoured. Even though Gregory harboured a grand idea of converting the British Museum into the finest and most scientifically arranged establishment in the world and he had been enamoured by the lofty plan of Layard to create one Central Hall of Antiquities, all this ended in nought. The government later built the separate museum at South Kensington; Gregory had to wait till he came to Ceylon to conceive and construct a museum as he envisaged. Nonetheless, Gregory's obsession with cultural affairs endured and, again and again, he dabbled in subjects pertaining to art and the Museum. In 1861, at the sessions of the Parliament, once more, he spoke on questions of art and to a greater length on the British Museum. He had by now proved his mettle in these fields and commanded the attention of an audience. To Gregory, institutions like public museums and art galleries were primarily didactic instruments for imparting education and thereby gainful recreation to the members of society. Hence, he was convinced that such establishments should be opened, even,

on Sundays, when, only, the public would be free to visit them.

In 1862, Lord Henry Lennox chose the chance to speak on the science and art estimates in Parliament. Like Gregory, he was critical of the prevalent state of matters then. There was confusion regarding the responsibility attached to the administration of the 'science and arts' institutions in England. The Secretary to the Treasury was answerable for some of the estimates, the Commissioner of Works for others, while the estimates about the Museum were the responsibility of a Trustee. But the Trustees of the British Museum formed a curious and cumbrous Board. Some of them were elected, others gained their positions in an hereditary manner and yet another lot of them were Trustees by virtue of their offices. Gregory with the tenacity, which was evident even later when he mooted a scheme of a Museum for Ceylon, supported Lennox. He urged that there should be one member of the government vested with the responsibility for the conduct of these cultural institutions. The state of things at the British Museum were so unsatisfactory that the official trustees, who had not even taken the slightest part in management, overrode unscrupulously decisions of the Committees of the Board of Management, who had carefully studied subjects and were well informed of any problems that confronted them.

Gregory also did not forsake this opportunity, too, to stall the government's plan for transferring the natural history exhibits to Kensington. The existing Museum occupied a central position in the city and since the natural history collections were popularly viewed by the working classes, if they were shifted to Kensington, the common folk would encounter difficulties in obtaining access to these exhibits. The existing buildings would not be improved, if collections were moved elsewhere, and moreover, the plan to shift to Kensington was uneconomi-

cal. These arguments convinced the members of Parliament, who extended their support to the proposals of Gregory.

Yet, the government was persistent with its scheme and, in the next year, Gregory had to oppose once more the plan for purchasing the site of the Exhibition of 1862. Amidst a stormy session he emerged successful but earned the aggravated animosity of Gladstone, who was adamant on siting a Museum at Kensington. However, this did not terminate Gregory's connections with the Museum project, nor did it dampen his ardour in this sphere. Hence, in 1863, he accompanied J. C. Robinson of the Kensington Museum to Spain. He was commissioned to travel throughout that country and procure objects of art for the institution. Again, in 1866, he journeyed to Spain and Portugal with Robinson for procuring articles of artistic value. Meanwhile, he deployed his efforts, generally, on matters of cultural interest. In 1864, he was responsible in obtaining suitable remuneration for Herbert, the painter for his celebrated picture of Moses coming down from Mount Sinai, which was to be exhibited at the Houses of Parliament. Not only did he ensure the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry into the scientific societies of Dublin but, functioning as its Chairman, he made valuable recommendations which were accepted. Gregory's speech in 1865, on the condition of the British collections of Art and Science, was received with encomium in the press. On his persuasion the Arundel Society despatched a painter to make a copy of a picture at Portugal, which he had valued.

In 1867, Gregory advocated that the government should adopt a more generous attitude towards the Royal Irish Academy. Since its foundation it had been composed of Irishmen of distinction in science, archaeology and literature. The Academy had shed much light on the history and physical phenomena of Ireland through its original and research contributions. Its museum housed

the most important collection of Celtic antiquities in the world. Sir William Wilde was compiling a catalogue of this collection but there were no funds for publishing this manuscript. Initially, it was necessary to reorganise the buildings of this institution so as to enable the contents of the Museum to be properly exhibited. As there was, in possession, a number of ancient treasures a responsible and competent staff was required.

A Parliamentary Committee, which was apprised of the above facts, recommended the disbursement of £1,000 annually in addition to the usual allocation of £500. But Gregory successfully persuaded the government to grant further financial aid for specific purposes and, through his intervention, he also enabled the Academy to purchase some invaluable treasures. During this year he made a severe onslaught on the Chief Commissioner of Works for the vacillations, delays, and changes of purpose, which had hampered the enlargement of the National Gallery. Thus to Gregory the absorbing interest in parliamentary life appeared to have been matters relevant to art, museums and galleries. A Tory government was in office, by 1868, and Gregory then hoped that it could be persuaded to pursue a different policy from that of the Liberals with regard to the British Museum. Hence, he spoke at length, about the institution referring to the congested state of its collections, owing to the inadequacy of space, the poor housing of antiquities, the consignment of highly valuable objects to the basement, the darkness of the rooms containing insect exhibits, which precluded inspection of specimens, and to the defective system of lighting. The composition of the trust was too extensive and fluctuating; the heads of departments were not permitted to be present at the meetings of the Board of Trustees when the business connected with their departments was transacted. This unsatisfactory state of affairs had bred discontent, discouragement

and inefficiency among the staff of the museum.

By now Gregory agreed on the removal of the natural history collections as it could not be prevented anymore. However, he recommended, in accordance with the report of the Committee of 1860, that the drawings of the Old Masters should be handed over to the National Gallery. Disraeli accorded, unlike Gladstone, a favourable reception to most of Gregory's proposals complimenting him on his useful contribution on the subject.

In 1871, just before he embarked on his gubernatorial career in Ceylon, Gregory participated again in a discussion dealing with the purchase of a famous collection of Dutch pictures for the National Gallery. The greater part of his parliamentary career had been devoted to dealings about cultural affairs and institutions. Hence, when he set out to Ceylon he did so with a predilection for and an experience in matters which provided him with a natural inclination, background and an expertise for the development of ancient learning, and culture in the island.

Furthermore, he had travelled to countries, like Tunis and Egypt, which were steeped in ancient culture and were heirs to a glorious heritage and civilization. At Egypt, in 1855, he had visited every place of interest in Cairo. The expedition to Egypt admittedly whetted his appetite, even further, for antiquities and past lore. Therefore, in the next year, accompanying Sir Sandford Graham, he again travelled to Tunis and Tripoli where he visited Kairwan. Gregory displayed a keen interest in this sacred city with its minarets, domes, and mosques—objects of art.

Naturally, on his way to Ceylon, he tarried at Cairo with Professor Huxley and spent much of his time at the Boulak Museum. He had been captivated by the past of the Orient and there was no better place where he could have acquainted himself with its grandeur than in Egypt. It was inevitable, that with

such a background and leanings, no sooner than he landed in Ceylon that he interested himself in matters similar to those which had absorbed his attention earlier.

He immediately evinced a keen appreciation of Kandyan architecture. He had the wall, in ruins, around the Government Agent's residence in Kandy, and the other walls, especially along the lake, which had originally been constructed in the Kandyan style of architecture, and which were now in a state of disrepair, restored.

Referring to the last king of Kandy, he stated that the monarch had been "a man of excellent taste, and undoubtedly made the royal part of Kandy full of architectural beauty, to say nothing of the charm of the lake, which is due to him." Likewise, he was fascinated by the temples at Dambulla and Matale with their statues, caves, paintings and buildings. Anuradhapura abounding in ruins and sculptures, cast a spell over him. These initial impressions lingered and, in no little measure, contributed towards his intense anxiety for building a museum and encouraging the conservation and revival of the arts in the island.

While he visited Thwaites at the Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya, he enjoyed examining the rare and beautiful butterflies shown to him. Thence he fostered the study of entomology, especially of Lepidoptera by Thwaites. A sum of £ 1,500 was granted for the publication of a volume on the subject later. Gregory himself warmly pursued a study of this subject, with much relish, and when he returned to England he gifted to the Kildare Street Museum a very fine collection of butterflies.

In Ceylon he found the ideal conditions for the creation of a Museum and, in his very first year of administration, he ventured on this project. The island's economy was sound for it was a period of prosperity in the coffee plantations. The flourishing condition of the

Exchequer spurred him on to the construction of the Museum without any constraint. To him the building necessary for such an institution was a great want, as essential as a new Customs House. Speaking about his scheme in the Legislative Council he, emphatically, observed, "It was strange that nothing of the kind had been previously attempted, and yet all our other colonies united could not furnish such a collection of objects of such varied interest as Ceylon." Clearly, the ruins and other multifarious finds in Ceylon had impressed the governor, and he had been captivated by the charms of an ancient civilization and the remnants of it.

A museum was imperatively needed. "The want of a museum in which may be represented the natural history, antiquities, and industrial products of the island... did not suffice for its most imperative wants it would have been inexpedient to have sanctioned an institution which it was better to have untouched rather than establish it on an inadequate and unsatisfactory footing. For a comparatively small sum, considering the object in view, a museum may be constructed which shall not be a mere random collection of miscellaneous objects, but a scientific teaching exhibition, which while ministering to the amusement of many, may convey instruction to all who seek it." He voiced this point of view in the Legislative Council.

Thus, it was clear that Gregory was bent on the creation of a worthwhile institution and that its purpose was to be more meant for cultural edification rather than recreation. Furthermore, a sound economy and the flourishing condition of the local treasury provided him with the impetus to embark immediately on the project of the museum. These were the indigenous factors that sustained the governor not only in mooted the proposal but also in implementing it forthwith.

Elaborating his scheme, governor Gregory continued to say, "I propose in connection

On the pedestal supporting the statue
is engraved:-

“The Right Honourable
Sir Wm. Gregory, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Ceylon.

Erected by the
Inhabitants of this Island
To Commemorate
The Many Benefits Conferred
by him upon the Colony
During his administration
of the Government from
1872 to 1877.”

*Photograph of the Bronze statue of
Sir W. H. Gregory in the premises of
the Colombo Museum.*



with this museum to obtain reproductions of the inscriptions throughout the island, by means of photography, casts and hand-copying. These inscriptions, varying in character and dialect, will be of deep interest to the philologist, and throw light on the ancient usages, religious customs, and early history of Ceylon. I propose to affix a limit to our collections. They should be strictly confined to the productions of Ceylon. "These statements reveal the scholarly character of the administrator; he was interested in epigraphy since, apart from his inherent academic importance, it was to be the means through which the heritage of Ceylon could be illuminated.

Convinced of the indispensable want of a museum for the country, Gregory had presented to the Legislative Council a well argued and undeniable case for its establishment. No one doubted that products representative of Ceylon's natural history, its ancient culture or of its crafts needed to be suitably housed and exhibited. In the West, and in various other areas, museums and art galleries were being expanded and in most of the colonies such cultural repositories had been already established. Strangely enough, Ceylon, although it could afford to have such an institution, lacked one. The forensic skill of the governor, replete with experience and knowledge, won the support of the Council.

With no obstacle locally, Gregory initiated action to realize the accomplishment of his objective, hastily and over-enthusiastically. But, a colonial governor was no autonomous administrator. Impediments arose from the Colonial Office. Prior consent had not been sought for executing the project and the governor had acted prematurely. The Secretary of State for the Colonies was annoyed when he came to be acquainted of the "museum project" only from a copy of the Governor's address to the Council. A break-water for the harbour in Colombo and the construction of the railways, were some of

the expensive schemes then undertaken by the Colonial Government. However, the use of capital on them was considered to be productive for they could boost the coffee-based economy even further. But to the mundane minded Colonial Office, an additional outlay on a museum appeared to be an unnecessary and heavy deployment of the country's resources—a luxury which could severely strain the finances further.

Therefore, the construction of the building of the museum was stopped. The authorities in England asked for more details about Gregory's scheme, so as to examine whether a museum could be created even far more economically.

But Gregory was obsessed with the project; he could not abandon his scheme now and was not willing to brook interference from the Colonial Office. He was determined to convince the Colonial Office that a Museum was absolutely wanted in the island and set forth his case in compelling fashion. Everyone wished to have a museum in Ceylon; such an institution could contain material invaluable for scientific and antiquarian research study; it would securely house the priceless collections of the Royal Asiatic Society, of the Oriental Library, and other useful literary works and would be an ideal place for conducting public academic meetings and lectures.

Arguing in this strain, the governor stressed the utilitarian function of the museum and emphasised that there was a general consensus of opinion favouring its creation. Also, the local council had also welcomed its establishment. The cost of building and founding the museum was a modest one and expenditure on it would not hamper the prosecution of other public works. In addition, exhibits could be collected from donations too.

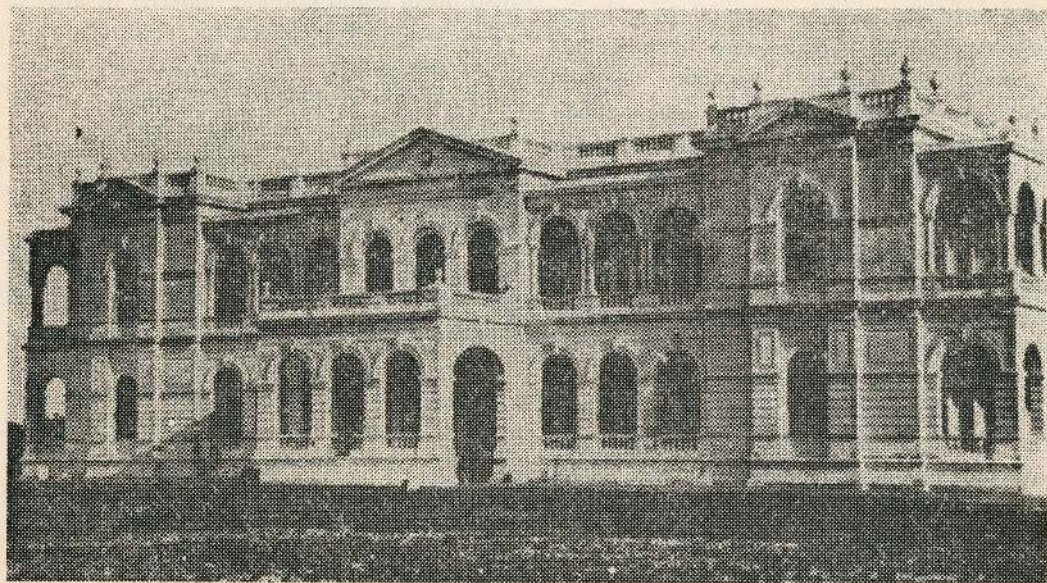
In the meantime, rumours had reached the country that the Colonial Office was indisposed

towards the creation of a museum. Reports in the local press criticized the Secretary of State for his opposition to the project. The Colonial Office, ever vigilant on Colonial expenditure, bemoaned the expenditure entailed but, as it was unwilling to antagonise the local public, it reluctantly, approved the building of the museum. It had no other alternative; it was coerced to accede. It suspected correctly that the creation of a museum had been pre-conceived by the governor and he had been instrumental in arousing interest in it later among the Ceylonese. Lord Kimberley, remarked truthfully: "The Museum is evidently a hobby of Mr. Gregory's and as he does his work zealously and well, I am afraid I must indulge his fancy; tho' I am doubtful of its utility, especially since I have if seen it so much puffed."

It is thus quite evident that the founding of the museum was entirely owing to the aim and the labour of Gregory. The Colonial Office was interested at this time only in

projects that would pay and a museum was certainly not one of them. Expenditure which could favour the development of the economy which lay under Western control, was permissible; but expenditure which could promote culture and education among the local inhabitants was prohibited. But Gregory was able to overcome this sort of restraint and the creation of the museum bears testimony to it. Nonetheless, although he had emerged victorious in this contest with the Colonial Office it was specified that, henceforth, no large buildings should be planned by Governors without prior approval from England. This was to ensure that the Colonial Office would not be compelled to sanction schemes initiated by local administrators alone.

By September, 1875 the Museum was built. An artistically fashioned edifice, conceived out of the expert knowledge of Gregory of European museums and galleries and out of the advice from abroad was the result. Gregory had sought the advice of authorities



*The Colombo Museum building on completion in 1876
(Reproduced from a contemporary photograph with Major Richard Gregory, M.B.E.)*

like Oldfield and he admitted in his correspondence with Henry Layard, in 1872, he really trusted, "...I shall make a good thing of the museum." Again he had written, "I am very busy too about my new museum. . I hope to make a really creditable institution." "My museum is at a standstill owing to the utter imbecility of the Dept. of Works.." lamented Gregory later. Yet, he had laboured, unceasingly, to bring his scheme to fruition successfully. The designing of the structure was entrusted to the government architect, Mr. Smither, a man of great taste and refinement but, throughout, the governor exercised personal supervision. The museum emerged as a singularly beautiful and bright building, well ventilated and with adequate provision for lighting.

The old capital cities of the Sinhalese, regal Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, were sedulously scoured and exhibits, ancient sculptures and remains were assiduously collected for furnishing exhibits at the institution. Many of these valuable ancient objects of art were suffering destruction at the careless hands of officers from the department of Works, who were engaged in construction projects, or they fell a prey to the vandals seeking treasures. It was, therefore, timely and opportune that a museum had been erected and the governor devoted his attention to the preservation in it of the excellent examples left of the island's ancient art and sculpture. Considerable space within the museum was also set apart for the library, which was made accessible to all readers. A large collection of books was obtained from the Royal Asiatic Society to form a nucleus of literature. Soon the accessions, both artistic and literary, increased so rapidly that, on a later visit to Ceylon, Gregory found that already plans were prepared for extending the buildings widely so as to house the books and epigraphical material which were awaiting acceptance into the museum.

Even though the Secretary of State for the

Colonies was correct in construing that the museum was a hobby of Gregory, however, he was wrong in his prognostication that it would not prove to be an useful establishment. In January 1877, when the museum was declared open to the public, within that year alone, ninety nine thousand people visited the institution. Certainly the museum was a fillip in awakening a popular interest in the heritage of Ceylon. Furthermore, the museum developed into a nursery of research studies and has lasted as a valuable academy in promoting the revival of Oriental learning, thus dispelling the scepticism that had been entertained by the Colonial Office.

The Governor, in deference to the requests from scholars, made use of the museum as a means of fostering oriental studies. He had, received at different times applications from gentlemen interested in Oriental literature that the inscriptions with which the island abounds should be carefully collected and reproduced. Similarly, the enthusiasm, during these years, among foreign scholars in the languages and culture of Ceylon encouraged the governor further in adopting measures for assisting those who were interested in Eastern lore.

Hence, Gregory wanted the museum to be a repository of the copies of epigraphic records, dismembered architectural remains, reproductions of ancient manuscripts and old literary works. When photographic copies and casts of rock inscriptions and other historical material, at Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, were made, he wanted them to be preserved at the Museum, too, for the benefit of the research students. Ancient coins, rings, and ornaments were recovered and preserved. The Director of the Museum was further instructed to discover and preserve ancient literary works as a part of his duties. Consequently, owing to these efforts, invaluable manuscripts providing useful data, on Buddhism and early Ceylon were procured or copied for preservation at

the Museum. These records, which were fast perishing owing to neglect, were thus salvaged. The Sinhalese, Pali and Sanskrit works garnered in the museum were catalogued. Copies of the compilation were distributed to the British Museum, the Bodleian and other libraries abroad so that foreign scholars would apprise themselves of the valuable literature in Ceylon.

Even after retirement from office on 8th May, 1877, Gregory continued his efforts for the development and expansion of the museum. The Colonial Office acknowledged that, because of his intense interest, he had acquired an immense knowledge and experience and it readily received his advice on matters pertaining to the museum and oriental learning. He was often consulted and his suggestions were adopted. Unlike the earlier Secretary of State, Lord Kimberley, the later official Head, the Earl of Carnarvon, was interested in the preservation of ancient works of art and agreed with the views on this subject of Gregory. Hence, the new Governor, James Longden, was advised to adopt as much as was practicable of Gregory's proposals.

Gregory, too on his own, corresponded with his successors suggesting to them measures for improving and building up further the museum. Mr. MacBride, the Director of Public Works, transported a lion from a Hall of Nissanka Malla at Polonnaruwa to Colombo, which was housed in the Museum. Gregory observed on hearing about it, that it was a most valuable archaeological record which would have been destroyed if not for the timely removal. His voluminous correspondence with his successors, with officials and friends in Ceylon, and his subsequent frequent visits to the island, after relinquishing office, offer ample evidence of his permanent interest in ensuring the success of the museum.

In May 1878, J. R. Longden informed Gregory that, "The natural history collec-

tion is fast improving. Only last week the Director secured some very rare specimens. . . The grounds are being improved and will I hope be worthy of the building." Longden corresponded with the Indian government to obtain a copy of the *Tripitaka*, or the Buddhist Scriptures, which had been offered to Ceylon in 1870. At that time the gift could not be received since there was no building to house it which was reasonably secured against fire—a pre-requisite prescribed for the grant of the important literary religious work. The museum was "... a suitable building secure from fire" and now it could be safely housed. Also it was added that, "Large additions have been made to the Library and a new description is under consideration"—a plan for revising the catalogue.

On the completion of the drawings of butterflies and moths by Thwaites, which were to be bound in a volume for the museum through the Crown Agents, Longden solicited for the assistance of Gregory to push matters through at the Colonial Office. Gregory readily exerted his influence at London to help Longden who was impressed by the "collection of colossal drawings... very exactly executed"; and the result was the folio on the Lepidoptera of Ceylon to which a reference had been made earlier.

Officials, such as Thwaites, who wrote to Gregory in response to his inquiries about the museum, commented well about the scheme of lectures at the institution and the exhibition in it. Civil servants like R. W. Ivers and A. Gray, kept the ex-governor informed about the progress of activities being made in connection with his pet projects—the museum, the preservation of archaeological remains and cultural activities.

Longden was succeeded as governor by Sir Arthur Gordon, who too continued to ask for and receive advice, from Gregory on various matters during his period of tenure in the island. The time of Longden was one of economic recession; coffee was on the way

out as the staple product of Ceylon and the decline in coffee revenues had adversely affected expenditure on the various projects. Naturally, the government was compelled to curtail spending on cultural affairs. As the Council was strictly watchful of the outlay of money, Gordon complained that the Legislative Council grudgingly granted a meagre sum to be spent on cultural and archaeological activities.

When Gordon left Ceylon Sir Arthur Havelock succeeded to the Governorship. At the request of Gregory, Gordon urged Havelock too to continue with the labour on archaeology, the museum and other cultural objects. Gregory's proposals regarding these matters were commended for the attention of Havelock by Gordon. However, Gordon warned Gregory of the difficulties of finding finance for pursuing activities of cultural character. He wrote, "...Havelock will do all the Archaeological work you desire, except the museum." This was because of the want of funds and Gordon reinforced his position by referring to an article in a newspaper, in Ceylon, which had denounced "such wasteful expenditure as adding to the museum." The times had changed. The financial resources were lesser and expenditure on more materially beneficial projects had to receive priority. It was in such a situation that Gordon replied to Gregory in 1890, "I will see that the museum will get a cast of the statue you refer to and of some other things but I am a little bothered of making both ends of the archaeological vote meet."

Gregory occupies a prominent place in the history of Ceylon not only as the founder of the museum and as a promoter of cultural activities but also as one of the rare administrators who continued to interest himself in the furtherance of the activities commenced during his stewardship of the island. It was again inevitable that later on too his mind should turn to the museum, his brain child, and cultural affairs in the island. For Gregory

spent most of his time on his return, after his governorship as he had done so before 1872, in dealing with affairs relating to museums, art galleries, and similar cultural institutions.

His correspondence with Sir Henry Layard was mostly about the National Gallery. He interested himself in the Arundel Society, the Hellenic Society, and in the exploration of Egypt and Cyprus. While on a visit to Australia, soon after quitting the governorship of Ceylon, his observations and study encompassed the condition of the museums and public libraries there. Journeying back to England, he was drawn towards Athens, Elis and Constantinople, cities rich in treasures of the past. He visited the galleries in Holland and Germany, in 1881, and was back in 1882, in Egypt, spending his time in the company of Egyptologists interesting himself in the ruins and at Luxor in arts and crafts.

Ruins and temples of olden times drew him to various lands, such as Messina in Sicily. At Palermo, Gregory was pleased to witness the efforts made by municipalities for establishing museums to be filled with various objects—Greek, Saracenic and mediaeval—which were constantly being discovered. Likewise, in Syracuse he was fascinated by the construction of a new museum and the exhibits which were to be installed in it; in Girgenti a new museum had sprung up and it contained an interesting collection of coins, which captivated his attention.

Works of art, paintings, galleries and museums appeared to engage his prime interest, even after retirement from the colonial service, as his correspondence and account of his life demonstrates. By 1883 he was serving on a committee, in Dublin, appointed by the Treasury to report on the designs for a new museum and Library, which were to be built by the government in Dublin. "Our former labours at the National Gallery, and the Committee on the British Museum and my own work in building a museum at

Colombo, gave me a good deal of practical knowledge which was of use to my associates," confessed Gregory to Layard, writing about this assignment.

Gregory's dominant preoccupation in life seems to have been with museums and art galleries. Even a month before his death in London, on 6th March, 1892, Gregory attended a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery. The Arundel Society, the National Gallery, art and museums engaged his time and attention to the end of his life. In the midst of all this hectic activity, the progress of the museum, he had founded in Ceylon was in no small measure, a special object of his devotion throughout his retired life.

The period of Gregory's governorship commands a unique place in the history of nineteenth century Ceylon. It was an

eventful era, full of measures meant for the material and moral advancement of the local populace. The museum is but one of the monuments which remains as a memento of this significant term of colonial stewardship. But in more than one respect it serves to be the most salient of the memorials for it was an institution which contributed significantly towards the revival of a keen interest in the island's heritage and a lively renaissance in national culture. In this respect, the museum served to be the means through which cultural nationalism in Ceylon was nurtured. Cultural nationalism in its train, heralded the growth of patriotism and proud, to be a precursor of political nationalism.

Therefore, the museum would always keep alive the memory of Sir William Gregory, its founder, in Sri Lanka, even if many another colonial governor would be forgotten with the passage of time.



THE PAST 100 YEARS — 1877 - 1977

The Colombo Museum was established on 1st January, 1877, during the tenure of office of the British Colonial Governor, Sir William Henry Gregory, K.C.M.G. Today, 100 years later, it is an institution without a parallel in this country, for within its walls it houses a collection of objects which provides a testimony to the glory and the grandeur of our ancient civilization, an insight to our history as a nation, a tribute to our craftsmen and evidence to the enchantment of our countryside.

The Colombo Museum belongs to the group of museums established in many South Asian countries in the latter part of the nineteenth century under British occupation. It is not older than the Indian Museum, Calcutta but is almost contemporaneous with the National Museum (former Raffles Museum), Singapore. It is, however, older than most museums in this region.

Historical Background

The desire of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society to have a permanent home in 1854, took in 1872 the form of more serious agitation for a Public Museum, culminating in a deputation being led before Governor Sir William Henry Gregory by Colonel A. B. Fyers, the President of the Society. The governor being a man of erudition and scholarship himself, was quick to appreciate this request and as subsequent events show was almost entirely responsible for obtaining the approval of the Ceylon Legislative Council to this proposal, selecting a site, for advice on the plans of the building and even finding a suitable Director to head the new museum.

The motion to include a sum of Rs. 50,000 under new Public Works for a Museum was

moved by Governor Gregory as the President of the Legislative Council on Wednesday 25th September, 1872 and the speeches made by him both on this occasion as well as at the closure of the debate are particularly significant. Not only did he make a strong plea for a Museum but also outlined its scope and its role in the life of the nation.

This motion to establish a Museum by the governor did not have an easy passage in the Legislative Council for some opposition came from three unofficial members. The main dissatisfaction centred around the cost of the building which was anticipated to exceed Rs. 125,000 and in the absence of any plans submitted to the Council these members felt that there was every likelihood that the original estimate will be exceeded. Another area of dissatisfaction was the fact that during this period a number of buildings have been erected by government at much expense which have come under severe criticism. The Governor was, however, strongly supported, by the Tamil Representative, Mr. Muttu Coomaraswamy. On an assurance given by Governor Gregory that the sum of £ 12,000 will not be exceeded the motion was unanimously passed by the Legislative Council.

The two speeches made by Governor Gregory in this connection are proof of his intellectual attainments and his admirable perception of cultural and aesthetic values. There appears to be no doubt that this occasion provided the Governor an excellent opportunity to express his deep knowledge on the subject, one which appears to have been very close to his heart.

The first reading of 'An Ordinance to provide for the establishment and regulations of a Public Museum in Colombo' was moved in the Ceylon Legislative Council on Monday,

August 4th, 1873 by the Colonial Secretary, Hon. Arthur N. Birch and seconded by the Queen's Advocate, Hon. R. F. Morgan. At the second reading of the Bill which was taken up on Wednesday August 6th, 1873, the Bill was referred to a Committee consisting of Hon. R. F. Morgan, the Queen's Advocate, Hon. David Wilson, the Surveyor General and Mr. Chas. Ferdinands. The recommendations of this Committee were brought up at the Ceylon Legislative Council on September 3rd, 1873 and the Bill was read for the third time and passed.

Museum Buildings

The first building of the Colombo Museum to be constructed was designed in the Italian architectural style by James G. Smither, F.R.I.B.A., the Architect of the Public Works Department. It is a two-storied building with open verandahs, arches and pillars with ornate capitals and mouldings. A porch with a balcony is provided at the entrance. Construction of the building was probably commenced in 1874 and the work completed in 1876, at a cost of Rs. 119,993.93. The original building was surrounded by a seven acre piece of land overlooking Albert Crescent in the heart of Colombo, known as Cinnamon Gardens. It is said that the constructional work was personally supervised by the Governor. The contractors were the Late Wapache Marikkar and S. M. Perera. In the building constructed in 1876 the ground floor consisted of two front verandahs and two more verandahs, one on the eastern and the other on the western side. The entrance led to a lobby behind which was located the staircase to the upper floor. On either side of the lobby were two small rooms each of which led to a larger hall. Each small room adjoining the lobby had behind it a narrow corridor. The ground plan of the first floor was nearly identical with that of the ground floor except that the place of the lobby and the two small adjoining rooms was taken up by a large hall. Behind the main building was a block

which consisted of two small rooms in front leading to a large room behind which were two smaller rooms. When the Museum was opened on 1st January, 1877 the arrangement of the exhibits were as follows:

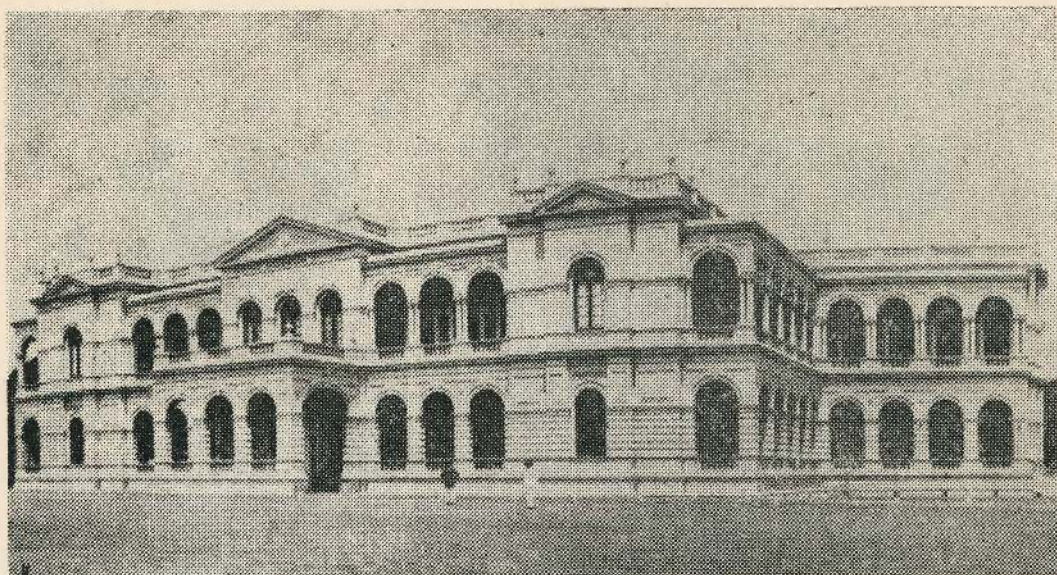
“On the lower floor in the western verandah are placed several inscribed monoliths from various parts of the island, the west room is devoted to large stone antiquities and the room adjoining the hall to Ceylon products and some minor antiquities. The buttress cases in the central gallery contain the birds; in four out of the six table-cases here the insects are exhibited, and the other two are devoted to the smaller and more valuable antiquities, jewellery and coins. The Mammalia occupy the west gallery and the east gallery contains the reptiles, fish, shells, corals and minerals partly in buttress and partly in table cases.

The smaller block behind the front block served as the office and the Taxidermist's rooms.”

(Administration Report of the Director, for 1877).

However, the need for more accommodation was felt as early as 1880 but no further extension to this building was possible until 1907 when Dr. Willey who was the then Director of the Museum obtained government sanction to undertake the east wing extension. The work on this wing was completed in 1909. A new administrative block was also constructed during Willey's tenure of office. The second extension to the main block i.e. the western wing was undertaken in 1927 during the directorship of Dr. J. Pearson. This western extension was completed in 1930.

Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala in 1958 sought government sanction to erect a complete North Wing extension, identical with the existing building complex, which in his plan formed the South Wing. The government accepted his proposal in principle but split the



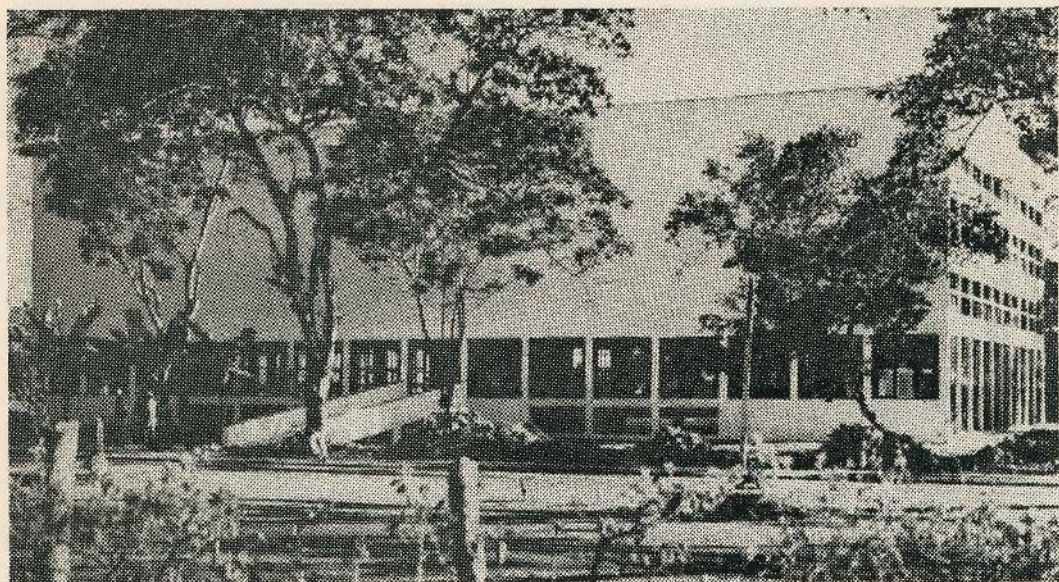
Museum building showing the east wing extension, completed in 1909

original plan into four stages. The first under this scheme was the eastern wing which was commenced in 1958 and completed in 1962. The western wing of this scheme was completed in 1973. All these extensions followed closely the architectural style of the first building erected for the Museum.

By this time the need to separate the cultural exhibits from those of natural history became necessary. Both divisions have developed vastly over the years justifying separate buildings and so the third stage of the North Wing extension scheme was utilised to design a building to house solely the natural history exhibits. Thus a museum which had for nearly 98 years been maintained as a general museum has now taken a bold step in moving towards specialized museums within the same premises, a feature reminiscent of the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, and the Museums in Ueno Park, Tokyo. This Natural History Museum building was to face the Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha. It was to be three-storied in front and the two wings

incorporating mezzanine floors were each, six-storied. It will provide 23,000 sq. ft. of floor space with built-in cubicles for dioramas, laboratories and for the storage of reserve collections, a Natural History Library and space for an auditorium. It was to be purely a functional building and was designed by Mr. T. Chandraratna, Architect under the supervision of the Chief Architect of the Buildings Department, Mr. Pani Tennekoon. The constructional work was commenced in May 1972 and completed in February 1976.

The final stage of this building programme will be devoted for a Museum of Science and Technology. A Committee consisting of Dr. P. H. D. H. de Silva, the present Director, Department of National Museums, (Chairman), Professor P. P. G. L. Siriwardene, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sri Lanka, Professor C. Dahanayake, Department of Physics, Vidyodaya Campus, University of Sri Lanka and Mr. K. Gnanalingam, Electrical Engineer, Stanley Power Station, Wellampitiya, Colombo has been appointed to advise the Architects Messrs Edmund

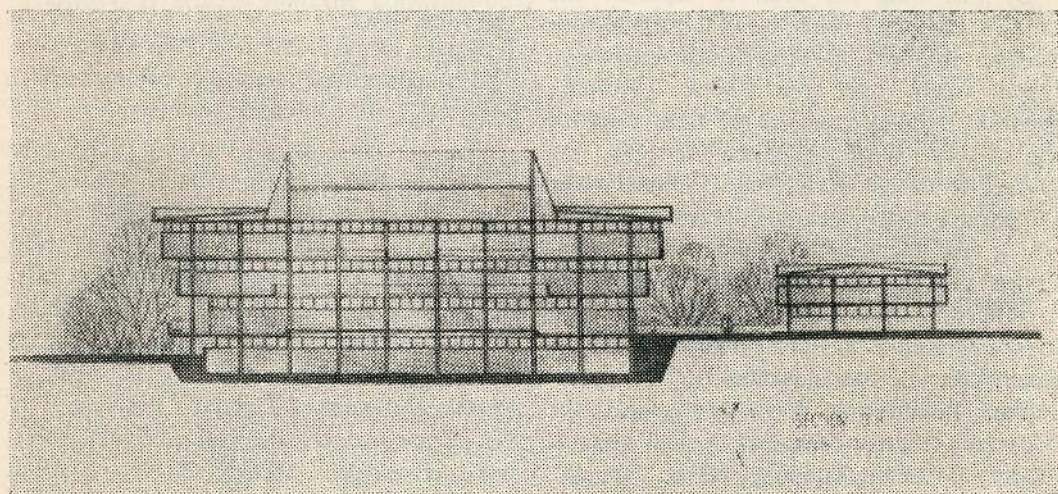


The completed Natural History Museum

Perera and S. Anandaganesan of the Buildings Department on the museo-technical aspects of the proposed museum. The exhibition plans of this Museum will follow closely a report submitted to Government in 1970 by a Committee which was headed by Dr. P. H. D. H. de Silva (Report of the

Committee appointed by the Hon. Minister of Scientific Research and Housing on the Proposal to establish a Museum of Science & Technology—Sessional Paper VIII, March 1970, pp. 1-56).

It is proposed to commence constructional work on the Science Museum in 1977.



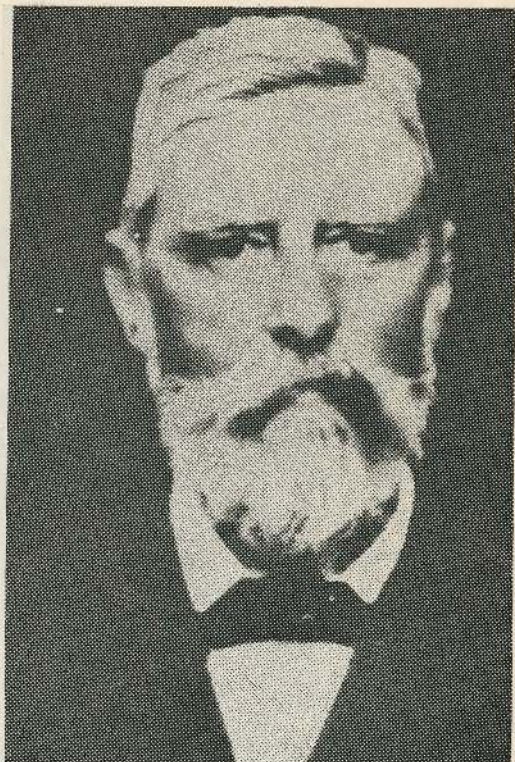
An elevation drawing of the proposed Museum of Science and Technology

Directors

Sir William Gregory in moving the motion to provide funds for the Museum on 25th September, 1872 in the Ceylon Legislative Council said, "Believing as I do that the success and utility of this institution will depend on the character and attainments of its Director, I shall ask you, by granting him a liberal salary, to offer an inducement to a man of high acquirements to undertake the task. Far rather would I exercise parsimony in the structure, than in the salary of the Director; far rather would I have an eminent man and a plain inexpensive building, than a costly edifice and a cheap and an inefficient Director."

In pursuance of his views he so clearly expressed he consulted no less a person than Sir Thomas Huxley who happened to be a close friend of his in the selection of a Director for the new Museum. On receipt of this request from Sir Gregory, Sir Thomas Huxley wrote to Dr. Anton Dohrn, the Founder of the famous marine laboratory at Naples, the *Stazione Zoologica*, who happened to be a pupil of Professor Ernest Haeckel asking him to recommend a suitable person for the post. It appeared that Dr. Von Willemoea Suhm was recommended but finally Dr. Amyrald Haly was appointed by the Secretary of State. Dr. Haly took up his appointment as Director of the Museum on 25th June 1875.

Starting the Museum in 1887 with a collection of 808 items of antiquities and 384 specimens of Ceylon products Dr. Haly laboured for twenty-six years to enrich the Museum collections. He fell ill during a tour in the Southern Province and retired in April 1891. Dr. Haly had on his staff only two officers namely, the Librarian and the Taxidermist. Though handicapped by slender financial resources and lack of staff Dr. Haly worked with considerable zeal and devotion so that when he retired after 26 years of dedicated service he had elevated the



Dr. Amyrald Haly
(The first Director)

Colombo Museum to international status. Dr. Haly was succeeded by Dr. Arthur Willey, M.A., D.Sc. (Lond.), F.R.S., in May 1902. He also functioned as the Government Marine Biologist during this period. Dr. Willey resigned his post on 1st June, 1910 and he was succeeded by Dr. J. Pearson, D.Sc. (Liverpool), B.Sc. (Vict.), F.L.S., in August the same year. Of Dr. Willey, Pearson wrote: "I can bear testimony to the great loss that the Museum has sustained by his resignation. Thanks to his energy and keenness the museum collection increased greatly in size and value during his eight years in office. In this brief term "*Spolia Zeylanica*," was launched, a new Director's office and a laboratory were built, a new wing was erected, and in addition to the charge of the museum, Dr. Willey was also made Govern-



Dr. Arthur Willey

ment Marine Biologist. It is to his credit to say that although by training a zoologist, he evinced a keen interest in the Archaeological and Ethnological departments and it is owing to the broad attitude he adopted that the museum possesses such a well-balanced and representative series of exhibits today."

Dr. J. Pearson functioned as the Director of the Colombo Museum from August 1910 until his retirement on 2nd March 1933. During the same period Dr. Pearson also served as the Government Marine Biologist. He, like his predecessors, took a keen interest in the Museum improving the exhibitions and in attracting the local scientists and scholars to the museum which resulted in the publication of a series of Memoirs which even today are accepted as standard works on these subjects. Mr. A. H. M. Malpas

who succeeded Dr. Pearson wrote of him as follows:—

"During 23 years he has so ably guided its destinies and he has worked up its collections to their present high educational value. Dr. Pearson's somewhat early retirement is a loss not only to the museum but also to the local zoologists who are indebted to him for guidance and stimulation in their research work."

Mr. Malpas's period as Director was a much shorter one. He too functioned as the Government Marine Biologist. He retired on March 14th, 1939. Mr. Malpas joined the Museum as the First Assistant Marine Biologist to Dr. J. Pearson and functioned in this capacity until his appointment in 1933 as Director. Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala who succeeded him as Director wrote of him:—



Dr. J. Pearson

“During his term of office not only did he greatly increase the Museum’s attraction as a popular resort but he took an actual and helpful interest in the issue of the Museum series of Monographs and in the entomological, avifaunal and ethnological surveys which were set on foot from time to time.”

Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala, M.A., (Cantab.), A. M. (Harvard) became the first Sri Lankan to hold the post of Director of the Colombo Museum. He saw to the enactment of the National Museums Ordinance in 1942 which converted the Colombo Museum into a National Museum and allowed the establishment of Branch National Museums in the Provinces, under the provisions of this Ordinance. He established Branch Museums at Kandy, Jaffna and Ratnapura. All these institutions were also brought under the administrative control



Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala

of a new government department, called the Department of National Museums. Another matter which received his attention was the provision of further accommodation to house the increasing collections. He submitted a building extension scheme—the North Wing scheme—envisaging an identical counterpart of the existing group of buildings following the same architectural design. This was accepted by government in principle but was split into four stages. He was able to complete the first stage and to commence work on the second during his tenure of office. He was an indefatigable research worker publishing more than four hundred research papers and several books. He undertook excavations of several prehistoric sites and pioneered the study of palaeontology in Sri Lanka. He was also interested in anthropology and archaeology and was a reputed animal painter.

Dr. Deraniyagala retired in 1963 and was succeeded by two officers of the Ceylon Administrative Service, namely Mr. N. B. M. Seneviratne from 1st August 1963 to 31st January 1965, and by Dr. Ananda Guruge from 1st February 1965 to 30th September 1965. The period from 1963 to 1965 was a period of turmoil in the sense that the museum collections were treated with much indifference and during the latter phase the department lost the Palace section of the Kandy Museum, the Jaffna National Museum and two outstanding stone sculptures namely, the fenestrated Yapahuva window and the stone Lion throne of Nissankamalla to the Archaeological Department.

The present Director, Dr. P. H. D. H. de Silva, B.Sc. (Cey.), Ph.D. (Wales), F.Z.S., succeeded Dr. A. Guruge as Director on 1st October 1965. The first change he effected was in the arrangement of the cultural exhibits which now commences from the Pre-history of Sri Lanka and follows the main historical periods namely, the Anuradha-



Dr. P. H. D. H. de Silva
(The Present Director)

pura, Polonnaruwa, Kōtte and Kandy periods. The periods under foreign domination will be taken up in due course. Two symposia were held (1), on the "Role of the Museum in Education" and (2), on "Museum and Research," which have greatly helped to reorganize and to expand the museum services to schools and the public. A booklet on 'Museum Registration Procedure,' was prepared by him adapting the latest methods followed by well developed museums to meet local needs to serve as a guide to the Curators. A children's magazine, "*Singithi-Kauthukagara Lama Sangarava*," was issued for the first time and this magazine which is in Sinhalese is now intended to be issued also in English. An air-conditioned rare-book section for the Museum Library was constructed and the ground floor area exhibiting the

Throne, the Regalia and other valuables was provided with a burglar alarm device which has now been operated successfully for several years. A Folk Museum was established at Anuradhapura. The Third Stage under the North Wing Extension scheme was re-designed to serve as the National Museum of Natural History and he is responsible for organizing the exhibits therein. He has also seen to the preliminary work connected with Stage IV which is to serve as the National Museum of Science and Technology.

Every effort has been taken with the limited staff to provide a useful educational service to school children, teachers and to the public. Scholars have been helped and several faunal surveys jointly with foreign institutions, especially with the Smithsonian Institution, were initiated. Plans connected with the inauguration of a mobile museum service to the rural areas and the establishment of a Special Museum Educational Unit at the Museum to serve the schools in a more comprehensive manner have also been completed.

Spolia Zeylanica, the Research Bulletin of the department has been published regularly. He published in 1975 a "Catalogue of Antiquities and Other Cultural objects from Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Abroad" (509 pp.), covering 140 institutions in twenty-two countries. He has also completed a book on "The Snakes of Sri Lanka, with special reference to the skull, the dentition, venom glands and venom," which is now with the Government Printer. He has also taken action to reprint rare books on Sri Lanka, about three such books being taken up annually for reprinting.

Museum's Cultural Collections

i. Pre-history

Several stone implements and flakes were received from Messrs Wayland, Daniels and Hartley but it was in 1939 that the first excavation was undertaken by the Museums

department. During this year a few trial pits and trenches were excavated in certain Balangoda and Kuruvita caves which not only yielded signs of prehistoric man's handiwork but also items of his diet, his culinary attempts, his bone implements and the pigments he employed. Two of such caves excavated were the Lungalgé near Panane village and Udupiyan Galgé near Diyavina village. Here were discovered Neolithic quartz and chert artefacts and flakes to a depth of five feet representing what appeared to be two culture phases, of which the earlier disclosed the larger and cruder artefacts, including a double pointed borer and also the remains of land, tree and fresh-water shells, crabs, tortoises, *Varanau* lizards, birds and small mammals, including squirrels and monkeys, which served as the food of cave man. The Neolithic cave at Batadoma Lena, Kuruvita was visited in 1940 and about 30 bone borers, three large pieces of gneiss indented on two surfaces with numerous pits about $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep, 38 pebbles some of which were partially faceted with three or four cavities forming a ring round the pebble, some being also smeared with haematite, a stone slab, $8\frac{1}{2}$ " by $11\frac{1}{2}$ " and with a shallow groove $6\frac{1}{2}$ " long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide suggesting its use to polish a stone-axe or to grind food or pigment were collected. In 1944 from a gem pit was obtained a crystal roughened out into an axe-head or hammer and perforated for hafting. Several pitted pebble artefacts of the Balangoda Culture phase were also discovered during the same year from a cave near Kukulegama. In 1945 preliminary excavations were made at Ravana Ella cave at Ella and here an abundance of chert artefacts and a nearly complete human frontal bone stained with haematite on its cerebral aspect were discovered. A Neolithic pitted pebble was also secured four feet above the gem sand from Phorobava, Ellavala.

All these excavations were carried out under the supervision of Dr. P. E. P. Dera-

niyagala and most of the material discovered were studied by him, the results of which were published in *Spolia*, from time to time.

In 1947 four showcases were arranged in the Museum to display the Early Stone Age or "Ratnapura" Culture phase and the New Stone Age or the "Balangoda" Culture phase of Sri Lanka.

Among the exhibits were the macroliths or large artefacts employed by Balangoda Man, bone artefacts, bones and shells of animals he utilised as food and also the materials he employed as pigment. At the same time a collection of American stone implements such as hammers, axes, rubbing stones, pestle, stone points and potsherds sent by the Peabody Museum was also displayed. A few stone artefacts were obtained from caves at Lenama in the Eastern Province.

Dr. Deraniyagala and the Museum staff undertook further excavations at Ravana Ella cave in 1949 and some of the material they collected were various types of pottery, some of which appeared to be unbaked or only sunbaked while others were glazed, 2 sea shells mostly bored for a necklace, a bead with bifacial boring, a collection of 50 *kirindi* seeds bored through and apparently used as a necklace, several rounded pebbles, quartz implements, ground pebbles, quartz choppers, several chert implements, several trapezoid bone needles and both single and double pointed end-pieces of bone worked into gouge-like shapes.

Drawings of elephants by Stone Age man were discovered at Manda galgé near Siyambala Anduva in the Eastern Province and were copied by Dr. Deraniyagala.

In 1951 various river terraces were examined and in some pebble beds were located. During the same year Manda galgé, Ravana Ella cave and Batadoma Lena were visited and a collection of stone implements was made which included pitted pebbles, pitted anvil-cum grindstones, some of which were

stained with red ochre. A broken ring-stone from Batadoma Lena afforded the first evidence of cylindrical drilling by Stone Age Man in Sri Lanka.

The exhibited collection was rearranged in the light of this new knowledge. In 1952 test pits were dug at Bulatwatte near Pelmadulla and at Yakgiri Lena near Matugama and these pits revealed the presence of artefacts of the Balangoda Culture phase and in the latter cave were also found marine shells. Six new showcases and three table cases were arranged this year with prehistoric artefacts. In 1953 additional material especially those from recent excavation work at Ravana Ella cave were added to the exhibited collection, the most noteworthy being a fine series of bone implements which included some notched for attachment to wooden shafts.

In 1954 three new sites were excavated namely, Kabara Galgé at Hangamuva near Ratnapura, Alu Galgé at Niriälla and Alu gal lena in the forest west of Telulla in the Southern Province. The first two yielded pebble hammers, pitted upon both surfaces while unpitted pebbles were found at Telulla. Large quantities of land shells of the species *Acavus superbus* Pfeiffer and *A. waltoni* Reeve and aquatic snails such as *Pila carinata* Swainson, *Paludomus loricata* Reeve, *P. sulcata* Reeve and *P. neritoides* Reeve were dug out from these sites. The Telulla site also revealed a partially preserved human skeleton in a flexed position and covered with a pile of stones at a depth of 60 mm. It was found to be that of a male, about 5 feet 4 inches tall with a heavy, but diffuse supraorbital torus, a short wide mandible with pointed chin and with the last molars well worn, an unusually small pelvis and legs that were about as long as those of an ordinary human villager. In association with the skeleton were trapezoid, double-pointed bone artefacts, deer antler gouges and picks, stone implements and bones and shells of various

animals these Stone Age races have probably used as food.

In 1955 Istripura galgé, a cave with a subterranean lake near Arukvatta, beyond Kumbalagamuva in the Uva Province was visited. This cave contains heavy stalactite deposits.

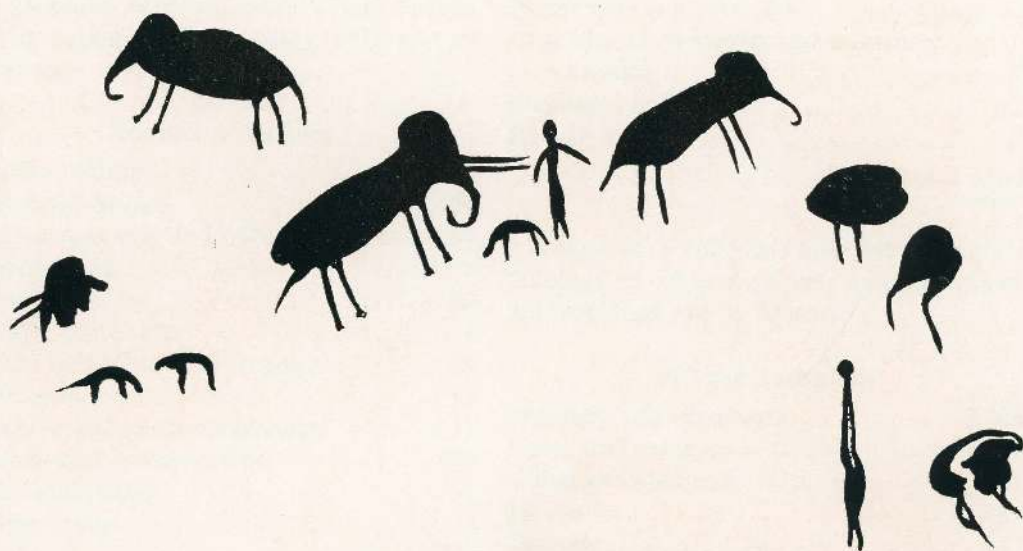
In 1956 an outstanding discovery was made of a Stone Age kitchen midden at Bellanbändi Pälässa in the Balangoda district, containing a number of ceremonial burials of *Homo sapiens balangodensis* in a flexed position. With these skeletons occurred stone, horn and bone implements and also broken bones of man and animals they had supposed to have devoured. In 1957 a field party sent again to Bellanbändi Pälässa discovered the right cheek bone and right half of the palate of one individual and parts of the skeleton together with a collection of stone implements, several chert artefacts, a tortoise-backed scraper, a chopper, spearheads and knives collected by Mrs. M. Illingworth were also received by the Museum. Museum officers also visited Otchappuva galgé and several other sites and made useful additions to the existing collection. In 1959 two cave sites in the Ratnapura district were also visited by museum officers. In 1960 the skeletal material from the Bellanbändi Pälässa was despatched to the British Museum (Natural History) for study by Mrs. Madeline Smith and Mr. Kenneth A. R. Kennedy.

In 1961 further specimens were obtained from Bellanbändi Pälässa which included the skeleton of a female.

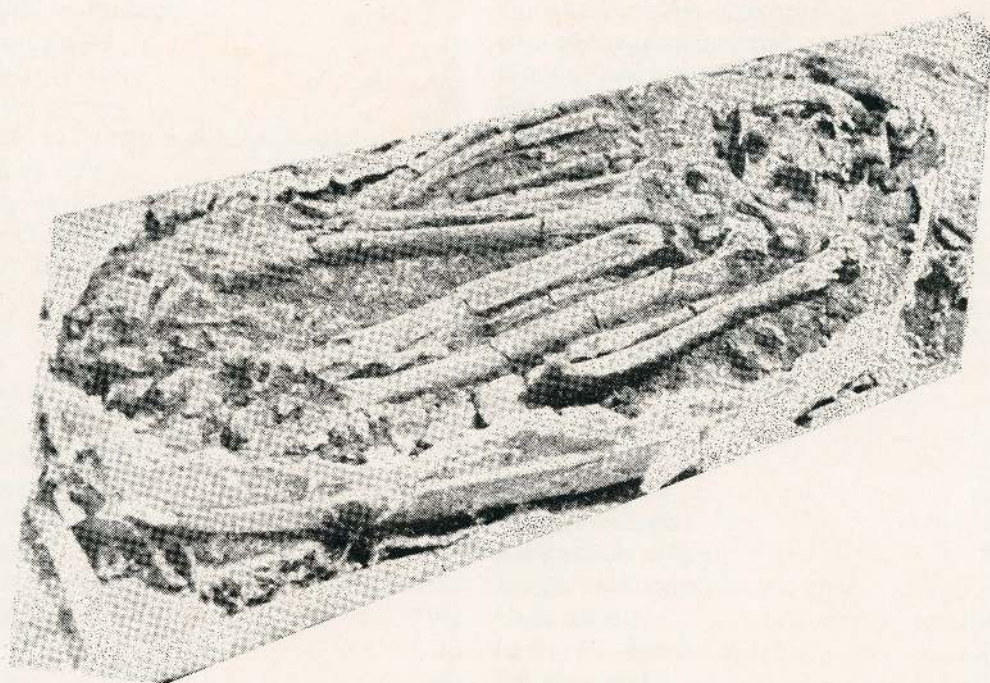
In 1965 on a Ministry directive prehistoric excavations and research which have so far been carried out by the Museum authorities were handed over to the Archaeological department.

ii. Art, Antiquities and Anthropology

The total collection of antiquities and anthropological material in the custody of



Paintings from Manda Galgé, Eastern Province.



Skeleton of Balangoda Man, *Homo sapiens balangodensis* from Bellan Bändi Pälässa, Sabaragamuwa Province.

the Colombo Museum when it was opened to the public on 1st January 1877 was as follows:-

Arts and Antiquities

Inscribed Stones	..	..	15
Sculptured Stones	..	..	71
Small stones, clay and brick fragments			94
Carved wood	..	..	1
Spear-heads	..	..	20
Swords, knives etc.	..	..	4
Bronze antiquities and fragments	..		69
Gold antiquities	..	..	15
Glass, crystal and iron artefacts	..	..	11
Ancient and modern coins	..		499
Silver antiquities	..	..	1
Antique rings	..	..	4
Total			<u>804</u>

Ceylon Products

Masks	..	..	26
Musical Instruments	..	..	9
Fancy pottery	..	..	20
Ordinary pottery	..	..	18
Painted pottery	..	..	26
Pottery in imitation of Englishware	..	..	22
Walking stick	..	..	1
Fancy boxes	..	..	4
Case of Native medicine	..	..	1
Gourd bottle	..	..	1
Baskets	..	..	36
Mats	..	..	3
Fans	..	..	1
Wood carvings	..	..	1
Model of boats	..	..	2
Models of Agricultural Implements	..	..	29
Modern Jewellery	..	..	18
Hunting knife	..	..	1
Coffee	..	..	10
Tea	..	..	3
Paddy	..	..	42
Oils	..	..	33
Fibres	..	..	40
Cinnamon	..	..	15
Gums	..	..	8
Silk	..	..	1

Plumbago (as a product)	..	..	2
Crucibles of plumbago manufactured in London	..	..	7
Elephant tusks	..	..	2
Buffalo horns	..	..	2
Total			<u>384</u>

Today, ie. a 100 years later the Museum's holdings of objects of art, antiquities and anthropology are as follows:-

Art and Antiquities

Jewellery and silverware	..	..	2,006
Coins and currency	..	..	83,405
China and glassware	..	..	365
Ivories	..	..	587
Bronzes	..	..	847
Brassware	..	..	981
Arms and weapons	..	..	950
Betel chewing objects	..	..	350
Textiles	..	..	356
Horn and tortoise objects	..	..	253
Olas and writing material	..	..	135
Wooden and lacquered objects	..	..	156
Wood carvings	..	..	196
Pottery	..	..	1,404
Stone antiquities	..	..	462
Miscellaneous archaeological objects	..	..	331
Ancient steel implements	..	..	347
Paintings	..	..	516
Total			<u>93,647</u>

Anthropology

Masks	..	..	312
Dance objects	..	..	39
Musical objects	..	..	71
Nādagam objects	..	..	27
Agricultural objects	..	..	85
Weights and measures	..	..	63
Craft objects	..	..	543
Industrial objects	..	..	206
Dēvāla objects	..	..	299
Buddhist objects	..	..	82
Medicinal and healing objects	..	..	62
Animal Husbandry	..	..	34

Transport	15
Games	65
Household objects	315
Vedda objects	98
Maldivian objects	296
Dutch furniture	81
Total	<u>2,693</u>

The main area of expansion has been in the numismatic collection which has increased from 499 coins in 1877 to 83,405 coins by 1977. Most of these ancient coins have come to the museum from treasure troves finds, acquisitions under the Antiquities Ordinance and as gifts mainly from the Archaeological Survey, especially during the time of Mr. H. C. P. Bell. It has to be mentioned that the bulk of the Museum's collection of antiquities came to the Museum during the period when Mr. Bell was in charge of the Archaeological Survey. As a matter of fact, this arrangement came as a result of Dr. A. Willey with the consent of the Archaeological Commissioner requesting the government in 1906 to see that the 'finds' in the possession of the Survey are handed over to the Museum. This practice continued until the Archaeological department commenced to establish their own site and regional museums. A certain quantity of valuable material was received through many government officials such as Government Agents and Magistrates. Much material has also been collected by the museum staff, a good quantity received as donations from the public and several items have been purchased.

Some of the important acquisitions during the past 100 years were:-

The Museum received in 1905 at the instance of His Excellency, the Governor a number of facsimile copies in oil colours of the Sigiriya frescoes prepared by Mr. D. A. L. Perera, Draughtsman of the Archaeological department under the direction of the Archaeological Commissioner. During 1906

the Museum received one hundred and eighteen packages from the Archaeological Survey containing a collection of beads, bronzes, iron implements, pottery, stone statuettes, stone work, small carved wood-work etc. In 1907 further finds were received by the Museum which included a large stone figure of *Durga* and a plain stone lingam from the Hindu ruins to the north of the town of Anuradhapura. During the same year nearly three hundred objects were purchased amongst which was a ceremonial shuttle ornamented with red lacquer scroll, said to have been granted as a *sannasa* or Royal warrant to a family of Kandyan weavers by the King of Kandy.

From the Archaeological Survey was received in 1908 a magnificent collection of Hindu bronzes from *Śiva Dēvāles* Nos. 1, 2 and 4A, stone images and earthen jars containing human bones, all from Polonnaruva. Mr. Bell was of the opinion that these finds were "of special interest and value archaeologically and as illustrative material of the Hindu cult of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries A.D." while Dr. Willey described them as "highly finished productions, great care being bestowed upon the head-dress in particular." He also stated that some of them "are rich in symbolic detail," and that "in some instances there is a good deal of monotony and repetition but on the other hand some remarkable and uncommon types are represented."

This collection of bronzes which came to be known as the Polonnaruva bronzes consisted of twenty-five objects including statues of *Śiva* as *Naṭarājā*, *Śiva* with his consort *Pārvaṭī*, statues of the apostles of *Śiva* namely *Manikka Vāchaka-Svāmi*, *Chandēsvara*, *Tirugñānasambanda Svāmi*, *Sundara Murti Svāmi*, etc. In addition there were also twenty-four objects of stone and pottery in this collection mostly from *Śiva Dēvāles* Nos. 1, 2, and 4A including several statues of Hindu gods such as *Viṣṇu*, *Gaṇesa* and of the

Goddess *Durga*. In 1909 two important collections were acquired. The first was a collection of ninety-one copper, bronze and gold objects and a stone pillar representing the mystic mountain, *Maha-Meru Parvataya*, covered with coloured stucco and carved in seven tiers. This pillar was found facing the cardinal points, the east coloured white, the west dark red (for black), the south yellow (for red) and the north (blue). The second important acquisition was the purchase of the collection of eighty-five objects brought together by Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy in connection with his monograph, "Mediaeval Sinhalese Art." This collection consisted of 15 items of woven cloth, 5 betel bags, 11 objects of woodwork, 22 ivory and horn objects, 30 pieces of metal work and 2 items of jewellery.

During 1911 to 1912 the Archaeological Commissioner gifted to the Museum 26 stone carvings from Anuradhapura and 22 similar objects from Polonnaruwa. Amongst them were a stone stylobate (a basement of square building with elephant heads), a large urinal, a stone door frame, a *siripatula* stone, a guardstone, a *makara* gargoyle, sedent Buddha statuettes, statues of Hindu gods, pillar capitals etc.

Amongst the items purchased in 1915 is an old Kandyan Royal bed said to have belonged to King *Śrī Vikrama Rāja Simha*, the last king of Kandy. An important collection of treasure trove 'finds' was received during the same period from the Government Agent, Matara found in an earthen pot buried amongst old ruins at Dondra (Southern Province). Amongst them were a brass figure of *Prajāpatī Brahma* with four arms (height 9 1/4 in.), a bronze incense burner, one copper figure of seated *Pārvatī*, four *Gaṇeśa* figures made of soapstone, one double figure of *Śiva* and *Pārvatī*, also of soapstone and two lingams.

The most outstanding donation received in 1919 was that of a Buddhist crystal seal weigh-

ing 229 grains from Mr. H. C. P. Bell. The seal bears on to the left a well-drawn bo-tree and to the right a *dāgāba*. During the same year the Museum received sixteen copies of the paintings at Demala Maha Sāya, Polonnaruwa executed by Mr. W. M. Fernando and these were exhibited. A copy of the fresco at Hiṇḍagala, Peradeniya, of about the 5th or 6th Century A.D. was also made by Mr. W. M. Fernando for the Museum. Subsequently the original fresco was destroyed by a forest fire and this copy now serves as the "original."

In 1922 Mr. H. Engelbrecht, Game Warden gifted to the Museum a brass seal with characters in Vatteluttu. The seal carries a figure of *Mahishasuramardani* killing the demon, *Mahishasura* and on palaeographical grounds the seal is attributed to the 9th century A.C. Another collection received in 1922 was from Mr. H. C. P. Bell and consisted of 39 archaeological objects from Gan (Haddummaati Atoll), Maldives Islands which included finials, a Buddha face, a sedent image of the Buddha, ornamental carvings, pillar capitals, a teli, one of the flattened orbs of a *dāgāba* pinnacle (Gan Island *Dāgāba*) and a Bodhisattva crown ornamental piece.

Among the 32 items acquired in 1923 were the drawing showing the first stage coach on the Colombo-Kandy run in 1832, entering the main gate, Fort purchased from Miss van Dort and a jacket and a portion of cloth believed to have belonged to the last king of Kandy and purchased from Mr. H. B. Andris of Trincomalee Street, Kandy. Two statues (1), an ancient copper *Maitreya* Buddha and (2), a brass statue of *Osiris* were presented to the Museum by Dr. W. Y. Evans-Wentz. These two statues were stated to have been found buried a few feet away from the site of the old Rambukpota Walauwa which was burnt down by the British regiment during the rebellion of 1815 and were discovered by Mr. P. B. Rambukpota in 1910 who presented them to Mr. Evans-Wentz. In 1925, 200

objects were acquired by the Museum including five copies of paintings of ancient frescoes from Anuradhapura, Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa, painted and presented by Mr. H. W. Seaton Kerr and a wooden statue of seated Buddha under the canopy of the hood of *Muchalinda Nāga*, during the sixth week after enlightenment.

In 1929 the Museum acquired the carnelian seal which was figured by Parker in his book, 'Ancient Ceylon.' This seal is considered to belong to the 3rd Century B.C. and was discovered in Yatāla Dāgāba at Tissamaharama in 1894. This seal was presented to Mr. Parker by the Buddhist Society and he handed it over to the Manchester Museum, England. The Colombo Museum obtained this seal in exchange for several Ceylon objects through the good offices of Dr. Carpenter, the Director of the Manchester Museum. It is considered that this seal was set in a ring that was deposited in the relic chamber of the dāgāba. During the same year another carnelian seal was found near the 5 1/2 mile post on the Outer Circular Road, Anuradhapura and was acquired. This seal depicts a figure of a female carrying flowers. In 1929 six copies in oil colours of frescoes of the Northern Temple, Polonnaruwa were received.

Amongst the purchases made in 1932 there were an antique gold chunam box studded with gems, said to have belonged to Dehigama Nilame to whose family it is said to have been given as a Royal gift by king *Kirtī Śrī Rāja Simha* (1747-1780), a large gold medal presented by the Dutch Governor, Willem Jacob van de Graff to Nicolas Dias Abeysinge, Maha Mudaliyar, on May 31st, 1785 as a reward for his proved loyalty to the Dutch East India Company and a silver medal, A.D. 1795/96 granted by the East India Company to certain of its troops who participated in the British Military operations. During 1932 numerous finds from Tirukkētīśvaram, Seruvila, Talgasvāva (N.C.P.), Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa and from Kurunāgala

were received from the Archaeological Commissioner.

On 23rd September, 1934 the throne of the last kings of Kandy and the crown of the last king of Kandy which since his deposition in 1815 had rested at Windsor Castle were returned to Sri Lanka and handed over to the Governor on behalf of the people by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester on behalf of His Majesty, the King of Great Britain, at the Audience Hall, King's Pavilion. These Royal objects came subsequently to be deposited at the Colombo Museum.

Among the other objects acquired by the Museum in 1934 were an inscribed copper plaque of about the 9th or 10th Century, found buried at Pugallegama, about four miles from the Kalawewa railway station, a carnelian seal said to have been picked up in a garden at Horana engraved with standing figures and of about the 5th or 6th Century A.C., and considered to be the best among the old carnelian seals so far found in the island, two brass statues of the Buddha, two fragments of a miniature dāgāba found at Tirukkovil, Batticaloa, the Karunaratne collection of twenty-eight antiques, the Symon's collection of twelve objects and forty-five objects belonging to the Bidell collection.

The Museum received on 10th September, 1936 the sceptre, the ceremonial sword and the cross belt of the last king of Kandy, *Śrī Vikrama Rāja Simha* by the command of His Majesty, King Edward VIII. During the same year a gun, considered to have been in the armoury of the last king of Kandy was purchased through the Ceylon Trade Representative in England, Sir Paul E. Pieris. During the same year two bronze figures, one of Buddha and the other of *Padmapānī* or *Avalokīteśvara*, 8th to 10th Century, which were found at Buduruvegala dāgāba, Vāllavāya were received from the Police Magistrate, Haldumulla. Among the coins and

seals acquired in 1936 was an elliptical seal with the emblem of a couchant bull.

A statue of sedent Buddha carved out of gneiss, probably of the 14th Century found in the jungle at Indaganawa, Valasmulla was acquired in 1937. One of the most noteworthy acquisitions made this year was the purchase of an old copy of *Cullavagga* of about the 13th Century A.C. (ie. in the reign of king *Parākramabāhu* II). Other acquisitions in 1937 included a hoard of mediaeval Sinhalese gold coins from Galpottagama, Anuradhapura, a treasure trove from Midellawela, Mirigama and several items of woodwork, arms, jewellery and silverware, ivory, brassware, bronzes, China and glassware, cloth, pottery and a number of other miscellaneous objects.

Among the important objects acquired in 1938 were a carved ivory fan-handle purchased from a famous Collector in England and which he had secured from Thailand—probably an article gifted to the Siamese temple by king *Kīrti Śrī Rāja Simha*, a copper-plate grant issued in the 5th year of king *Bhuvanāikabāhu* VII of Kōṭṭe (1521-1551 A.C.) unearthed under a foundation of a house at Mabima, near the 10th mile post on the Kālaniya-Biyagama road, 542 objects from Mr. A. R. Cassie Lebbe of Kandy purchased for Rs. 10,000 and a large collection of Sri Lanka and Maldivian antiques which belonged to the Late Mr. H. C. P. Bell, purchased for Rs. 2,000.

Two important collections of drawings and paintings referring to Sri Lanka were acquired in 1939. The first was the King Church collection, which appears to have been got together by Major King during the early years of the 19th Century and contained 116 items. The most important among them is the sketch in ink and pencil representing Adigar Āhālapola and two other Adigars in conference with John D'Oyly at the Magul Maduwa on 19th March 1815. The second collection was presented by Mr. C. S. Vaughan and consisted

of twenty seven drawings by Mrs. Wodehouse. A unique Sinhala cloth measuring 64 in. by 131 in. showing representations of the Buddha attacked by *Māra*, an assembly of 34 figures paying obeisance to Buddha, the Vessantara Jātaka and what probably appears to be the Deer Jātaka was acquired in 1939. During the same year eighty-four objects of stucco, terra-cotta, coral sculpture, clay and bronze from Anuradhapura, Mihintale, Polonnaruwa, Tirukkēṭṭisvaram, Katugampola and Seruvila were transferred to the Colombo Museum by the Archaeological department. In 1940 the Museum acquired a sedent female bronze statuette of Goddess *Tārā*, found in the bank of a stream at Talam-pitiya near Kurunāgala, a large gold medal dated 1804 presented by Governor North, 200 sketches of J. K. L. van Dort and three copies of Polonnaruwa frescoes by Mr. S. Katchadourina. The Museum received as gifts in 1948 a gold watch from Major T. F. Jayawardena said to have been a gift of the King of Holland to the last king of Kandy and presented to Mudaliyar Don Adrian Jayawardena in 1915 and a carved ebony chair said to have been used in the palace at Kandy by king *Śrī Vikrama Rāja Simha* when receiving visitors. It is said that when the Palace was sacked in 1815 the chair is believed to have been removed by Mr. William Boyd who is reported to have often seen it used by the king.

The Museum is also grateful to Sir Paul E. Pieris for the gift to the museum of a collection of paintings and objects made in 1949 valued at Rs. 38,000. This collection consists of the following:-

- i. One large original mediaeval oil painting showing king, *Kīrti Śrī Rāja Simha*'s Ambassador being received in Colombo by the officers of the Netherland Company who negotiated the Treaty of 1766;
- ii. one water colour painting of an elephant kraal by an unknown artist,

once the property of Sir Alexander Jhonstone, Chief Justice, Circa 1818;

- iii. one oil painting showing Buddhist monks in England with the Revd. D. Adam Clarke, painted by Alexander Mosses of Liverpool, 1816;
- iv. 28 water colour views of Sri Lanka by Andrew Nicholl (1848-1850);
- v. a floral pattern handblock printed *uduviyan* (ceiling cloth);
- vi. an antique match-lock or *gini-tuvak-kuva* which is considered to be the only specimen known of this type of jingal and
- vii. a large illustration on paper bearing the watermark of 1805, of the early conception of the universe, prepared probably by a scholar from Matara for Sir Alexander Jhonstone.

In 1949 the Museum also acquired a flint lock gun from the Irish Government which is said to have belonged to the armoury of the last king of Kandy, four clay votive tablets inscribed with Mahayana Tantric Texts found in the remains of a *dāgāba* near Attaragallawa, originally known as Pilammana where *Parākramabāhu* I spent his childhood from Mr. R. T. Samarasinghe, an octagonal clay tablet with incised incantations along the margin and a square talisman in the centre found buried in a pot under the foundation of an old house built about 150 years ago at Waragoda, Kālaniya from Mrs. J. R. Jayewardene and two historical maps of Anuradhapura and another of Polonnaruva from the Surveyor General, Colombo.

Among the notable acquisitions in 1950 were the gift of a water colour drawing on paper of a Moorish doctor, "Miera Lebbe Mestriar Sekadie Maricar," by Sir Paul E. Pieris, the purchase of a gold filigreedish of King *Śrī Vikrama Rāja Simha* and an old Sinhalese map drawn on cloth of the Elahera area, considered to be one of the oldest of such maps. The filigree gold dish under

reference is said to have been removed by a soldier from the Palace when it was sacked by the British in 1815 and presented to Sir Robert Brownrigg, then Governor of Ceylon and later became an heirloom of the family of Miss E. Pennyfeather of Dorset, England from whom it was purchased. It is said that a similar dish is found among the treasures in the Temple of the Tooth, Kandy and is a gift of the King of Thailand.

In 1952 the Museum purchased three *Sittara* paintings on wooden boards. Two important donations were received in 1956 namely (1), a collection of gold and silver gilt miscellaneous archaeological objects donated by Lord Stanmore and (2), a gift of a collection of eighty-one items including coins and jewellery which belonged to the Late Dr. Andreas Nell by Mr. T. Clementi Smith, Colombo. In 1958 the Museum received several donations amongst which the gift by Mr. James de Alwis of 11, Sumner Place, Colombo of a large ornamented wooden box which served as a coffer in which king *Śrī Vikrama Rāja Simha*'s crown jewels were kept was the most noteworthy.

Two notable acquisitions were made in 1965. The first was a bronze statuette of standing *Samantabhadra* of about the 5th Century A.C. from Giridara, Dompe. The second was a pierced ivory fan (probably Indian). In 1966 the Museum purchased a circular brass tray depicting the tragedy that befell the family of Adigar Āhālapola and in 1967 the Museum received as gifts from Mr. R. A. V. de Mel Colombo three items of Sri Lanka antique furniture belonging to the Victorian period consisting of a mirrored wardrobe, a dressing table and a large bed made by master-craftsmen of Moratuwa for the Late Mr. Bastian Fernando. During the same year 154 masks were purchased from the Arts Council of Ceylon. In 1969 the Museum purchased twenty-three Vedda Objects used by the Veddas of Dimbulagala, Dambana and Soroboravāva, thirty-one tools and instru-

ments used in lac-work industry at Palle Hapuvinda, twenty wood carvings from Embekkegama and thirty four moulds and tools used in goldsmithery from Neelawela.

A dagger was received in 1970 as a gift from Mr. G. L. Suriya Bandara of Gampola made out of a shell case found at Cocos Island supposed to have been a part of a shell fired at the German destroyer, 'Emden,' during World War I. In 1970 the Museum also purchased 23,305 ancient coins and old notes for Rs. 80,000 from Dr. E. S. G. Hettiarachchi of the Sri Lanka, University. An old palanquin was acquired in 1972 from Rev. Sri Dhammadinna Saranapāla Thero of Mudalindārāmaya, Maduwanwela, Kolonne.

Two Stueben glass objects, one with the figure of goddess *Tara* by Mr. L. T. P Manjusri and the other of "Bodhisattva giving away his wife," by Mr. George Keyt were received as gifts from the Ministry of Education.

In 1974 the Museum purchased nine large Bali paintings on cloth painted by the Late Mr. J. E. Sederaman of Boralesgamuva and a Sath Korale flag with a lion figure at the centre surrounded by 14 stars and a brass lamp with a cylindrical oil container from Mr. J. Medavela of Kurunāgala.

In 1976 the Museum received as a gift a *kastāna* sword which belonged to the Late Veda Mudaliyar W. Daniel Fernando Waidyasekara of Panadura from his daughter Mrs. W. Nansi de Silva of 16, Dickmans Lane, Colombo and a nearly eight-feet high Bodhisattva stone figure from the Government Agent, Vavuniya. Several other antiques and anthropological material were also collected by the staff.

The first appointment as Ethnologist was made in 1937 with the appointment of Lt. Commander J. R. de la H. Marett. He initiated and carried out a Physical Anthropological Survey and was assisted by Dr. Nanda-

deva Wijesekara who joined the Museum as the Probationer in Ethnology in September 1937. When Lt. Commander Marett was recalled to the Navy with the outbreak of hostilities Dr. Wijesekara acted as the Assistant in Ethnology. The findings of this survey were later studied by Mr. H. Stoudt of Harvard University under Professor E. H. Hunt Jr. and was subsequently published by the department. Dr. M. D. Raghavan joined the Museum as the Assistant in Ethnology in 1946 and was succeeded in 1957 by Mr. C. M. Austin de Silva who served in this capacity until he was appointed Assistant Director in 1965. Mr. U. A. Gunasekara joined the Museum as the Second Assistant in Ethnology in 1951 but left the department to join the Sri Lanka University in 1965. The present Assistant in Ethnology is Mr. S. Lakdusinghe who received his appointment in 1970.

The Anthropological division was created in 1967 and was placed under Dr. S. P. F. Senaratne, the Assistant in Anthropology. With Dr. Senaratne becoming the Assistant Director the vacancy was filled by Mr. P. Endagama in 1972.

Museum's Scientific Collections

Three scientific divisions have functioned from the inception of the Museum. These are Zoology, Entomology and Geology which included mineralogy and palaeontology.

The Botanical division was created in 1975.

i. Zoological Division

From the inception until the appointment of an Assistant in Zoology in 1951 the work in the Zoological division was in charge of the Taxidermist and supervised by the Directors who were zoologists and assisted by the Marine Biologists who were attached to the Museum. After 1904, the Director also functioned as the Government Marine Biologist. The bulk of the marine collection came to the Museum during the period of the Marine Biological Survey while the museum

researches and collections were concentrated on the terrestrial vertebrates especially on reptiles, birds and mammals of Sri Lanka. The zoological collections of the Museum in 1877 were as follows:-

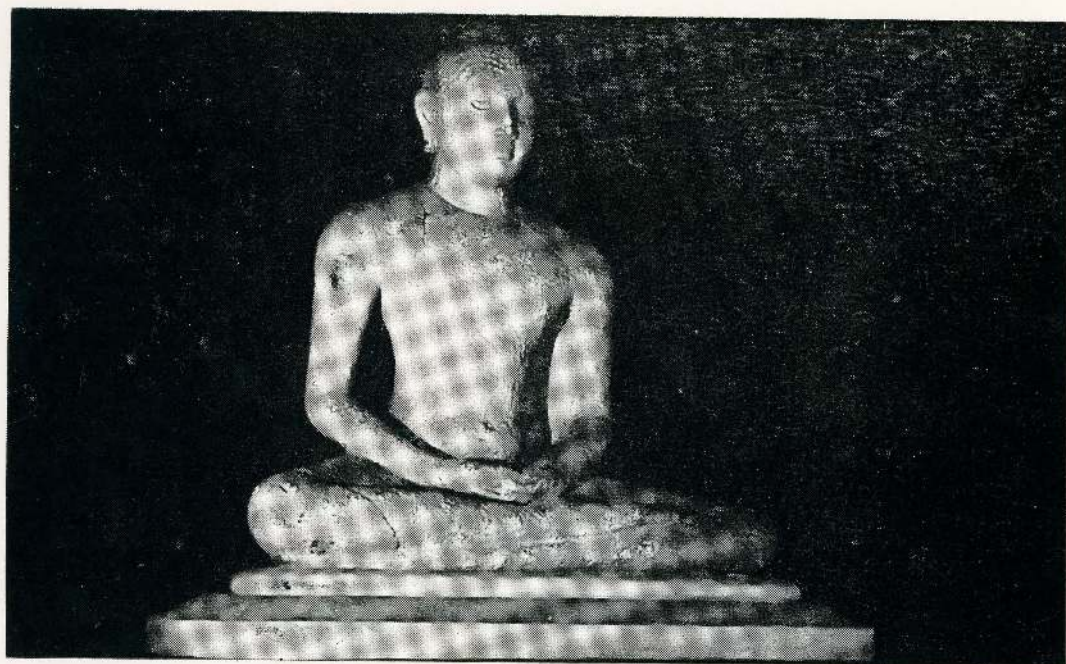
- a. *Mollusca*—Total 1859 specimens. Of these 693 were received as a gift from the Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch and 230 as a gift from Sir C. P. Layard. 936 shells were purchased from Trincomalee.
- b. Other Invertebrates—The only specimens were a few corals gifted by the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society and a few Crustaceans collected by the Museum staff.
- c. *Pisces*—a small collection.
- d. *Amphibia*—220 specimens received largely from Messrs W. Ferguson and Thwaites.
- e. *Aves*—1036 specimens of birds, 263 eggs of birds and also 23 nests. A good portion of this collection was received from the Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch.

The first twenty-seven years i.e. the entire period of service of the first Director was spent in increasing the collections and exhibits and on research connected with methods on their preparation, conservation and exhibition. In 1881 a skeleton of a porpoise and young of the same species were collected from off Colombo and a specimen of the largest of the oceanic reptiles namely, the Leathery turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*, caught at Mutwal were procured for the museum. In 1885 a larger part of the skull of a whale, cervical vertebrae, scapulae, some ribs and vertebrae of a Blue Whale washed ashore at Weligama were secured. The Museum successfully mounted a 7' 5" long *Dermochelys coriacea* which was presented by Mr. C. H. de Soysa. In 1898 Messrs E. E. Green and W. Ferguson presented to the Museum a representative collection of frogs collected from Horton

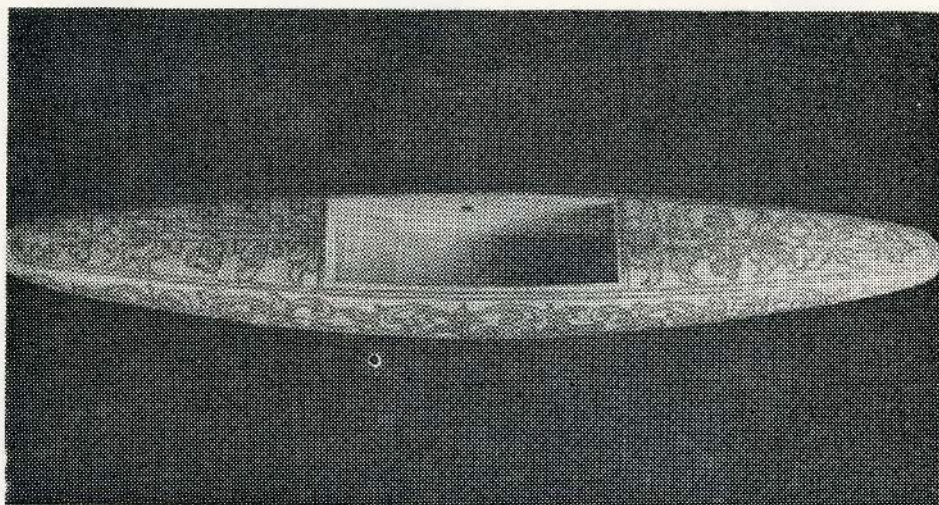
Plains, Dickoya, Balangoda etc. Parts of a Sperm Whale washed ashore on the south coast of Mannar were secured for the Museum in 1899. To the *Cetacea* collection was added a fine skeleton of the porpoise, *Pseudorca crassidens* purchased by Dr. Spence.

In 1893 the Taxidermist procured for the Museum a male, a female and young specimens of Dugong and in the following year the entire skeleton of a seventy-five feet long Fin whale, *Balaenoptera physalus* which was washed ashore at Ambalangoda. During the same year a collection of shells which belonged to Sir C. P. Layard was gifted to the Museum. A small collection of *Foraminifera* obtained at a depth of two fathoms at Kalpitiya belonging to 21 genera and 31 species collected by Mr. H. B. Brady, F.R.S. was also received. In 1901 through the assistance of the Government Agent of the Northern Province an elephant skull with tusks measuring 5 ft. 2 in. and 4 ft. 4 in. was procured. Dr. Haly retired in 1901 and was succeeded by Dr. A. Willey in 1902 and for the first time in 1904 he commenced to publish a Research Bulletin of the Museum, *Spolia Zeylanica*, thus expanding the activities of the Museum from collection to research and publications.

In 1902 a valuable collection of Sri Lanka land shells which belonged to the Late Mr. Oliver Collett, Binoya was purchased for Rs. 2000/-. In 1904 a Lesser Frigate bird, *Fregata ariel*, which was blown to the coast at Mutwal was sent to the Museum by the Resident Engineer of the Colombo Harbour Works. A collection of corals presented to the Museum by Captain Donovan and Mr. James Hornell was identified by Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner in 1905. During the same year the Taxidermist collected a number of rare migratory birds from Mannar. The Director, Dr. A. Willey's monograph on the *Polychaeta* of Sri Lanka collected by Professor Herdman in 1902 was completed and published in Professor Herdman's 'Ceylon Pearl Oyster Report.' In 1906



Limestone (Dolomite) Sedent Statue of Buddha from Toluila,
Anuradhapura. About 5th Century A.C.



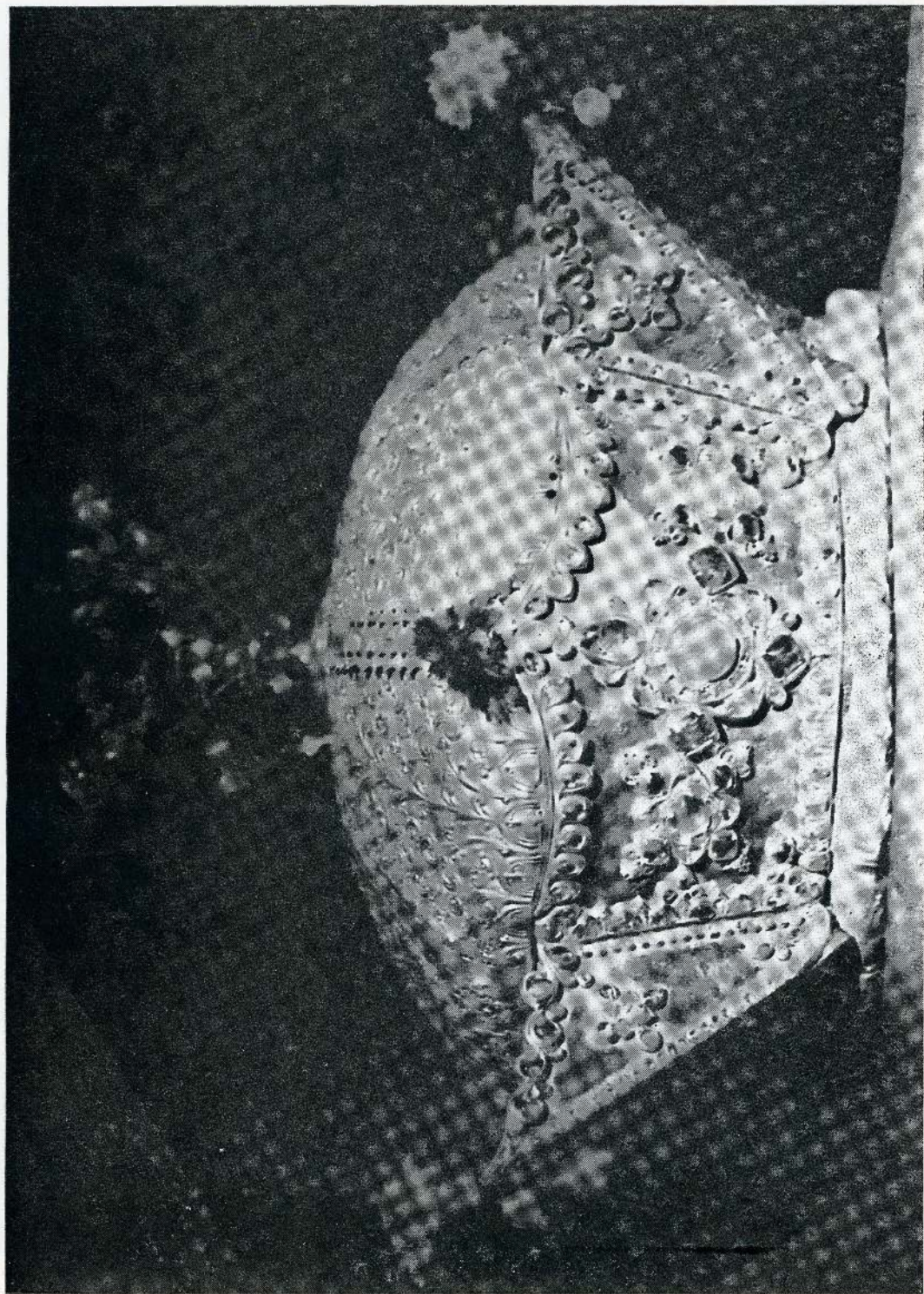
A Ceremonial Ivory Shuttle ornamented with Red Lacquer Scroll,
said to have been granted as a *Sannasa* to a Family of Weavers by
the King of Kandy.



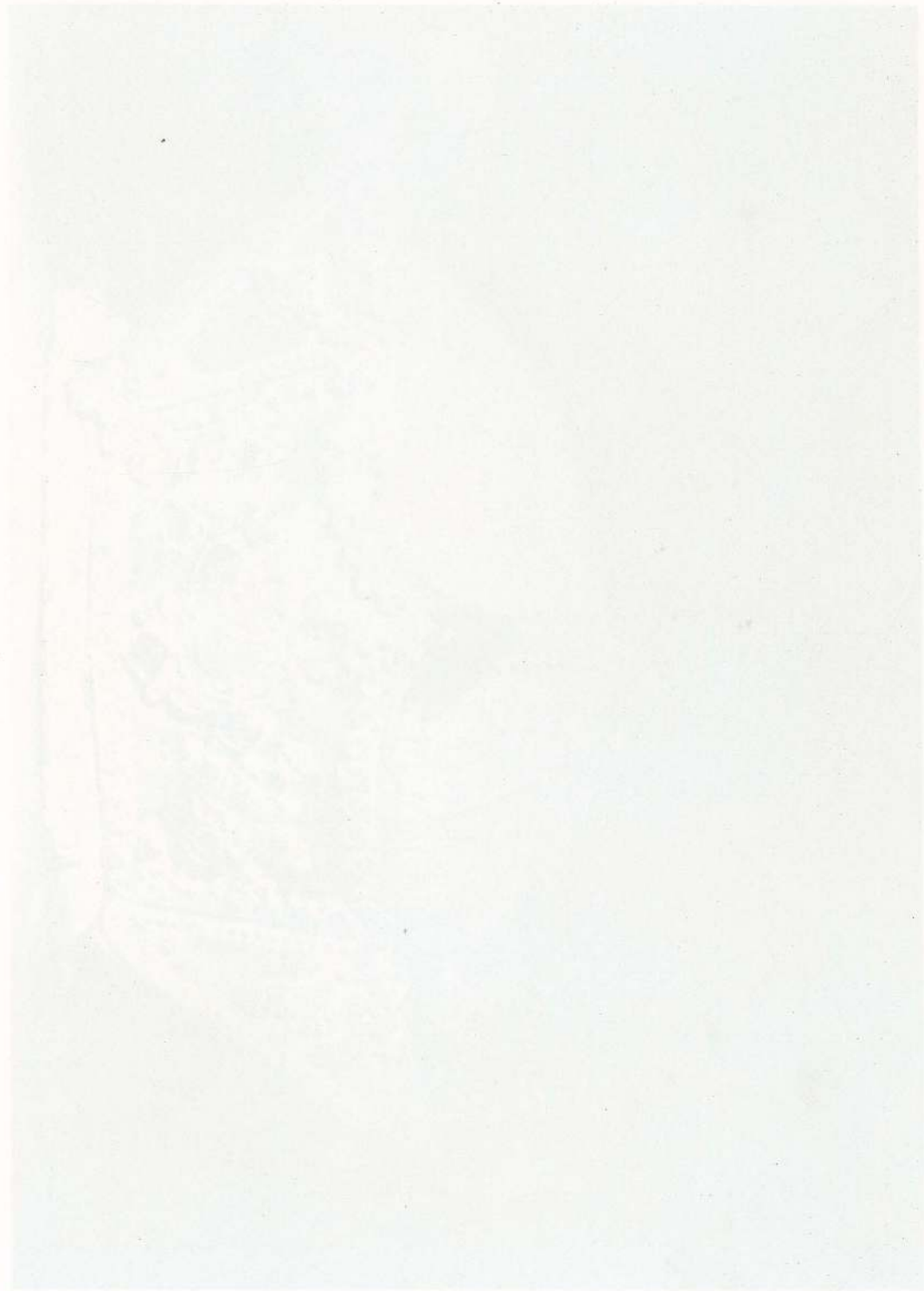


Sundaramurti Svāmi, a 12th Century Bronze from *Śiva Dēvāle*,
Polonnaruva.





Crown of King *Śrī Vikrama Rāja Simha*.

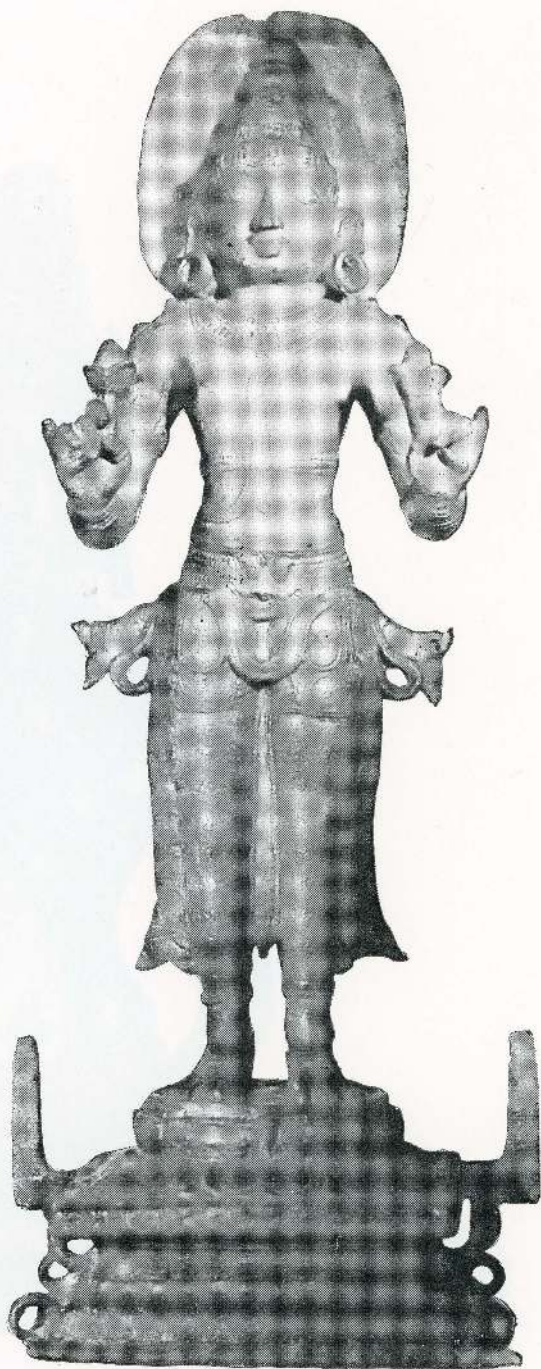




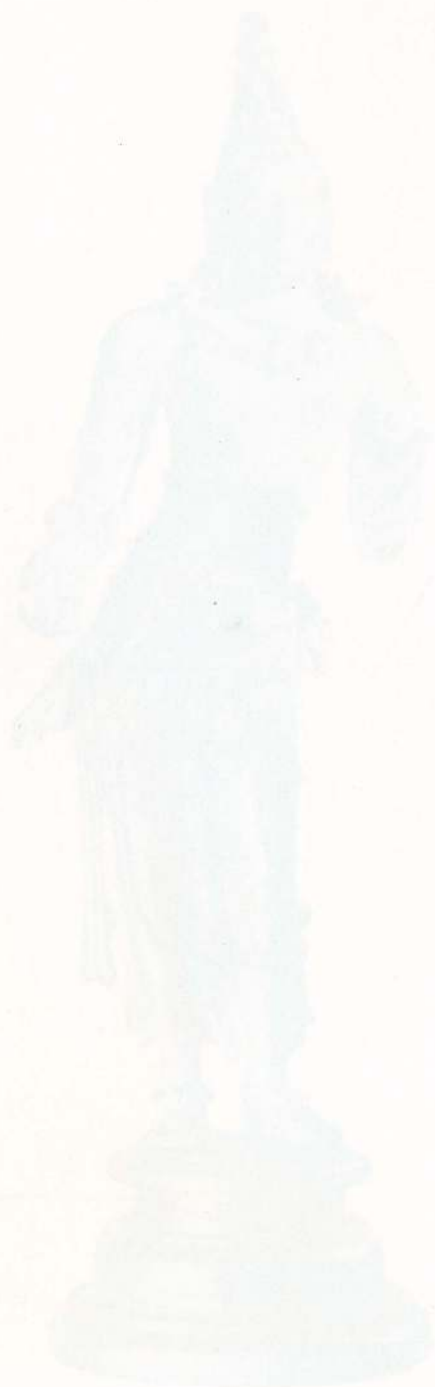
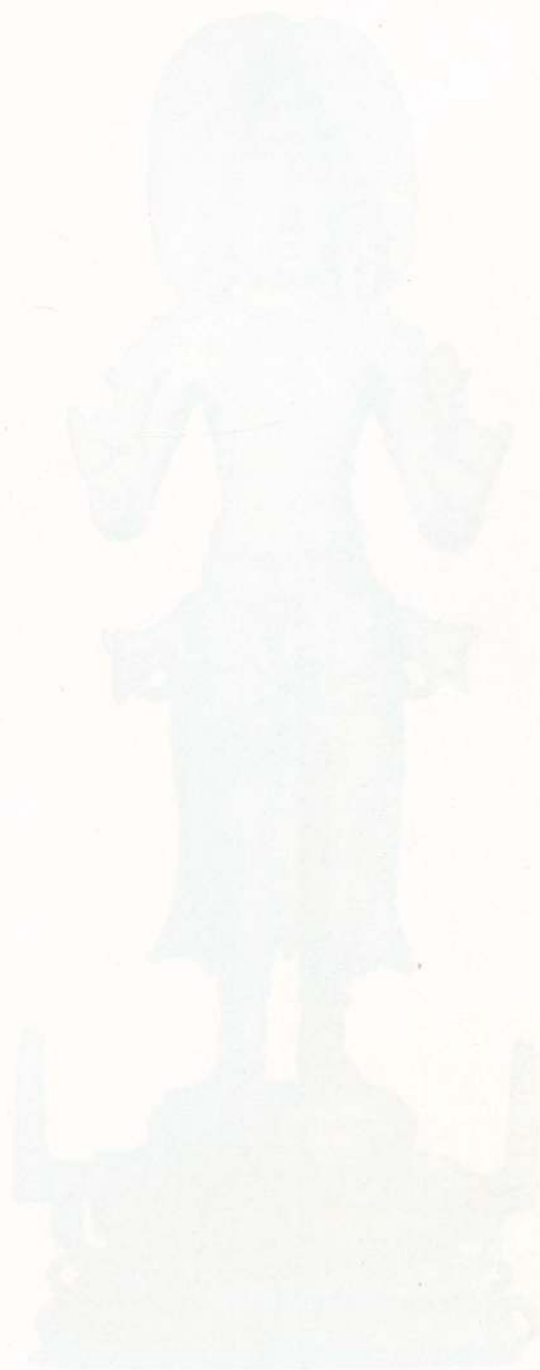
Throne and Footstool of the Last Kings of Kandy.
A Gift of the Dutch Governor Thomas van Rhee in 1693 A.C.
to King *Vimala Dharma Sūriya II*.



Bodhisattva Maitreya, a 5th Century
Bronze from Anuradhapura.



Sūrya, the Sun God, a 12th Century
Bronze from Polonnaruwa.





Goddess *Tārā*, Consort of Bodhisattva Avalokitésvara,
about 5th or 6th Century A.C. of Silver and Brass from the
Kurunegala District.



Illustration of a seated Buddha figure, likely a Bodhisattva, with a tall, pointed headdress (mukuta) and a serene expression. The figure is shown from the front, seated in a meditative posture (Padmasana) on a wide, flat base.



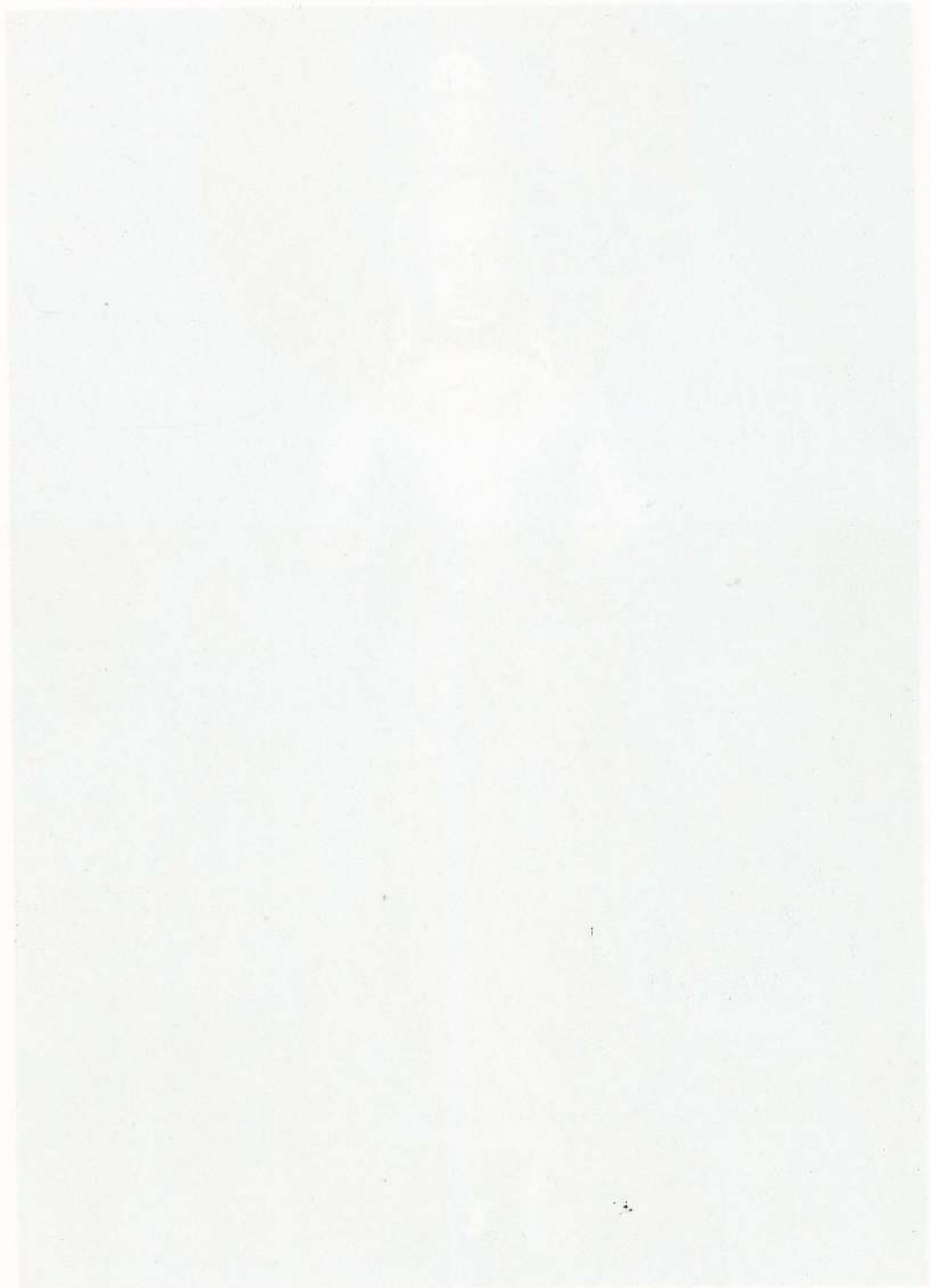
Bodhisattva *Avalokiteśvara* (*Lokēśvara Nātha*) a 5th or 6th Century A.C. Bronze
from Buduruvegala, Vāllavāya.



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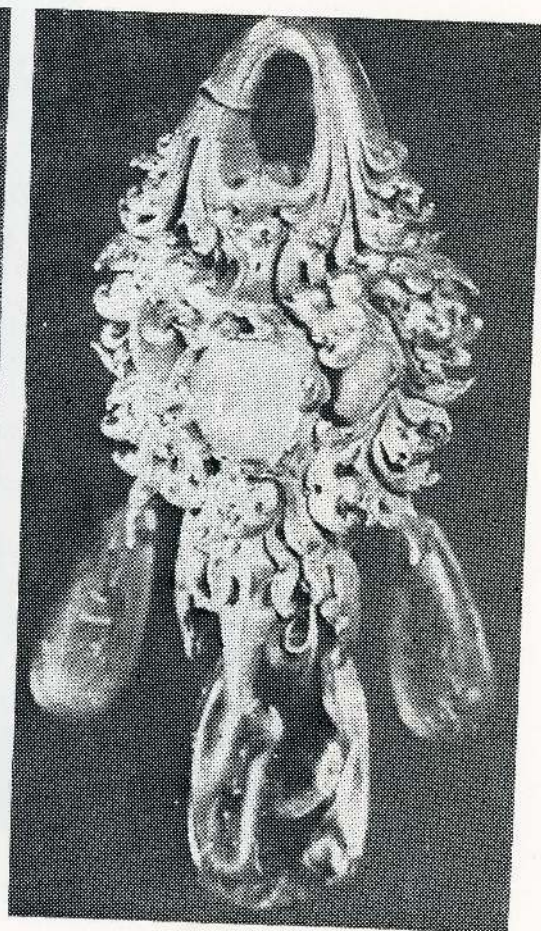
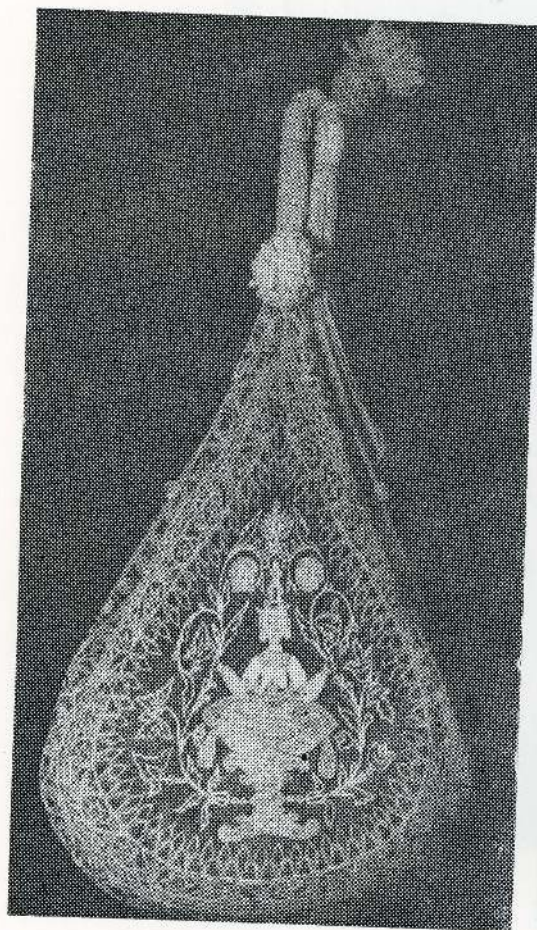
Samantabhadra, a 5th Century A.C. Bronze Statue from Giridara, Dompe.



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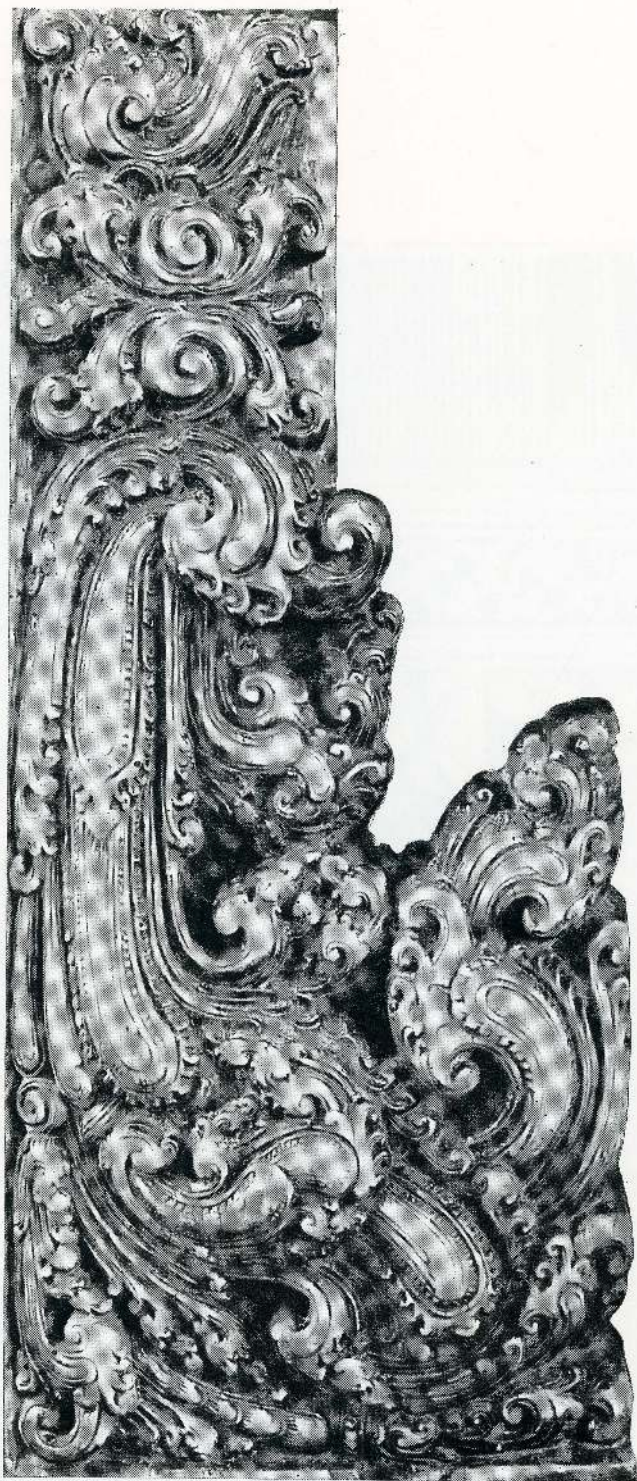


A 3rd Century B.C. Seal from Yatāla Dāgāba, Tissamaharama.



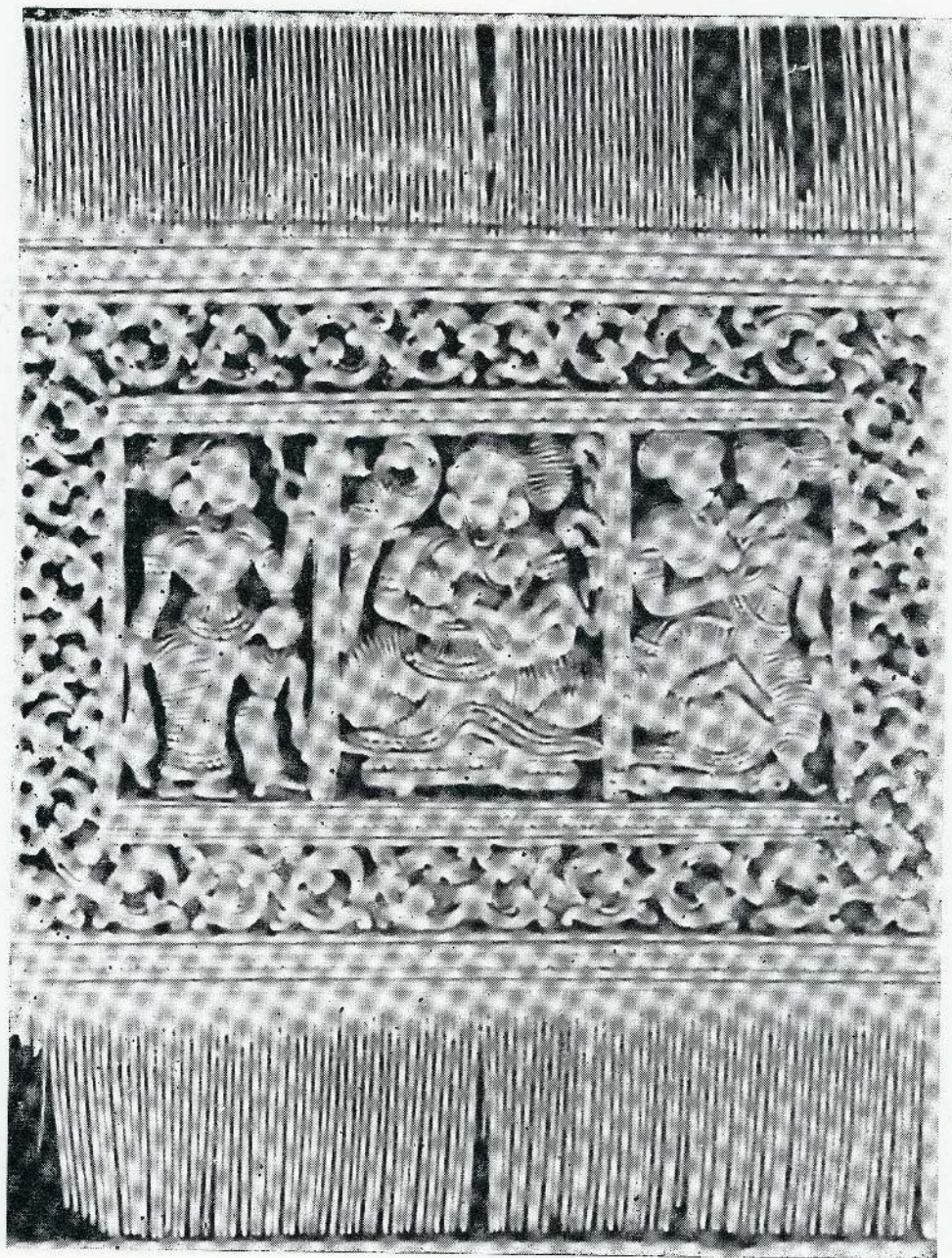
An Embroidered Betel Bag—
18th or 19th Century

A Gold earring from Sigiriya,
5th Century A.C.



A carved Ivory Door Jamb, 18th or 19th Century A.C.





A Carved and Perforated Ivory Comb, 18th or 19th Century A.C.



A. Front and Elevation of the Temple of the Sun at Karnak, Egypt.

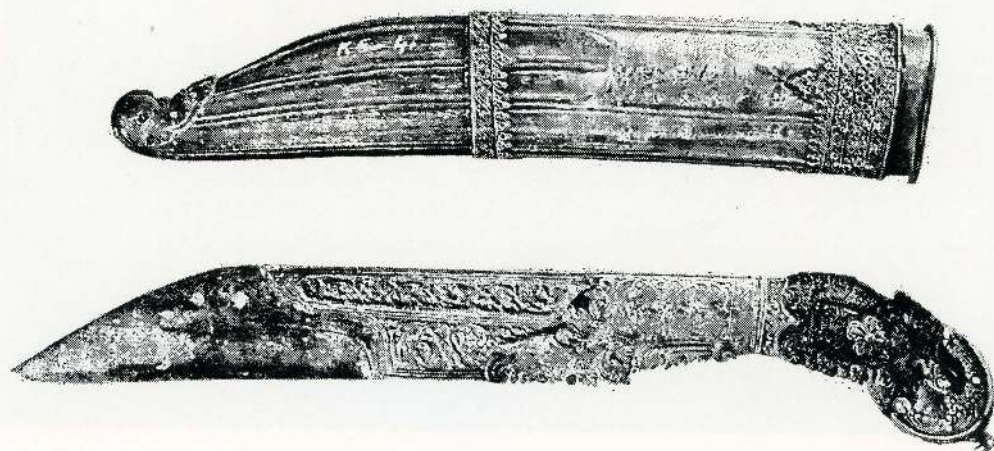


A Carved Ivory Statue of Buddha, 18th or 19th Century A.C.

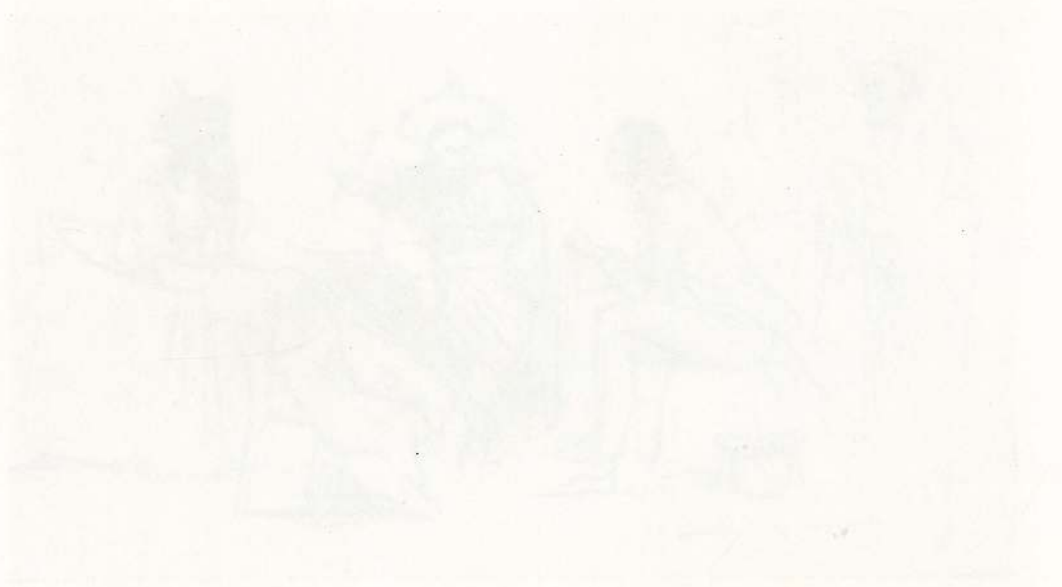




A Sketch in Ink and Pencil Showing Adigar Āhālēpola and Two Other Adigars in Conference with Sir John D'Oyly at the Magul Maduwa on 19th March 1815. From the King Church Collection.



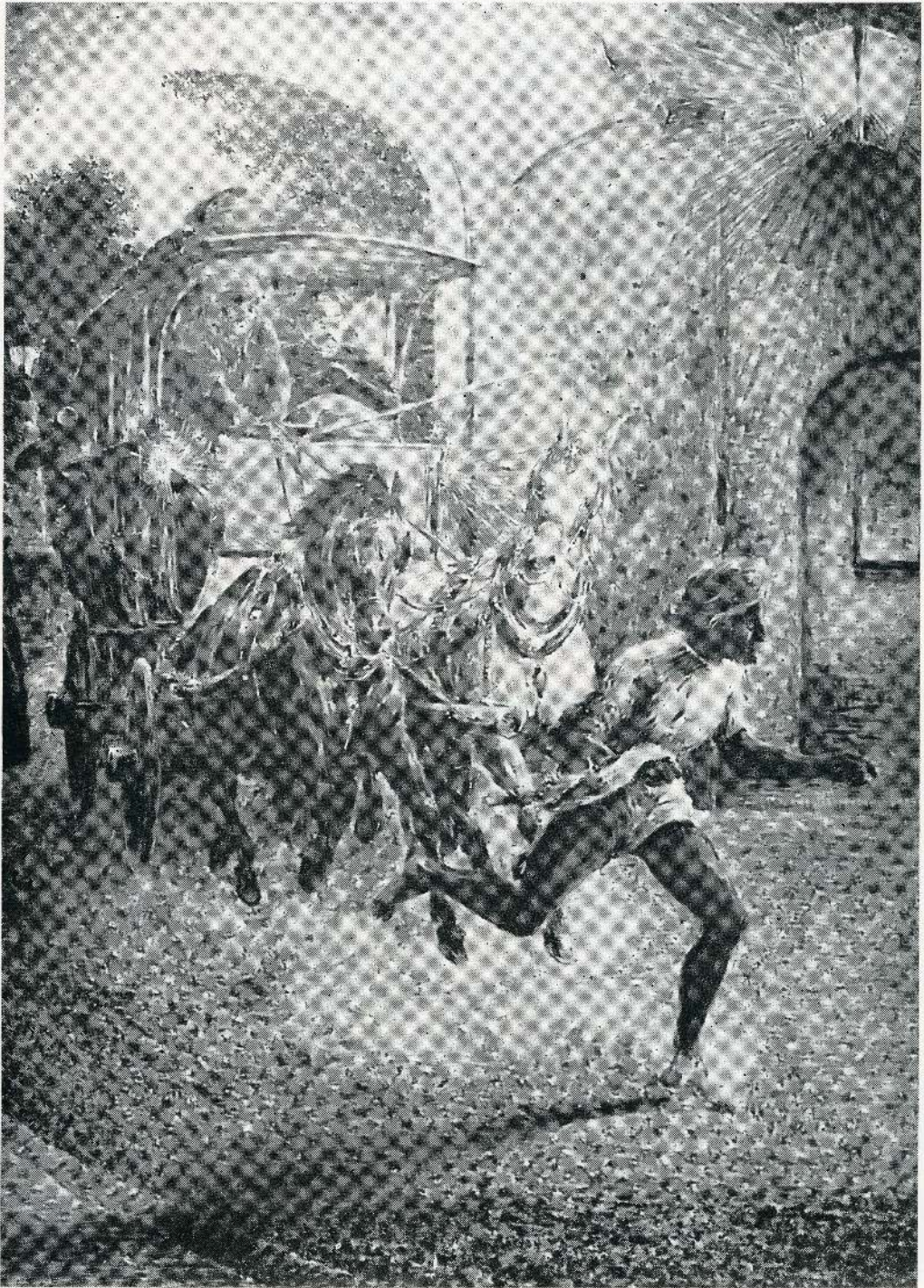
18th or 19th Century A.C. Kandyen Dagger and Sheath.



A group of men and women standing before a large building. The building has a central tower and several smaller structures on either side. The group consists of about ten people, some standing and some kneeling. The scene is set in a landscape with a few trees and a body of water in the background.



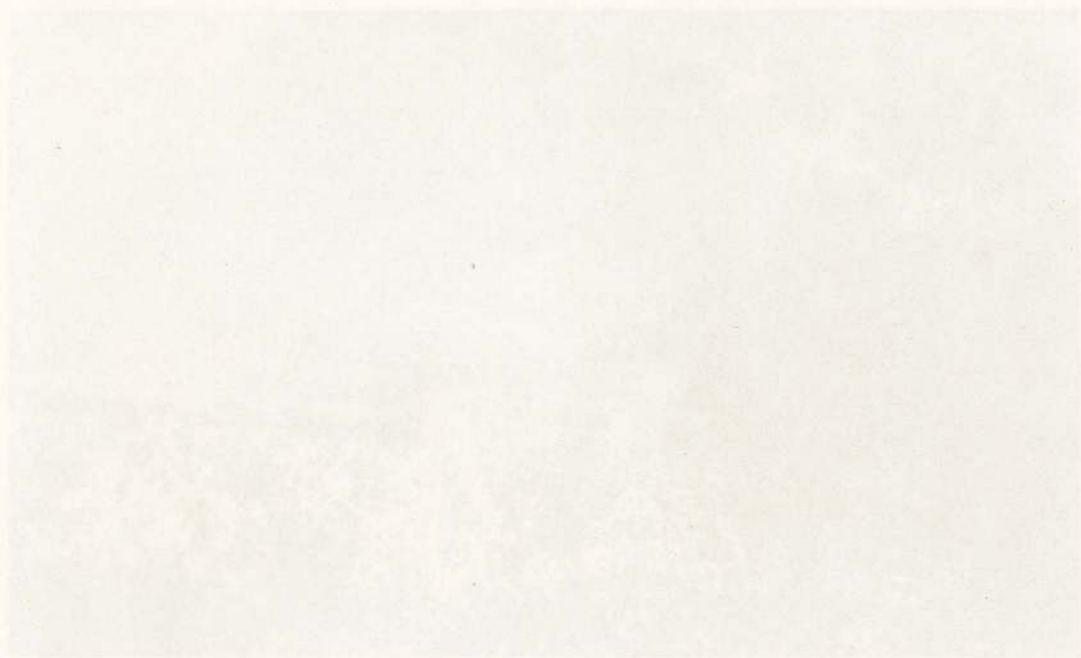
THE TITAN



The First Stage Coach on the Colombo - Kandy Run Entering the Main Gate, Colombo Fort, in 1832.



Family of Mr. J. H. Smith, 1907. (The photograph is a reproduction of the original in the collection of the Noolaham Foundation.)



A group of people, possibly a family, standing outdoors in a rural setting. (The photograph is a reproduction of the original in the collection of the Noolaham Foundation.)

the Director with the Taxidermist collected nearly a hundred species of birds, many of which were peculiar to the island, from Hakgala, Haputale, Balangoda, Ratnapura, and Avissawella and during the same year the Taxidermist was able to procure from Hatakala, Hambantota and Tissamaharama seventy birds belonging to 29 species.

A Tropic bird, *Phaethon flavirostris*, was procured from the Anuradhapura district probably blown off its course during the Batticaloa cyclone in March 1907. It is an oceanic bird breeding on Christmas Island and other places. The Taxidermist and his staff continued to make regular field trips to the jungles in various parts of the island and successfully procured a large number of birds and mammals.

During 1912 and 1913 the Museum Taxidermist, Mr. H. F. Fernando and his staff assisted Major Mayor of the Bombay Natural History Society in a study of the mammals of Sri Lanka helping him also in collecting many study specimens. A foetus of an elephant was received from Mr. W. T. Mapitigama of Avissawella and was exhibited. In 1915 a seven-foot long Pigmy Sperm whale, *Kogia breviceps*, washed ashore at Moratuwa was obtained through the assistance of Mr. J. B. N. Jayasinghe. This is the first record of this species off Sri Lanka and its skeleton was prepared for exhibition. During the same year Mr. H. F. Fernando, the Museum Taxidermist assisted Mr. W. E. Wait who was working on Sri Lanka birds and procured for his study 36 birds belonging to 30 species. The museum also received in 1915 a specimen of the rare species, *Ichthyophis monochrous* collected at Pattipola from Mr. F. H. Graveley of the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

During 1916 two scientists namely Rev. P. T. Cash on Arachnids and Professor C. A. Kofoid on flagellates worked at the Museum. During the same year the museum received the skull and the skin of the Bottle-nosed Dolphin, *Tursiops tursio*, through Mr. W. E.

Wait and a very rare migrant, *Anous stolidus* was purchased. During World War I in consequence of retrenchment a greater part of the pre-arranged programme for securing specimens for the museum had to be abandoned. Messrs W. E. Wait and W. A. Cave were at this time preparing a handbook on the birds of the island and the Taxidermist gave much assistance to them. In 1919 Mr. Wait presented the museum with a hitherto unrecorded species of wagtail, *Motacilla alba*. A fine specimen of a Giant wrasse, *Chelinus undulatus*, was mounted and exhibited during this year. By 1920 while Mr. Wait still continued his interest in Sri Lanka birds a new enthusiast, Mr. W. W. A. Phillips was showing a keen interest in the island's mammals. The Taxidermist gave much assistance to them in the field and as a result many specimens of birds and mammals were continuously received from them.

In 1920 Colonel F. Wall, C.M.G., I.C.S. visited the Museum and examined the Museum collection of Sri Lanka snakes. In the course of his studies at the Museum he identified several specimens including a rare snake, *Rhinophis punctatus* collected by Dr. A. Willey at Maradankadawala. This specimen was renamed *R. porrectus* by Col. Wall and was sent to the British Museum (Natural History) to serve as the 'type specimen' of his new species.

In 1934 the Taxidermist and his staff visited the Batticaloa district and collected 203 birds and seven large mammals. During the same year the famous Punani man-eater, the only known man-eating leopard in the island was procured by Mr. Shelton Agar and its skin was presented to the Museum. This skin was subsequently mounted and has been placed on exhibition. In 1926 the Taxidermist assisted Dr. Sturges and during the same year the British Museum (Natural History) returned 232 identified skins of rats and squirrels.

Mr. E. C. Fernando, the Taxidermist sums

up the progress made in the exhibition of Zoological specimens during the past 50 years as follows:

“One of the set-backs during the early years was the prevailing method of stuffing birds and mammals in the field. This continued till the year 1902 when a new method was introduced by Commandant Krantz which involved mounting of mammals on clay covered mannikin. Later on the method of mounting the skin of mammals on papier-mache models was followed.

The method of display was improved continuously. At the commencement the large mammals were mounted on wooden pedestals in the open while the smaller ones were grouped together in a similar way under glass. The birds were set up in rows of perches in glass cases. In 1896 the birds were rearranged so that each pair of birds, male and female, with the nest was fitted on to a block of wood with little artificial ground work. In 1902 Commandant Krantz, a Boer prisoner of war offered his services to the Museum for three months and he improved the display of several mammalian groups remarkably. In 1910 with the completion of the new east wing more exhibition space became available for the display of much more material. The 60' skeleton of the Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) was mounted for exhibition.

Since then greater improvements were made in the exhibition of birds and mammals by more accommodation and modern cases. The collection in 1927 stood at:

Reptiles and amphibians	..	1,620
Birds	..	2,950
Mammals	..	1,160

In 1928 a collection of various snakes were received from Mr. W. W. A. Phillips. In 1929 the Taxidermist was sent to examine a large shoal of whales, *Pseudorca crassidens*, washed ashore near Kayts and 12 skulls and two complete skeletons were collected.

During this time the Zoological division was maintaining a 'Zoo' in the Museum premises and by 1919 had 38 mammals including Sambhur, Spotted-deer, Hog-deer, leopard, bear etc., 151 birds and 2 reptiles, one of which was the Giant Tortoise, *Testudo gigantea*. The Museum 'Zoo' continued to attract a large number of visitors and during 1930 Mr. A. N. Weinman, Secretary and Librarian offered to take a supervisory interest in the live animals. Thus Mr. Weinman was able to improve the quantity and quality of the food with the result the animals were better and healthier looking than before. In 1930 the Museum 'Zoo' had 223 specimens of reptiles, birds and mammals.”

The Museum Taxidermist procured in 1930 a specimen of *Pteromys layardi* not hitherto represented in the Museum collection and also a few specimens of the rare Legge's Flower-pecker, *Acnorhynchus vincens*.

In 1931 at the Museum Zoo an experiment on the hybridization of the Jungle Fowl, *Gallus lafayetti*, was carried out when a pure bred jungle cock was run with a bantam hen of a light brown colour and the resulting progeny studied. 6 bats and three spiny mice collected during a field trip to Kumbalagama in the Nuwara Eliya district on study revealed that these belonged to 3 new species namely *Chaerephon plicatus insularis*, *Kerivoula malpasi* and *Leggadilla fernandoni*. A specimen of the bat, *Scotophilus wroughtoni*, was also collected by the Taxidermist and this happened to be the first specimen of this species collected to date, for the museum.

In 1921 the Museum published a book on Ceylon snakes by Col. F. Wall (518 pages and 98 text figures) and in 1925 a book on the Birds of Ceylon by Mr. W. E. Wait (496 pages and 20 plates). In 1927 three parts of coloured plates of Ceylon birds prepared by Mr. G. M. Henry of the Colombo Museum was also published. During this time Mr. W. W. A. Phillips of Mousakande, Gammaduwa was engaged in preparing a book on the

mammals of Ceylon. In all these studies the study collections of the Museum formed the basis for their research and the Museum Taxidermist and his staff assisted these authors tremendously in the field by procuring specimens for their study which eventually were added to the Museum collection. Dr. J. Pearson who was the Director at this time gratefully acknowledged the assistance given by Messrs E. E. Green, F. M. Macwood, W. Ormiston, F. Lewis, H. M. Drummond-Hay, O. S. Wickwar, C. Hartley, G. Brown, R. Senior White, Rev. P. T. Cash, L. G. O. Woodhouse and W. W. A. Phillips. Of the latter Dr. Pearson writes... "Mr. Phillips has performed an inestimable service to the Museum... and the Museum's collections have been considerably enriched thereby."

In 1932 the Taxidermist during a visit to Bibile and Nilgala collected four more specimens of the rare species, *Scotophilus wroughtoni*, a whipsnake of the variety *fuscus* and an adult specimen of *Rattus blanfordi* from the Gunner's Quoin area. During the same year the Museum obtained 53 skins of rare species of birds not represented in the museum collection from the Bombay Natural History Society. The Museum 'Zoo' continued to be an attraction during the year and 8 mammals were born and 15 birds hatched during the year. In 1933 a commencement was made in rearranging the birds on display by dispensing with shelves and attaching the birds to natural tree branches or twigs fixed directly to a background tinted natural grey. A commencement was also made in the rearrangement and reclassification of the exhibited invertebrates and fishes. During the year Messrs W. W. A. Phillips, A. C. Tutein-Nolthenius, E. C. Fernando, S. Arumugam and M. L. Willis gifted specimens to the Museum. In 1934 the Taxidermist and his staff skeletonized a whale washed ashore at Matara and a school of Killer Whales stranded at Muttur. During the same year 72 birds and mammals were

collected and mounted for exhibition. The Museum also received as a gift a collection of 312 birds' eggs.

In 1935 the Taxidermist and staff undertook several field trips to collect 13 big game animals for mounting the heads for the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Exhibition held in Canada and some heads of big game animals for exhibition at the "Ceylon House," in London. This year the Museum donated 9 rodent skins to the British Museum (Natural History). Mr. W. W. A. Phillips presented the Museum with 109 birds' eggs and 23 other specimens, Mr. Tutein-Nolthenius with 12 snakes and 10 mammals from Ohiya, 13 specimens by J. H. P. Brymer of Pundalu Oya and a bear skin and skull by Mr. E. C. Fernando during this year. The Museum 'Zoo' continued to be an attraction as in previous years.

In 1936 an "Avifaunal Survey of Ceylon," was commenced jointly with the British Museum (Natural History) and Mr. E. C. Fernando, the Museum Taxidermist who participated did practically all the collecting of specimens for this study. The organizing of this Survey was handled by Mr. W. W. A. Phillips and the collections jointly shared by the two institutions. The 'type specimens,' however, were to be retained at the British Museum (Natural History). In 1936 the Taxidermist collected 402 birds, the skins being carefully prepared with corresponding data labels, their gonads being preserved in Bouin's fluid for the British Museum (Natural History) and the crop contents and internal parasites for Professor D. R. R. Burt of the University College, Colombo. 1936 was also noteworthy in that the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery gifted to the Colombo Museum the unique study collection of Sri Lanka birds made by Lieut. Colonel W. V. Legge, R.A. when he was stationed in Sri Lanka between 1868 and 1877. This gift was made subject to the conditions that the collection is properly housed

and made available to Ornithologists but not exhibited in public galleries and also that it is maintained as "The Legge Collection of Ceylon." This collection comprises of 678 specimens belonging to 278 species and in addition a small collection of eggs collected by Colonel Legge. This collection is of historical importance as it formed the basis of Colonel Legge's monumental work, "A History of the Birds of Ceylon" published by subscription in 1880 and includes the original models for the colour illustrations.

The following observations were made by the Director of the Museum in his Administration Report for 1937:—

"The strenuous labours of all its Directors have succeeded in accumulating in this Museum a significantly representative collection of Ceylon Fauna, and in addition to the large sums spent by government on amassing and maintaining the collections enthusiastic private collectors such as Thwaites, Ferguson, Legge, Green, Waite, Phillips and others have done much by donating either the entire or a large series of small ones made from time to time over a number of years. To these are added the most irreplaceable deep sea collections obtained by the various Governmental vessels. The floor space occupied by the zoological material is as follows:

- a. Amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals occupy a room space of 65 ft. by 29 ft.—1885 sq. ft.
- b. Aquatic fauna occupy 36 ft. by 22 ft.—792 sq. ft.
- c. Zoological collections in the Director's office occupy 40 ft. by 18 ft.—720 sq. ft.

Total — 3392 square feet."

The Avifaunal Survey was continued and by the end of 1937 a total of 1362 skins have been obtained and despatched to the British Museum (Natural History). Two papier-mache models each of the False Killer Whale, *Pseudorca crassidens* and the Pigmy Sperm Whale *Kogia breviceps*, measuring 9 to 10 feet

were made and sent to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery as part exchange for the Legge Collection of bird skins.

In 1939 Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala who was Marine Biologist published his first volume of the Ceylon Tetrapod Reptilia on the Testudines and Crocodiles.

During the War Years, 1940-1946, the work of the Museum was greatly curtailed and the Museum 'Zoo' ceased to exist. The Museum building was requisitioned in 1942 by the Military and the Museum sustained its greatest loss due to the hasty evacuation and lack of preservatives to the zoological collection. The mounted exhibits of birds and mammals also were all lost. The study collection was sent to Jaffna and the spirits collection or of what was salvaged was sent to Pelmadulla.

With the cessation of hostilities in 1946 the Museum Zoological Division had to commence especially its exhibition work from scratch and so far the loss and damage sustained during this period, have not been overcome.

In 1940 the Taxidermist Mr. E. C. Fernando assembled the skeleton of a bull elephant collected from the flood plains of the Mahaveli Ganga and was exhibited. He also secured from Kohalana near Kalutara the first specimen of the Great Snipe, *Capella media*, known from Sri Lanka. The first record of Cuvier's Beaked Whale, *Ziphius cavirostris indicus* off Sri Lanka was recorded also for the first time during this year from off Ratmalana and its head, flippers and the tail were collected for the Museum. An abnormal double-headed rat snake was gifted to the Museum by Mr. S. Ratnasabhapathy from Velvettiturai and in April the rare limbless lizard, *Nessia sarsinorum* was found in abundance on the banks of the Menik Ganga. In 1945 the Museum exchanged with Mr. A. Loveridge of Harvard a collection of earth snakes for the skull of an

American loggerhead, *Caretta caretta* Linné and with Dr. Dillon Ripley of the Smithsonian Institution a set of birds skins for four volumes of Peter's "Checklist of the Birds of the World."

The Museum also gifted the skins and skulls of the rodent species, *Rattus rattus rufescens* and *R.r.kelaarti* to the Smithsonian Institution.

In 1947 the marine, the freshwater, the tow-net collection and a part of the reptile collection in alcohol and formalin were placed in charge of a Laboratory Assistant, Mr. M. G. Ramawickrame who saw to their arrangement on shelves. Steps were also taken to construct two concrete specimen tanks for the accommodation of specimens too large for bottles and display jars.

For the first time a cluster of eggs of the limbless Apodan, *Ichthyophis monochrous* Bleeker was secured by Mr. W. W. A. Phillips at Galapitekande, Namunukula at an altitude of 3000 feet on 6th October, 1947. During this year also the first known living specimen of the rare skink, *Dasia haliana*, described by Hugh Nevill and A. Haly in the 'Taprobanian' was captured off a dead *Katakala* tree at Polonnaruwa. The British Museum (Natural History) returned during this year 707 bird skins being the Colombo Museum's share of the collections made under the 'Avifaunal Survey of Ceylon.' The Museum also received as gifts three cabinets containing 1216 eggs — belonging to 122 species of Sri Lanka birds from Mr. R. P. Dobson and a foetus of an elephant from Mr. H. G. Ilangatilake of Anuradhapura. In 1949 the Museum secured the head of a Razor-backed Rorqual washed ashore at Bambalapitiya and also skeletonized another Rorqual, *Balaenoptera physalus*, at Ariyalai in the Northern Province.

In 1949 an Antarctic Skua, *Stercorarius antarcticus antarcticus* and the skin and skull of a black leopard were purchased and

during the same year Mr. P. J. Dickson presented to the Museum the head and feathers of a rare puffin, *Puffinus pacificus*.

In 1950 the number of zoological exhibits was in all not more than fifty while three mammals and twelve birds were mounted awaiting exhibition. During this year the Museum received a skin of the Chinese Alligator, *Caigator sinensis* (Fauvel) from the Field Museum of Chicago for a young specimen of the Leathery Turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*. The Museum also received a specimen of a Sun fish, *Mola mola*, from the Fisheries department and four mounted heads of Sloth Bear, Wild Bear, Jackal and Porcupine from Mr. L. H. S. Sygret.

For the first time in 1951 a full time officer, an Assistant in Zoology was appointed. Dr. P. H.D.H. de Silva, the present Director, took up this appointment on 19th February 1951. At that time there was also no head for the entomological division and he exercised control over both divisions until the post of Assistant in Systematic Entomology was created in 1961. The activities of the division were now more systematically organized, the reserve collections being better maintained and greater attention being paid to speedily improve the exhibition galleries. In 1951 one spotted-deer, one South Indian rib-faced deer, one sambhur and a common mongoose were mounted for exhibition and in 1952 five specimens of deer and 78 birds were exhibited. During the Colombo Plan Exhibition which was held from 23rd February to 23rd March 1952 additional specimens were exhibited so that by now nearly three-fourth of the exhibition space allocated to the zoological division in the Museum had been utilized. In 1952 a new gecko, *Calodactylodes illingworthi*, was discovered at Nuvara galgé, Mahaoya and venom was extracted from two cobras for despatch to Dr. A. Bussard of the Institute Pasteur, Paris for report. In 1953 ten mammals and 41 snakes were added to the exhibited collection. The

number of requests for Sri Lanka zoological study material increased and in 1954 forty six marine shells to Dr. James A. Grigg of Queensland, Australia, 2 samples of shell bearing sand to Mons. Max Desjardin, Museum National D'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, 8 shells of land snails to Dr. Hans Schlesch, Pernillevej, Denmark, 2 skulls and skins of *Felis chaus kelaarti* to Dr. R. C. Fraser of the British Museum (Natural History), samples of the venom of *Trimeresurus trigonocephalus* to Dr. D. W. Everitt, Director, A. Nelson and Co. Ltd., England for the preparation of potencies of the venom, 4 eggs of *Aspidura trachyprocta* to Dr. Malcolm A. Smith of the British Museum (Natural History) and 5 specimens of *Funambulus palmarum* to Dr. L. S. Ramaswami of the University of Mysore were despatched. In 1955 five mammals and 17 birds were exhibited and by this time the available exhibition area was filled to capacity. At the same time numerous field trips to various parts of the island were undertaken under the supervision of the Assistant in Zoology and the storage area became congested. From then on lack of space in both the storage and exhibition areas became pressing problems. The wooden storage racks were systematically replaced by steel racks in the wet specimens section. Other activities of the division also increased and more material were identified for the public and other institutions and also in terms of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance. The Assistant in Zoology assisted the Director, Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala in his extensive researches on vertebrates and fossils. The division now actively participated in the Museum programmes to schools, teachers and to the public including public lectures. In 1955 two phials of cobra venom were once again sent to Dr. D. W. Everitt in Paris. Several fishes were also sent to Dr. S. L. Hora, Director of the Zoological Survey of India. Several specimens were also received as gifts.

During this period the Assistant in Zoology concentrated on the Museum collections of marine fishes and several new records for Sri Lanka were described in *Spolia Zeylanica*. The Director, Dr. Deraniyagala made extensive researches on the Sri Lanka vertebrates and published several research papers and 3 volumes under the series, "A Coloured Atlas of Some Vertebrates of Ceylon," namely Fishes, Tetrapod Reptilia and Serpentoidea, the last appearing in 1955. In 1955 he also brought out a publication, "Some Extinct Elephants, their Relatives and two living species," (161 pages). This publication brought together all the recent discoveries and researches he made in regard to the two living species and the extinct elephant species in Sri Lanka.

In 1957 the members of the Yale Indian Ocean expedition visited Sri Lanka and several members made collections of freshwater specimens from Sabaragamuva Province.

In 1958 the Assistant in Zoology, Dr. P. H. D. H. de Silva read a paper on the 'British Spirorbinae at the International Congress of Zoology held in London during the Darwin Centenary year. In 1958 Professor E. H. Taylor examined the Museum collection of Reptiles and Dr. Georg Schur of Germany studied the ornithological collection of the Museum. Several specimens were sent abroad on request for study and return and numerous specimens were collected through field trips for the Museum. From 1957 to 1959 the Assistant in Zoology worked under Professor E. W. Knight-Jones, D.Phil. (Oxon.) at the University College of Swansea of the University of Wales on the British Spirorbinae and British Piscicolid leeches and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the same University.

In 1959 the Director, Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala attended a conference on, "The Biology of the Southern Cold Temperate Zone," convened by the Royal Society of Great

Britain and read a paper on "Antarctic Hydrographic Fluctuations as suggested by animals that reach Ceylon," at this conference.

In 1960 a committee of experts were appointed by Unesco which included the Colombo Museum Director and members from India, Pakistan and Burma to select one of these countries for development as a key zoological station in Southern Asia. The Zoological Survey of India was selected with the Colombo Museum as an alternative centre.

The Assistant in Zoology made collections of marine polychaetes from many places along the coast and several new species were discovered as well as several new records which were published by him in *Spolia Zeylanica* as well as in a paper published in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society*, London in which 7 new species, one new subspecies and 17 new records were described. His studies on marine piscicolid leeches also helped to discover several new records and two new species, one of which was found to belong to a new genus, *Zeylanicobdella*.

In 1961 a Zoological Survey of Ceylon was launched but the financial support received was meagre, the money received providing only a tent and few items of equipment.

In 1962 Professor Per Brinck of Lund University, Sweden arrived in Sri Lanka with two colleagues, Dr. Hugo Anderson and Dr. Lennart Cederholm from January to March to collect mostly invertebrates. The Museum collected during the same year 544 freshwater fishes and reptiles, 55 birds and mammals and also secured some skeletal parts of two Lesser-Piked whales from carcasses that had been cast ashore on the Islands off Jaffna. In 1963 skulls of *Ziphius cavirostris indicus* and *Mesoplodon hotaula* were secured for the Museum.

The Assistant in Zoology also recorded the occurrence of the leech, *Dinobdella ferox*, Blanchard from the nasal cavity of man, this

being the second such record in the world. His report was published in the *Annals of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology*, Liverpool and an extract in the American *E.E.N.T. Digest*. He also published a paper in *Spolia Zeylanica* on three marine leeches sent by Professor C. H. Fernando from the Malay Peninsula. The Museum received as a gift 178 freshwater fishes from the Royal Ontario Museum, Canada. The Museum presented to the Biological department of the Vidyodaya University 43 zoological specimens. The Museum continued to undertake field trips to add to the Museum collections and requests from abroad for study material were also seen to. The Museum also identified material to the public and also issued certificates of identification under Section 35 of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469) as amended by Act No. 44 of 1964.

In 1966 facilities were provided to Dr. M. McKay of the University of Maryland (and of the Smithsonian Elephant Survey Project) to study the skin collection of Sri Lanka mammals. Drs. A. S. Rand and M. H. Robinson of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institution, Panama Canal Zone visited Sri Lanka to collect material for research especially arachnids.

In 1968 and 1969 the Museum provided laboratory facilities to Dr. Frank Schwartz and his associates Mr. F. Smith-vaniz, Mr. Philip C. Heemstra and C. C. Koenig who were associated with the Smithsonian Carangid Fish Survey Project. In 1968 the Museum received from Professor P. Kirthisinghe his collection of parasitic copepods from Sri Lanka. During the same year Dr. Raoul Serene, Unesco Marine Science Regional Expert for South East Asia made a study of the Museum collection of crabs and published his results in *Spolia Zeylanica*. The Director, Dr. P. H. D. H. de Silva made a taxonomic study of the Ceylon *Colubridae* and the results were also published in *Spolia*.

He has written a book for publication on the 'Snakes of Sri Lanka', with special reference to the snake skull, dentition, venom gland and venom, which is in press.

Dr. Carl Gans, professor of Biology, University Michigan visited Sri Lanka thrice to study the Sri Lanka *Ichthyophis* and Earth snakes. He and his colleagues have made a detailed study of their taxonomy, ecology, behaviour and biomechanics of the group and much valuable information on these little known Sri Lanka animals have been obtained. A paper on Sri Lanka *Ichthyophis* has already being received for publication in *Spolia*. His researches on Sri Lankan Earth snakes and *Ichthyophis* are awaited with keen interest.

The present collection in the Zoological Division of the Museum is as follows:

Invertebrates	..	over 5,000 specimens
Fishes	..	over 2,000 specimens
Amphibians	..	1,059
Reptiles	..	6,169
Birds	..	3,360
Mammals	..	2,968

In 1976 a separate building was constructed to house the Natural History exhibits, the greater number being zoological, and facilities will be provided to house the skin collection of birds and mammals in air conditioned storage-rooms.

The following Taxidermists have served with distinction during the past 100 years:-

- Mr. A. F. E. Hart from 1877 to 1888
- Mr. H. F. Fernando from 1890 to 1922
- Mr. E. C. Fernando from 1923 to 1948
- Mr. E. Hart from 1951 to 1961 and
- Mr. K. L. E. Perera from 1964 -

ii. Entomology

In 1877 the entomological collection of the Museum consisted of 2,329 specimens, most of which had been presented to the Museum by Mr. E. J. Thwaites. This collection consisted of:

Lepidoptera	..	..	1,105
Hymenoptera	..	..	197
Diptera	..	..	52
Coleoptera	..	..	492
Hemiptera	..	..	204
Orthoptera	..	..	131
Neuroptera	..	..	148

The problem faced at that time was the difficulty of keeping them, especially the moths free from mould and mites.

The butterflies were identified by Mr. F. M. Mackwood. A collection of butterflies was gifted by Mr. C. P. Hall in 1878. The exhibited collection during this year numbered 277 specimens. The duplicates were kept in drawers of the almirahs in the gallery but in 1880 they were removed to boxes which were provided with paper drums on the Smithsonian system. In 1880 Mr. P. N. Braine gifted to the Museum a large collection of Lepidoptera and Coleoptera and he also assisted the Museum. The collections gradually increased with a moth trap being used successfully in trapping specimens. Through the kindness of Mr. Freudenberg, Consul for the German Empire, a collection of beetles was sent to the Berlin Museum for identification, some of these specimens being identified by Dr. Karsch (Flies), Dr. Dewitz (Bugs, grasshoppers, crickets, cockroaches, bees and wasps) and Professor Kolbe (Dragonflies). Among the important additions to the museum in 1884 were a rare Mantis, *Aethalocera ashmoliana* presented by Hon. Mr. Saunders and a magnificent locust, *Phyllocoreia chorytypus* from Vavuniya-Vilankulam presented by Mr. Massie.

In 1886 Mr. Atkinson, President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal returned a collection of Rhynchota after identification. In the following year the Museum purchased the F. M. Mackwood collection of Lepidoptera for £ 100. The Museum received also two remarkable species of Phasmids from Dr. Trimen and Mr. E. E. Green.

In 1888 Major Bingham who was engaged on a monograph of the Hymenoptera of India and Sri Lanka verified the named Museum collection and also selected a number of specimens for study and return. In 1888 eighty species of beetles were sent to Herr von Plason of Vienna to be named. Major Yerbury presented in 1890 a species of Longicorn from Trincomalee and also gifted a collection of flies from the same locality. In 1894 the addition of new cases enabled more insects to be displayed. The exhibited moths were rearranged by Mr. E. E. Green. Colonel Yerbury also gifted a further collection during 1894. Professor Ritsema of Leyden identified the Museum *Apogonia* material sent to him. During 1898 Messrs F. M. Mackwood, E. E. Green and J. Pole gifted several specimens and assisted in identifying the museum collection of moths. Professor L. Melichar of Vienna identified the Museum collection of *Ricania* (Rhynchota) and returned them. In 1899 the collection of Cicindelidae (Coleoptera) were examined by Dr. W. Horn of Berlin and errors in identification were corrected. Apart from donations many specimens were collected and some purchased. The noteworthy addition in 1900 was the purchase of J. Pole's collection of moths consisting of 8,300 specimens representing 1,496 species for Rs. 2,000.

In 1903 the museum received the collection of Homoptera sent to Professor L. Melichar of Vienna for identification enriched by the addition of further material which are recorded in Dr. Melichar's recently published monograph on the Homoptera of Ceylon, a collection of tiger beetles and some other insects identified by Dr. W. Horn, Dr. Herr Schwarz and by Dr. Herr Wiese of Berlin.

In 1904 Mr. J. J. Walker F.E.S., undertook to have the Museum collection of Longicorn beetles identified in England. A collection of Scarabaeidae (dung beetles) was also sent to Dr. Joseph Gillet of Nivelles, Belgium.

The collection of Hymenoptera was studied by Mr. O. S. Wickwar of Colombo.

In 1905 the Museum exhibited collection of Rhynchota-Heteroptera was rearranged according to the classification given by Mr. W. L. Distant in the new volume of the Fauna of British India and the classification given by Dr. Melichar in his recent monograph. Messrs E. E. Green and F. M. Mackwood also assisted the Museum in the identification of the museum material.

During the same year the Museum received the gift of a collection of moths from Mr. W. Vaughan of Madulsima. Mr. E. E. Green presented to the museum a collection of named Tettigidae, a family of grasshoppers which formed the subject of a paper in *Spolia Zeylanica* by Dr. J. L. Hancock. In 1906, Mr. E. E. Green gifted another collection of 86 Butterflies and during the same year 64 specimens of butterflies and moths were purchased by the Museum. The reserve collection was studied by Mr. Fletcher of H.M.S. 'Sealark' and the Blattidae collection of the Museum by Mr. W. F. Kirby of the British Museum (Natural History). The museum also received as a gift a series of mosquitoes comprising 15 species from Mr. E. E. Green. Mr. Green also presented in 1908 a collection of about 150 specimens of named Plant bugs. A collection of Plume moths was received from T. Bainbrigge Fletcher, R.N., F.E.S. and moths from Messrs F. M. Mackwood and E. E. Green, O. S. Wickwar, Lieut. Col. N. Manders, R.A.M. C., F. M. Macwood, Rev. P. T. Cash and Mr. J. C. Fryer, Balfour student of the University of Cambridge.

By this time the need for a full time officer to be in charge of the entomology collection was greatly felt because it became evident that the large collections of insect specimens accumulated by collection, purchase and donation since the inception of the Museum in 1877 needed such an officer to prevent their

deterioration by greater care and attention, for their arrangement, classification, to build up the collection so that these would worthily represent the insect fauna of Sri Lanka, and also to make it available for purpose of scientific research. Thus a post of Assistant in Systematic Entomology was created in 1913 and Mr. G. M. Henry was appointed to this post on 1st July that year.

Mr. Henry's task was to rearrange the reserve collections. The three collections of moths namely the museum collection, Mr. W. Vaughan's collection and the Late Mr. John Pole's collection were united and stored entirely in boxes. In 1914 the collection of moths in the museum numbered at least 20,000 and were stored in 100 boxes. The museum collection of bugs (Rhynchota) and a collection gifted by Mr. E. E. Green shortly before he left the island were also united, properly arranged and stored in boxes. The museum collection of Lucanidae (stag-beetles) and a small collection of spiders, scorpions and ticks sent to Mr. Graveley of the Indian Museum were identified and returned.

In 1915 a large collection of insects especially grasshoppers, beetles and butterflies were collected by Mr. Henry from Kandy and Ragalla districts. The museum collection during this year were studied by Mr. F. M. Mackwood (Lepidoptera), Mr. C. F. S. Baker (Cicindelidae), Dr. Cameron (Staphylinidae) and Mr. Thomas Gerard. Following Mr. Henry's appointment more and more material was collected through numerous field trips and at the same time donations continued to come in as before. In 1917 Mr. W. Ormiston presented the Museum with a collection of insects and both Messrs Ormiston and F. M. Mackwood continued to work on the collections during 1918 and 1919. In 1921 the museum collection of Diptera was forwarded to Mr. C. Lamb, Engineering Laboratory, Cambridge and a portion of the Carabid collection to Mr. H. E. Andrewes who was preparing a

volume of this family for the Fauna of British India series. A number of Diptera were named by Mr. E. Brunetti and Mr. R. Senior White and a pair of butterflies by Captain N. D. Riley of the British Museum.

In 1921, Mr. F. M. Mackwood presented to the museum his entire duplicate collection of 3,657 named moths in 42 store boxes. The museum collection of flies was named by Mr. R. Senior White of Suduganga estate, Matale. In 1923 a collection of 89 Acrididae were sent to Mr. B. P. Uvarov of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology and 144 specimens of the families Endomychidae, Erotylidae and Langurridae to Mr. G. J. Arrow of the British Museum (Natural History) who was preparing a volume for the "Fauna of British India" series. Eight envelopes containing duplicate material from our collection of Coccidae were sent to Mr. E. E. Green in 1923 and their names received. During this year a start was made in the preparation of a complete card index catalogue of Sri Lanka insects.

A census of the dry collections of insects made in 1923 shows that the study collection consisted of upwards of 52,373 specimens comprising:

Orthoptera	..	.. 1,966
Odonata and Neuroptera	..	.. 200
Hymenoptera	..	.. 2,616
Coleoptera	..	.. 7,309
Rhynchota	..	.. 3,523
Diptera	..	.. 2,206
Lepidoptera	..	.. 34,553

In 1924 the Museum sent for study 102 specimens of Carabidae to Mr. H. E. Andrewes of the British Museum, 213 Acridians to Mr. B. P. Uvarov, 721 Coleopterans to Messrs G. J. Arrow, K. G. Blair and S. Maulik of the British Museum (Natural History), 115 dragonflies to Dr. F. Laidlaw and 194 specimens of Hymenoptera.

In 1925 Mr. Henry during furlough took with him 5,118 specimens for identification by experts at the British Museum (Natural

History). Of this 3,885 were brought back with him and 1,233 specimens were retained for further study. The collections of cockroaches of the Museum were studied by Dr. Hanitsch of the Hope Department of Entomology, Oxford.

In 1926 field trips were undertaken to Hanwell, Labugama, Haputale, Haldumulla and Kandapola. Among the insects collected were a good series of *Acrida* species from Haldumulla, a good series of *Genimen* sp. from Balangoda, and a large number of Gryllidae, Rhynchota, Coleoptera and Diptera. During this year 13 specimens of Paussidae to the Director Zoological Survey of India, 56 Acridians to Dr. Uvarov, 41 Lamiidae to J. C. M. Gardner, Dehra Duhn., 132 Scoliidæ to Mr. J. M. Bertrem were sent on loan.

In 1927, ie. 50 years after the inception of the museum the entomological study collection totalled 59,684 comprising

Lepidoptera	..	.. 32,069
Coleoptera	..	.. 4,120
Hymenoptera	..	.. 4,384
Rhynchota	..	.. 4,000
Diptera	..	.. 3,646
Orthoptera	..	.. 2,599
Odonata	..	.. 531
Neuroptera	..	.. 56

The card catalogue was designed to supply a complete list of Sri Lanka insects, references to any important literature relating to them, original observations on habits, structure, food etc., an index to the species in the collection and the local and general distribution of Sri Lanka insects.

During this time the exhibited insects consisted of a fairly representative series of Lepidoptera, a single case of Coleoptera representing the more striking forms in the major families, two cases of Orthoptera with the more remarkable species and a case containing striking examples of Rhynchota and Odonata.

In 1927, 46 tubes of Termites were despatched to the Imperial Bureau of Entomology for determination by Dr. Kemner of Stockholm, 71 specimens of Acridians to Dr. B. P. Uvarov of the Imperial Bureau and 37 Rhynchota to Mr. W. E. China of the British Museum (Natural History). During this year Professor J. G. Needham of Cornell University, U.S.A. examined the Museum collection of dragonflies. In 1928 the Assistant in Entomology undertook several field trips to Ohiya, Horton Plains, Belihuloya, Alutnuvara, Horaboraveva, Beligalla, Matale and Wellawaya.

In 1929 the whole collection of Mantidae and Tettigoniidae were completely rearranged. The card catalogue was kept up-to-date. Several Acridians were collected by Mr. Henry from Rakwana during that year.

In 1929 the Museum received from Mr. F. M. Mackwood the gift of his entire collection of Indian region butterflies numbering 6,809 specimens. A collection of rare specimens were received from Mr. W. W. A. Phillips. During this year Messrs L. G. O. Woodhouse and L. H. C. Waldoock studied the butterfly collection in the Museum. Mr. Henry, the Assistant in Entomology prepared for publication the descriptions of four species of rare or new Mantidae, Acrydiinae. 2 Tettigoniidae and of a Mirid bug.

In 1930 the Assistant in Entomology took 2,043 specimens to the British Museum (Natural History) and got them named by Sir Guy Marshall, Mr. G. J. Arrow and Dr. Malcolm Cameron. The Orthoptera was identified by Mr. G.M. Henry determining 46 new species with the assistance of Dr. B. P. Uvarov. The new laboratory and store were occupied in 1930. In 1931 Mr. Henry prepared a paper on new species of Mantidae and Rhynchota and another on new species of Ceylon Mantidae and Tettigoniidae. Mr. L. G. O. Woodhouse continued to take an interest in the butterflies and he has presented

several specimens to the Museum. In 1932, 12 shallow-glazed show cases were provided for exhibiting pictures illustrating the life-histories of typical Sri Lankan insects, mostly those of economic importance. Specimens were gifted by Messrs W. W. A. Phillips, A. C. Tutein-Nolthenius, O. S. Wickwar and L. G. O. Woodhouse.

A paper for publication was prepared by Mr. Henry on observations on the genus *Genimen* Bolivar (Acrididae) with a description of a new genus and a new species. The card index was continued and in 1934 a small map of Sri Lanka was printed on the back of all the cards for purpose of indicating the local distribution of each species by means of red dots. 267 Carabidae were sent to Mr. H. E. Andrewes for study. Those examining the Museum material in 1934 were Dr. F. N. Chasen, Director of Raffles Museum and Library, Singapore, Dr. Oswald Latter, Dr. C. E. McClung, Professor of Zoology at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Irene Corey and Mr. Babu Gauri Dutt of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Duhn.

Mr. Henry had prepared four volumes of coloured plates of the Birds of Ceylon and also a number of drawings of heads of small mammalian skulls for Mr. Phillip's book. By 1934 the total insect collection was 92,601 specimens belonging to mainly 8 orders. In 1936 by mutual agreement with the British Museum (Natural History) a programme to collect insects from South India was commenced. The first expedition under this programme was undertaken by Mr. Henry and his Collector, K. L. A. Perera to Dohnavur, Alagar Kovil and Kodaikanal in South India from March 2nd to April 3, 1936. Some 4,713 specimens were collected, of which 1,853 were deposited in the British Museum (Natural History), whilst the balance which were Orthopterans were retained by Mr. Henry for study. The second expedition to South India was undertaken in 1937 by Messrs G. M. Henry, the Entomology

Laboratory Assistant, Mr. T. R. Sandrasagara and Collector K. L. A. Perera, visiting places in the Coimbatore district and the State of Travancore. In all 8,137 specimens were collected of which almost half was sent to the British Museum (Natural History). During the same year a special type of drawers were constructed for the storage of the butterflies and moths on a design given by Mr. Henry which contained glass tops so that the specimens could be viewed from both surfaces without the need to touch the specimens thus saving them from damage during examination.

Mr. Henry has prepared during this period three papers for publication namely (1), a paper on *Euprepocnemis kalkudensis* sp. nov. (Insecta, Acrididae) (2), on a new genus and species of Acridian from South India and Ceylon and (3) on five new species of *Pseudophaneroptera* (Insecta, Tettigoniidae). He also made a study of the stridulatory apparatus in the female Tettigoniid, *Psyrce ceylonica*.

A third expedition to South India was undertaken in 1938 by Messrs G. M. Henry, T. R. Sandrasagara and K. L. A. Perera. Upwards of 9,000 specimens were collected during this expedition.

Mr. Henry also studied the phenomenon of Myrmecoidy (Ant-mimicry), the genera *Zumala* and *Himerta* and a new genus and species of Pterophylline Tettigoniid, *Tennophyllodes astridula* gen. et. sp. nov.

During the last war the butterfly collection was housed in the University as the specimens were fragile to be risked transportation to Jaffna while the rest of the collection was sent to Jaffna. With Mr. Henry's retirement in 1945 Mr. T. R. Sandrasagara, the Entomology Laboratory Assistant, took charge of the entomological collection. The collection was brought back to Colombo and when the post of Assistant in Zoology was created in 1951, this officer took over the general administration of this division in addition to the zoolo-

gical division until the post of Assistant in Entomology was recreated in 1961. Mr. Sandrasagara maintained the collections and undertook numerous field trips to add to the existing collection. He was assisted by the Senior Collector Mr. K. L. A. Perera until his retirement in 1958. He was succeeded by Collector G. M. Carolis. Mr. Sandrasagara retired in 1962. During this period Museum material was sent to Mr. Mc E. Kevan (Acridid grasshoppers), Dr. Musaffer Ahamed (Termites) and to Dr. P. N. Chatterjee.

Mrs. W. T. T. P. Gunawardena was appointed the Assistant in Entomology in 1961 and the entomology collection of 113, 119 specimens was taken over from Mr. T. R. Sandrasagara after test checking 9,446 specimens. Collecting tours were undertaken one of which was a trip to Uggalkaltota and Balangoda in 1962 which secured over 1,500 specimens. The Assistant in Entomology prepared a list of type specimens in the collection which totalled 723, for the use of the Unesco sub-committee which examined the key zoological collections in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Burma. Mrs. Gunawardena sent live pupae of the butterfly, *Papilio polytes* to Dr. C. A. Clarke of the University of Liverpool for genetical studies, identified some ants sent by Dr. Abdul Cader of the Health Department which were reported to be invading a village off Mawanella, and some beetles found in stored milk food and in imported food stuff. She also prepared an article on insects to be included in the Sinhalese Encyclopaedia.

During a collecting trip to Polonnaruwa she and her staff collected nearly 2,000 insects including some interesting locusts, *Hydrometra* and termites. Data on breeding of the butterfly, *Papilio polytes* were sent to Dr. Clarke. She also made a supplementary list of type entomological specimens for Dr. Ramakrishna of Unesco. Mrs. Gunawardena in 1965 published in *Spolia Zeylanica* (Vol. 30, pt. II, pp. 247-249) an article on the

record of a migrant, *Erythropygia galactodes familiaris* to Sri Lanka and with Mr. G. P. B. Karunaratne who succeeded Mr. T. R. Sandrasagara in 1963 published a paper on the genus *Hydrometra* (Hemiptera) in Ceylon with a description of a new species, *Hemiptera zeylanica* in *Spolia Zeylanica* (Vol. 30, pt. II, pp. 233-244). She was awarded a Commonwealth scholarship and left for London in 1965 to carry out research leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy under Professor O. W. Richards, F.R.S. at the Imperial College of Science and Technology of the University of London. She returned to the island in 1968 October after obtaining the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

In 1969 Mr. Karunaratne published a paper on a new Hemipteran, *Hydrometra kahallensis* sp. nov. from Sri Lanka in *Spolia Zeylanica* (Vol. 31 pt. II pp. 381-383). The Assistant in Entomology's research interests have been mainly in the families Braconidae, Gerridae and Veliidae. Field trips were undertaken in 1967 to Arukallu off Eluvankulam and in 1968 to Nilgala, Belihuloya and Matugama.

A collection of aquatic Hemiptera from various parts of the island from Professor C. H. Fernando and a collection of Hydrometridae from the Malay Peninsula from Dr. J. I. Furtado and Professor C. H. Fernando were received as gifts. 20 specimen tubes of aquatic Coleopterans were despatched to Dr. T. G. Vazirani of the Zoological Survey of India. In 1969 the Assistant in Entomology visited Kurunegala accompanied by Mr. T. I. Seneviratne, Plant Protection Officer of the department of Agriculture to study insect pests attacking paddy and other crops. The post of Entomology Laboratory Assistant was upgraded to Curator in 1969. Field trips were undertaken by him to Vakaneri, Punani, Ratnapura and also to several places in the North Central and Southern Provinces. In 1970 the Assistant in Entomology published a paper on "An interesting aberration of the

butterfly, *Papilio polytes romulus* caught wild in Ceylon," in *Spolia Zeylanica* (Vol. 32, pt. 1, p. 97). The Smithsonian project on the "Biosystematics of the Insect Fauna of Sri Lanka" jointly with the Department of National Museums was commenced in 1970 with Dr. Karl V. Krombein as the Principal Investigator. Apart from Dr. Krombein the other scientists who have visited Sri Lanka under this project were Dr. R. L. Davies, Dr. Oliver S. Flint, Dr. Paul J. Spangler, Dr. Richard W. Bauman, Dr. Ginter Ekis, Dr. Stephen Wood, Professor Donald H. Messersmith, Dr. Y. Huang, Mr. E. L. Peyton and Professor D. M. Davies.

In 1971 Dr. (Mrs.) Gunawardena served as a member of the Campaign committee for the control of the Coconut Beetle Pest, *Promecotheca cumingi* and Mr. Karunaratne was released at the request of the Plantation Ministry to go to Singapore to breed parasites for the biological control of this pest under Dr. D. H. Murphy of the University of Singapore. The four graduate trainees assigned to the entomological division mounted nearly 700 coconut beetles and different stages of its life history for the Commissioner, Coconut Rehabilitation to be distributed among the Agricultural Officers to help them to identify this pest in their areas. Some trainees stayed at certain check points to examine vehicles entering and leaving the city to check the transport of this pest to other areas.

Field trips were undertaken in 1972 to Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Palutupana, Kanneliya, Gilimale and Ugalkaltota.

During 1970 to 1974 study material was also sent to Dr. J. J. Krikkan of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, Dr. I. Lansbury of the Hope Department of Entomology, Oxford, Dr. Rene Miksic of Yugoslavia, Dr. P. J. Chandler, England and to Dr. Karl V. Krombein. The Colombo Museum under the Smithsonian project

received 692 named insects and copies of the papers published on them.

The division identified insects to the public and to government departments and also conducted demonstration classes to students.

iii. Botanical Division

This division was organized in 1974 with the creation of a post of Assistant in Botany. Mr. S. D. Wimalaratne was appointed to this post. A collection of herbarium plants collected under the Smithsonian Flora project was received and this formed the nucleus of the Museum Botanical collection. With the construction of a separate building for Natural History two large galleries have been set apart for this division where it is proposed to have an exhibition of objects pertaining to Pure and Applied Botany with the assistance of several Corporations, departments and other institutions. Arrangements have already been made to develop the grounds of this Museum so that plants of economic importance could be grown for the education of visitors, especially of school children.

The Assistant in Botany completed his research on the "Nucleotide differences in the roots *Oryza sativa*," and the paper embodying the results has been published in the journal 'Cytobiologie.' He is also engaged in a programme of computerising data pertaining to the floral evolution in Sri Lanka. The Botanical Division will be able to establish itself firmly in the Museum's organization once the two galleries and the botanical garden in the new museum are completed towards the end of 1976.

iv. Geology, Mineralogy and Palaeontology

In 1877 the collections in this division comprised what was gifted to the Museum by Mr. Lambert Green. The palaeontological collections consisted of only a few fossil shells from Jaffna gifted by Mr. A. Murray. In 1878, some precious stones returned from the Paris

Exhibition were incorporated into the collection and it was decided to place this division under the supervision of the Geological Survey of Ceylon which was soon to be established. In 1879 Mr. Kyle gifted a polished column of polished gneiss from Mahara quarry and a cup and saucer turned out from Nuwara Eliya clay were gifted by Sir William Gregory. By this time the cut and polished precious stones amounted to fifty comprising sapphire, garnet, spinel, tourmaline, moonstone and quartz. The Government gifted to the Museum a collection of pearls and some minerals which were exhibited. In 1880 specimens of chrysoberyl, jargon, tourmaline and other precious stones and a fine specimen of alexandrite were purchased. Two interesting specimens of sandstone and sandstone breccia were gifted by Mr. A. C. Dixon and several interesting specimens of minerals by Mr. S. Green. Lack of cases prevented further expansion in the exhibited collection.

In 1881 several additions of minerals and rocks were made which were presented by Messrs S. Green and A. C. Dixon.

In 1882 two small crystals of corundum and quartz and in 1883 a remarkable block quartz crystal from Bopathawala were purchased. This consisted of a group of fine white quartz crystals imbedding many curious crystals of feldspar and mica set at right angles to a plate of drusy quartz. In 1886 the Museum received a collection of rocks from Mr. F. Waring and a specimen of hydromagnesite from the Maturata cave by Mr. Le Mesurier. At this time the exhibited collection comprised 215 specimens of minerals including gems.

The Director collected specimens of the veins running through the greatly distorted gneiss of the island off Beruwala and of the geological formations from Karativu and Kudremalai. Three specimens of pumice probably from Krakatuva washed ashore at Jaffna and specimens of corals and shells

were gifted by Mr. F. Mortimer. With the assistance of Mr. Brown's specific gravity balance the identity of a number of our gemstones were verified by Mr. Haly. The most valuable mineral received in 1887 was a specimen of Pitchblende from Gokaralla presented by Mr. Jacob de Mel. The Director, Dr. Haly collected several fossil crabs from Kuchchavelli. In 1888 the Director with the assistance of Mr. Armitage prepared a list of the collection of minerals in the Museum which totalled 245 specimens. Some very fine specimens of rock were presented during this year by Mr. F. F. Grigg one of which was with a vein of blue spinel running through it. A piece of rock with fossil shells (*Paludomus globulosus* and *Tanalia*) from Istripura cave was presented by Mr. Le Mesurier. Mr. C. de Silva gifted some *Placuna* shells procured some distance inland at Beruwala, Bentota. In 1890 Mr. Le Mesurier gifted 10 new minerals to the Museum amongst which was a nugget of gold from Nuwara Eliya.

In 1891 were added to the collection a brownish yellow cairngorm weighing 490 carats, a false topaz weighing 98 carats and a rock crystal weighing 322 carats. In 1895 were added a clear polished cairngorm, a crescent-shaped garnet, a sphaeroid garnet, a smoky cairngorm and a large piece of amethyst and in 1899 were added a large specimen of spinel in calcite with mica on each side of vein, quartz var. crystal, hydrodolomite, a large crystal of corundum twin crystals of quartz, magnetite (showing strong polarity), orthoclase, feldspar var. cassinite, mica, common opal, opal, quartz var. hornstone, monaccanite, rough sapphire, quartz var. rose, gold auriferous quartz, crystal of corundum, corundum var. yellow and blue sapphire, quartz var. sagenitic, common opal, corundum section, quartz var. agate, calcite and serpentine. Some good specimens of coral conglomerate were collected from Weligama. In 1903 a room in the block behind

the main building was used to exhibit the rocks, minerals and gems which were arranged and classified by the Director, Mineral Survey, Mr. A. K. Coomaraswamy assisted by Mr. A. J. Parsons. Among the donations received during this year were a selection of Indian rocks from the Director, Geological Survey of India, crystals of uraninite from G. P. Gaddum, zircon crystals from Mr. H. T. Armitage, many rock specimens from Mr. A. K. Coomaraswamy, uraninite and monazite crystals, allanite, pegmatite with allanite from Dikmukullana, Balangoda from W. D. Holland, iron charnockite and norite from South India from A. J. Parsons, crystals of tourmaline and corundum, iolite pebble from Mr. W. C. Wild and sulphur and limonite from Mr. E. Wood. 26 gemstones belonging to the Mineral Survey were exhibited in 1904 and the total mineral collection in the museum during this year was 630. The gems were accurately determined, the best gems reported being a ruby (value Rs. 200/-), a cat's eye (about Rs. 150/-), an alexandrite (about Rs. 150/-) and a moonstone (Rs. 60/-). A series of specimens illustrative of gem deposits was prepared and the small collection of fossils in the Museum was identified and exhibited. Among the donations received in 1904 were a moonstone from Mr. A. B. Casse Lebbe, a specimen of ilmenite from Mr. W. D. Holland, two aquamarines, and a chrysoberyl from Mr. W. C. Wild.

In 1906 Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy and his assistant Mr. J. Parsons worked in the gallery in rearranging, exhibiting, labelling and identifying specimens. Among the donations received during this year were a plumbago from Queensland from Mr. Peter de Abrew, Plumbago on quartz from Master M. K. Choksy, rock specimens from Natal, South Africa from Mr. Milo MacMahon, a specimen of thorionite from Mr. G. H. Simon and thorite from Mr. C. T. Small, an orthoclase feldspar from Dambagolla mine (500'), Ragedera, Kurunegala from Mr. W. Rae

Sands, crystals of pyroxene from Mr. W. A. Theobald, a sample of mica from Sabaragamuva from Messrs Tarrant & Co. and a specimen of magnetite. Several donations were also received in 1967, some of which were a large piece of graphite from Mr. Peter de Abrew, 24 pieces of thorionite crystals from Messrs Finlay, Muir & Co. specimens of spessartite garnet, blue-green sapphire, cat's eye sapphire, green zircon from Mr. W. C. Wild and a specimen of marcasite from Messrs Tarrant & Co. In 1909 the Museum received as gifts a specimen of citrine quartz, two spinels with negative crystals from Mr. W. C. Wild, Colombo, two lumps of thorionite conglomerate from Mr. W. D. Holland, several lumps of thorionite from Messrs Finlay, Muir & Co., Colombo, a lump of graphite from Mr. H. Bastian Fernando, a specimen of chalcedony from Mr. C. F. Dharmaratna, a lump of spinel from Mr. S. L. M. Sarahad Deen and a lump of graphite, 11 cwt., 20 lbs. from Mr. L. B. A. de Silva. Fossilised crabs from Kuchchavelli were received from Mr. V. Agelasapillai. With the construction of a new wing for the Museum in 1909 the mineral gallery was rearranged with the assistance of the Acting Principal Mineral Surveyor, Mr. J. A. Daniel. The Natural History Society of Ceylon was formed under the auspices of the Museum in 1912.

In 1917 the Museum purchased a large specimen of crystal of a beryl formation in quartz weighing about 50 lbs., a large specimen of amethyst also weighing about 50 lbs. and a large piece of quartz crystal weighing about 80 lbs.

In 1921 the Surveyor-General gifted a number of sections of a relief model of Sri Lanka which included the Central, Uva, Sabaragamuva, Western and Southern provinces.

One yellow sapphire was forwarded from the Colonial Secretary's Office.



An Amethyst Cluster.

In 1926 the Museum purchased a crystal weighing 200 lbs. and also received as a gift a crystal weighing 70 lbs. from Mr. R. C. Brohier.

The collection remained static until in 1937 Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala introduced a separate palaeontological division and exhibited the first series of Sri Lanka Miocene fossils which included the teeth of *Isurus* sp., *Glyphis minor*, *Galeocерdo arcticus*, *Aetobatus sinhaleys*, *Labrodon sinhaleys*, *Diodon sinhaleys* and Upper Siwalik mammalian fossils such as molar teeth of *Palaeoloxodon namadicus*, the tusks and molars of the hippo, *Hexaprotodon sivalensis*, the teeth of *Rhinoceros sivalensis* and sub-recent crustacean fossils. Some miocene fish fossils were gifted to the British Museum (Natural History) while a number of other specimens were sent to the same institution for identification. With the appointment of Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala as Director an effort was made to build up the collections also of the geological division. According to him:

“The importance of the country’s mineral resources is gaining recognition and the valuable collections made by the Mineral Survey of Ceylon, comprising rock samples, minerals and gems which are the property of the Colombo Museum need amplification and rearrangement. Specimens illustrating phenomenal geology, stratigraphy, petrography and other important features of the Geology of Ceylon, have still to be dealt with but such work will necessitate the attention of a full time Assistant.”

In 1939 the exhibited cases were rearranged displaying a series of Jurassic, Miocene and upper Pleistocene fossils. Important additions to the collections during this year was a specimen of bituminous coal from the newly discovered carbonaceous Jurassic shales at Āndigama in the North-Western Province and two fossil vertebrae of a pilot whale dug up by Colonel S. D. Cleeve of the Royal Engineers in 1897 from a depth of 15 feet at

a distance of 100 yards from the sea at Flagstaff Battery, Colombo. A small lump of iron pyrites from Matara was purchased during 1939. Palaeontological collecting trips were undertaken during 1940 to Atuduva, 5 miles inland from Matara, to Kola Kanatte off Portugal Bay and to Minihagalkanda which yielded specimens of the window-pane oyster, subfossil remains of wild pig, sambhur, possibly domestic cattle and marine shells of Miocene age.

A more or less completely mineralised internode of a species of bamboo obtained at a depth of 33 feet from a gem pit at Badalgavatta in Colombugama, was forwarded to Prof. B. Sahni of Lucknow University for investigation. Fossilised seeds of *Caryota urens* were discovered during an excavation at Kahattevela, Bandarawela.

In 1945 the mammalian fossils recovered from gem sand revealed that while similar fossils in the Sivaliks in India are separated by an interlying thickness of many thousands of feet those in Sri Lanka occur together in a thickness of about six inches to two feet. Several elephant molars, bovine fossils and fossilised vertebrae were collected from gem pits at depths of nine to twenty four feet. During this year a collection of Sri Lanka fossils was gifted to Harvard University, Boston, U.S.A.

The Museum received in 1947 a skull of a living African black rhinoceros, the jaws of a hippopotamus and of a giraffe to enable comparison with similar skull portions recovered from Sri Lanka gem pits. The three important palaeontological discoveries during 1947 were the discovery of (1), the terminal third of a right canine tooth of an extinct race of lion (2), an almost complete thigh bone of a hippopotamus and (3), the first fossil of a pig from Sri Lanka. By 1947 the exhibited collection of minerals totalled fifty-one.

A collection of Plio-Pleistocene fossils was made from Sabaragamuva and from quarries

at Kankasanturai. During this year the exhibited fossils collection was rearranged and the Sri Lanka fossils of Jurassic, Miocene, Plio-Quaternary and Holocene were arranged in chronological order. The African fossils from the University of California Expedition to Lake Rudolf, Zanzibar and to the Libyan desert were also exhibited.

During 1949 Professor D. M. S. Watson and Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala visited Minihagalkanda and collected for the first time from those beds the pharyngeal teeth of a Miocene marine puffer fish, *Diodon sinhaleus* which had earlier been collected from Aruakallu, North-west of Sri Lanka in 1922. Three pieces of silicified wood and six pieces of coarse Jurassic grit with impressions of large plants were secured by Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala from Tabbowa.

Among the notable fossils collected in 1950 were half of the shoulder blade and an upper arm bone of the extinct hippopotamus, the "spout" of the lower jaw and a tooth of an extinct elephant, all from Ratnapura. Among the foreign material received were a well preserved skull of a Miocene-Pliocene hornless rhinoceros, *Turkanatherium acutirostratus* from near Lake Rudolf sent by the University of California and in 1951 the skull and antlers of the extinct Irish deer, *Megaceros giganteus* by the Earl of Enniskillen.

In 1951 Mr. R. V. Gunasekera was appointed probationary Laboratory Assistant in Geology and in the following year Mr. D. P. R. Weerasekera as the Curator in prehistory, palaeontology and geology.

The only known incisor tooth so far discovered of the extinct rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros sinhaleus* was gifted to the Museum by Mr. B. M. Gunaseela of Pathakada.

The Museum received in 1954, the gift of the humerus of the extinct dinosaur, *Brachyosaurus brancai* in exchange for zoological specimens and publications from the Berlin Museum.

Dating tests of *Elephas* and Hippo fossils from Bokirideniya, Kuruvita carried out at the Atomic branch of the Geological Survey of Great Britain by Mr. S. H. U. Bowie reveal that hippo is much older than elephant showing that their present association is due to redeposition. Mr. Weerasekera resigned in 1955.

In 1957 a completely mineralised bovine horn core of a new genus from the bed of Kaudulu Oya at Madirigiriya, N.C.P. was discovered.

In 1957 Mr. S. P. F. Senaratne was appointed the Assistant in Prehistory and he took over the administrative control of this division.

Dr. P. C. Zwann, an officer from the Geological and Minerological department of the Rijksmuseum visited the Museum in 1958 as an Unesco expert to examine the gem collection of the Museum. He revealed a small diamond crystal in a sample of ferruginous thorionite conglomerate of alluvial origin from Bambarabotuva which was transparent in colour and tria-octahedral in shape. Dr. Zwann suggested schemes for the classification and exhibition of the minerals and gems in the Museum.

In 1958 Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala published his book on the 'Pleistocene of Ceylon' (164, pp., 55 plates, 40 text figures).

The Registers were brought up to date in 1960 and the geological exhibits rearranged.

Uranium tests on the Ratnapura mammalian fossils revealed that the hippo is the oldest, next in age the elephant and rhinoceros, the most recent.

In 1961 the gem stones in the museum were weighed, photographed and registered. An amethyst and a rock crystal were gifted by Mr. A. A. Wijesuriya of Mirigama.

U.S. Friendship 7 spacecraft in which Marine Corps Lieutenant-Colonel H. Glenn accomplished his historic space flight round

the earth in February 1962 was exhibited at the Museum from 28th to 30th June 1962 through the courtesy of the U.S.A. Embassy in Sri Lanka.

In 1967 the geology, mineral and fossil galleries were redesigned and a new exhibition arranged to meet the requirements especially of students and teachers with a more representative collection exhibited.

An exhibition was held in collaboration with the U. S. Embassy in Sri Lanka from 17th to 20th December 1970 of a sample of moon rock collected by the U. S. Apollo astronauts. Since then two samples of moon rock have been gifted to National Museum by the United States of America.

Museum Educational Activities

Though the Museum was established in 1877 it was not until 1901 that the use of the Museum for teaching purposes came for consideration. During 1901 a suggestion was made by the Director of Public Instruction that the Museum collections might be utilized by members of his department as material for elementary instruction in Natural History etc. An experiment as to the possibility of such instruction was carried out but the results were not made known.

The need to provide a suitable lecture hall in the Museum was made in 1919 by the Director of the Museum for the use of learned societies, for art exhibitions, chamber concerts and the like.

However, it was in 1924 that the first concrete step was taken in museum educational work by Dr. J. Pearson, the Director when he organized a course of about ten lectures on Saturday mornings in the museum reading room to teachers in Colombo schools which was well attended. Dr. Pearson makes in his administrative report for 1928 the following observations:—

“All sections of a Museum should be educational, because even the ‘man in the

street’ visits a Museum with the intention of acquiring knowledge of a general kind. But museums are being used more and more as a definite instrument in the hands of educational authorities. In the case of the Colombo Museum perhaps the most important development in recent years has been the increasing use which the schools in Colombo and, to a lesser extent, of the outstations have made in the Colombo Museum. To meet this new educational movement it is necessary that

- (1) the children should be so placed in the hands of a capable guide or teacher, and
- (2) that a special section of the Museum should be arranged to meet the special needs of school children.

The first of these is perhaps the most important.”

In 1929 the Director reported that it was gratifying to record that school children under the charge of their teachers were making increasing use of the Museum year by year.

In 1931 a course of Museum Lectures in English on Art and Archaeology was arranged for teachers in Colombo. During this year 8,127 school children visited the Museum under the guidance of their teachers.

In 1932 the above course was given in Sinhalese to teacher-trainees which was well attended, on an average of 225 teacher-trainees participating at each lecture. The Probationary Assistant in Ethnology Mr. N. D. Wijesekera gave also a series of radio talks.

The series of free public lectures had to be stopped during the war years but was resumed in 1946.

The educational programme in 1947 consisted of 12 free public lectures, 6 lectures to other institutions and a series of 13 radio talks on ‘Our Heritage’ under the school programme.

In 1949 two guide lecturers were appointed to conduct parties of school children to explain to them the various exhibits. An improved series of 30 illustrated museum lectures were delivered during the year with both scholars from the museum as well as from outside taking part in the programme. The guide lecturer service was becoming popular being utilized not only by schools and teachers but also by parties of local and foreign visitors. In 1950, 365 school parties totalling 13,878 school children and 465 other parties were conducted and the exhibits explained in Sinhalese, Tamil and in English as required. 22 public lectures were also delivered.

In 1953, 5 radio talks and two series of lectures one on Ethnology and the other on Zoology were delivered for the benefit of students of higher forms in Colombo schools. Guide lecturer service continued to be fully utilized. In 1954 several members of Teachers Associations in Colombo, Galle and Kandy spent three days at the museum and were conducted around according to pre-arranged programmes, with special emphasis being placed on sculpture, painting and art. During this year 18 lectures were delivered to selected students of the school of Fine Arts on sculpture, pottery, wood carving, bronzes and fresco painting. A series of 5 lectures, each in Sinhalese and in English were delivered to Training Students at the Teacher Training Colleges at Maharagama, Nittambuwa, Polgolla, Katukurunda and Mirigama. Three parties of Indian University under-graduates were given a two-hour talk on Sri Lanka Culture at the Museum. Two batches of 85 teacher trainees from Tamil Training Colleges were given a general lecture on the Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa periods with special reference to the bronze images of Sri Lanka. The Guide Lecturer Service continued to be popular.

In 1955 Museum lectures were delivered in all three language media, 41 in Sinhalese,

9 in Tamil and 14 in English. 3 film shows were also held. Several of these lectures were tape-recorded by Radio Ceylon, and broadcast over the Home Service.

In 1956 nearly 60 lectures were delivered to schools and to the public. 12 films were screened. During this year a meeting of museum officers and principals of 19 Colombo schools was held to discuss how best the museum could assist the schools.

In 1957 the Guide Lecturers apart from conducting school parties, also conducted parties of cultural delegates from several countries such as Japan, Germany, Burma, China, Africa, Austria, Indonesia, Czechoslovakia and Russia. 8 groups of 66 educationists on art, archaeology and culture from India, U.K., Germany, Yugoslavia and America and 4 parties of students from Bombay, Calcutta and New Delhi were conducted around the Museum and the exhibits explained. 4 special gallery lectures were held for the benefit of 148 trainees from Mirigama and Uyanwatta Teacher Training Colleges. During this year two batches of 163 Indian students and two parties of teachers and inspectors of schools from Malaysia were also conducted around the Museum.

In 1958 the number of school children who visited the Museum in organised parties totalled 51,353. During this year also a series of public lectures were held.

During 1959 apart from the guide lecturer service three full day gallery lectures were given to teacher trainees of Polgolla, and Giragama and to students of the Government Ayurvedic College. 6 gallery lectures were also arranged for the teacher trainees of Maharagama, Kalutara and Mirigama. Several cultural delegates were conducted around the Museum. During this year 4 public lectures on Sinhalese dance techniques with demonstrations were delivered at the Museum.

In 1960, 42 lectures in Sinhalese and 41



A Master Teacher conducting a Class for Teachers at the Colombo Museum.

lectures in English were delivered for the benefit of the students and the public and 20 films were screened. Apart from these activities special gallery lectures were held for teacher trainees of Maharagama, Katukurunda, Peradeniya, Nittambuwa, Giragama and Polgolla Training Colleges and also cultural delegations from the U.S.S.R., U.S.A., U.K., Africa, South Argentina, China, Japan, West Germany, France, Holland, Rumania, Australia and New Zealand were conducted around the Museum. During this year parties of students from High Schools and Universities in Madras, Hyderabad, Coimbatore and Delhi were also shown around the Museum.

During 1961 and 1962 14 Sinhalese lectures and 37 English lectures were delivered under the Museum lecture programme and several films screened.

In 1966 the educational services were re-organized. A pamphlet was issued detailing the facilities available for school children and teachers at the Museum. The guide lecturer service was continued and 41 public lectures in Sinhalese and in English were delivered during the year. Several articles were published in the local newspapers with a view to popularise the museum and a loan service restricted to zoological specimens was initiated for the benefit of Colombo schools. During this year the Museum participated in a big way in two exhibitions held outside (1), on 'Five hundred years of the Ceylon House,' at No. 2, Alfred House Road and (2), on 'Organic Evolution' at Ananda College, Colombo. During this year a National Museums Discussion group was formed and 7 programmes were carried out. Two undergraduates of the department of Zoology, Vidyodaya University spent a fortnight with the museum Taxidermist at Kalkudah receiving training in field collecting and another undergraduate received training in taxonomic zoology under the Director.

In 1967 two new programmes were added

namely (1), a pre-poya day programme for schools and (2), a series of lectures and demonstration classes to the teacher trainees at Maharagama Training College. 28 public lectures were also delivered. The special pre-poya day programme was designed to serve the requirements of children in grades III, IV and V and was arranged in consultation with Heads of schools. It consisted of a guided tour of the Museum, the screening of a film on the 'Ruhunu National Park,' and talks on the Veddas, the Ancient Capitals of Sri Lanka and on the traditional crafts. The programme was concluded by a folk song recital.

During this year a monthly feature was published in the Ceylon Daily News titled 'Focus on the Museum' with the assistance of the Editor. A booklet was prepared by Mrs. K. D. Chandrasena at the request of Professor J. E. Jayasuriya of the University of Sri Lanka on 'How best the Colombo Museum could be made use of in the teaching of Social History.' A limited number of copies was circulated.

During this year a magazine for children, called 'Singithi-Kauthukagara Lama Sangarawa' was published for the first time.

During 1968 these programmes were continued and 11 public lectures were delivered including talks by Professor L. R. Haynes on the 'Ethno-Technology of the crafts' and Dr. E. Eisenberg on the results of his research on the Sri Lanka elephant. 8 undergraduates of Vidyodaya University followed a short training course on the ants of Sri Lanka in the Entomology division.

In 1969 and 1970 two additional programmes were undertaken. The first was a programme under the theme 'Music of the World,' which consisted of an hour of recorded music through the co-operation of several Embassies in Colombo. The second was a training course for teachers in Art History and Zoology.

In 1975, 11 public lectures were held and 12 films screened. The two Guide lecturers conducted 398 school parties consisting of 17,405 school children. They also conducted 324 other parties of visitors. 1504 Museum publications and 5227 picture post cards were sold both locally and abroad, the department thus accruing a revenue of Rs. 16,687.41. An outstanding feature this year was the introduction of Museum classes for teachers. Two important programmes were arranged under this scheme. The first was on 'Painting and Sculpture' and 262 Grade IX teachers from schools in Colombo North and South, Kotte, Dehiwela-Mt. Lavinia, Kolonnawa, Borella, and Homagama Education divisions participated. This was initiated by the Education department. These teachers in turn conducted classes for 870 school children from Colombo schools at the Museum on the same subject. The second programme was on Social Studies for grade VII teachers by the Assistants in Ethnology and Anthropology and the graduate trainee, Miss V. Samarawickrama. In all 14 such classes were held and 264 teachers participated.

In 1976, also these programmes, free guide lecturer service and public lecture and film programmes were continued. A Mobile Museum service to schools in rural areas is also planned and financial provision requested to implement this programme has been included in the 1977 estimates.

Colombo Museum Library

The idea of establishing a library was contemporaneous with that of the Museum and the discussions in the Legislative Council on the establishment of the Museum also included the establishment of the Library.

The Governor, Sir William Gregory enunciated the aims and ideals for the establishment of the library in his speech to the Legislative Council on 15th January, 1873 when he stated:—

"I trust to form a library which shall be open to every man who is respectable for the purpose study. It will not be, I am sorry to say like the British Museum containing books on every conceivable subject, but it will be composed of as many useful books, as our means will allow. I believe it will become a place for study and that there will be found in it a large and valuable supply of works of reference relating to the island, and under the circumstances I feel it will be of no light assistance in aiding the intellectual work which is certainly going on at present here."

The library was opened on the same day as the Museum ie. on 1st January 1877. It was housed in a room 29½ feet by 24¾ feet to the right of the main Hall. The collection of manuscripts belonging to the Government Oriental Library which was established in 1870 was transferred from the Secretariat to the Museum and served as the nucleus of the Museum Library. At the same time collections of the Library of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society which was formed in 1845 were also brought in to the Museum Library and to some extent amalgamated. At first the books of the Royal Asiatic Society were mixed up but were later sorted out and maintained distinct from the rest of the Museum Library collections. The Government Oriental Library collections were completely absorbed and lost its identity as such. In 1877 the total number of volumes was 1440 of which 815 had been gifted by the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, 170 by Mr. J. F. Lorenz and 62 others by other gentlemen. The Oriental manuscripts totalled 188. 393 books and periodicals were purchased. The Governor himself was advised by Dr. Günther of the British Museum and by Professor Childers on the works connected with natural history and oriental literature suitable for purchase. The number of readers' tickets issued in 1877 was 17.

Mr. Richard van Cuylenberg was the first Secretary and Librarian of the Colombo Museum Library serving in this capacity until he retired in 1885. Approximately 2,200 printed books were added to the Library during this period of which over two-thirds were acquired by donation and the remainder by purchase. Mr. J. F. Lorenz presented a valuable collection of 170 Ceylon books which were the property of his late brother, Mr. C. A. Lorenz.

The first printed catalogue was prepared by the Librarian and was issued in 1877. Its contents were as follows:-

1. Works relating to Ceylon,
2. Publications of Learned Societies,
3. Natural History,
4. Languages,
5. Oriental Literature,
6. Periodical Publications,
7. Archaeology, History, Anthropology, Ethnology,
8. Astrology and Geography.
9. Miscellaneous.

In 1880 a systematic catalogue of the reference Library was prepared and work on an alphabetical catalogue was undertaken. Some special cases for the palm leaf manuscripts were designed by the Government Architect.

Dr. John Murdoch stressed the importance of acquiring Sinhalese books to the library. In 1884 he addressed the Committee of the Museum and urged that a complete collection should be formed of all publications printed in the island. He proposed that an Ordinance be passed on the lines of the Indian Act XXV of 1867. Dr. Murdoch stated:

“The Library—I understand does not contain any printed books in Sinhalese. Though a comparatively small nation the historical works of the Sinhalese far surpass in value any produced in India.”

Dr. Murdoch's recommendations were strongly approved by the Committee of the

Museum and of the Royal Asiatic Society and the outcome of this proposal was the Ordinance, No. 1 of 1885 which came into effect from April 1st of the same year according to which 3 copies of every printed material in the island should be sent free of charge to government and one copy of each of such publications to be sent by government to the library of the Colombo Museum. This is still in practice and copies are now sent by the Director of National Archives.

Mr. Frederick H. M. Corbert was appointed on June 16, 1886 as Librarian. Administration Reports of the Library began to be issued during Mr. Corbert's regime. In 1886 certain rules for the lending of books of the Museum Library were passed by the Museum sub-committee and the question of amalgamation of the Museum Library and the library of the Royal Asiatic Society was also considered. Among the books purchased during this year was the work of Juan Rodriguez de Saa y Menezes entitled, ‘Rebellion de Ceylan, y los progressus Su conquistino de Saa y Norona,’ printed in Lisbon in 1681. By 1887 the number of volumes had increased to 3000 and the number of readers to 416.

With the assistance of Dr. D. M. de Z. Wickremasingha the work of purchasing and copying of manuscripts was pursued and rare and valuable books were added to the collection. In 1887 the Museum collection of ola manuscripts were classified by the late Lewis de Zoysa, Maha Mudaliyar. One of the most important additions to the library during Mr. Corbert's tenure of office was a collection of 260 pamphlets published in Ceylon prior to the 1885 Ordinance. Mr. Corbert resigned in 1893 and during his brief period of service of six years contributed immensely to the improvement of the library.

Mr. Gerrard Abraham Joseph succeeded Mr. Corbert. The library was enriched by the addition of a large number of volumes during Mr. Joseph's time and besides many

books of general interest and several works on natural history were purchased. A valuable collection of ola manuscripts in Sinhalese, Pali and Sanskrit and representative collections of books of reference and works on philology, history, travel, religion, biology, anthropology, ethnology, archaeology and art were gradually built up.

Preparation of authors' list in alphabetical order was commenced by Mr. A. Haly, the Director of Colombo Museum and was completed and published by Mr. G. A. Joseph in 1894. Two supplements in the form of dictionary catalogues were also published by Mr. Joseph in 1896 and 1899. A catalogue of Pali, Sinhalese and Sanskrit manuscripts in the custody of Colombo Museum was issued in 1892 by Mr. A. Haly. This list was compiled in Sinhalese in 1894 by Mr. Simon F. Gunawardana, Acting Assistant Librarian. This was followed by a descriptive catalogue of Pali, Sinhalese and Sanskrit manuscripts in the Colombo Museum Library in 1901 by Mr. H. M. Gunasekera, the Assistant Librarian. To this a Sinhalese supplement was subsequently added by him. Mr. Joseph issued another catalogue of printed books in 1904, after which no further issues of printed catalogues were necessary as the card system of cataloguing was adopted.

After the appointment of Dr. Pearson in August 1910 as the Director of the Museum he ordered that the library collections be classified and the books be arranged accordingly. Until such time the books were arranged according to physical sizes with no scientific relationship to the literature of the books. Guides to certain sections of Ethnographical and Archaeological collections were compiled by Mr. Joseph. Mr. Joseph died in 1922 after 29 years of service in the Museum.

From February 1924 the Assistant Librarian Mr. A. E. Jayasingha acted until Mr. Weinmen was appointed as Secretary and

Librarian in April, 1924. In 1924 a valuable collection of ola manuscripts consisting of 200 books were purchased for a sum of Rs. 1,750/- from Mr. H. C. P. Bell. A very valuable acquisition during his period was the Nevill's collection of ola manuscripts which was donated to the Colombo Museum Library by the beneficiary of late Mr. Hugh Nevill's estate. A further collection of about 807 manuscripts were purchased from the Nevill's collection in 1925 for a sum of Rs. 860/-.

The Library continued to expand and the number of readers utilizing the library facilities also increased. By 1926 the number of approved readers totalled 632.

The Director of the Colombo Museum has recorded that the vote for the purchase of the books was reduced from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 5,000/- for the financial year 1929-30, which affected the library in its collection of books.

The restoration of the library vote in 1935 estimates to Rs. 10,000/- provided sufficient funds for the purchase of essential works of reference to the non-zoological sections of the Museum.

The work in connection with the compilation of a catalogue of palm leaf manuscripts was commenced during Mr. Weinmen's time. On the recommendation of the Empire Grants Committee of the Carnegie Corporation of New York had appropriated from the balance available in the British Dominions and Colonies Fund a sum of one thousand dollars for the compilation of a Catalogue of palm leaf manuscripts in the Museum Library. This grant had been very gratefully accepted and a sub-committee of the Museum Committee of Management was created to make all the necessary arrangements for the compilation of the catalogue including the appointment of the requisite staff. Hon. W. A. de Silva, a member of the Museum Advisory Committee of Management and former Minister of Health kindly

undertook the duties of honorary editor of the Catalogue. He was assisted by Mr. K. D. L. Wickramaratne of the Museum Library. The Library collection of palm leaf manuscripts was increased to 2,000 in 1935 and it included those of Bell's and Nevill's collections. To these a valuable collection of 1,226 manuscripts belonging to Hon. W. A. de Silva was added during this year.

Of all the subsections in the library the zoological section made rapid progress. This subsection was increased mainly through the exchanges made with other institutions abroad, with the Museum Research Bulletin, *Spolia Zeylanica*. In a letter sent to the Colonial Secretary dated March 26, 1923 Dr. J. Pearson, a former Director of the Colombo Museum has stated that the zoological section of the library could be valued at Rs. 90,000/- out of which at least one-third represented the value of exchanges made with *Spolia Zeylanica*. In a subsequent letter dated Oct. 11, 1930 to the Colonial Secretary he stated that the Museum Library is worth at least Rs. 100,000/-. This section of the library was regarded as one of the best in the East.

It is outstanding to note that in 1937 an ola copy of the *Cullavagga* was purchased from the collection of late Mr. H. C. P. Bell for Rs. 600/- and according to Professor Paranavitana, former Archaeological Commissioner this is the oldest manuscript extant in Ceylon.

The first volume of the Catalogue of palm leaf manuscripts edited by Hon. W. A. de Silva was published in 1938. During the same year the valuable collection of books and manuscripts belonging to the late Mr. H. C. P. Bell which comprised approximately 840 volumes of books, 78 annals and 46 ola manuscripts were acquired by the library. A valuable collection of 40 photostats of ola manuscripts in the Nevill collection at the British Museum was presented to the library by Dr. Andreas Nell. In 1942 Sir Solomon

Dias Bandaranaike donated Sir Henry Blake's collection of ola manuscripts to the Museum Library.

When the Second World War broke out the rarer books and manuscripts were stored temporarily at Nuwara Eliya and Ratnapura Kachcheries. Mr. A. E. Jayasingha the Senior Assistant Librarian who acted as Librarian was in-charge of them. A temporary reading room was opened at the Sinhalese Sports Club. Mr. Lyn de Fonseka was in-charge of the library at Pelmadulla. Mr. C. M. A. de Silva took over as Librarian in 1945 August, from Mr. A. E. Jayasingha who was acting.

In accordance with a decision of the Advisory Committee the readership was restricted to genuine research workers in 1949. The lack of accommodation and want of adequate staff were the drawbacks for progress of the library.

A precious collection of 131 ancient Sinhala palm leaf manuscripts was gifted to the library by Dr. Paul E. Pieries in 1950. They contain valuable data for ethnological study pertaining to ritual dances, ceremonies, magic and medicine. A large and a very valuable collection of volumes in manuscripts of Sinhala poems compiled by Hugh Nevill in 1870 was presented by Dr. P. E. Pieris in the same year, on condition that Government publishes them without delay.

In 1951 under the supervision of Mr. C. M. A. de Silva, the Librarian, about 50 ancient palm leaf manuscripts dealing with indigenous medicine, ethnology, history and literature were transcribed for publication and a type written copy of Hugh Nevill's catalogue of Sinhala Kavi was commenced. Volume III of the National Museum Manuscript Series incorporating five ancient olas dealing with ophthalmology was prepared and sent for printing and it was published in 1953. Another volume under the above series dealing with medicinal oils was also prepared for publication.

From 21st July of 1955 the Librarian resumed duties as Secretary to the Advisory Committee. Mr. Lyn de Fonseka was appointed Acting Librarian in 1957 and confirmed in 1958. As a result of a reduction of the library vote to Rs. 4,000/- the Museum Library was only able to purchase a few of the requirements of important books. Many important periodicals too had to be deleted from the purchase list. Mr. Lyn de Fonseka, Librarian retired on 16th August 1966 after a period of 39 years of service and Mr. A. B. C. Fernando, the Senior Assistant Librarian succeeded Mr. Fonseka. Mr. Fernando continued in the best traditions of the Library and maintained the high standards set by his predecessors. He retired in 1967 and was succeeded by Mr. K. D. L. Wickramaratne, the Senior Assistant Librarian who acted in this post from 1967-68 until Miss V. B. de Silva was selected for appointment.

Miss V. B. de Silva was appointed as Librarian in 1968. Reorganization of the Colombo Museum Library commenced in January, 1968 and standard library procedures were introduced. Approximately one-third of the uncatalogued collection of issues of serials were sorted and shelved and the sections established were Ceylon periodicals, Foreign Serials and Government Publications. Monographs received were classified by U.D.C. The work on the classification of retrospective holdings was begun.

In 1969 reference facilities were also extended to those engaged in short term research and temporary tickets were issued to such readers. An inquiry service was also introduced whereby day permits were issued to those seeking casual reference to material not readily available or not available elsewhere. Reading room procedures were altered as from January 1969 to provide better security of library material and also a better service to the readers. Satisfactory progress was also made in regard to cataloguing,

classification and indexing of current acquisitions. Work was also commenced in compiling subject lists of serials. In late 1969 a modest bibliographical service was introduced with the commencement of work in compiling Acquisitions Bulletin, Ceylon Periodicals Index and Ceylon Periodicals Directory.

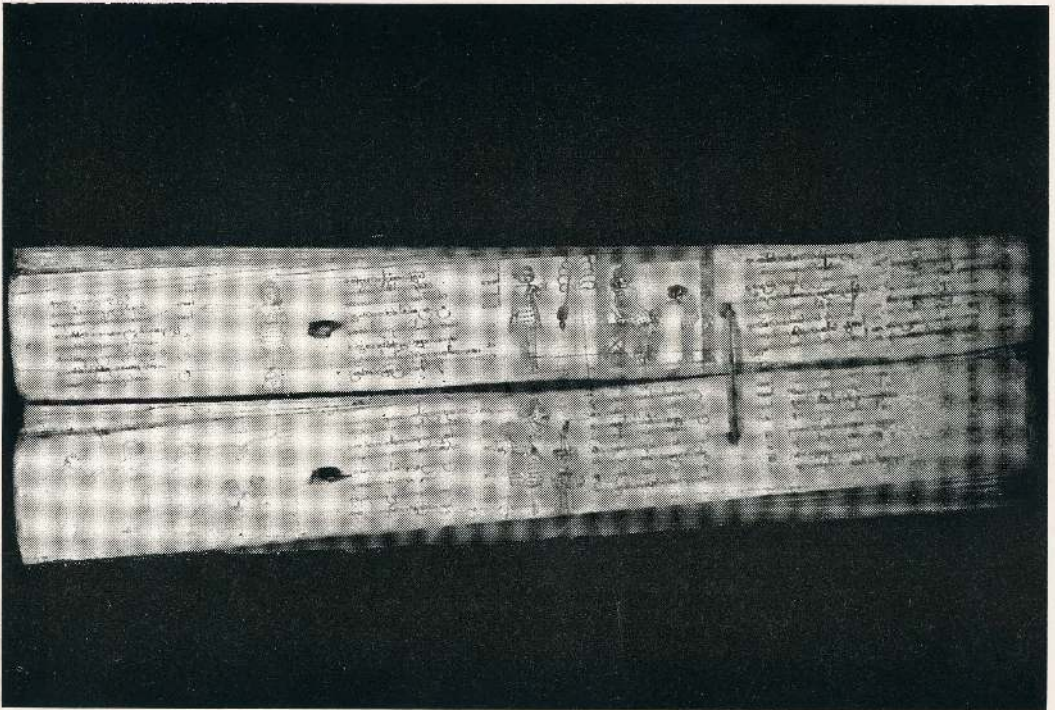
In 1970 a separate science section with approximately 127,000 items was established and housed in the new block. Miss S. de Soysa, Assistant Librarian (Sc.) has been in-charge of that section from its inception. With the shifting of the science collection to the new block the old section is reserved for Ceyloniana, the Orientalia, Ceylon Government Publications and General Arts Collections.

Mr. K. D. L. Wickramaratne, the Senior Assistant Librarian undertook the preparation of Vol. II of the Catalogue of Palm Leaf Manuscripts in the Colombo Museum Library and his manuscript was sent to the Government Press for printing. During his retirement he undertook to correct the proofs of this publication.

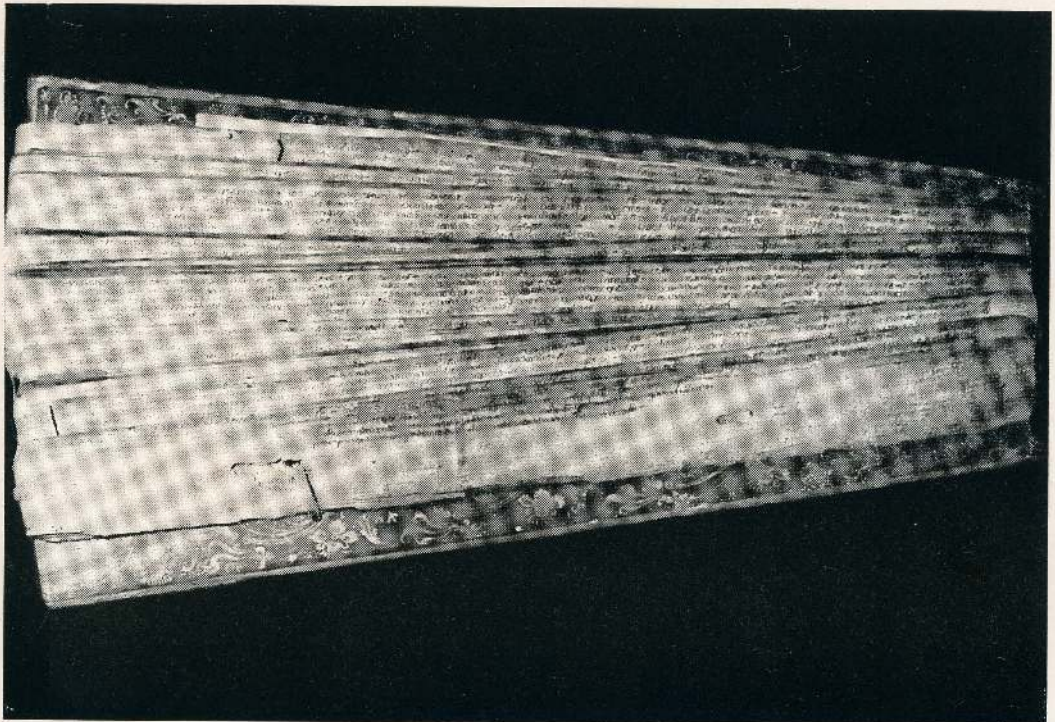
Miss V. B. de Silva left the services of the Department as the Librarian in February 1974 and Miss C. I. Karunanayake succeeded Miss de Silva in February 1975.

In December 1975 Ven. Kalukondayawe Pannasekera Maha Thera donated his private collection of Sinhalese periodicals and Newspapers to the National Museum Library. This constitutes a very significant contribution to the Museum Library.

The Colombo Museum Library is unique. It is the most valuable and the oldest in the island. It is the national repository of literature and contains a most valuable collection of books and manuscripts. The present number of printed books is approximately 500,000 and the collection of ancient ola manuscripts numbers 3,500.



Vessantara Jātaka, An Illuminated Palm Leaf Manuscript.



Cullavagga, A 12th Century Palm Leaf Manuscript.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike Collection.

In March 1942 Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, K.C.M.G. donated Sir Henry Blake's collection of ola manuscripts. It includes 120 manuscripts on medicine, Buddhism and Literature.

W. A. de Silva Collection.

In October 1934 W. A. de Silva intimated to the Committee of management his desire to present to the Museum his valuable collection of palm leaf manuscripts, a gift which the Committee of management very gratefully accepted. The collection comprises works on astrology, medicine, ballads, etc. and numbers 1,226 manuscripts.

A. H. Malpas—Director of Colombo Museum has stated in his Administration Reports for 1935 as follows: "I venture to express the hope that Mr. Silva's generous action in presenting the valuable collections referred to above will be followed by other residents in Ceylon who are now in possession of unique collections or specimens of national importance, which should be preferred for the educational advance of posterity."

Bell Collection.

In 1924 a collection of ola manuscripts, about 200, were purchased for a sum of Rs. 1750/- from Mr. H. C. P. Bell. In 1938 a collection of books belonging to him which comprised 840 volumes and 46 manuscripts was acquired by the library. This collection of books include rare and important books pertaining to Ceylon.

Among these are few works written by him in manuscript form, on 'caste system in Ceylon.' It also includes *Cullavagga*, the oldest ola-leaf manuscript extant in Ceylon. The following report was forwarded by Prof. S. Paranavithana on *Cullavagga*.

"The most important MSS in the whole collection is one of the *Cullavagga*, a Pali text forming part of the *Vinaya Pitaka*. This MSS is written in characters of the 13th century and the colophon at the end in Sinhalese states in effect that the manuscript was copied by Sumedha Thero of Beligala when the hierarch Medhankara under the patronage of king Parakramabahu, was having religious texts copied so that every monk in the island may be supplied with one. Judging from the script, and the names of the theras mentioned therein I would tentatively take the Parakramabahu mentioned in the colophon to be the second of that name (1236-1271).

The manuscript consists of 163 palm leaves and considering its age is in good preservation, only 2 or 3 leaves being somewhat damaged. The boards were painted on both sides; the painting on the inside is well preserved and may be not of the same age as the writing. The painting on the outside has disappeared but for a few traces on one of the boards. What little is preserved is of very good quality and may be dated from the 13th century."

Ven. Kalukondayawe Pannasekera Collection.

10,000 (approximately) Sinhalese periodicals and Newspapers were donated by Ven. Kalukondayawe Pannasekera Maha Thero in December 1975. This collection portrays the development of Sinhala periodical literature and Journalism from their inception.

Rare and valuable manuscripts.

1. Ceylon Independence Act, 1947 (original).
2. Governor North's private letters.
3. Autographs of Sir Alexander Johnston. Autograph letters—Tennent Cameron-Chas.
4. Instruction from Governor to Sir Alexander Johnston.

5. Drafts of letters from Sir Alexander Johnston re Supreme Court.
6. Original of the capitulation of Trincomalee, 1795.
7. Jonville's account of the Embassy of 1800, original with sketches and translation.
8. Letter dated 17th May, 1877 from Governor Gregory to Mr. Leechman in connection with the Museum.

Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Collection.

This section comprises books and journals of importance to Sri Lanka in different fields such as history, archaeology, antiquities, arts, crafts, folklore etc. Some of the rare books in this collection are given below.

1. Johnston collection Manuscripts (1-4).
2. Grammar of the Kandyan Law by Armour.
3. Ceylon drawings by Captain O'Brien.
4. Illustration of scenery, active inhabitants and animals of Ceylon by Samuel Daniel, 1908.
5. Taprobanian (3 vols.).
6. A true and exact description of Ceylon by Philippus Baldeaus, 1672.
7. A true and exact description of Ceylon by Philippus Baldeaus, John Churchill, ed., 1703.
8. Davy, John—An account of the interior of Ceylon, 1821.
9. Knox, Robert—An historical relation of the island of Ceylon, 1681.
10. Percival, Robert—An account of the island of Ceylon, 1805.
11. Philathes—The history of Ceylon from the earliest period to the year MDCCXV—1817.
12. Smither, J. G.—Architectural remains of Anuradhapura.
13. Vandort, John L. K.—Sketches of the costumes of natives of Ceylon, 1861.
14. The history and doctrine of Buddhism by Edmond Upham, 1829, vol. I.

15. Singaleesch Gebeede Book 1737 (first book printed in Ceylon).

16. Album of specimen stamps.

It also contains a fairly good collection of government publications such as Blue Books, Sessional Papers, Administration Reports, etc. for the following periods:-

Blue Book	from 1864 to 1938
Sessional Papers	from 1860 to date
Administration Reports	from 1867 to date
Hansards	from 1870 to date
Civil Lists	1863 to 1962

Sri Lanka periodicals collection includes valuable journals such as The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch, Ceylon Antiquary and Literary Register, Ceylon Literary Register, Ceylon Miscellany and Young Ceylon.

Science Collection.

The science collection was built up to a great extent by exchanges received from the scientific institutions in all parts of the world. It contains a good collection of the transactions of learned societies and science periodicals, publications of academies and universities. The numbers of (titles) different periodicals received are 800. Some of the important collections are:-

1. Discovery reports.
2. Ray Society publications.
3. Full sets of proceedings—Zoological Society of London (1830); U.S. National Museum Reports (1905) and proceedings (1870).
4. Smithsonian publications (1885).
5. Zoological Records from vol. 1, 1864.
6. Proceedings, Transactions, Reports and Bulletins of most of the learned societies of the world—approximately 800 titles.

Some of the rare books in the Natural History collection are:-

1. Legge, V.—A history of the birds of Ceylon, vols. 1 & 2, 1880.

2. Bennet, J. W.—A selection of rare and curious fishes found up on the coasts of Ceylon, 1851.
3. Kelaart, E. F.—Prodromus Faunae Zeylanicae—being a contribution to the zoology of Ceylon, 1850-1854.
4. Moore, F.—Lepidoptera of Ceylon, vols. 1-3, 1880-87.
5. Fauna of British India including Burma and Ceylon—1888.
6. Reports of the Scientific Results of the Voyages of H.M.S. Challenger, 1873.

Collection of Ola leaf Manuscripts.

The palm leaf manuscripts in this library, 3500 in number, are of great value and importance and comprise an almost unrivalled and unique collection of Sinhalese and Pali, Sanskrit and a few in Burmese, Cambodian, Tamil and Telegu characters. The manuscripts written in Pali mainly deal with Buddhism, Tripitaka and its commentaries, Tikas, Atthakathas, grammar and medicine. The works of Sanskrit are secular books which are mostly on medicine, astrology, grammar and other sciences and are generally provided with Sinhalese paraphrases. The Sinhalese works consist of prose translations of the Pali canon and the commentaries thereon, historical prose works, medicine, astrology, demonology and other local cults and poems, most of which embody Jataka tales. There are two illuminated manuscripts: 'Vessantara Jataka' and 'Āhālepolā Daruwanketavima'. The Museum Library is in the possession of *Cullavagga*, the oldest manuscript extant in Sri Lanka.

Museum Library Publications.

Acquisitions Bulletin—A guide for readers to the current material received by the Library. It is in two sections. 1., Sinhala; and 2., English. Issued quarterly.

Sri Lanka Periodicals Index—A current subject guide to Sri Lanka periodical literature in Sinhala and English. This classified index covers periodical literature received through the office of the Registrar of Books & Newspapers in Sri Lanka under the Printers & Publishers Ordinance. This index is the first and the only subject guide so far to current periodical literature. First issue of C.P.I. was issued in December 1969.

Bibliographical Series—The following select bibliographies were issued under the Bibliographical series:

1. Preliminary list of foreign science periodicals in N.M.L. up to letter L.
2. Preliminary list of foreign arts periodicals in N.M.L.
3. A select bibliography on Muslims of Ceylon.
4. A bibliography on the Coconut pest (*Promecotheca cumingi*).
5. List of Periodicals donated by Ven. Kalukondayawe Pannasekera Maha Thero (Sinhala and English).

Projects in hand.

1. Readers Guide to Ceyloniana (catalogued monographs) in the N.M.L.
2. List of foreign science serials in the N.M.L. letter L onwards.
3. Government publications from 1864 to date.
4. Classified index to R.A.S. journals.



THE PRESENT ORGANIZATION

The museums established under the National Museums Ordinance of 1942 are administered and maintained by the department of National Museums. There are four such museums today in Sri Lanka namely, the three National Museums in Colombo (Western Province), Kandy (Central Province) and Ratnapura (Sabaragamuwa Province) and a Folk Museum at Anuradhapura (North Central Province). Amongst them, the biggest, oldest and the best known is the Museum in Colombo which in its displayed objects attempts to reflect the culture and the natural history of the whole country while the branch museums take on a regional outlook.

The Colombo Museum which was proclaimed a National Museum in 1942 has from its establishment in 1877 served as a general museum incorporating in its collections and research publications both ethnology and natural history. With the construction of a separate building in 1976 to serve as the Natural History Museum the two main divisions of the Museum will now be housed in separate buildings within the same premises at Albert Crescent, Colombo 7, the older building being devoted to the exhibition of the island's ethnological and anthropological material. With the anticipated approval of a National Museum of Science and Technology within the same premises a National Museums complex will result with three well organized Museums serving the cultural and scientific needs of the nation.

The main divisions of the department as presently organized are:

- i. **Administrative Division.** The Director is assisted by an Officer of the Ceylon Administrative Service in the capacity

of an Assistant Director. The office is headed by an Office Assistant who is assisted by a Chief Clerk, 8 clerks, a stenographer, a typist and a Sinhalese Translator with also a Record Room Keeper in charge of records.

- ii. **Scientific Division.** Four main sections are grouped under this division namely Zoology, Entomology, Botany and Geology including palaeontology. Except for the Geological section which is at present in charge of a Curator, the other three sections are headed by Assistants (Sectional Heads) who are assisted by Curators and collectors. The Taxidermist and his staff work under the Assistant in Zoology.

- iii. **Cultural Division.** Two Sections namely, Ethnology and Anthropology comprise the Cultural Division. Each section is headed by an Assistant (Sectional Head) assisted by a Curator and a collector. The Curator attached to the Ethnological section also functions as the Curator of the Colombo Museum, being in charge of the administration of the Colombo Museum. The Ethnological Assistant has also a Field Assistant under him. The Ethnological section is primarily concerned with art and antiquities while the Anthropological section handles the various aspects of the island's traditional society.

Both Divisions undertake field tours, maintain rich study collections, conduct research, prepare exhibits for display at the National Museums and also participate in the educational activities of the department.

iv. **Museums Division** is involved with the administration, maintenance and security at present of the National Museums in Colombo, Kandy and Ratnapura and the Folk Museum at Anuradhapura. The Colombo Museum is in charge of the Curator of the Colombo Museum who is assisted by an Inspector of Watchers under whom is placed the security staff which includes 2 Assistant Inspectors of Watchers, 2 Security Guards, 17 Museum Attendants and 12 Watchers.

The two branch Museums at Kandy and Ratnapura are in charge of a Curator, assisted by an Assistant Curator with Museum attendants, Watchers and labourers to provide security and maintenance of the respective Museums. The Folk Museum at Anuradhapura is in charge of an Assistant Curator.

v. **Library Division** is headed by a Librarian who is assisted by a Senior Assistant Librarian and 4 Assistant Librarians. It handles both cultural and natural history publications and all books and periodicals printed in Sri Lanka. It also acquires palm leaf manuscripts and rare books on Sri Lanka.

vi. **Educational and Publications Division.** This Division is headed by an

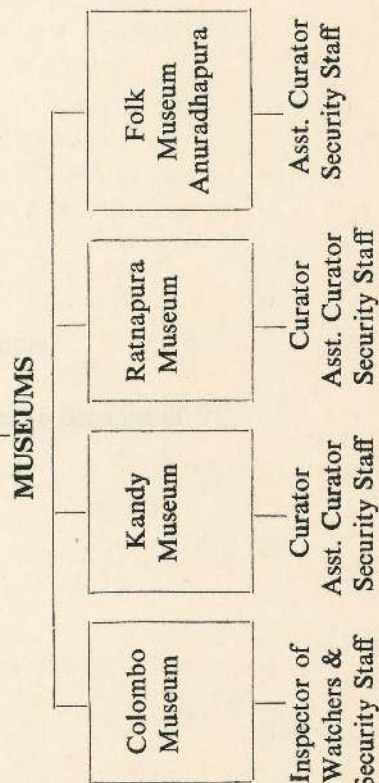
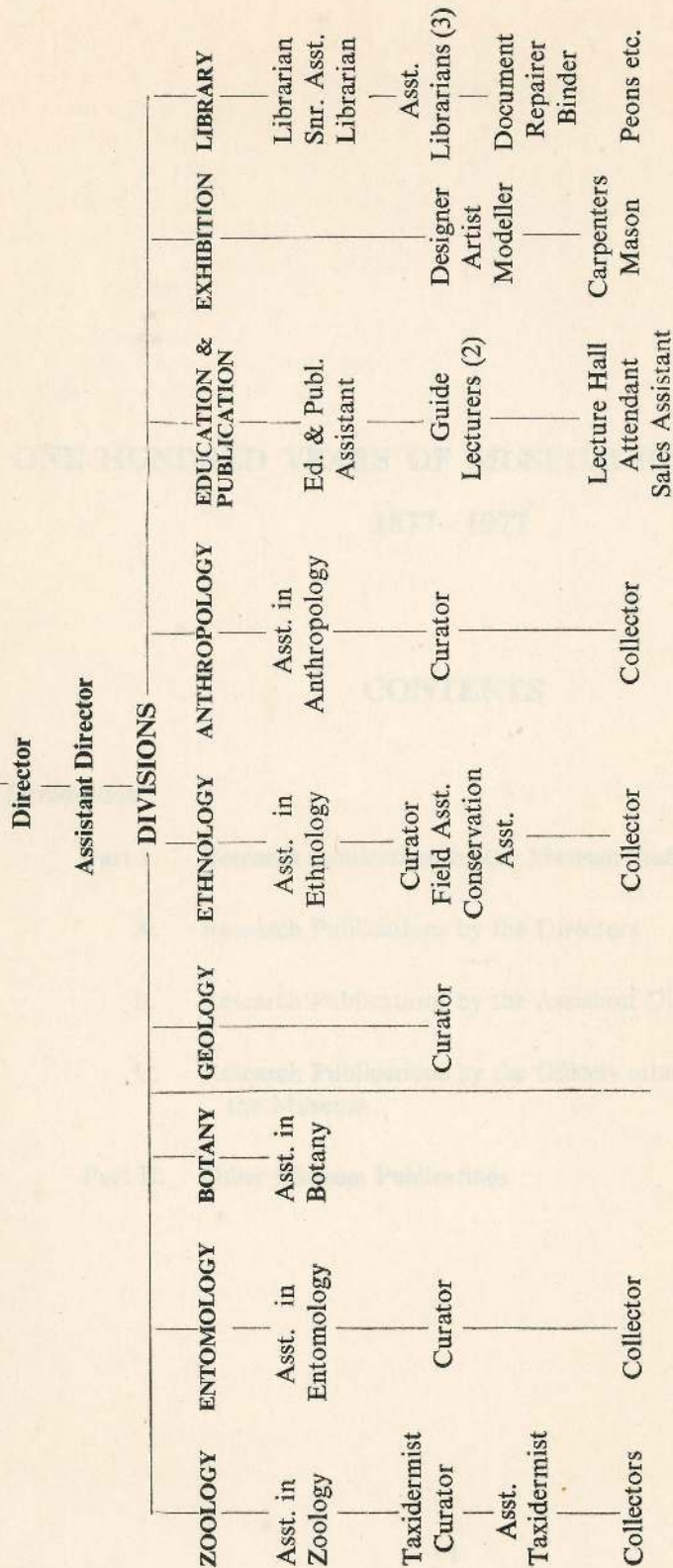
Educational and Publications Assistant, assisted by two Guide lecturers to conduct visitors especially school children around the Museum galleries, a lecture hall Attendant and a Sales Assistant to run the Museum Book Stall at the Colombo Museum. Public lectures, film shows, seminars and short and long term courses for teachers and students are organized by this Division. The sale of Museum publications is also handled by this division. The Director functions as the editor of all museum publications.

vii. **Exhibition Division.** This Division handles the exhibition work in the museums under the department and is headed by a Designer who is assisted by an Artist Modeller with one mason and 4 carpenters. This Division also handles most of the Museum's temporary exhibitions and also prepares the illustrations for museum publications.

viii. **Conservation Division.** This is a Division established recently for the conservation of the cultural collections of the department. It is at present under a Technical assistant who has received training in the conservation of cultural property at the National Conservation Laboratory at New Delhi.



ORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL MUSEUMS



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ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS

1877 - 1977

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Introduction

Part I. Research Publications by the Museum Staff

- A. Research Publications by the Directors
- B. Research Publications by the Assistant Directors
- C. Research Publications by the Officers attached to Sections of the Museum

Part II. Other Museum Publications

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INTRODUCTION

SCOPE: Part I of the list consists of the books, articles in periodicals published by the staff of the National Museums from 1877-1977. Book reviews and articles in newspapers have been excluded.

Part II consists of the books and periodicals published by the National Museums from 1877-1977.

ARRANGEMENT: Books and pamphlets, articles in periodicals are grouped by broad subjects and the subject headings are arranged in alphabetical order. Under the heading Zoology subheadings are arranged in evolutionary order.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CITATION:

For books—Author, title, imprint (place of publication, name of publisher and date of publication) and pagination.

For parts of Books—Author, title of chapter/section (if any), title of work, imprint details and inclusive pages.

For articles in periodicals—Author, title of article, title of periodical, date, vol. no. and inclusive pages.

For periodicals—Title, vol. no., year and the name of the editor. Change of title of the periodical is given in the notes.

GUIDE TO ABBREVIATIONS USED

Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.—Annals & Magazine of Natural History.

Buddt.—The Buddhist.

Bull. Inst. Oceanograph. Monaco—Bulletin of Institute of Oceanography, Monaco.

Cal. Geo. Rev.—Calcutta Geographical Review.

Cey. Army J.—Ceylon Army Journal.

Cey. For.—Ceylon Forester.

Cey. Historical J.—Ceylon Historical Journal.

C.N.R.—Ceylon National Review.

Cey. Observer Ann.—Ceylon Observer Annual.

Cey. J.Sc. (Bio. Sc.)—Ceylon Journal of Science (Biological Science).

Cey. J.Sc. (C)—Ceylon Journal of Science, Section C.

C. R.—Ceylon Review: a monthly magazine of literary & general interest.

Cey. Today—Ceylon Today.

Cey. Tourist & Trade J.—Ceylon Tourist & Trade Journal.

Geo. Mag.—Geological Magazine (London).

J. Arts Council of Cey.—Journal of Arts Council of Ceylon.

J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.—Journal of Bombay Natural History Society.

J.C.B.B.M.A.—Journal of the Ceylon Branch of the British Medical Association.

J. D. B. U. C.—Journal of Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

J. Exp. Biol. London—Journal of Experimental Biology, London.

J. of Indian Museums Assn.—Journal of Indian Museums Association.

J. Mar. Bio. Assoc. U.K.—Journal of Marine Biological Association of U.K.

J. Nat. Mus. of Cey.—Journal of National Museums of Ceylon.

J. Palaeontological Soc. of India—Journal of Palaeontological Society of India.

J. R. A. S. C. B.—Journal of Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch.

Mag.—Marg. A magazine of Architecture and Art (Bombay).

- M. L. R. C.—Monthly Literary Register of Ceylon.
- Museums J.—Museums Journal.
- Proc. Ann. Session. Cey. Assoc. for the Advmt. of Sci.—Proceedings of Annual Session of Ceylon Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Proc. Ind. Sci. Congress—Proceedings of Indian Science Congress.
- Proc. Linn. Soc. Lond.—Proceedings of Linnean Society of London.
- Proc. R. Ent. Soc. Lond.—Proceedings of Royal Entomological Society of London.
- Proc. Roy. Soc. Gt. Britain—Proceedings of the Royal Society of Great Britain.
- Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.—Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London.
- R. I. M.—Records, Indian Museum, Calcutta.
- S. Z.—Spolia Zeylanica.
- T. C. Ann.—Times of Ceylon Annual.
- Trans. R. Ent. Soc. Lond.—Transactions of Royal Entomological Society of London.
- Tourists' Cey.—Tourists' Ceylon.
- Wld. Buddm.—World Buddhism.
- Young Cey.—Young Ceylon.



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS

1877 - 1977

PART I

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS BY THE MUSEUM STAFF

Part I A:

Research Publications By The Directors

AMYRALD HALY

Director of the Colombo Museum.
1877-1900.

MUSEOLOGY

- HALY, Amyrald. Administration report of the Director of the Colombo Museum. 1877-1900.
- Colombo Museum: a guide to the collections. Colombo: Ceylon Observer Press, 1882, 37 p.
 - Colombo Museum: a guide to the collections. Colombo: Ceylon Observer Press. (Printer), 1886. 43 p.
 - A guide to the Colombo Museum: being a brief description of the principal objects exhibited. 2nd ed. Colombo: H. C. Cottle, Govt. Printer, 1895. 29 p.

ZOOLOGY

Zoology—General

- HALY, Amyrald. On the constructions of zoological tables with a tabular diagnosis of the snakes of Ceylon. *J.R.A.S.C.B.* 1899, 11(39) : 172-232.
- A new method of preserving and mounting of zoological specimens. *J.R.A.S.C.B.* 1891, 12(42): 65-73.

Fauna

HALY, Amyrald. Some illustrations from the fauna of Ceylon of Wallace's theory of natural selection. *J.R.A.S.C.B.* 1897, 15(48) : 80-90.

Reptilia

HALY, Amyrald. Notes on the species & varieties of Testudo in the Colombo Museum. *J.R.A.S.C.B.* 1894, 13(45): 128-132.

Aves

HALY, Amyrald. Aids to identification of Ceylon birds: pt. I—introduction & key to the Passers. *J.R.A.S.C.B.* 1898, 15(49): 155-173.

ARTHUR WILLEY, D.Sc. (Lond.), M.A. (Cantab.), F.R.S.
Director of the Colombo Museum.
1902-1909.

FISHERIES

- WILLEY, Arthur. Fishery observations. *S.Z.* August 1908, 5(19) : 144-152.
- Notes on the fresh-water fisheries of Ceylon. *S.Z.* December 1916, 7(26) : 88-105, illus.

- Placuna fishery: inspection of March 1908. S.Z. August 1908, 5(19) : 130-138.

FOLK LORE

- WILLEY, Arthur. Hikanala and jeevama. S.Z. August 1907, 4(16) : 180-188.
- The sign of the tortoise or Karma-chakra in Ceylon. S.Z. August 1907, 4(16) : 149-157.
- Symbols of offerings. S.Z. May 1910, 6(24) : 182-185, illus.

MARINE BIOLOGY

- WILLEY, Arthur. Administration report of the Marine Biologist. 1908-1909.

METEOROLOGY

- WILLEY, Arthur. Heralds of the monsoons. S.Z. November 1903, 1(3) : 78-79.

MUSEOLOGY

- WILLEY, Arthur. Administration reports of the Director, Colombo Museum. 1902-1905; 1907-1909.
- Colombo Museum: a guide to the collections. 3rd ed. Colombo: Ceylon Govt. Press, 1905, iv, 66 p., illus., diags.

ZOOLOGY

Zoology—General

- WILLEY, Arthur. Zoological results based on the material from New Britain, New Guinea, Loyalty Islands and elsewhere collected during the years 1895, 1896 & 1897, pts. I-VI. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1902.
- Pt. I: 1-95; pt. II: 121-195; pt. III: 207-335; pt. IV: 357-509; pt. V: 531-605; pt. VI: 691-827.

Fauna

- WILLEY, Arthur. Constitution of the fauna of Ceylon. S.Z. April 1903, 1(1) : 1-13, illus.

Porifera

- WILLEY, Arthur. Freshwater sponge and a hydra in Ceylon. S.Z. August 1907, 4(16) : 184-185.

Polychaeta

- WILLEY, Arthur. A harbour worm and a boxing crab. S.Z. April 1906, 3(12) : 222-226, illus.

Crustacea

- WILLEY, Arthur. Association of barnacles with snakes and worms. S.Z. May 1910, 6(24) : 180-181, 1 col. pl.

Insecta

- WILLEY, Arthur. Flight of butterflies at Trincomalee. S.Z. December 1908, 5(20) : 186-188.
- Leaf mimicry. S.Z. April 1904, 2(5) : 51-55.
- Nest of the bambara bee at the Museum. S.Z. May 1910, 6(24) : 181, 1 pl.
- Stridulation of *Gongylus gongylodes*. S.Z. April 1906, 3(12) : 226-227.

Onychophora

- WILLEY, Arthur. The anatomy and development of *Peripatus novae-britanniae*. In his *Zoological Results* (1) : 1-52, iv. pls.

Mollusca

- WILLEY, Arthur. Contribution to the natural history of the pearly Nautilus. In his *Zoological Results* (4) : 691-735.
- Report on the window-pane oysters (*Placuna placenta*, 'Mattachchippi') in the back waters of the eastern province (June 1907). S.Z. November 1907, 5(17) : 33-57.

Hemichordata

- WILLEY, Arthur. Enteropneusta from the south Pacific with notes on the west Indian species. In his *Zoological Results* (2) : 207-222, xxiv-xxv. pls.

Pisces

- WILLEY, Arthur. The masheer and murrel in Ceylon. S.Z. April 1903, 1(1) : 19-22.
- Observations on the nests, eggs and larvae of *Ophiocephalus striatus*. S.Z. December 1909, 6(23) : 108-123, illus.
- The occurrence of *Solonostoma* off the coast of Ceylon. S.Z. December 1909, 6(23) : 102-107, illus.

Reptilia

- WILLEY, Arthur. Identification of poisonous snakes in Ceylon. *J.C.B.B.M.A.* July-December 1905 2(2): 83-87, 2 text illus.
- Viviparity of *Cophotis ceylanica* and oviparity of *Ceratophora stoddartii*. *S.Z.* April 1906, 3(12): 235-237.
 - Some rare snakes of Ceylon. *S.Z.* November 1903, 1(3): 81-89.
 - Terrestrial Colubridae of Ceylon. *S.Z.* 1906, 3(12): 227-234.

Aves

- WILLEY, Arthur. Crows and flying foxes at Barbery. *S.Z.* April 1904, 2(5): 50-51.
- Dwarf eggs of the domestic fowl. *S.Z.* November 1903, 1(3): 76-77.
 - Ornithological records for 1904: A: migratory birds, B: resident birds. *S.Z.* March 1905, 190-193.

Mammalia

- WILLEY, Arthur. The lacteal tract of *Loris gracilis*. *S.Z.* October 1905, 3(10): 160-162.
- Hedgehogs in Ceylon. *S.Z.* November 1(3): 75.
- Publications edited:** *Spolia Zeylanica*, vol. 1, 1904—5, 1905.

JOSEPH PEARSON, D.Sc. (Liverpool), B.Sc. (Vict.), F.L.S.
Director of Colombo Museum.
1910-1933.

FISHERIES

- PEARSON, Joseph. A review of the scientific work on the Ceylon pearl banks from 1902-1912. *S.Z.* January 1913, 8(32): 205-222.

GENERAL

- PEARSON, Joseph. A thunderbolt near Colombo. *S.Z.* June 1913, 9(33): 45.
- Notes on the Forts of the Jaffna Islands. *J.R.A.S.C.B.* 1923, 39(76): 186-193.

MARINE BIOLOGY

- PEARSON, Joseph. Administration report of the Government Marine Biologist.

1910-1913

1915

1919-1920

1922-1932

- Biological survey of Trincomalee harbour. *S.Z.* January 1912, 8(29): 30-40, maps.
- Survey of Lake Tamblegam, September 1911. *S.Z.* January 1912, 8(29): 41-51, maps.

MUSEOLOGY

- PEARSON, Joseph. Administration report of the Director, Colombo Museum.
- 1910-1913
- 1915
- 1919-1920
- 1922-1932
- Note on an ivory panel in the Colombo Museum. *J.R.A.S.C.B.* 1922, 29(75): 2-5.

ZOOLOGY

Echinodermata

- PEARSON, Joseph. Notes on the Holothurioidea of the Indian Ocean. *S.Z.* October 1913, 9(34): 49-101, 10 pls.
- Notes on the Holothurioidea of the Indian Ocean. *S.Z.* March 1914, 9(35): 173-190, 2 pls.
 - Proposed re-classification of the genera *Mülleria* and *Holothuria*. *S.Z.* March 1914, 9(35): 163-172, 1 pl.
 - Note on *Halodeima atra* (*Holothuria atra*). *S.Z.* October 1915, 10(37): 175-176.

Mollusca

- PEARSON, Joseph. A preliminary report of the possibilities of commercial trawling in the sea around Ceylon (with A. H. Malpas). *Cey. J. Sc. (C)* 1926, 2: 1-12, 1 pl.
- The pearl fishery of 1925 (with A. H. Malpas and J. C. Karkham). *Cey. J. Sc. (C)* 1929, 3: 1-90, 12 pls.
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P. H. D. H. DE SILVA, B.Sc. (Cey.), Ph.D. (Wales), Zoology, F.Z.S.
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- Catalogue of Palm leaf Manuscripts in the Colombo Museum. Vol. II. Compiled by K. D. L. Wickramaratne (In press).

PART I B:

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

- C. M. A. DE SILVA, B.A. (Lond.).
Librarian, National Museum Library,
1945-1957.
Assistant in Ethnology, National Museum,
Colombo, 1958-1966.
Assistant Director, National Museum,
Colombo, 1966-1970.

ART

- ද සිල්වා, පී.එම්.ඒ. එකින් එකට මැටි කැට පූර්ණව
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S. P. F. SENARATNE, B.A. (Cantab.), Ph.D. (Lond.).

Assistant in Prehistory, 1957-1971
Assistant Director, 1971-1974

PREHISTORY

- SENARATNE, S. P. F. The later prehistory and protohistory of Ceylon: some preliminary problems *J. Nat. Mus. of Cey.*, 1965, 1(1):7-19.
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PART I C:

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS BY THE OFFICERS ATTACHED TO SECTIONS OF THE MUSEUM

Anthropology Section

PANDULA ANDAGAMA, B.A. (Cey.)
Assistant in Anthropology. 1972-

ART

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Botany Section

S. D. WIMALARATNA, B.Sc. (Cey.), M.Sc.
(Cey.), L.I.D.P., L.I.BI.

Assistant in Botany, 1974-

WIMALARATNA, S. D. Nucleolar size
differences of the roots of *Oryza sativa*.
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Education & Publications Section

H. L. CALDERA, 1925-62.

ART

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NUMISMATICS

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T. DELA.

Educational & Publications Assistant.

ETHNOLOGY

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Entomology Section

G. M. HENRY,

Assistant in Systematic Entomology,
1913-1945.

ZOOLOGY

Insecta

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 - Report of the Proceedings of the Second Entomological Meeting held at Pusa, Feb. 5-12, 1917, ed. by T. B. Fletcher. *S.Z.* 1919, 11(41):192-194.
 - Stridulation in the leaf-insect. *S.Z.* 1922, 12(45):217-219, 1 pl.
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W. THELMA T. P. GUNAWARDENE,
B.Sc. (Cey.), Ph.D. (Lond.), D.I.C. (Lond.),
F.R.E.S., F.L.S.
Assistant in Entomology, 1961-

ENTOMOLOGY

Insecta

- ශ්‍රීකවර්ධන, ඩබ්ලිව්. ටී. පී. ඉන්සෙක්ටා (කෘමීන්) (Insecta). සිංහල විශ්ව කෞෂය, 1970, 4: 106-114.
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T. R. SANDRASAGARA

Entomological Laboratory Assistant.

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SANDRASAGARA, T. R. Early Zoologists and Collectors in Ceylon, parts 1 and

2. *Cey. Fortnightly Review*, 1954, 7(3):15; (4):15, 23.

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PART III

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THE ROLE OF THE MUSEUM IN THE NATIONAL LIFE OF SRI LANKA

Insatiable thirst for new knowledge has been an inherent characteristic of the human mind since the dawn of civilization. This impelling desire for new knowledge motivated man's intellectual potentialities to explore more and more possibilities for a better and more refined way of life. From time immemorial, man has displayed a remarkable degree of interest for the achievement of both material and aesthetic excellences to make his living more comfortable and enjoyable. He mobilized his intellectual energies not only to find food and shelter, invent fire and clothing, discover ways and means of elevating his socio-economic status but also to derive aesthetic experience from leisurely activities. Ever increasing consciousness in the latter aspect of life motivated him, to engage in leisure activities such as art and architecture, moulding and painting, dancing and dramatization etc. Anthropologists usually describe the sum total of man's discoveries and achievements as well as all those paraphernalia which he accumulated through his long march along the process of gradual socialization as 'culture.' Indubitably culture is a unique creation of man and of course, it signifies the total behaviour pattern of any given community of people. It is no exaggeration to say that the word 'culture' is so wide a concept that it encompasses many different dimensions of human activities such as religion, politics and scientific discoveries. We sometimes classify it as Western culture and Eastern culture. Whatever these classifications may be, culture denotes total outlook of a given community. It tells of likes and dislikes, beliefs and rituals, customs and manners, art and architecture, instances of

conflicts and harmony, tales of war and peace, primitive as well as modern ways of economic productivity, intellectual as well as emotional life and many other fields wherein man has exercised his exploratory instinct to discover a better way of life. It is, therefore, logical to say that within the matrix of culture, is embedded the total identity of man, which is unique and of inestimable value to study man and his society in their true perspectives. Culture is the inalienable identity of man and his society. Apart from cultural consciousness man cannot even dream of a national life. It is the bond of culture that binds man and man together with a view to producing a homogeneous pattern of social behaviour. If by culture is meant a process of socialization or elevation into a higher social hierarchy, from those of gross and crude beginnings which of course is the core of national identity of a given community, it must be taken for granted that the refinement of man's behaviour and aesthetic excellences of society, certainly were not achieved overnight. On the contrary, it must have taken many thousands of years before man reached a stage in which he could take pride in linguistic, religious, political, and scientific cultures which constitute the total pattern of his national life. Whatever dimensions a man's cultural core embraces, culture, of necessity, must be reckoned as the nucleus of individual as well as national life. The essential role of a society, therefore, is not only to preserve and protect but also to record and transmit this valuable legacy to the succeeding generations.

Man's intellectual genius has been equally alert in the discovery of techniques for preserving and transmitting of his cultural

heritage to the succeeding generations. The role of transmitting this cultural heritage has been traditionally devolved on schools, religious institutions, universities and museums. Each of these national institutions, however, has different roles to play in a given society. The role of a museum in the national life of a country largely differs either from, that of a school or a university, although when these are considered together appear to serve a common objective of catering to the intellectual and cultural needs of any given community. A museum no doubt, in a way, resembles a university in the fulfilment of certain functions such as preservation, conservation and transmission of human knowledge. A university, however, on the whole does limit its services to meet only the intellectual demands of a very small segment of population in a country. A museum is much more than a university in the sense that it caters to innumerable national demands of the total population of a country. People visit a museum for different reasons. Some would flock to the museum on a week-end simply to have a break from the monotony of their daily activities either at office or home. These pleasure-hunters find museum to be a remarkable source of inspiration and curiosity, to feast their eager eyes on an array of wonderful exhibits belonging to different phases of his own cultural heritage. To those who engage in intellectual pursuits, the museum serves as a sylvan grove to go ahead with their ambitious research projects. Of course, the museum is an incomparable treasure-house of information, for it contains the rarest collections of books, journals, research publications, archaeological evidence, that tell the tales of not only the evolution of man and society but also those that provide even the casual visitor with much deeper insights into his own cultural heritage in its totality. Where else a true countryman should repair to get a lasting impression of his total cultural identity than his own national museum?

For his total cultural identity with its various ups and downs are enshrined within the precincts of the national museum. The museum, therefore, in any country is really a National Institution of incomparable significance. More so in a country like Sri Lanka which is endeavouring in the direction of social reconstruction after having emerged from the grips of Western imperialist colonialism.

The museum of Sri Lanka completes a hundred years of its existence in January, 1977. It is indeed a very significant occasion to reflect upon the kind of contribution it could make towards the national life of people of this tiny Island as a whole.

Like in most other countries, the Museum of Sri Lanka is a unique institution of its kind committed to a very significant role of preserving the cultural heritage of her people. Until recent times, however, specific functions of the museum had been confined to documentation, preservation, and conservation of the cultural heritage of this multi-racial Island whose history goes back to more than two thousand five hundred years. The museum of Sri Lanka, predominantly contains live evidences of Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic cultures which constitute the chief ingredients of the total cultural heritage of this blessed Island. Particularly for Buddhists and Hindus there is hardly any other institution so significant as the national museum to get an overall idea of their distinctive cultures. Should one be interested in the study of the evolution of the statue of the Buddha, for instance, there is a very valuable collection of specimens illustrating different features of the Buddha image belonging to different periods such as Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Dambadeniya and so on. The museum galleries present not only a collection of exhibits depicting religious, economic, and political life of the people, but there are also very useful exhibits which could give deeper insights into rural life of

this country during the very ancient days when the community life was more or less centred round the nucleus of village agricultural economy. Before the process of modernization, with the scientific and technological discoveries began motivating man to adopt more and more sophisticated way of life, the pastoral life in Sri Lanka, as the numerous specimens of exhibits clearly indicate, had been marked by the qualities of simplicity, unity and self-dependance. The agricultural implements used by the ancient farmer, arrayed in an order of chronological sequence, in a number of galleries in the museum point not only to the fact that agriculture had been the main source of livelihood in ancient Sri Lanka but it also had been the magnetizing nucleus around which many facets of rural culture began to thrive. The rural man in Lanka had displayed a wonderful fund of genius and speciality in the creation of many forms of entertainments, of course, using his beliefs and village superstitions as the source for his creative talent. The collection of Vesmuhunu (masks) and some of those exhibits depicting the age-old Bali cult, now fast disappearing even from the rural life, well nigh illustrate that the rural life in Sri Lanka in the days gone by, had been provided not only with a sense of psychological security but also a rich repertoire of lively entertainments, not certainly second to the modern inventions such as cinema, radio and television. Where else one could find enough authentic evidence to study the evolution of indigenous religions, art and architecture, painting and moulding, stupas and Buddha-image, carvings and motifs, agricultural and domestic equipments, Bali and Devil dancing, aesthetic as well as economic life, beliefs and rituals, costumes and jewellery, utensils and cutlery, values and mores, which go to form the total cultural heritage of the peoples of this country. A huge collection of books collected over a period of hundred years, tended with so much of care and responsibility

is an enviable treasure-house of information to scholars engaged in research studies on social, political, economic, anthropological, religious, aesthetic, moral, scientific and technological, aspects of life in Sri Lanka. The museum library which forms an integral part of the National museum of Sri Lanka is known particularly, among intellectuals all over the world, for the rarest collections of books and journals, it contains not only of Sri Lanka but also of South East Asia and even of countries in the Western World. We can of course claim, the national museum of Colombo to be the prided prize of the whole nation. It is fitting to ask, perhaps with a sense of disappointment as to how much of this treasured wealth is being utilized by the general public for the promotion of national, educational, intellectual and economic objectives of the country at large. The national museum is being maintained by the responsible authorities with meticulous care and sincere dedication, of course, at great national expense. Though with reluctance it is necessary to mention that greater bulk of the population has not still been properly enlightened to the significance of this inestimable national pulse of the country to obtain the optimum benefit out of it. If it is to be taken for granted that one of the main objectives of education in a country is to introduce the younger generation to the cultural heritage which is their birth right. The museum beyond any shade of doubt is an incomparable storehouse of knowledge which the teacher and the taught should not fail to use in the educative process. It is rather bewildering to see that our national museum has not been utilised to its maximum capacity by the public, though an enormous body of very useful source material is readily available for teaching-learning processes at any level. Except for a few of those scholars bent on more serious intellectual pursuits, who only repair to the museum library to have a sip at this vast ocean of knowledge, and those

curious school children who make casual visits simply to get a passing glance at the numerous exhibits, the museum of course, largely remains still an intact treasure. It is befitting in this context to examine at least in brief, the ways in which the museum could be made use for nation-building purposes.

The quality of national life in a country largely depends on the soundness of education imparted through the institutions committed for the purpose. Although it is not the concern of this article to embark upon a detailed analysis of the function of education from different philosophical bases, it is essential to remember, however, for our immediate purpose, that every educational theory, without the least divergence, advocates the fundamental need of introducing the children to live experiences of much educational significance. It is needless to say, however, that the teachers who only indulge in 'chalk and talk' method in the class-room can hardly introduce their children to such rich experiences. The museum of Sri Lanka contains an inestimable collection of live visual aids which could be capitalized by any resourceful teacher for teaching any subject in the school curriculum. The use of the museum collections for the purpose of teaching in schools is no new idea. The use of the museum collections in classroom teaching has been explored and experimented with astonishing success over a long period in countries such as Great Britain, Canada, U.S.A., China and Italy. The educational policies of these countries have made provisions convincingly enough, on a legal basis, for co-ordinating schools to the museum. The museum-school relationship of course, goes a long way not only to facilitate teaching-learning processes in the schools, but also to engender true national feelings, though unconsciously, in the minds of the growing children when they are made to come in contact with their own cultural legacy. State educational policy of Italy accords a pro-

minent place to the museum school relationship with a noble objective, which of course is applicable to any other national system of education aiming at social reconstruction.

'The educational and didactic role of museums should be recognized by both schools and museums as an essential part of the all-round education and instruction of pupils and citizens. The school/museum relationship be regarded as something stable and organic within the general didactic framework of Italy's educational system''

(Museum—Vol. 27 No. 3—1975, *Unesco*, p. 147)

The museum of Sri Lanka could be put to better use as a supplementary instrument for facilitating teaching-learning processes only if some decisive steps are taken by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the museum authorities. In the first place, the Curriculum Development Centre should be mobilized to find ways and means of utilizing the museum collections for teaching various subjects in schools at different levels. A suitable teacher's Hand Book with necessary descriptions, illustrations and historical importance of each such item should be prepared with the co-operation of the museum staff. A fully organized educational service unit attached to the museum will be an indispensable adjunct. School visits should be more systematic with clear-cut objectives preferably under the careful guidance of teachers. In order to give every teacher some idea of the museum as an aid for effective teaching, the use of museum collections for teaching, of necessity, should be made a compulsory methodology subject for teacher trainees. During the period of professional training, every teacher trainee should be encouraged to carry out at least a small research project on methodology of teaching preferably in relation to a subject of his own interest. Weekly or fortnightly Radio talks by museology specialists on various topics of common interest would be an effective modus

operendi not only for kindling fervent interest in things of national importance, but also indirectly to persuade more and more general public to visit the museum out of curiosity and reinforced national urge.

In order to make the museum a useful instrument of education to a vast segment of school children and teachers, who of course live many many miles away from Colombo, services of travelling museums could be improvised. China, Britain and Canada are some of the countries famous all over the world for maintaining travelling museums to cater to the educational needs of school children. The present Director of the museums has embarked upon a similar project with the idea of making the services of the national museum available to those living in far-off places. The museobus though a new adventure, could be improved as an excellent technique for the dissemination of information about the prided national heritage among school children as well as the general public at large, only if the ministries of Cultural Affairs and Education take necessary steps to finance this promising project.

The museum, it was noticed is much more than a university particularly in respect of facilities available for more serious intellectual pursuits. At a time like the present when both the academic atmosphere and the academic freedom in our university campuses are being threatened by the tense political situation, and the bickerings of party politics, in the campuses themselves, the museum of Sri Lanka could go a long way to serve as an inspiring academic rendezvous for our university students to engage profitably in their intellectual pursuits. In the face of rapid growth of population, the provision of possibilities and facilities for the increasing bulks of students with any sense of equality, fairness, and justice, particularly in a country like Sri Lanka with a backward economy becomes a problem of insurmountable

difficulties. The opening of more and more university campuses in the rhythm of rapidly increasing student population, no doubt, is a sound educational strategy in the absence of other alternative possibilities. The most fundamental requirements such as books and other facilities, accommodation and sound guidance in the attainment of high intellectual qualities, however, should be guaranteed as the 'sine qua non' for without these, the very concept of higher education would become a mere misnomer. Judged by the international standards, the quality of higher education in our country is at cross-roads due to a variety of factors such as political, economic and social. Some of the shortcomings of our higher education, such as lack of sufficient reading materials and other allied tools for intellectual pursuits could be easily avoided if students are motivated to take maximum benefit from the rich collections of books available in the museum library. In order to ensure desirable results, the museum library, should be reorganized in such a way as to accommodate more and more readers. Adequate information about the library resources should also be made readily available in order to prevent waste of time hunting for books. The museum Library could no doubt, play this national role only if necessary steps are taken to co-ordinate it with the University of Sri Lanka. By bringing the resources of the museum within the reach of the general public as well as the more ambitious student population, in the manner indicated above, the museum could play a magnificent national role not only through its traditional functions such as conservation, preservation and documentation of its cultural property, but also by more mundane way of helping the transmission of cultural heritage, through the length and breath of Sri Lanka. In a multi-racial country like Sri Lanka, the awareness of one another's cultural heritage, with understanding, would go a long way not only to strengthen the ties

of mutual relationships but also to contribute towards reinforcing the feelings of national solidarity, good will and unity. No institution

other than the museum is capable of fulfilling this national mission, for the museum is an effective instrument of cultural integration.



NEW TRENDS IN EDUCATION

The School Curriculum

During the last few decades the world has seen vast changes taking place in the structure and content of education in many countries, including Sri Lanka. These changes have affected not only the traditional school system and curriculum but society as a whole.

The changes that have taken place in the structure and content of education in the school system of Sri Lanka are fairly well known. A brief summary of the significant developments are given below.

Primary Level

The re-orientation of the primary level education programme lays emphasis on equipping today's children for the tasks that await them as citizens of the world of tomorrow. Recognizing that "children learn willingly and responsively when they are offered meaningful experiences in a natural setting, making abundant use of the environment familiar to them, the compartmentalized subject curriculum at the primary level has given way to a set of integrated activities which children may pursue freely according to their interests and inclinations. Pupils are guided to learn actively through all their senses. Challenging activity-based tasks promoting guided discovery learning to catch the imagination and attention of young children are necessary." The aesthetic aspects and creativity in children are developed and nurtured by activities such as improvised music, free movement, role playing and devices for thought stimulation.

The curriculum at the primary level has been envisaged as "a three dimensional model, the dimensions being those of space, time and human needs." The space compo-

nent is broken down to knowledge and experiences of our land, other lands and those beyond the earth. The human needs dimension consists of physical and material needs, mental and emotional needs, social and cultural needs. The time dimension deals with the present, the past and the future. From an analysis of the interaction of the above components, eleven major themes relevant to the children's interests have been identified as the basis for an integrated curriculum from Grades I-V. It will be observed that the above curriculum has been designed to expose the children to a variety of experiences in all aspects of life, and natural phenomena relevant to the interests of children at this level.

Junior Secondary Level

The new Junior Secondary level programme provides a common curriculum to all pupils from Grades VI to IX consisting of religion, first language, second language, science, mathematics, social studies, health and physical education, aesthetic studies and pre-vocational studies.

The new Junior Secondary programme was expected to provide a truly general education embracing science, mathematics, social studies and humanities with a new emphasis on the application of these disciplines to the world of work. The inclusion of pre-vocational education introduces a further dimension to the curriculum at this level which brings it closer to the community and the world of work.

The Senior Secondary Level

The new Senior Secondary programme has been designed to meet the goal of preparing young people either for higher studies or for

job opportunities arising in appropriate avenues of employment. It will cater to needs of the different occupational families in the biological and physical sciences, social studies and commerce areas.

Re-orientation of School Practices

The attainment of the aims of the new school curriculum demands a re-orientation of school practices away from mere book-learning towards more meaningful "real life" experiences. In all cases, the curricula and hence the learning experiences are closely linked to the environment. Whether it is Environmental Studies at the Primary level or Science and Social Studies at the Junior Secondary level or Cultural Heritage and Socio-economic Environment at the Senior Secondary level, the content and learning experiences are based on the pupil's environment and real life.

Continuing Education

All men, by nature desire to know and to man education is a biological and social necessity. The International Commission of the Development of Education in their report, *Learning to be* (UNESCO) state the following as guiding principles for educational policies:

Every individual must be in a position to keep learning throughout his life. The idea of lifelong education is the keystone of the learning society.

The dimensions of living experience must be restored to education by redistributing teaching in space and time. Education must be carried on at all ages of man, according to each individual's needs and convenience. He must, therefore, be oriented from the outset and from phase to phase, keeping the real purpose of all education in mind: personal learning, self-teaching and self-training. Education must cease being confined within school-house walls. All kinds of existing institutions, whether designed for teaching or not, and many

forms of social and economic activity, must be used for educational purposes.

So great is the demand for education, training and instruction today, and so great will it be in the years to come, that present institutionalized systems are and will be incapable of absorbing it. If they are to do so, they must abandon their rigid interior divisions and become more open to the outside world.

The concept of life-long and non-formal education is currently gaining popularity among educational planners in many parts of the world. The Educational Planning Commission in Alberta Province, Canada, has recommended that reforms be centred on the idea of non-formal and life-long education—

"Education should develop ability in the learner to learn under a variety of circumstances and conditions, on a part-time basis, at home using a variety of media, and in informal settings..."

Learning Opportunities

The new trends in education discussed above suggest that the traditional learning sources are certainly inadequate to meet the needs of the new curricula and new educational structures. The essential requirements for the traditional school curriculum were text books and formal full-time teachers. The new curricula in subjects like social studies and pre-vocational studies clearly bring out the limitations of these traditional learning sources and show the need for a variety of non-conventional learning sources. A wider pool of learning sources have to be tapped and new learning opportunities have to be created to satisfy the learning needs generated by modern curricula.

The only way to provide adequate learning opportunities for out of school, non-formal and life-long education is to exploit every available resource including mass media and

institutions which have potential instructional value. These, according to Unesco, comprise "educational radio and television broadcasts (public or private), adult literacy programmes, people's universities, correspondence courses, a multiplicity of cultural activities, study circles, etc. To these may be added diverse educational activities on the vocational level, mainly in the industrialized countries: apprenticeship programmes, workers' promotion courses, advanced training and conversion courses, management training schemes and seminars, etc. Media available or potentially available for educational purposes, in the broad sense of the term, are by no means limited to strictly defined educational activities and methods. These also include: the press (7,980 daily newspapers of general interest, with a total printing of 350 million papers plus 615 million copies of periodicals); books (487,000 titles published in 1968); libraries (798,297 national, public, school, university and specialized establishments) containing some 5,000 million volumes; 14,374 museums visited by hundreds of millions of people annually; 674 million radio sets, receiving programmes from 18,850 transmitting stations, and about 250 million television receivers picking up 13,140 stations; and film distributed to a network comprising some 252,000 cinemas."

The role of the museum becomes significant in the above context as an institution which has tremendous potential for providing learning opportunities to a wide range of learners in various fields at various age levels.

Use of Museums for Educational Purposes

Most people seem to believe that the primary function of the museum is the conservation and preservation of rare collections of cultural and historical value but few would recognize that the most essential contribution should be to inspire, enlighten and educate the public. The educational changes referred to above which attempt to relate general

education more fully to the requirements of learners at all levels and ages have relevance to the educational function of a museum. It was also suggested that increasing emphasis is now placed upon concrete practical experiences in learning and on audio-visual aids for greater effectiveness. In certain subject areas the tendency is to deal with broad social themes rather than with narrow topics confined to the subject. These are some developments which broaden the field of resources available for education, break down the barriers between the school and the outside world and take the learner far outside the classroom into institutions having educational potential such as museums. The responsibility of the museum as an educating agent in a learning society is rapidly increasing.

Perceptual Learning

One of the main advantages of using museums for education may be explained on the basis of the experience theory of learning. Direct experience has been one of the oldest and most effective methods of learning known to man. Before man is exposed to any sort of formal learning, even as a newly born infant he learns through direct experience. The learning process is accelerated by use of language. Words and phrases begin to have meaning to a child only when they can be directly or indirectly associated with concrete things or activities already known. Unless and until students are given a wide range of direct experiences which will provide the basis for understanding abstract concepts and symbols, no meaningful learning will take place. A study of the mechanism of learning reveals that a student should have sufficient **percepts** to develop significant **concepts**. Percepts are sense materials and perception is the totality of experiences connected with a sensory object or fact. A person's ability to think and the quality of his thinking depends on a large variety and

a wide range of percepts. Good percepts are associated with a real, concrete world and good perceptions are formed by interacting with the real world.

Conceptual Learning

When perceptions are allowed to mature and become fully understood, the individual is able to incorporate their meaning into large and more meaningful generalizations which are termed **concepts**. The concept is further removed from the concrete object, fact or actuality than the perception. Like percepts, concepts too, to be meaningful, must square with the world of concrete reality.

One of the important functions of the museum in education is to help the learner develop correct percepts and relevant concepts. Development of correct and appropriate percepts and concepts makes learning more realistic. Text books, by themselves consist of words which are but abstract symbols having little meaning. In order to give meaning to those abstract symbols they must be translated to concrete images that have meaning. Such concrete images are met in real life. The museum provides a good **substitute** for first hand experience when such first hand experience is difficult to obtain.

There are three levels of instructional materials:

Level 1—Direct learning through first hand experiences. Learner makes immediate sensory contact with reality (Direct experiencing).

Level 2—Vicarious learning through audio-visual material. Learner is confronted with mechanical representation of reality (Vicarious experiencing).

Level 3—Vicarious learning through words. Learner is exposed to abstract symbols of reality (Symbolised learning).

It will be observed that in these three levels, one moves from concretion to abstraction. The base for any learning is the first

level—direct experiencing. Such direct experiencing may not be always possible, particularly when the objects or situations are far removed in space and time. In such cases the next best substitute is vicarious experiencing. Museums provide a good substitute for first hand experience when such first hand experience is difficult to obtain and provide instructional material at the second level.

Value of Instructional Materials in Museums

Vicarious learning taking place through instructional materials available in museums have the following values:

1. Modern curricula require pupils to learn about the life of people in other lands, about other planets and about objects and happenings in remote places. If pupils cannot be taken to foreign lands, the foreign lands can be brought to them through museum exhibits. Museums can overcome the limitations of restricted personal experiences of pupils.
2. Objects which are too big or too small to be brought into the classroom and objects and events removed in space and time may be made available for pupils in museums. In this respect museums serve to overcome the limitations of the classroom.
3. Museum exhibits could provide for the direct interaction of the pupils with the realities of the social and physical environments.
4. Museum could provide uniformity of percepts for all learners.
5. Museums exhibits could awaken new desires and interests and provide stimulation and motivation for learners.
6. Museums could provide a wide range of integrated experiences to learners. These experiences may vary from concrete or direct experiencing to abstract or symbolised experiencing.

Museums should not be considered merely as audio-visual aids to be used in conventional classroom work but they have much value which can be utilized for instructional schemes geared to suit modern curricula.

Special Public Educational Services

Museums can organize special exhibitions, lectures, workshops, educational visits to provide first hand experiences directly related to a particular classroom lesson. For example, when the schools are studying a particular period in Sri Lanka's history, the museums can arrange visits to places of interest, lectures, and exhibitions relating to that period or topic.

Museums can produce visual materials and publications based on the school curriculum and also provide a question and answer mail service for teachers and pupils. A consultation service to schools may be provided by having an expert staff available for personal visits to schools. This staff should work in close liaison with the curriculum designers.

The museums may also broadcast special education programmes both for schools and the general public to suit their learning needs.

A suitable scheme should be drawn up to provide artefacts for sale or on loan to schools. Schools may also be encouraged to build up their own small museums which can become centres of stimulation for students. Such school museums will encourage class projects and individual or group hobbies among pupils.

In order to obtain the maximum use out of museums, teachers should be given in-service training on the use of museums. Museums should not remain as passive educational resource centres. They can be active and have in-built evaluation mechanisms to evaluate their own educational programmes. The pre-visit knowledge of visitors on entering and after-visit knowledge at exit may be com-

pared to determine how effective the programmes have been. Much responsibility lies in the hands of those who design the programmes to ensure the active involvement of the visitors.

Participatory Museums (Exploratoriums)

An experiment in the use of museum facilities "to link the schools more closely with the museum so that, in effect, the latter should become extra classrooms" has been tried out at the Geffrye Museum, London Country Council. The educational theme of the Geffrye Museum was historical but it is felt that the method is widely applicable, and a similar approach could well be made to geographical, social and scientific studies. Today, most technologically advanced countries in the world have set up such participatory museums in special fields such as science, social studies and natural history.

The Exploratorium in San Francisco which was created to make science and technology more accessible to the public and to provide a place where people could not only learn, but participate has acquired an international reputation as an innovative educational institution that has tremendous impact on other such institutions. The experiences one would obtain at the Exploratorium are described as follows:

"Discovering the Exploratorium is like stumbling into the belly of a giant whale where some mad scientist has found a home. . .

The best mysteries of the world were hidden up the sleeves of scientists: the rainbows and stars, the lasers and laboratories, the miracles of sunlight and sound and the inside of a human eye.

The trouble was that the stuff of scientists was too precious, too complicated, too delicate. Or it was, until the Exploratorium opened its arcade of 'Don't touch that!' scientific paraphernalia and invited

the public in to touch, pound, open, pull on, look through, listen to, screech at and climb through.

In fact, 'seeing what happens' is what the Exploratorium is all about. Each exhibit allows visitors to do what scientists do as a matter of course—go sightseeing among natural phenomena that are normally inaccessible to the public. Not the guided-bus-tour kind of sightseeing where the guide tells you what to look for and then tells you how important it all is, but the get-your-hands-dirty kind of sightseeing where you explore first and ask questions—if and when they come up—later."

Museums will have an increasingly important role to play in providing learning opportunities to learners at all levels in society. They will not be concerned only with the conservation and preservation of rare collections. They will be expected to provide learning materials in almost all disciplines in which man is interested. The learning materials will have to be imaginatively presented to bring about effective learning in accordance with the objectives underlying the new curricula. The essential role of the museum will be to serve the learning society in the most efficient fashion.



THE ROLE OF THE MUSEUM IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE— SOME THEORETICAL NOTES

The 20th Century is most assuredly an era of rapid transition and transformation. We can have no doubt that future historians will see this century as a critical historical watershed on a global scale. For us in Asia this epoch represents the development, if not, yet the maturing of two interlinked processes. One, the re-emergence of the Asian countries as independent factors in the sphere of international politics, economy and culture after more than 100 years of foreign invasion, domination and conquest—a phenomenon which Sri Lanka experienced in some measure from as early as the 16th century. Two, the modernisation and radical transformation of our traditional societies and civilizations.

A major aspect of this process is the emergence of a large number of modern nation States out of a host of traditional Asian societies and nations. Many of these, Sri Lanka amongst them, have been clearly defined geo-political and geo-cultural entities over a long period of time and are well-known in the annals of Asian and world history. Richly steeped in centuries of tradition, they are today profoundly aware of themselves as historical formations of great antiquity. The historic past of these societies, their energetic present and their future structuration have, therefore, to be viewed as a continuous and sequential process. The recording and the understanding of this process are essential tools for all those who work in the field of the historical sciences.

It is precisely in such a context that we have to view the role of a National Museum as one of the primary institutions which has

arisen in the sphere of modern culture. It is significant that the concept of a national museum did not have its origins in that epoch when modern nation states first took shape in Europe but rather in that era when European expansionism and colonialism had reached its apogee and when the national struggles of a host of countries throughout the world were beginning to take a modern form. Modern nations were beginning to appear as distinct formulations in a global struggle for independence and national freedom. Similarly, the concept of a national museum—even when such an institution was originally formed under colonialist patronage—had to be re-interpreted periodically so that it could play an increasingly important role in the formation of national consciousness, become part of a process of national self-definition. In many countries, including our own, this development has now reached a certain stage of maturity, especially in the last few decades, but it is still far from complete. **The role of a national museum is to present to the people of a nation a concentrated image of themselves; to record and to systematically recreate the formation of the national history and culture by the display of cultural and other museological material.**

Functions of a National Museum

A national museum, or properly speaking a national museum network, has at least four distinct but interrelated spheres of activity:

- (a) the collection of museum material, which includes a theoretical concept of what constitutes such material as well

as a rigorous practical process of selection;

- (b) the systematic storage, preservation and recording of material and information in such a way that the widest range of data is available for future generations to study and to research;
- (c) the study and interpretation of this material;
- (d) the selection and organisation of material for presentation as museum display, as well as the organisation of other extension services such as special exhibitions, lectures and cultural programmes.

In the historical context that we have been discussing each of these functions takes on very special responsibilities. While these spheres of activity apply equally to a museum—i.e. the master plan and scope of its collection, its perspectives for future development, etc. has a definite national character. It focuses on the totality of a nation's cultural heritage. It does not merely preserve a nation's cultural heritage in a static or passive form but by an act of preservation and interpretation, it contributes to the on-going cultural formation of that nation. *In short, a national museum does not exist in the past, it recreates and re-enacts the past in a way that is useful and meaningful to the present and the future.*

Historical change and the concept of museological material: Selection and definition.

In a society such as our own, the rate of historical and cultural change increases daily. Many old customs and institutions and many items of traditional usage pass into disuse, usually in step with socio-economic transformations that are taking place. Meanwhile, the formation of new cultural structures becomes a major national responsibility. This is deeply influenced by both internal and external factors. In this situation, the accumulation of national cultural materials

and the recording of cultural data, together with its careful storage, preservation and study, become important historical tasks. We are required not only to record and to understand the society that is changing and passing away, but also to apply what is useful and valuable in the national cultural experience to the on-going process of cultural formation. Among the existing national institutions in the realm of scientific, academic and cultural work, the national museum occupies a central position as an institution specifically designed to play this role.

Such a responsibility often calls for a re-interpretation of the concept of a national museum and of what constitutes museological material. Usually museums in the past have been the repositories of either antiquities from ancient times and masterpieces of sculpture and painting or the curiosities of "folk art." Today we have a much wider view not only of what comprises museum material but also for the very concept of culture itself. The historical and sociological view of culture—as against the aesthetic—encompasses all the cultural and technological artefacts of a people; in fact, all the manifestations of their material life including the most casual by-products of productive or recreational activity. Thus, when a national museum formulates the collecting programme, its definition of museum material must be conceived of in the widest possible manner.

The national museum network often becomes the filter through which much of the cultural material that falls into abeyance is preserved and documented. The importance of this selective function does not apply only to the present time. **By its role as a storehouse of cultural material, and especially by means of its reserve collections, the national museum more or less chooses and controls much of what future generations will be able to study and to know about the social and cultural life of their past.** For historians and scholars

in particular, it is one of the basic sources of historical and cultural material.

This **selective and definitional** function is performed not only through the direct acquisition and collection programme of the museum but also as a result of the interest evoked in the society at large by such a programme. The museum thereby begins to play a leading role in the indication of what is useful and valuable and worth preserving in traditional culture.

Acquisition and Conservation

In the advanced industrial nations, most of which followed a classic path of industrial capitalist development, the leading national museums became central repositories of material which had already been gathered by a host of private collectors. The acquisition of material was thus inevitably determined by the changing tastes and interests of a narrow section of society. Moreover, most of these nations developed themselves by means of an aggressive colonialist expansionism, and in reaping the wealth of the world at large they also built up large collections of cultural property, extracted in one form or another from the rest of the world. Thus, the "national" museums of these countries are rarely "national" in form or content, but represent particular aspects of the expansionist historical development of those nations.

In countries like ours, on the other hand, the process of modernisation, of nation-building, of industrial and agricultural development, is taking place in very different historical circumstances. In such a context, the national museum of our time has to play a much more dynamic and self-conscious role than that played by the large and well-known "international" museums of the advanced industrial nations. It has to focus public interest and concern on cultural material from both the distant and the not-so-distant past. At the same time, while informing and educating the public, it must also see itself

as an expression of cultural aspirations and achievements of the society as a whole rather than merely the "learned" and "cultivated" interests of elite groups.

The efficiency of its **accumulative and conservationist** tasks depends very greatly on the relationship between the national museum network and the broadest sections of society. The entire working people of a country have not only been the basis of a creative activity in the past, but are also the greatest living reservoirs of energy, experience and culture, without whose participation the collection and preservation of cultural property can never be complete. In short, the national museum has the responsibility of being a central and representative cultural institution; it has a major social role to play in indicating and defining what constitutes the relevant cultural product and cultural property of the society in which it exists.

It is in this context that the conventional "fine art" and "folk art" definitions of cultural property and museological material are hopelessly inadequate. In fields such as production technology, construction, transport, health and education, we are today eager to rediscover and to reinterpret the traditional methods and techniques developed in our countries over hundreds and sometimes thousands of years. Thus in the field of technology, for instance, colonialist-controlled modernisation processes have often led us into an unbalanced and distorted development. This has produced a heavy dependence on imported machinery, "advanced" techniques, etc., together with the underdevelopment and destruction of many traditional skills, methods and implements. Today, we are beginning to formulate a more complex and balanced approach to modernisation, where we try to adapt and to reinterpret—in accordance with our own needs and realities—not only what we get from abroad but also what we have inherited from our past. In such a situation, a national museum

becomes an important storehouse of historical material and data.

Interpretation

Thus, while museology today is a highly technical science, combining an array of disciplines—most of them concerned with the preservation of cultural material and the cataloguing of information—it also incorporates major theoretical aspects such as those governing the selecting and filtering functions discussed above. This combination of practical techniques with a systematically developed theoretical viewpoint can also be seen in the **interpretative** and **presentational** aspects of a museum's activities.

The **interpretation** of museum material in the past remained for the most part an elementary cataloguist's function. It identified the basic function of an object, surveyed its material composition and method of manufacture, recorded its original location and concluded with some attempt to date the object and to place it in a stylistic and typological framework. This was summarised in the classic catalogue formula: **identity - material - provenance - date - dimensions**. This basic data still remains important, but a much wider framework of study than that inherited from conventional archaeological, art-historical or anthropological disciplines is required today. Such a framework would consider an object's social and historical significance to be of paramount importance. Thus a museum specimen has to be viewed in its socio-economic context as well as in the historical spectrum in which it existed, at local, national and international levels. The object becomes something much more than itself—it is seen as a manifestation in material terms of historical processes and historical dynamics. It is not just a static form, rather, it is a three-dimensional articulation of some aspect of the understanding and control which a community has achieved over itself and its environment. In short, the museolo-

gist or the student of museum material is today required above all to abandon the concepts of connoisseurship and exoticism which have influenced museum practice for so long. He or she is called upon to locate cultural property in its social and environmental context, to view it in terms of the processes of historical change.

The interpretative role of the museologist is never complete. It is a constant process that develops from generation to generation. A great deal depends, however, on earlier generations of museologists who have selected, accumulated and preserved material whose true significance may not have been fully realised at the time but which becomes invaluable research data for later generations. Moreover, the interpretation of museum material is not entirely governed by the availability of data or technical and methodological competence alone. It is not some purely abstract or "objective" technical performance. It is a process which is itself deeply influenced and determined by the historical viewpoint and historical situation of the interpreter. Thus, the way in which a colonialist looked at a cultural artefact and the way in which we view that artefact can never be quite the same: his understanding of it and ours cannot coincide. As a worker in the field of the historical sciences, the student of museum material has to realise that museology, itself becomes an object of history. What is taken for granted today,—i.e. the implicit viewpoint of the museologist—becomes a part of the epistemology of the subject, a matter for study tomorrow. The national museum in a country like ours has to develop a scientific viewpoint which is consistent with the level of national development and with the historical needs and requirements of the society which it serves. The interpretation of museum material, like its collection, is a reflection of these factors.

Display

The culmination of the accumulative and

interpretative tasks in the **arrangement** and **presentation** of chosen objects and assemblages. The display is the point at which the vast amount of background work that museology involves, is given its final and most coherent expression. The exhibits in a national museum present, therefore, a concentrated image of the history and culture of a nation. They form a systematic historical statement showing the path the nation has traversed, its many-sided experience, the wealth of its physical and mental labours, its great material resources and its cultural resourcefulness. In such an exhibition the didactic role is supreme. It is no less than a permanent lesson in history. It presents the national historical process in a concrete, three-dimensional form.

A national museum is undoubtedly one of the most important institutionalised methods by which the cultural heritage of a nation can be preserved and transmitted because it tries to record in a material form the complex manifestations of the national genius at each stage of historical development. Its subject is no less than the historic encounter between man and environment and man and man within the confines of the national territory: the specific character, styles and modes of cultural expression which emerged from that encounter and the general patterns of the national historical experience. Above all, the national museum exists in the present, displaying to the present and preserving for the future the meaning and character of what has been achieved by the people of a nation in the past.

The Museum in Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka we have our own specific history in the development of the idea of a museum. Traditions which involved the collection and preservation of cultural objects were an organic part of our civilisation from early historic times. Especially among the feudal rulers of the country and various

institutions of the time such as palaces, temples and monasteries, the manorial houses of the feudal landlords as well as in village communities and other popular institutions, much attention was paid to the preservation of objects which were valued for a variety of different reasons, some on account of their historical associations, their symbolic or religious significance or the technical and artistic skill with which they had been produced, others because they were displays of feudal wealth and power or of considerable value as treasure. Literary references to such items and collections exist from very early times, while living traditions, which we can still observe, amply confirm the historical record. It is true that these collections were often the exclusive preserve of narrow elite groups in the feudal social structure. However, it is also true that other collections existed on a much broader and more popular context and were admired and valued by the people at large. It is mostly these latter traditions that partially survived the invasions, pillage and destruction of the colonialist occupation and which often became the symbols and rallying points of national consciousness and national resurgence.

Similar organic traditions of collecting and preserving valued objects existed in most other pre-modern cultures. Some of these, such as the civilisations of the Mediterranean region shared by Asia, Africa and Europe or those of East Asia, had reached very high levels of development in what we might call proto-museological practices. It is out of such traditions that the modern, scientific concept of a museum first arose in Europe, as a part of that historical transformation that had its initiation in that continent. As we well know, the study of the past played such a vital role in that transformation. The concept of a museum was derived from ancient traditions that existed in the cultures of the Mediterranean region and reinterpreted in the terms of the emerging modern Europe. This process had

its beginning in the period of the European Renaissance (ca. 15th. and 16th. century), saw an accelerated development in the 17th and 18th centuries and emerged in a more or less modern form in the latter part of the 19th century.

It was also in that same period that the modern concept of a museum materialised in Sri Lanka, under the patronage and domination of British colonialists. Colonialist museology drew heavily on the antiquarian resources and traditional collections of cultural objects of our country—ironically, preserving some part of the cultural property that was derived from the very same traditional institutions and structures which colonialism was itself destroying. Soon, our own scholars and workers in the field of culture developed their familiarity and some degree of mastery over the modern concepts and techniques of museological science. In a matter of decades we had taken possession of the concept of a museum. Since that time we have made

steady advances in the development of that concept in terms of our own historical viewpoint and our historical and cultural progress.

There is no room for exaggerating our achievements, or cause for self satisfaction and complaisance. The underdevelopment and distortions of our museum structures are also very much a part of the reality and are similar to those found in most developing nations. They derive from the backwardness of our own historical development as well as the role of colonialist and neo-colonialist influence in the formation of our museums. Today, however, we are in a much better position to understand this process and the complex historical origins of a national museum in our country. In the modern transformation of Sri Lanka and the construction of its modern culture, the concept of a national museum and its role in those processes is itself being developed and transformed.



THE ROLE OF MUSEUM IN CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT IN COUNTRIES UNDERGOING RAPID CHANGE FROM TRADITIONAL TO INDUSTRIALISED SOCIETIES

Countries undergoing change from traditional to industrialised societies have several features common to them. Very often many of these countries are economically and industrially underdeveloped. They share or have shared similar affiliations of illiteracy, ignorance, poverty and disease although the magnitude of these differ from country to country. A great majority of them are making an effort to transform from ancient to modern, from stagnation to progress. They also have built up great traditions in the fields of culture, religion, art, history and literature. The problems associated with these countries are also similar. For instance most of these countries are faced with the problem of fast growing population. From education point of view shortages of qualified teachers, equipment and other facilities and restricted opportunities for technical, vocational, scientific education are prevalent. It is against such background that the role of museums in cultural, educational, economic and technical development has to be considered.

It is an undisputed fact that for all societies undergoing change from traditional to modern; education has a key role to play. Through education such societies could achieve the desired goals. For them, the task of education among others, include raising the standard of literacy, imparting factual information and knowledge, technical know how and innovations, training in the skills related to them and developing correct attitudes. Education must also take into account the preservation and promotion of the

cultural, religious and social traditions that in the long run help forming a contended society. As such, museums in general have an important responsibility to participate in education at every level. As a matter of fact, one of the primary purposes of museums is education. Although there is a tendency to look upon museums as places where exhibits are kept in safe custody, and conservation regarded the primary function and their display designed to satisfy the curiosity of a passive audience the most valuable function of museums is to educate. They have tremendous potentialities to be harnessed for education, cultural, as well as economic and technical advancement.

As agents of education, museums play a variety of roles. In contemporary societies, museums are considered one of the most valuable means of supplementing education. They are no longer regarded repositories of antiques of historical and cultural value, or plant and animal specimens or geological and geographical items of interest, where the visitor who was generally regarded a specialist alone could discover and appreciate the exhibits. They are not only centres where grown up people or scholars alone could benefit. Both in organisation, appearances and management, museums are now adopted to the needs of every one. A museum that aims only accumulating a mass of material is lopsided and fails to be of use to the community.

Education is no longer confined to formal schooling and is considered a lifelong process.

It is a continuous process going on throughout life and is concerned with every aspect of life. It is important, therefore, to provide opportunities for the educational process to continue in adult life as well; and museums possess resources to promote such an education. While the developed countries have recognised this for years, the developing nations find it a recent innovation.

Countries undergoing change from traditional to Industrial in particular, consider education as an important prerequisite of change. Manpower needs for agriculture and industry come from the population normally educated in the traditional school system. Such education although it provides for the basic needs of individual and society, could more often be lacking in some qualities relevant to the changing conditions in the country. What the formal education fails to impart has to be provided by the informal education that follows later in life. Such informal education which takes within its scope every individual and almost every moment of life has a significant contribution to make in this direction. Various media of communication and different kinds of teaching/learning, materials may have to be utilized for such purpose. This includes the press, radio, film and T.V. as well as agencies like museums. In larger part of the developing countries many of these media are yet in their infancy.

An area in which the museums could contribute to this informal part of education is to provide for the 'educated man.' Over specialisation which commences very early in the school career of the present day child leaves him for the most part ignorant of either the rich cultural heritage of mankind or his scientific and technological advancement. It is increasingly the first that is being neglected and it can no longer be assumed that formal education alone could provide something of at least the history, literature, religion, philosophy and the culture of his

country that forms the 'educated man.' A broad base of cultural enjoyment is a must to counteract the stresses and strains of contemporary living. "A person without an ability to appreciate and enjoy art, music, drama or culture personally, is more likely to succumb to tensions of modern life, than those who find an outlet for this pent up emotions healthily in cultural and recreational pursuits."

For a country like Sri Lanka in particular where scientific and technical education are considered indispensable ingredients of education geared to development, the transmission of Cultural education becomes an important task. Pre-occupied with the popularisation of technical and science education, there is a tendency to neglect the transmission of the cultural of heritage of the people. Museums as repositories of cultural objects are good agents of such education. Through them it is possible to fill the 'gap' which otherwise would remain void for ever.

Any country changing from a traditional society to an industrial society, in the process of change undergo several social changes as well. With the changing forms of society the social pattern that prevailed in the past tend to be forgotten. This is an area in which museums could contribute to a changing society. Museums while preserving the social heritage of the people must educate the society itself. This, however, will depend to a great extent on the way in which museum exhibits pertaining to different societies are exhibited and used for educational purposes. For the present generations to learn about their past heritage whether social, cultural or otherwise museums are indispensable agencies.

The economic role of museums in the developing countries is also an important factor. Two ways in which economic role of museums is worked out in some developing countries are through tourism and artisan trade. Museums everywhere are increasingly attracting

tourists. Although this is a recent development museums must make the most of this opportunity by designing them to give the tourists who very often find it very difficult to travel much in the country; as varied and complete an idea as possible of the country. The 'Open-Air Museums' of some African States depicting the living conditions of the people is a good example of such an innovation. These 'Open-Air Museums' are made still more alive by the craftsmen working under depicted natural conditions in them.

Many museums throughout the world have craft workshops attached to them and constitute an appreciable source of income. While providing employment for even a limited number of craftsmen, this measure enhances their standing, preserves traditional skills, gives new life to the museums and contribute to economic development. Tourists and handicrafts give a museum an economic role and ability to belittle the criticism that museums are a useless extravagance in a developing country.

Societies changing from traditional to modern are concerned with the spread of technical knowledge and know-how among the people. In every developed country all over the world, there are museums devoted to science and technology. In the industrial countries like U.S.S.R., U.S.A., U.K. and Germany the most important museums are the Science museums. The planetaria in these countries generally come within museum administration and, are essentially astronomical museums. Many of them serve schools and other educational institutions for the spread of scientific knowledge. School services are generally offered in these by way of science demonstrations, lectures, hobby centres and teacher training programmes.

For many of the developing countries where rural population is to be educated particularly through local languages, mobile museums become useful. Adult population who have missed formal schooling are either

completely illiterate or have very little education. Nevertheless they are an important component of the society striving for economic and technical development and some form of educational service has to be provided for them.

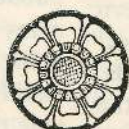
For example, if the rural population is to be healthy and strong they need to know about diseases and carriers of disease. Farmers need to know new ideas about farming, irrigation, drainage, pest control, cattle rearing, use of fertilisers etc. Fishermen need to know about the sea, weather, behaviour and habits of fish and new methods and techniques of fishing. Mobile-museums can help in the developmental programmes by offering such educational services to the rural people.

The use of mass media by museums as a means of teaching a wide public is now becoming popular in developed countries. In attempting to reach the masses these museums use television, radio, film and the press and in addition, such other means as tapes, slides, publications, reports and catalogues. For many developing countries television as a mass media is a luxury, but the radio is readily available. Radio also has the advantage that people can listen to the radio while engaged in other work. Countries that use radio as mass media often use museum information broadcasts that include museums events, museums news and museum programmes.

The Press remain perhaps the most reliable outlet for information and popular education. Many of the developing countries have a newspaper conscious public and the museums must be alert to supply newspapers with interesting and topical museum news regularly. Newspapers in developing countries usually carry articles on art, music, drama, literature and writers on animal, plant life, etc. use information which natural history museum and science museum generally supply.

Suggested above are some ways in which museums in developing countries could help progress of change in them. They indicate social, economic and educational activities that museums in developing countries must

undertake to avoid a risk of being considered useless institutions isolated from society. The motto could be "to make something else of a museum than a Temple of Art or Science."



THE ROLE OF THE MUSEUM IN SCIENTIFIC TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN SRI LANKA

The activity Science is one of the unique exercises of man. It is unique on several counts. Firstly, it is based on a methodology now known as the "Scientific Method." This consists of the ingredients of observations, hypotheses, experimentation and theorisation. Secondly, science is a cumulative activity. All new developments in science, be they new theories, or new techniques are essentially evolved on the basis of the built-up knowledge that is available. The existence of this body or knowledge is, therefore, vital for the growth of science itself. It is in such a context that a science museum plays its part to further the interests of Science Teaching and Scientific Research. The main function of a science museum in the early days was the acquisition and preservation of material for study. Exhibition of collected material was only then of secondary importance. Originally the acquisition of material was a passive exercise where museums took over specimens of scientific interest that were brought to them. However, the gathering of material is a very positive and planned activity. Expeditions were organized and sent out for the purpose of securing material. Such expeditions in recent times have not only been limited to remote corners of the globe, such as Antarctica, the jungles of Africa or the Himalayan heights. The moon explorations too did their bit of work for securing museum specimens.

At the present time, the collection and display of materials has become an important and essential part of museum work, more particularly as museums have become functionally oriented towards education. This means too, that display and exhibition

of the scientific specimens in a museum acquires an importance all its own. And so almost every recognised museum in the world moves to serve these ends.

The scientific and educational approach to display and exhibition leads to the service of scientific research, teaching, and the dispersal of knowledge. Within the museum walls of today are seen mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibia and fishes mounted or modelled in life-like attitudes, grouped as nature did and in a man-made setting designed faithfully to resemble the natural environment; the trees, shrubs and other flora, are also modelled to close similitude with nature.

Similarly too the mineral resources of the ages are displayed and man's resourcefulness in utilising these to his own betterment is progressively revealed in the variety of implements he has designed through the ages of time.

A modern museum must have the facility to secure accuracy and beauty in their attempt to display the stages of the earth's natural evolution in respect of its living creatures, its surface contents, and the activities of its inhabitants, animal and man. The research scholar has then at his disposal for study in depth or for reflection and philosophising, a tangible form of man's conceptualisation of his own planet, as it progressed along the course of time. Subtle and sophisticated modern techniques of analysis are available which do not harm or impair invaluable exhibits. The modern scholar has these at his disposal to probe the exhibits, to determine their ages, chemical composition, physical properties and thence to link up

gaps in knowledge, to thread together seemingly disconnected ideas. Thus the museum is a place of display for the operation of the scientific method itself. The museum gathers its facts from first-hand explorations or expeditions; groups of specially trained scientists sift and analyse this data and build up and evaluate new knowledge on this basis. This display of this knowledge to serve the needs of the public, and the scholars of all types is the ostensible function of a museum and this revolves around scientists, technicians, artists, modellers, designers,

architects, engineers and those in a variety of occupations.

The museum activities are very much a continuing operation and as new methods evolve, new insights to old exhibits are possible.

The face of the Colombo Museum has pleasingly changed within its hundred year history to accommodate these new ideas and modern approaches. It is one of Sri Lanka's undoubted sources of national pride and for our future generations must continue to be regarded as such.





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