

PART IV-EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ART (G)

# Report of the Archaeological Survey of Ceylon for 1956

P. E. P. Deraniyagala, Esq. (Acting Archezological Commissioner)



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### ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CEYLON

### Annual Report for 1956-

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1956 Revenue

A sum of Rs. 15,969.45 was received from the sale of publications, photographs, picture post cards, maps, &c. A further sum of Rs. 3,510.42 was received in respect of postal and telephone revenue, interest and rent of quarters. With the miscellaneous receipts, the total amounted to Rs. 8,475.32.

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### PERSONNEL

- 2. On September 26, 1956, Dr. S. Paranavitana, the Archæological Commissioner, went on three months' leave preparatory to retirement from Government Service. Dr. Paranavitana's contribution towards the Archæology, particularly the epigraphy, of Ceylon has been outstanding and the further work upon which he is now engaged should prove of great value to the country.
- Mr. D. T. Devendra, the Assistant Commissioner (Publications), retired on April 1, 1956, after being in Service since June 1, 1948. His numerous contributions, particularly to the guide book series, have been in heavy demand both locally and abroad.
- Mr. W. S. Karunaratne, Assistant Commissioner (Epigraphy), was appointed to act as Assistant Archæological Commissioner with effect from February 23, 1956. He was also appointed to attend to the duties of the post of Archæological Commissioner with effect from September 25, 1956, in addition to his own duties.

- Mr. R. H. de Silva, Assistant Commissioner (Chemist), who left for Europe on February 3 on a UNESCO fellowship to study preservation and restoration of works of art, returned on November 18 after gaining valuable experience at the Courtauld Institute of Art and the Institute of Archæology in London, the Istituto Centrale del Restauro, Rome, and the Laboratoire Central des Musees de Belgique, Brussels. He also attended the 4th General Conference, I. C. O. M. in Switzerland from July 2 to 10 as an observer.
- Mr. T. P. de Zoysa, Office Assistant, was seconded for service as Private Secretary to the Hon'ble the Minister of Lands and Land Development with effect from May 1, 1956. Mr. R. Vandebona (E. C. C. Special Grade of G. C. S.) succeeded him on July 1, 1956.

### LIBRARY

3. Seventy books and 260 journals were purchased, and 210 publications secured through exchange, 6 books were received as gifts. 272 volumes were bound by the Government Printer. The space available for these books is limited and more accommodation is needed.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

4. 349 new negatives were prepared. Altogether 3,614 prints were made and 229 prints given free of charge to the press and the University. 581 prints were sold. Thirty-six enlargements were despatched to the Senkadagala Nuvara Exhibition in August.

### PUBLICATIONS

5. 620 copies of the reprinted Mediæval Sinhalese Art by Ananda K. Coomaraswamy were assigned to the department. 100 of these were distributed free to scholars and learned institutes, the balance 520 were offered for sale to the public. The English guide book to Paňduvas Nuvara has been sold out and a new edition was printed in October. 4,000 copies of this booklet were received from the Government Printer. These are priced at 50 cents per copy.

### ARCHÆOLOGICAL MUSEUMS

### Personnel

6. Mr. J. S. A. Uduwara, the Keeper of Anurādhapura Museum, was sent to England on a UNESCO scholarship in September to study Museology. Mr. A. F. Devapura, Assistant Keeper of Dädigama Museum, was appointed to act for him.

### Additions to the Anuradhapura Museum are as follows

- (a) Brahminical statuettes of Agni, Yama and Indra from a garbha stone found at Hingurakgama, off Polonnaruva.
- (b) Symbolic plaques executed in "Amarāvati marble" depieting various auspicious and ritualistic objects, from a garbha stone found at Hiňgurakgama, off Polonnaruva.
- (c) Two gold Gajapati coins from Anurādhapura.
- (d) A unique Saivite bronze of Ardhanārisvara, bisected bilaterally and a departure from the traditional composite figure hitherto known; from Veragala Vihāra, Anurādhapura District (Pl. 1.)
- (e) A pillar inscription from Nankanai, Trincomalee District.

The statue of Ardhanārisvara figured on plate 1 is of special interest as it differs from the traditional type.

### Additions to the Dädigama Museum are:

Copies of the Mahiyangana frescoes;

Two decorative copper plates from Karandana;

Two spouted vessels from Talagama; and an inscribed potsherd about 1,200 years old.

A gateway was erected for this Museum by the P. W. D.

### CONSERVATION

### Anurādhapura

7. Some of the stones that were missing from Kuttam Pokuna were discovered and inserted into their correct places. In the Kapārārāma the stone work of the five Prāsādas within the retaining walls of the gallery was set, and the conservation of the monastic building to the west of Abhayagiri Dāgāba was also taken in hand and the entrance to the main building and the small building at the north-eastern corner of the prakāra were conserved.

### Mihintale

8. The dismantling of the brick work at Mahāsäya has been put in hand and conservation work at five prāsādas and the building to the left of the road at the foot of the main flight of steps has been concluded. The retaining wall near the two inscribed slabs as well as its flight of steps has been conserved.

### Polonnaruva

9. Work has been continued on the retaining wall of the lower terrace of the Alāhana Pirivena on the north-west side. The flight of steps below the Kiri Vihera on the path to the Gal Vihāre and a large block of masonry which had collapsed were put into order, as was the retaining wall on either side of the flight of steps.

### Sigiriya

10. Conservation work was continued both upon the summit of the rock and in the Pleasure Garden at its foot. Parts of the rampart on either side of the entrance across the moat were conserved, as was the brick work of the cave near the octagonal pond. The pottery obtained from these sources throws important light upon the culture of this period, and is now figured on plate 2. It is interesting to note that several of them possess the mat or basket patterns impressed externally that also occur in the Neolithic of Ceylon and continued to be in use practically into recent times. The shapes of some of these vessels are, however, more or less characteristic of this period (Pl. 3).

### Yāpahuva

11. The semi-circular inner wall of the fortress received attention.

### Galabädda

12. The bath at Kellanevala was conserved and as it is close to the ruins of the palace it might have been a royal bath. The pond is 25 ft. 6 ins. long each side at the top and narrows down to its bottom in tiers to 12 ft. long each side; the depth is 7 ft. 6 ins. The water enters through four spouts in these recesses and falls upon the platform, then cascades to the bottom. The bottom itself is paved with rectangular slabs of stone. The only decorations are the Kibihi faces in the spouts and two female figures carved at the ends of the slabs on either side of the platform. Each of these four figures represents a female carrying a vessel in one hand, and a flower pot in the other. The inlet and outlet consist of a stone-lined channel and the pond is surrounded by a pavilion; both are located at the bottom of a hill bordering a stretch of paddy field.

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### Dädigama

13. Conservation work was continued on the Kotavehera.

### Panduvas Nuvara

14. The work within the palace has been completed.

### Periyakulam

15. Work at Velgam Vihāre had to be suspended since the water supply disappeared owing to the severe drought.

### EXPLORATION AND INSPECTION

### 16. Southern Province

- (1) Mahagalwewa (Map. Ref. P. 7/29, located about 3 miles north of the village of Ihala Kumbukväva in the Hambantota District). A large platform with hexagonal pillar capitals and friezes of gana guard stones.
- (2) Dehigahalande (Map. Ref. 7/30 in Valave Headman's Division, Magam Pattu). A small brick-built dāgāba and 2 mounds with granite pillars together with remains of thick brick walls.
- (3) Mallakaligoda (Map. Ref. P. 11/25, Giruvapattu East). A medium sized brick mound and a large granite slab to the north of the village.
- (4) Atulugala (Map. Ref. P. 11/16). Some ancient caves were leased to the Nimalava Aranniya Senasana who have put up buildings within and around them without the permission of the Archæological Commissioner and have thereby covered some Brhāmï inscriptions.

### Sabaragamuva Province

- (5) Atugoda (Map. Ref. I. 24/57 in Imbulgala Village Headman's Division of Beligal Korale, Kegalla District). A cave on a hillside where a Pattini Devale is believed to have existed.
- (6) Galgane (Map. Ref. I. 24/28). In the Purana Raja Maha Vihare there is a fine collection of the flags of the Disavanees of the Kandyan period, also an antique painted cloth and drums.
- (7) Hakvatunu Oya (Map. Ref. I. 4/46) in Kuda Vallegedara Village Headman's Division of the Tissava Korale in the Kurunegala District. A rectangular granite slab on which is carved a seven-headed cobra. It was decided to remove it to the Anurādhapura Museum.
- (8) Handamagama (Map. Ref. I. 4/18). Mahagalkande Village Headman's Division of the Väüdavili Hatpattu in Kurunegala District. A mound of ancient brick bats and rubble.
- (9) Tampitigoda (Map. Ref. I. 18/60). In Galgamuwa Village Headman's Division in Kurunegala District. Two low circular mounds containing brick bats and spur stones. It is believed that there are many stone sculptures and inscriptions in a pond on a neighbouring estate.
- (10) Mahagala (Map. Ref. I. 9/52). In Nalava Village Headman's Division of Ihala Visideke Korale in Kurunegala District. An ancient dāgāba, a few terracotta figures that were brought to Colombo.
- (11) Māligātenne (Map. Ref. I. 14/57). A flat summit of a hillock about an acre in extent. A flight of steps has been cut in the rock to reach a cavern full of water. Brick bats and tiles litter the summit.

### Western Province

- (12) Kevitiyagala (Map. Ref. O. 3/43). In Mēgahatānna Village Headman's Division of Pasdun Korale in Kalutara District. A natural rock cave exists there and it is reported that a palm leaf manuscript and a Buddha statue were discovered when the cave was cleared to establish a place of worship.
- (13) Gangātilake Vihāre (Map. Ref. L. 22/50). The former site of the residency of the Assistant Government Agent of Kalutara. No ancient remains occur at this site to confirm the view that it is an ancient religious establishment.
- (14) Kadavalhgama (Map. Ref. C. 24/22). Puranga Dalgoda Kanda in Tulane 16, Nuvaragam Palata East, Anurādhapura District. The torso of a rock Buddha statue and the remains of a brick-built dāgāba were examined.

### **Uva Province**

(15) Polgahagama (Map. Ref. M. 9/63). In Dambagaha Korale, Badulla District, a dāgāba built with rubble and bricks with remains of ancient buildings in its vicinity.

### Eastern Province

### GAL OYA

(16) At Gonagala between villages 29–31 about 50 yards east of the road are two caves amongst some boulders. A fragment of a fresco occurs outside the larger one. This represents a male and a female figure, the latter is in a dancing posture and facing the male and with both hands in a worshipping attitude. The male figure holds a flower in the left hand. The colours employed are red, orange and a little green in the drapery, the background is white. The face of the male figure which has a halo is damaged (Pl. 4). This fragmentary painting is a very important addition to the remains of ancient pictorial art that the department possesses.

In the vicinity of the cave are two ponds and a dāgāba with a plain moonstone and a chatra. The smaller cave contains some väddah drawings. At Pallang Oya, Inginiyagala, there is an ancient dāgāba and the building near it has pillars about 7 feet high. There is also a statue of Buddha without the head and arms and is about 4½ feet high.

At village 22, is a cave containing a statue of Buddha also lacking head and arms which is 5 feet high. The pillars of the building occur in the vicinity.

Village 21. A cave with an inscription exists about a mile and a half from the village.

### BAKKIELA

The new clearing there has caused the worst damage sustained by an antique edifice in recent times. A dāgāba that is reported to have been 10 feet high has been levelled and the brick-bats and spur stones scattered about. A larger pillar 15 feet by 6 in. carrying inscriptions on two sides has been smashed by build dozers and fragments heaped on one

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side. Another stone slab 10 feet by 9 feet with inscriptions on two sides has been broken and is now half buried. Estampages were secured from a few of these slabs.

### North-Western Province

### POMPARIPPU

- (17) An ancient cemetery at the 21st milepost on the Puttalam-Marichchikade Road had been observed by Mr. R. L. Brohier in 1929 and the importance of this was stressed by the writer at his presidential address to the Royal Asiatic Society on August 26, 1955.
  - Information was received about six months later of fragmentary remains of large jars (Pl. No. 5) and the department commenced excavations on either side of the road and brought to light 12 others which were encountered at about a foot beneath the surface. Around and inside these were smaller pots (Pl. 5 c, d). The largest jar (Pl. 5a) contained two skulls and parts of human skeletons while 2 others also yielded human bones some of which had been calcined through cremation. The smaller pots probably contained articles and food intended for the use of the dead whose bones lay in the larger pots.
  - The large jar is red and black and carries external impressions that resemble a wicker basket (Pl. 5a). The smaller pots are of special interest in that some are black-tipped and resemble a finger bowl or Buddhist monk's begging bowl (Pl. 5 d.).
  - Jet beads were also found within the largest pot and some of the smaller vessels have been incised with certain symbols that are under study for the purpose of dating (Pl. 5 fig a).
  - At about a mile to the east of this cemetery there is also a ruined stupa and near it is a stone slab carrying an 8th century inscription in Sinhala which refers to the site as Vali Vehera. It will be recollected that the Mahāvamsa records that this was founded by King Subha in the 1st Century A. C. near Uruvela which is one of the earliest Sinhala settlements in Ceylon and its origin has been attributed both to a follower of King Vijaya as well as to a brother of the Queen of the 2nd King of Ceylon. Uruvela is said to have been located 40 miles (5 yoduna) to the west of Anuradhapura and this would place it near the mouth of the Kala Oya. The position of Vali Vehera supports this record, and it is not unlikely that the cemetery referred to above is of the same age as the Vihāre. Objects found in the debris of the stūpa were a silver purāna punchmarked coin, 2 copper coins marked with a maneless lion and a badly corroded Roman coin.

### **Explanation of Plates**

- Plate No. 1. Front and back of the same image of Ardhanārisvara from Veragala Vihāra, Anurādhapura.
- Plate No. 2. Pottery from the Pleasure Gardens at Sigiriya, some showing a basket work impress externally. Thirteen are reconstructed.
- Terracotta figurines from the Pleasure Garden at Sigiriya. Plate No. 3.
- Plate No. 4. A fresco from Gonagolla.
- Plate No. 5. (a) A funerary urn from Pomparippu together with (b) smaller pots found in association with it in situ; (c) a vessel with a fish marking (d) vessels found within the urn, shown at 5a above.
- Plate No. 6. One of the two skulls found within the urn.

### **EPIGRAPHY**

BY

### W. S. Karunaratne, M.A. (Ceylon)

- 18. The translation into Sinhala of the two volumes of Sigiri Graffiti by Dr. S. Paranavitana, was entrusted to the Venerable Välivitiye Sorata Nayake Thera and to Mr. W. S. Karunaratne.
- 19. A volume of Inscriptions in Sinhala is under preparation with the assistance of the Vidyālaṅkāra Pirivena, Kälaniya.
- 20. Thirty-rix inscriptions were copied during the year. An appendix containing the details of these inscriptions is annexed.

### CHEMICAL TREATMENT OF ANTIQUITIES

BY

### R. H. de Silva, B.Sc. Hons. (Ceylon and Lond.)

21. Work in the laboratory consisted of the cleaning, identification and chemical treatment of the antiquities received during this year. There were 75 semi-precious stones, 1,229 ancient Roman coins, 22 punch-marked coins from Dehigaslande, 3 metal images of gods, 1 wheel (chakra), 1 bronze lamp, 1 bronze bell, 189 ancient coins, 172 beads, 1 bronze dish and 6 ancient coins from the dāgāba site near Pomparippu.

### 22. Field Work

Gaḍalādeniya Vihāre. General treatment of the rock surfaces of the walls was undertaken. A coating of perspex to arrest the deterioration was given. The outer surface was strengthened by the treatment carried out. A serious state of disintegration is noticeable in the whole structure.

- 23. Polonnaruva. The recumbent and sedentary statues at Gal Vihāra were given treatment by application of paraffin wax in non-leaded petrol after cleaning.
- 24. Northern Temple. Loose portions of the plaster were strengthened by injecting a solution of polyvinyl acetate through the cracks. Fungus growth was removed from the walls where growth was observed.
- 25. Dimbulāgala and Pulligoḍa. Of the paintings the panels to the left had been damaged by rain water running down the rock surface. Only a portion of a figure remains and the plaster is fairly loose especially at the top. Insects had weakened the plaster by burrowing in and laying eggs. Damage to the right panel appears to have been caused by a pointed stick run across the third, fourth, and fifth figures from the left. Solutions of polyvinyl acetate were injected through the cracks in the plaster to cement loose portions of this plaster to the rock. A solution of pentachlorophenol was sprayed over the insect mounds to exterminate the insects. A cement drip ledge was made over the left panel so as to prevent the flow of rain water over the paintings and thus retard further damage.
- 26. Potgul Vihāra. The statue does not appear to have deteriorated after the treatment carried out last year, but fungus has appeared on the head and shoulders. A solution of wax was applied to it after cleaning this portion.

P. DERANIYAGALA,

Acting Archæological Commissioner.

Colombo, April 8, 1957.

# ESTAMPAGES WERE SECURED AS FOLLOWS

10	C.	EYLO	N AD	MINI	STRAT	TION REI	PORT	8, 195	6 (IV	-EDUC	ATION.
Date	Circa 1st-3rd Century A. C.	do.	Circa 2nd-4th Century A.C.	Circa 3rd-5th Century A. C.	do.	Circa 3rd Century B. C.	do.	Circa 1st Century A. C.	do.	Circa 3rd Century B. C.	do.
Subject and Script	Reads Siddham. ratiya Mahida &c. Fragmentary Old Sinhalese—Brāhmī	Fragmortary and weather-worn. Old Sinhalese—Brähmi	A donation to the Sangha. Portions are fragmentary. Old Sinhalese—Brāhmi.	A donation to the Sangha. Portions are fragmentary Old Sinhalese—Late Brāhmi.	A donation to the Sangha. Ends: Sava satanala pati Old Sinhalese—Late Brāhmī.	Reads:	Reads Upasaka (Bu) dasaha lone Old Sinhalese—Early Brāhmī	Donation to the Sangha. Mentions Devanipatisa Maharaja Old Sinhalese—Brahmī.	weather-worn Old Sinhalese—Brähmi.	Reads: Cita deviya ayaka parumaka uti puta parumaka (Tejha) tasa lene agata anagata catudiśa śagaśa Old Sinhalese—Early Brāhmī	Reads: Karajhikagalavāhike Bata Digatiha leņe niyate śagaśa Old Sinhalese—Early Brāhmi
Site	<ol> <li>Rock inscription near a flight of steps to an ancient dăgăba, Gonagolla, Kohobāna near Amparai (J. 20/5)</li> </ol>	2. Rock inscription near the same flight of steps as above	3. Rock inscription at the same site as above	Rock inscription at the same site as above	5. Rock inscription at the same site as above	when the drip-ledge of a cave near a pokuna at the same site as above abov	7. Under the drip ledge of a cave near a motal quarry at Amparai (J. 25/23)	8. On two sides of a solitary pillar fragment in two pieces at Bakkialla (J. 15/54)	9. On two sides of a granite slab at Bakkialla (J. 15/54)	10. Under the drip-ledge of a cave at Buddangala, Malrattai (K.16/58) Re	11. Cave inscription at the same place

12.	Cave inscription at the same place	weather worn Old Sinhalese—Early Brāhmi	do.
13.	Under the drip-ledge of a cave at Damana (J. 25/62)	Reads: Mita teraha pitasa upaśaka śivaśe lene Old Sinhaleso—Early Brāhmī.	do.
4.	At another cave at the same place as above	Reads: Gamika Vanatiśaha Old Sinhalese—Early Brāhmĩ	do.
15.	On one side of a pillar found near the temple at Veheragala (F. 5/45)	Worn. Grant of immunities Mediæval Sinhalese	9th-10th Century
16.	Rock inscription near an ancient dagaba at Malasanegala about 3 miles to the north of the 17th mile on the Anuradhapura-Puttalam Road.	Donation of fields to the sangha, Fragmentary. Old Sinhalese—Brāhmī	Circa 3rd Century A. C.
17.	Rock inscription near a cave at Andiyagala near Ottapuva, N.C.P.	Donation to the sangha—Portions are weather worn Old Sinhalese—Brāhmī	Circa 2nd Century A. C.
18.	On four sides of a rock pillar in Pansalkālē at Ātākada (C. 20/59)	Grant of immunities, weather worn Mediaval Sinhalese	9th-10th Century A. C.
19.	On one side of a stone pillar-fragment in the jungle near the temple at Kapugollåvā (D. 16/37, 38)	Short record mentioning a grant (kusalāna) to the Sangha Mediæval Sinhalese	11th-12th Century A. C.
20.	On one side of a granite slab at Vahalkada (D. 16/6)	Worn Tamil	Mediæval
21.	On one side of a granite slab at the same place as above	Well preserved Tamil	Mediæval
22.	On four sides of a stone pillar in two pieces at Kuñcikulama (C. 20/38)	Fragment of a grant of immunities  Mediæval Sinhalese	9th-10th Century
23.	On four sides of a fallen stone pillar at Tāmaravāva (D. 16/28)	Grant of immunities Mediaval Sinhalese	do.
24.	On two sides of a stone pillar found in a paddy field at Mankanai (D. 18/44)	Letters well preserved. Now in the Anuradhapura Museum Tamil	Mediæval
25.	On four sides of a stone pillar near the temple at Minneriya	Grant of immunities to Minneriya Medigaval Sinhalese	9th-10th Century

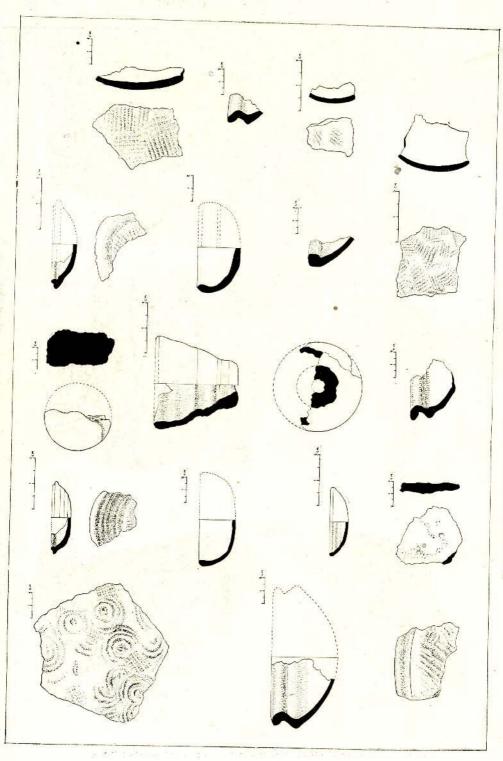
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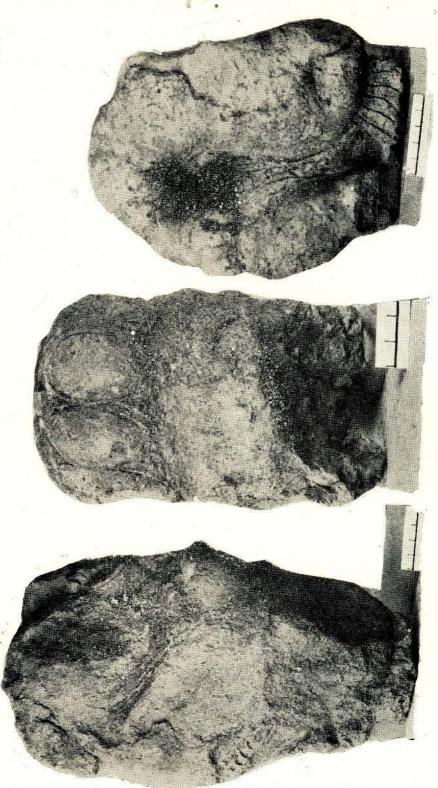
	Site Site		
	<ol> <li>On three sides of a fallen stone pullar found at N\(\text{a}\) hinna (G. 17/8)</li> </ol>	Sanskrit Sloka describing irrigation works of Paräkramabähu I, and an extra stanza Modiæval Sinhalese	1153-1186 A. D.
27.	On four sides of a stone pillar at Peikulama (G. 17/13)	Grant of immunities Mediæval Sinhalese	9th-10th Century
28.	On a square cut stone at Dädigama Museum	A stanza from Vațtaka Jātaka (see A. R. for 1955 Dädigama 12th Century A. D. p. 13) Mediæval Sinhaleso	12th Century A. D.
29.	Slab inscription at the entrance to an ancient dāgāba at Pomparippu on the Mariccakkatti Road, (F. 15/23)	Undeciphered Early Arabio?	I a
30.	Slab inscription at the entrance to an ancient dägäba at Pomparippu on the Mariccakkatti Road (F. 15/23)	Weather worn Mediaval	8th Century
31.	Same site as above	Donation of a slab Mediaval	do.
	Do	do.	do.
	Do	do.	do.
	Do.	do.	do.
35.	On a rock found on the western slope of a hill at Åråula (G. 27/57)	Donation to the sangha. Montions Ameta Maha Anudiya Old Sinhalese—Brähmi	Circa 2nd Century A. D.
36.	On one side of a stone pillar found near the temple at Pahala Araula (G. 27/57)	Grant of immunities Mediæval Sinhalese	9th-10th Century A. D.

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The two aspects of a statue of Ardhanārisvara from Veragala Vihāra

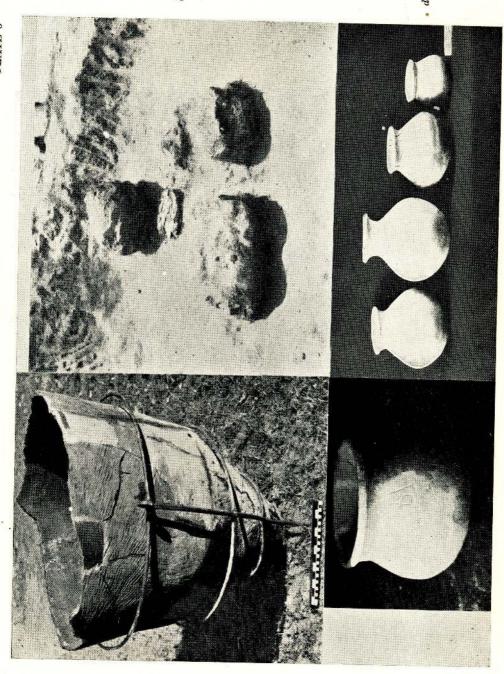




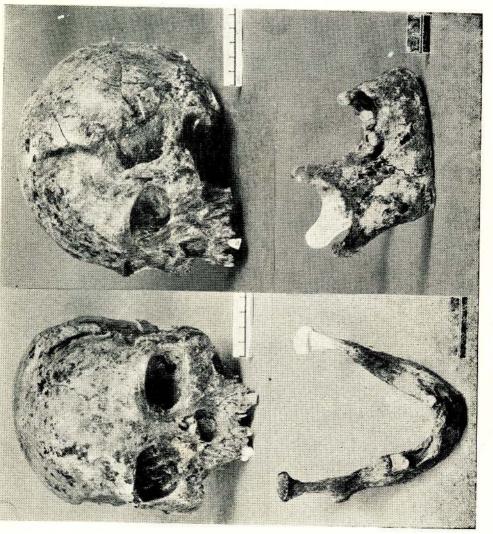
Terra cotta figurines of a Gana and females dug up from the pleasure gardens at Sighriya



A fresco from Gönagolla circa 8th century A.C.



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One of the two skulls discovered in the large pot urn shown on Plate 5, Fig. a