



PART IV—EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ART (G)

Report on the Archaeological Survey of Ceylon for 1957

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(Acting Archæological Commissioner)

APRIL, 1958

PRINTED ON THE ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS, CEYLON

TO BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS BUREAU, COLOMBO

Price: Re. 1.25.

Postage: 35 cents.

"Copy" received : February 22, 1958.

Proof sent : March 12, 1958.

Proof returned : March 25, 1958.

Published : April 9, 1958.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CEYLON

Annual Report, 1957

INTRODUCTION

THE year 1957 has been productive of a number of important discoveries, of various new problems regarding the administration of the Antiquities Ordinance, and calamitous damage due to heavy rain and cyclonic conditions towards the close of the year. Considerable progress was made in excavation work and in exploring new sites. Field parties were dispatched to conduct preliminary work at the ancient graveyard at Pomparippu, in the caves at Mahalenama, deep in the forest of the southern game reserve, at Galoya, and at Nuvaragala, a rock fortress of the 2nd century B. C. or earlier. Much trouble was experienced in attempting to check the desecration of ancient monuments by unsightly renovation and new additions that vulgarize and destroy their sanctity and dignity. The defacing of the lion depicted upon Dutugāmunu's flag in the famous Dambulla fresco was a national loss, as this is the only ancient representation of the lion flag of the Sinhalese. The culprits were reported to be from a school near Colombo, but the police were unable to bring them to book although they managed to save them from the infuriated mob. Action was taken to declare this temple a Protected Monument under the Antiquities Ordinance.

The urgent necessity for acquiring as Archæological reserves the numerous buildings of the Kavan Tissa-Dutugāmunu period that now lies submerged in forest in certain areas of the southern game reserve was also put up to the ministry. Most of the rocks and mountains in this area contain caves and buildings while the remains of other buildings abound throughout the low-lying areas. For example it is known that one rock alone such as Dematagala contains 51 caves and traces of frescoes, early script, etc., and the exploration work at Mahalenama brought to light even more interesting remains of what is perhaps one of the greatest phases of the country's civilization. (Pls II, V)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1957

Revenue

A sum of Rs. 15,553.94 was received from the sale of publications, photographs, picture post cards, maps, &c. A further sum of Rs. 3,751.90 was received in respect of postal and telephone revenue, interest on car and house advances, fines and rent of quarters. The miscellaneous receipts, i.e., abatement in respect of Widows' and Orphans' Fund and other recoveries of an incidental nature amounted to Rs. 9,588.71. A total sum of Rs. 28,894.55 was therefore realised as revenue in 1956-57.

Expenditure

| | Rs. | c. | Rs. | c. |
|---|-----|----|---------|----|
| ADMINISTRATION | | | | |
| (a) Salaries of staff paid from P. E. | .. | .. | 189,704 | 57 |
| (b) Cost of living and special living allowances | .. | .. | 551,025 | 54 |
| (c) Other allowances | .. | .. | 18,342 | 22 |
| (d) Travelling | .. | .. | 24,004 | 17 |
| | | | <hr/> | |
| | | | 783,076 | 50 |
| Exploration, excavation and conservation of ancient monuments | .. | .. | 360,070 | 95 |
| Publications and exhibitions | .. | .. | 1,114 | 78 |

MISCELLANEOUS

| | <i>Rs. c.</i> | <i>Rs. c.</i> |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| (a) Holiday warrants | 7,255 16 | |
| (b) Stationery, office furniture and office requisites | 4,782 99 | |
| (c) Incidental expenses | 3,158 76 | |
| (d) Construction of semi-permanent quarters for labourers, etc. | 13,799 69 | |
| (e) Library | 3,508 79 | |
| (f) Purchase of chemicals and materials | 8,110 74 | |
| (g) Grant to Kern Institute | 250 0 | |
| (h) Archæological Museums | 5,794 57 | |
| (i) Maintenance and running expenses of departmental motor vehicles | 10,747 11 | |
| (j) Uniforms | 1,191 63 | |
| (k) Awards to informants, finders of antiquities | 77 50 | |
| (l) Photography | 3,807 82 | |
| (m) Electric current | 4,268 57 | |
| (n) Epigraphy | 7 00 | |
| (o) Restoration of Mahasāya, Mihintale | 222,071 9 | |
| | | 288,631 42 |
| | | 1,432,893 65 |

PERSONNEL

SINCE the retirement of Dr. S. Paranavitana on September 26, 1956, the duties of the post of the Archæological Commissioner were successively attended to by Mr. W. S. Karunaratne, Acting Assistant Archæological Commissioner who is also Assistant Commissioner (Epigraphy) from September 25, 1956, to January 24, 1957, and by Mr. J. H. de Lanerolle, C.C.S., Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Cultural Affairs from January 24, 1957, to February 21, 1957, when Mr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala, the Director of the National Museums Department, Ceylon, was appointed Acting Archæological Commissioner, in addition to his museum duties.

Mr. T. M. Devongso, Chief Draughtsman was appointed Acting Assistant Commissioner (Architect) with effect from May 1, 1957, in place of Mr. K. Jayatissa, who relinquished his duties as Assistant Commissioner (Architect) with effect from April 30, 1957.

Mr. R. H. de Silva, Assistant Commissioner (Chemist) was appointed to attend to the duties of the Assistant Archæological Commissioner with effect from September 2, 1957, in addition to his own duties.

Mr. R. Vandebona, Office Assistant was transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs in the same capacity and Mr. H. A. Perera succeeded him with effect from August 1, 1957. Mr. H. A. Perera was the Chief Clerk of the Department from June 15, 1952, and was promoted to the E.C.C. Special Grade in 1957.

Mr. W. S. Karunaratne, Assistant Commissioner (Epigraphy) left the Island on September 2, 1957, on a 2-year scholarship in Archæology at Cambridge.

Mr. G. C. Ranasinghe, Establishment Clerk retired from service with effect from January 1, 1957, and was succeeded by Mr. A. A. R. de Silva, E.C.C. Grade II with effect from February 15, 1957.

LIBRARY

DURING the year 1957, 74 books were added to the library by purchase. 191 miscellaneous journals and periodicals were purchased. 230 publications were received in exchange from foreign and local institutions, and a volume on "Korean Arts" was kindly presented by Lt.-General Choi Duk Shin, the Korean Minister to Vietnam.

The Annual Administration Report for 1956 was sent in exchange to all institutions on the distribution list. The complimentary copies of the publication entitled "Mediaeval Sinhalese Art—Coomaraswamy A. K." were dispatched to many institutions and leading statesmen both at home and abroad with the approval of the Ministry.

A hundred and fifty volumes were bound by the Government Press. Although the space available in the library is inadequate the number of research students who use it for reference has increased.

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE photographer accompanied various field parties and 388 new negatives were added to the departmental collection. 2,689 bromide prints were made, out of which 570 were sold to the public while a set of 63 enlargements mounted on boards 20" × 16" were made for exhibitions at Bangkok, Amitirigala Buddhist School and at Assam.

PUBLICATIONS

BACK numbers of the Memoirs of the Archæological Survey of Ceylon were sold out and volume I and IV of *Epigraphia Zeylenica* have also gone out of stock. Close upon 200 copies of "Mediaeval Sinhalese Art" by A. K. Coomaraswamy have been sold since it was released for sale on November 23, 1956. The popular publications of the Department have had a steady sale and the stock of the English Guide Books on Sigiriya and Sinhalese books on Anuradhapura and Parakramapura have been almost exhausted. A new Guide book on Sigiriya is under preparation by the Acting Commissioner and a new book on Mihintale will be sent to the press shortly.

ANURADHAPURA MUSEUM

Mr. J. S. A. Uduwara, Keeper of the Museum at Anuradhapura, who was away since the latter part of 1956 on a UNESCO scholarship, has resumed duties. He followed a course in Archæology at the London University Institute of Archæology, another in museography conducted by the Museums Association of Great Britain, and also attended the Annual Conference of the Museums Association held in Bristol, as an observer.

Mr. A. F. Devapura who acted for him reverted to his post as Assistant Keeper at Dadigama Museum, and Mr. C. B. Weerakoon who was acting as Assistant Keeper of that Museum resumed duties in his substantive post as Lecturer Guide.

Visitors

Among the distinguished visitors to the Museum during the year were Their Majesties the King and Queen of Nepal; the Japanese Buddhist Delegation led by Dr. Nagai; Prof. Toynebe, the famous Historian; the Indian High Commissioner; the Pakistan High Commissioner; the Chinese Ambassador and the Indian Prime Minister, Sri Jawaharlal Nehru and his diplomatic staff in the company of the Prime Minister of Ceylon, the Hon. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike and his Cabinet.

DAMAGE BY FLOODS

THE cyclone and heavy rainfall that pervaded Ceylon during December, 1957, exacted a heavy toll of the ancient monuments.

At Anuradhapura a large portion of the eastern side of the Abhayagiri Dagaba including a part of the Hataras Kotuva has slipped down. This is at the place where the Department had provided a flight of steps sometime back for the work of conservation. The rest of the Hataras Kotuva and even the "Chatravale" are weakened, while on the northern side of the same dagaba there is another earth slip. Two slips have also occurred on the western and south-eastern sides of the garbha of the Jetavanarama dagaba. The bund of the Mahapotana tank off Konwewa in Tulana 35 in Hurulu Palata was washed away exposing a stone

slab. The Vessagiri caves were inhabited by a large number of refugees. A large tree had crashed on to the roof of the stone sculpture section of the Museum, but the exhibits have escaped with only slight damage. Instructions were issued to the Inspector of Works to erect a cadjan roof on the damaged area. Another large tree had crashed on to the Brazen Palace damaging 6 pillars. The brick kiln at Anuradhapura and the staff quarters were washed away and over a 100 large trees within the Archæological Reserve have been uprooted.

At Polonnaruva the north-east corner of the Citadel-wall of the King's Palace has been damaged and a large part has slipped down. The Rankot Vehera also had 2 slips off the Garbha and there was a breach in the bund of the small pond at Gal-Vihara. In the staff quarters 3 walls have collapsed and many employees have suffered damage to their houses.

At Mihintale an earth slip occurred on the fringe of the Mahaseya Maluva and the earth has covered a part of the steps leading to the summit.

Archæological Employees

The floods caused great hardship to a large number of the personnel of this Department, particularly in the Anuradhapura and Polonnaruva areas. At Anuradhapura 41 families lost their houses together with all their belongings, while 2 other families lost their houses and a considerable part of their belongings. Of the two officers' one lost all his possessions together with all the Government property that was in his house. The other lost all his belongings. A house of one of the officer's collapsed, completely, and there were mud to a depth of one foot within the house of the other and 15 carcasses of dead cattle in his compound. The labourer's "lines" along the Mihintale road were also submerged, and at Madirigiriya a number of "lines" were washed away.

At Polonnaruva the staff quarters were damaged. The staff at Dimbulagala were completely cut off from the rest of the world for a number of days and were unable to obtain any supplies of food and other necessities.

Several urgent representations were made to the Flood Relief Officer at Colombo to send immediate assistance to the parties marooned at the various places when the floods were at their height, and assistance was brought by helicopter. Action was also taken with the Government Agents' of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruva and the Relief officer at Hingurakgoda to see to the urgent needs of the employees.

NEW DISCOVERIES AND CONSERVATION

THE year 1957 was remarkable for the discovery of several antiquities of importance. Mr. Marcus Fernando, Superintendent of Works, was despatched to Galoya to make a preliminary survey of the ruined buildings in the vicinity of Pallanoya. He was there for 23 days which were unfortunately characterised by very heavy rain. Lack of adequate transport and lodging facilities were also severe handicaps in spite of which Mr. Fernando and his party made the following discoveries:—

Eastern Province—Galoya

KIULEGAMA VIHARE (PLATE I—FIG. 1)

Kiulegama Vihare at Pallanoya is a pillared building to the south of the new bund. Most of the Prakara that once encircled it had been destroyed by tractors. A legless torso of a Buddha statue and fragments of two lotus pedestals were discovered. The last three are of crystalline lime-stone, an outcrop of which, occurs 2 miles away, at the Hinguruwel Aru between Vadinagala village and the hill of the same name. The Image house faces due north and is a square of 23

feet. The walls are 2 ft. 4 ins. thick. There are a moonstone and three steps, but no guard-stones or stone balustrades were found. There are two types of brick in the building, trapezium shaped ones and ordinary. The building had sixteen pillars in 4 rows with four in each, of these eight remain. There was a large quantity of broken flat tiles and iron nails mostly 2" long although two were 3" long and bent at right angles. The circumference of the top of the lotus pedestal is 7 ft. 5 ins. The stupa had in it at ground level in the debris a VOC coin dated 1735. The stupa itself is of a particular interest since it arises from an octagonal base built of two tiers of brick. Two more or less complete sides of the octagon measured 7 ft. 7 ins. in length. The base of the circular portion was 57 ft. in circumference. The stupa had been broken into by treasure hunters. Fifty feet to the South-West of the pillared structure were found five terra-cotta plaques each $6\frac{1}{2}$ x 6", each containing the figure of a dancer in relief. These were entrusted to the Galoya Development Board. Borings drilled during the construction of the Dam have produced several hot springs and there is the local tradition that a hot spring with miraculous healing powers existed at this shrine. It is probable that it was this spring that had attracted pilgrims as late as Dutch times. The original pillared building was of much earlier date and after it had fallen into disrepair there had been at least two attempts to rebuild it.

GANEGAMA VIHARE

Ganegama Vihare is on the hill off Vadinagala and about 5 miles West of Pallan Oya. Its ancient name is said to have been Ambilimitta Vihara. Near it is a cave 100 ft. long 32 ft. wide and 40 ft. high which appears to have been paved with bricks. There are four lines of inscription in early Brahmi script above its drip-ledge, and on its walls the cave contains crude drawings, possibly by Vaddhas of an elephant, a crocodile, some crawling animal and a man.

Near it were found a plain moonstone, a stone balustrade and a guardstone with a "purna-gate" in bas-relief. Between Ganegama Vihara and Vadinagala, twenty-four rough hewn pillar-stumps exist at a site named Tamgallanda and pot sherds strewn all over the jungle indicate that this area had been heavily populated.

LAHU HELA has 2 caves with drip ledges located about 2 miles from the village of Danakiriya. Both have inscriptions of early Brahmi Script engraved in the rock.

KOTA VEHERA also near Danakiriya is a Stupa about 50 ft. in circumference on a platform about 35 ft. square with a few stone pillars and a rectangular building represented by 25 pillar stumps about 50 ft. from the Stupa.

AT MANTOTTA two miles off Amparai is a ruined stupa on a terrace about 44 ft. square with a moonstone and flight of 7 stone steps to the south. There are also 6 pillars projecting to a height of about 6 ft. 6 ins. above ground level. There are 3 flower altars and a door sill.

DEMATAGODA VIHARA

Near the village of Walligagolla there are ruins of Dematagoda Vihara, while at Bakiella there are a number of stones belonging to ancient buildings. There are 2 rock caves at Keenawatte; 8 caves at Illukpitiya and 3 at Buddhanagala, all possessing inscriptions carved in the rock.

PANNATHGODA VIHARA

In the Pallanoya area is Pannathgoda Vihara which is in ruins. It is situated at the 7th mile post on the Inginiyagala-Siyambalanduwa road. There are 2 guardstones in their original positions, and a number of flat stones and ruins of a dagaba.

NUVARAGALA (PLATE III)

Work was commenced at the ancient rock fortress and temple known as Nuvaragala which is the counterpart of Sigiriya. Brahmi inscriptions on the rock cave show that it was occupied by the 2nd century B. C. and the local tradition affirms that a fortress was built here by King Kavan Tissa with three miles of stone ramparts. The summit is reached along a steep zig-zag pathway retained by dry laid rubble walls.

The rock contains a large cistern at its summit which is 72 ft. by 59 ft. and 5½ ft. deep and hollowed out of the rock, and also remains of buildings which are overgrown with weeds, while on the sides are remnants of cyclopean walls and stone parapets. A large cave exists half a mile up the rock on the western face, and this also had been inhabited. Strategetically situated in the vicinity of the ancient road from Magama to Rajarata the rock was undoubtedly a refuge for armies of several Kings and sub-Kings who had fought against the rulers of Rajarata. The site promises to be quite as interesting as Sigiriya. Action is being taken to declare it an Archæological Reserve.

On August 22, 1957, the Deputy Irrigation Engineer of Batticaloa, Mr. R. Ambalavanar informed the Department of the existence of what appears to be an ancient irrigation channel in the vicinity of Pollebädde near Nuvaragala. The ruins consist of a layer of stone slabs of about 15 ft. × 3 ft. × 2 ft. which are juxtaposed and covers an area of about 500 ft. On this layer are three vertical rows of single slabs each about 3 ft. high at one end and 5 ft. at the other. Each slab is 10 to 15 ft. long and tenon-jointed into the next. The thickness is about one to two feet. The width between the rows is about 3 ft. at the low end and about 4 ft. at the high. This structure is about one mile from the Watawela Kandiya breached tank bund constructed across the Rambukkan Oya, about one mile south of Pollebädde. (Plate III Fig. 4.)

TRINCOMALEE

On May 25, the Superintendent of Works visited the Swami rock at Trincomalee. A rectangular retaining wall of large boulders which is 65 ft. into 75 ft. is based on the bed-rock with its longer side parallel to the mountain and in one corner there are extensive traces of a strong lime-mortar. A large sculptured stone balustrade from an earlier building has been inserted into the lower layer of this wall. Within the rectangle and near its shorter side is a rectangular building which had been covered with debris, but is now exposed on 2 sides only. Its foundation tier consists of long blocks in situ while fragments of the wall built of rubble and rendered in a thin lime plaster occur. The building is 20 ft. into 40 ft. Scattered within the larger rectangle are some sculptured stones that are worn by wave action. These are doubtless the remnants of an impressive granite edifice which if one is to judge from the sculpture balustrade seen in the retaining wall is of an earlier date than the wall. The fragment of a pillar which is square in one area and octagonal in another has a lotus pattern carved on the two facets that are intact. In the Konneswara kovil store there exists the fragment of an inscribed stone about 2 ft. into 8 ft into 6" in Tamil characters which appear to be of the 11th or 12th century. There is also a sculptured fragment of a stone pickering. Near the recent belfry there has also been fixed in cement an old sculptured pillar which is alternately square and octagonal along its length. This also had been removed from the site mentioned earlier. The D. R. O. of this area has reported that the cutting of earth and levelling was done by the secretary of a temple restoration society of the area, but if permission for this had been granted, the archæological discoveries made during the process of excavation in 1957 have not been reported to the Department as required by the Antiquities Ordinance.

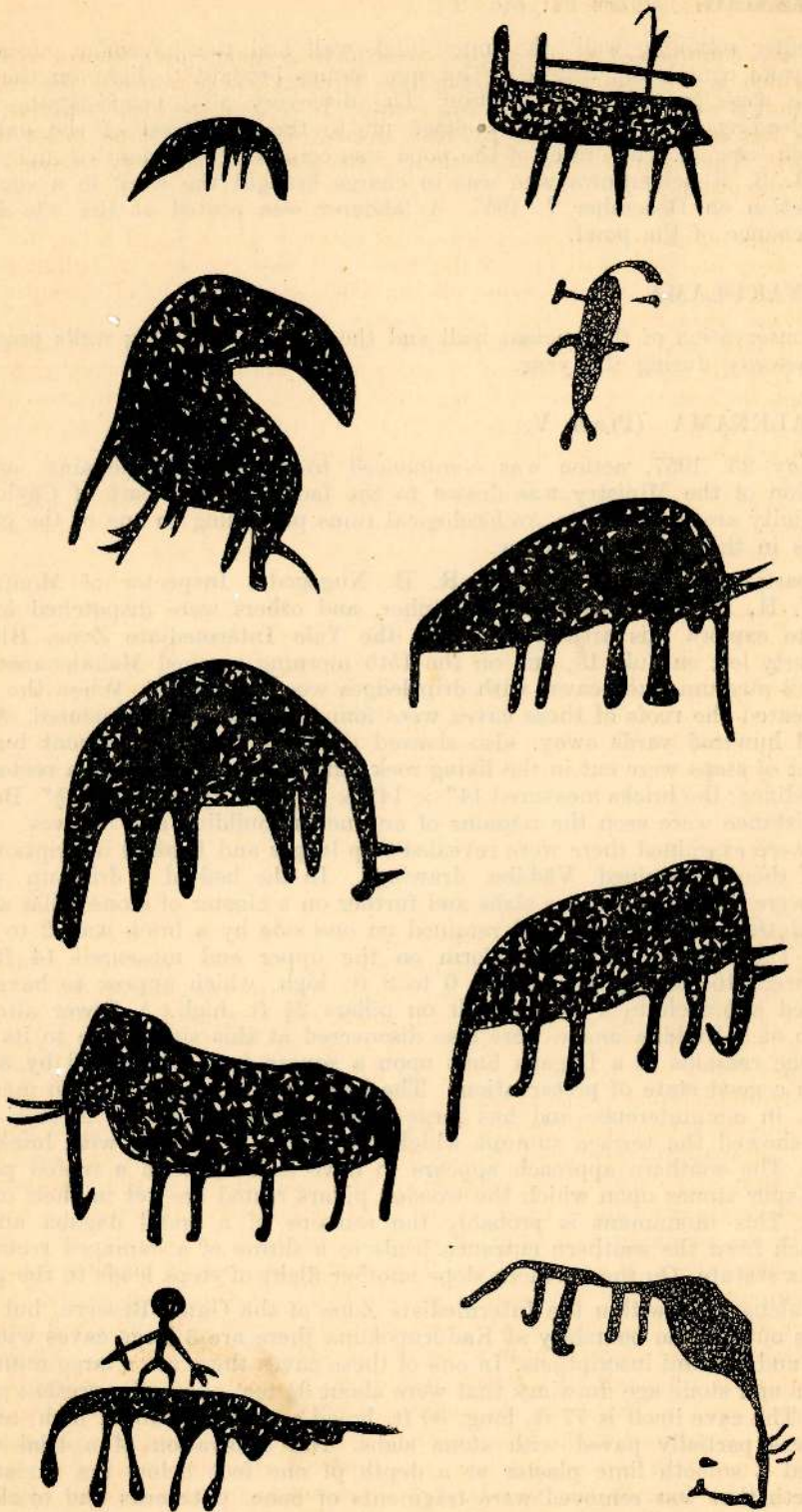


Fig. 1. Vāddha and Stone age drawings in Kaduru Pokuna cave, Maha Lenama.

GALABADDE (PLATE IV. FIG. 2.)

The outer retaining wall, the inner brick wall and the pavement around the pond were completely restored. The spur stones brought to light on the upper surface were assembled in position. The discovery of a urinal stone with a drain leading to a terra-cotta soakage pit to the north-east of the mound is of much interest. The outlet of the pond was completely dismantled and rebuilt. Mr. H. B. Kehelgamuwa who was in charge brought the work to a successful completion on December 7, 1957. A labourer was posted at the site for the maintenance of the pond.

PERIYAKULAMA

The conservation of the ancient wall and the exposed retaining walls progressed satisfactorily during the year.

MAHALENAMA (PLATE V.)

On May 23, 1957, action was commenced to explore Mahalénama, and the attention of the Ministry was drawn to the fact that this part of Ceylon and its vicinity are very rich in Archæological ruins pertaining to one of the greatest periods in the country's history.

A party consisting of Messrs. R. B. Nugegoda, Inspector of Monuments and N. H. R. Nalawangsa, Photographer, and others were dispatched in June 1957 to explore this area which is in the Yala Intermediate Zone, Block 1. The party left on July 13, and on the 15th morning reached Mahalénama Eliya where 2 medium sized caves with drip ledges were discovered. When the jungle was cleared the roofs of these caves were found to have been plastered. A rock, several hundred yards away, also showed the remains of an ancient building. A flight of steps were cut in the living rock, and on its summit was a rectangular brick edifice; the bricks measured 14" x 14" x 3" and 15½ x 8½ x 12½". Below it at a distance were seen the remains of an ancient building and 3 caves. When these were examined there were revealed drip ledges and Brahmi inscriptions and one of them contained Vāddha drawings. In the bed of a dried-up stream there were also several stone slabs and further on a cluster of stone pillar stumps on a platform 150 ft. long and retained on one side by a brick wall 2 to 2½ ft. high. The breadth of the platform on the upper end measured 14 ft. and there were 16 stone pillar stumps 6 to 8 ft. high, which appear to have been a roofed approach to a shrine built on pillars 2½ ft. high. A flower altar and a torso of a Buddha image were also discovered at this site, while to its north were the remains of a Dagaba built upon a square terrace retained by a brick wall in a good state of preservation. The brick mound at the bottom measured 250 ft. in circumference and has large trees growing upon it. A rock to its north showed the terrace summit which retained a wall built with bricks and rubble. The southern approach appears to have been through a roofed passage as the spur stones upon which the wooden pillars rested are yet in their original places. This monument is probably the remains of a small dagaba and the approach from the southern entrance leads to a shrine of a damaged recumbent Buddha statue. On the northern slope another flight of steps leads to the plain.

Mahalénama is within the Intermediate Zone of the Game Reserve, but about 6 miles outside the boundary at Kadurupokuna there are 3 large caves with drip ledges and Brahmi inscriptions. In one of these caves there are a large number of Vāddha and stone age drawings that were about 3½ feet above the present ground level. The cave itself is 77 ft. long, 30 ft. broad and 18 and 13 ft. high, and the floor was partially paved with stone slabs. The excavation of a trial trench revealed a smooth lime plaster at a depth of one foot below the surface. In the earth that was removed were fragments of bone, potsherds and brick-bats. The distance of this site from Hālava Eliya appears to be about 4½ miles. According to the game rangers the best season to work in this area is from March to June when water is available (fig. 1.)

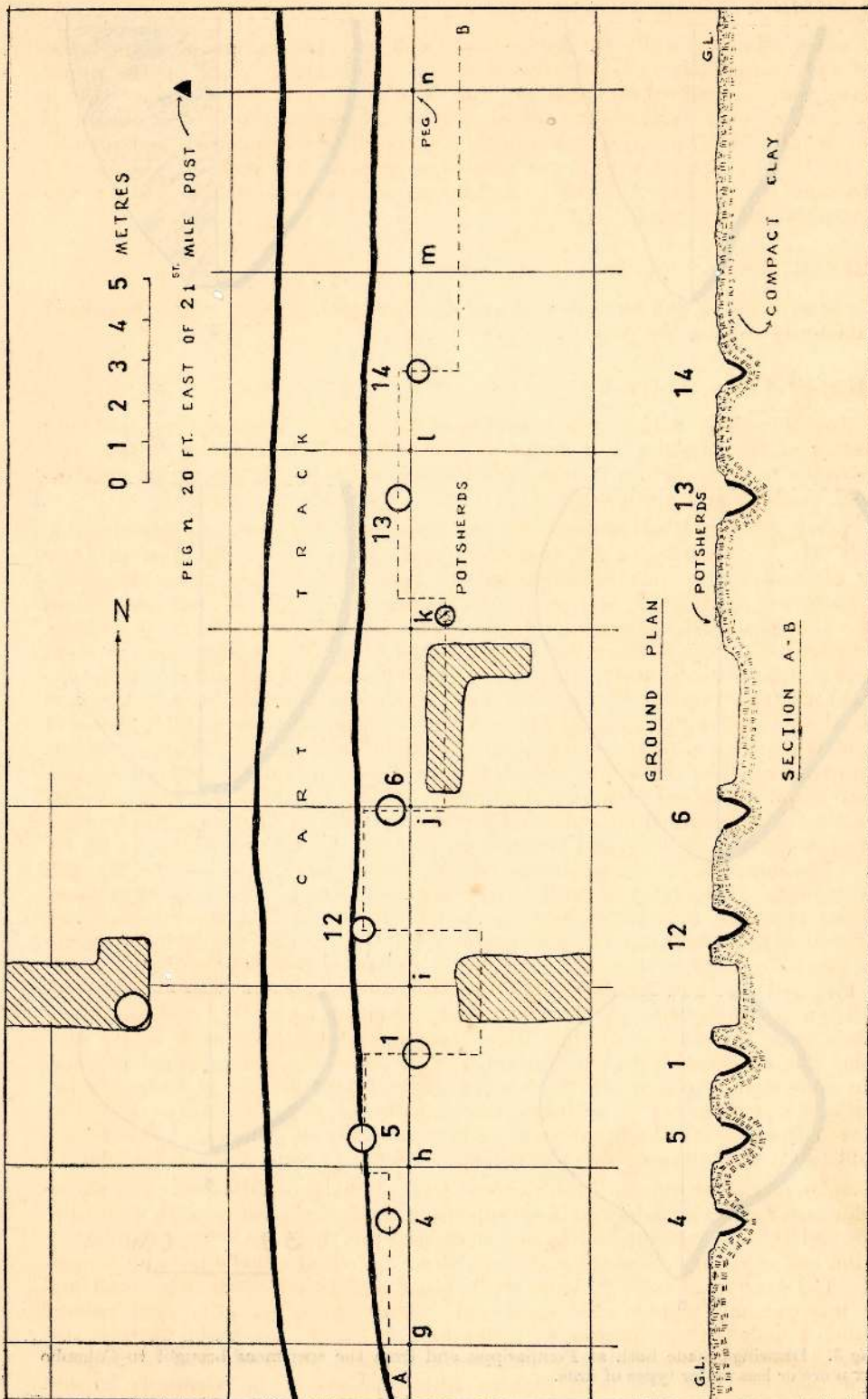


Fig. 2. Part of the site plan and section of the excavations at Pomparippu. The hatched area shows the excavations of 1956. The thick black circles and V's indicate the urns. The ground plan and vertical section are shown. The line of the vertical section is indicated by a dotted line AB in the horizontal plan. (G. L. = Ground level).

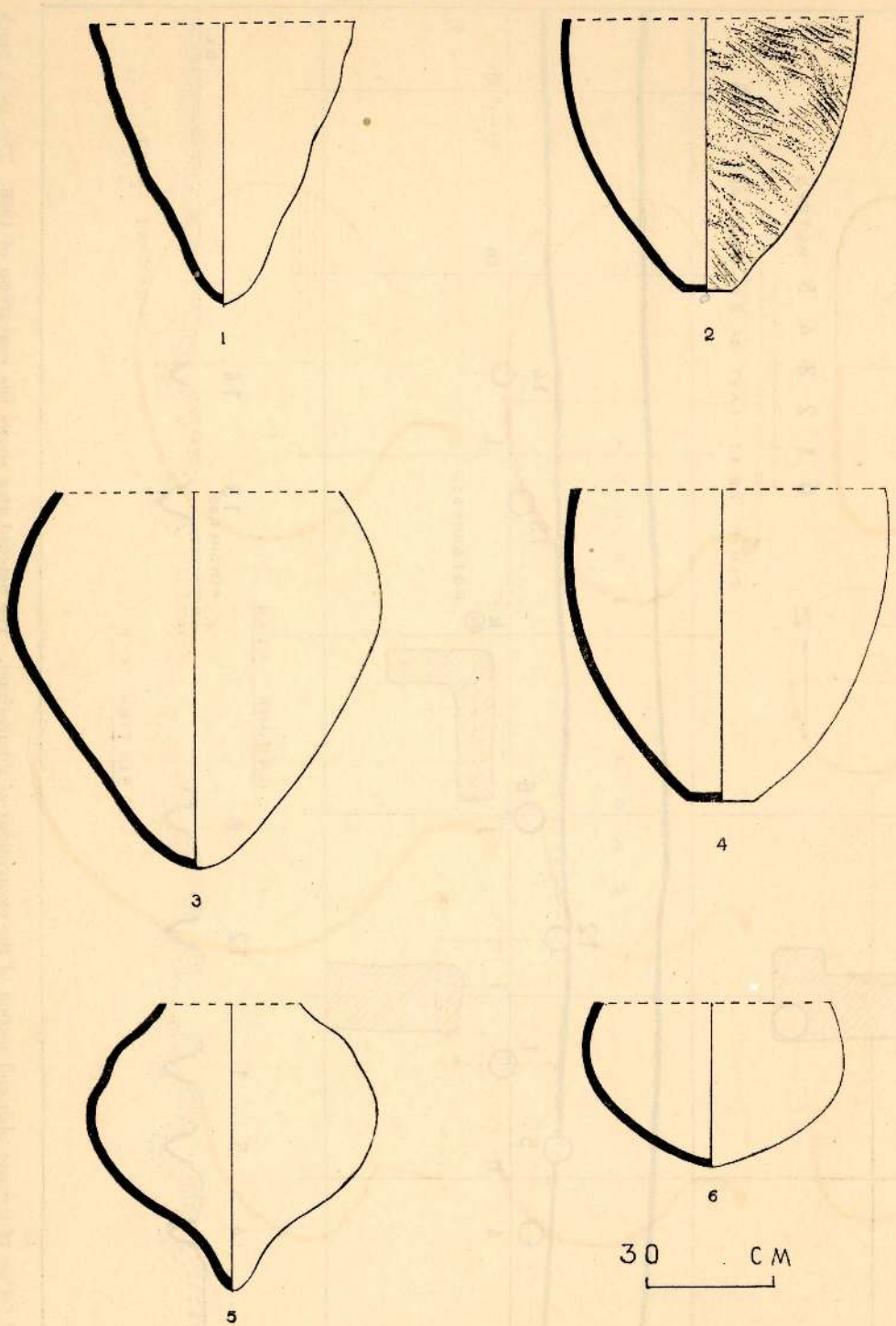


Fig 3. Drawings made both at Pomparippu and from the specimens brought to Colombo of six or more or less major types of urns.

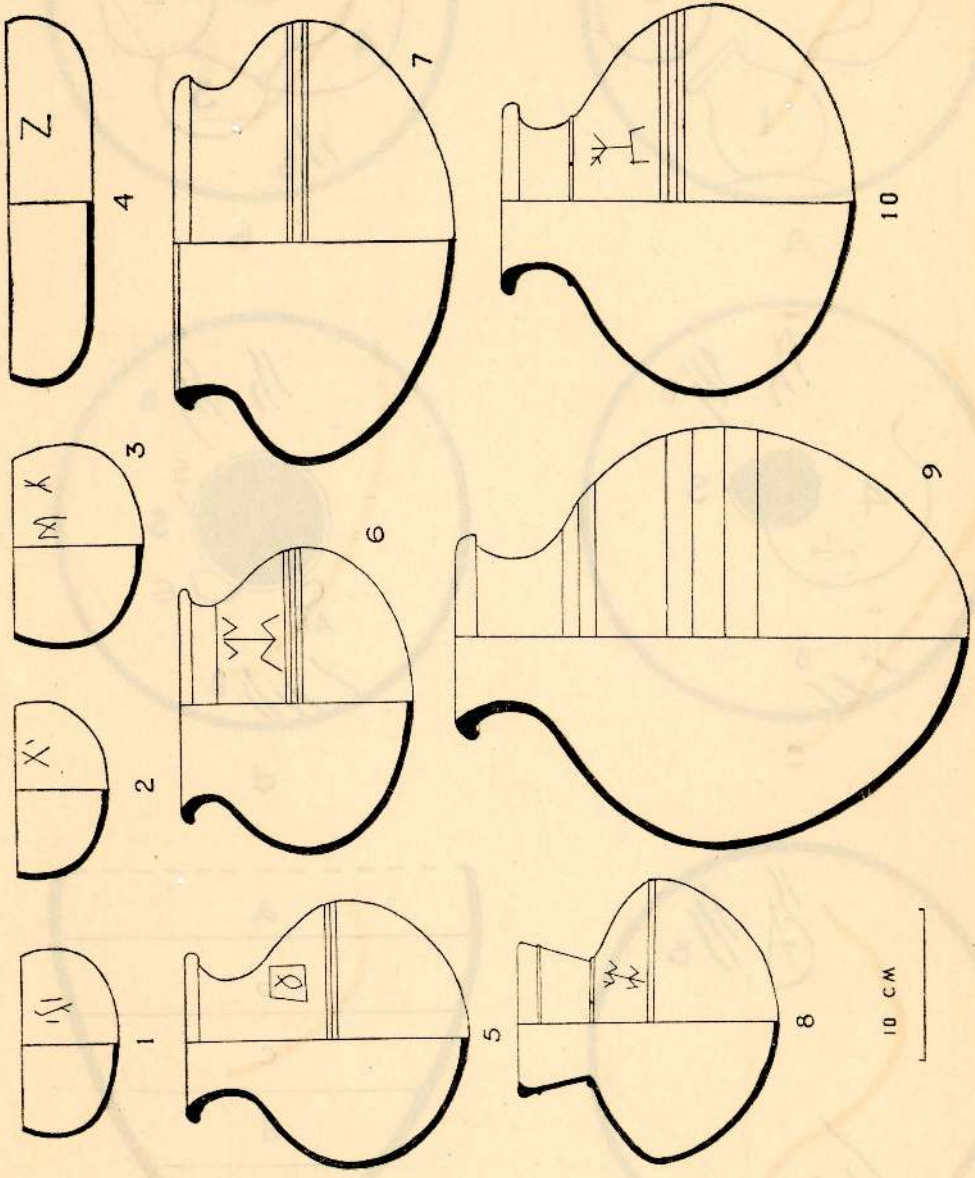


Fig. 4. Types of some of the vessels contained in the urns at Pomparippu, note the potters marks on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10.

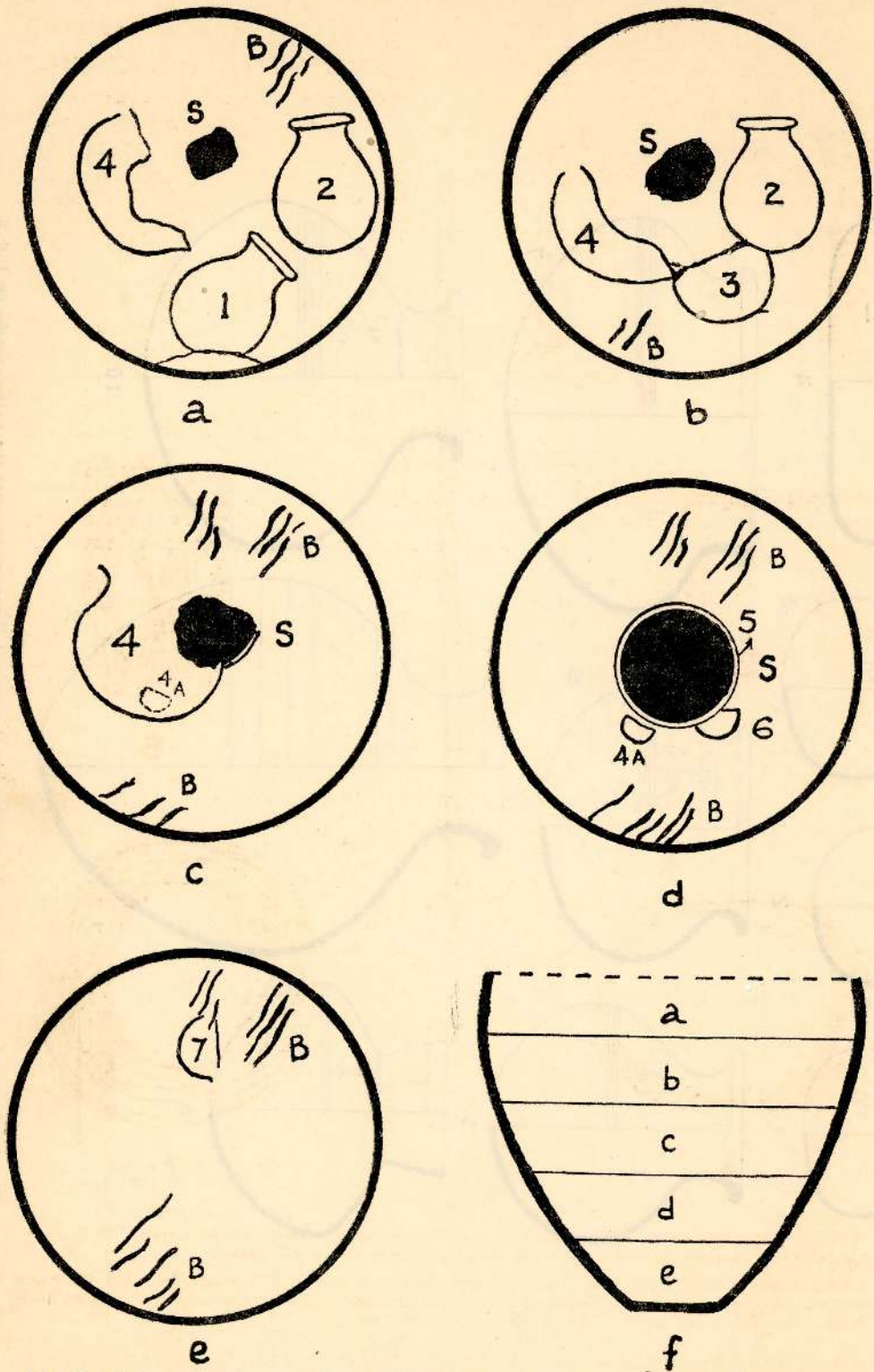


Fig. 5. Schematic sections as shown in sub-fig. f, of a Pomparippu urn, showing its contents at levels a to e.

S = skull, B = bones in an urn of type 4 in Text fig. 3.

Fuld skeleton of vessels and bones at their approximate levels in urn resembling type 4.

Layers a to e are shown diagrammatically in Fig. F

Skull and bones are in solid black.

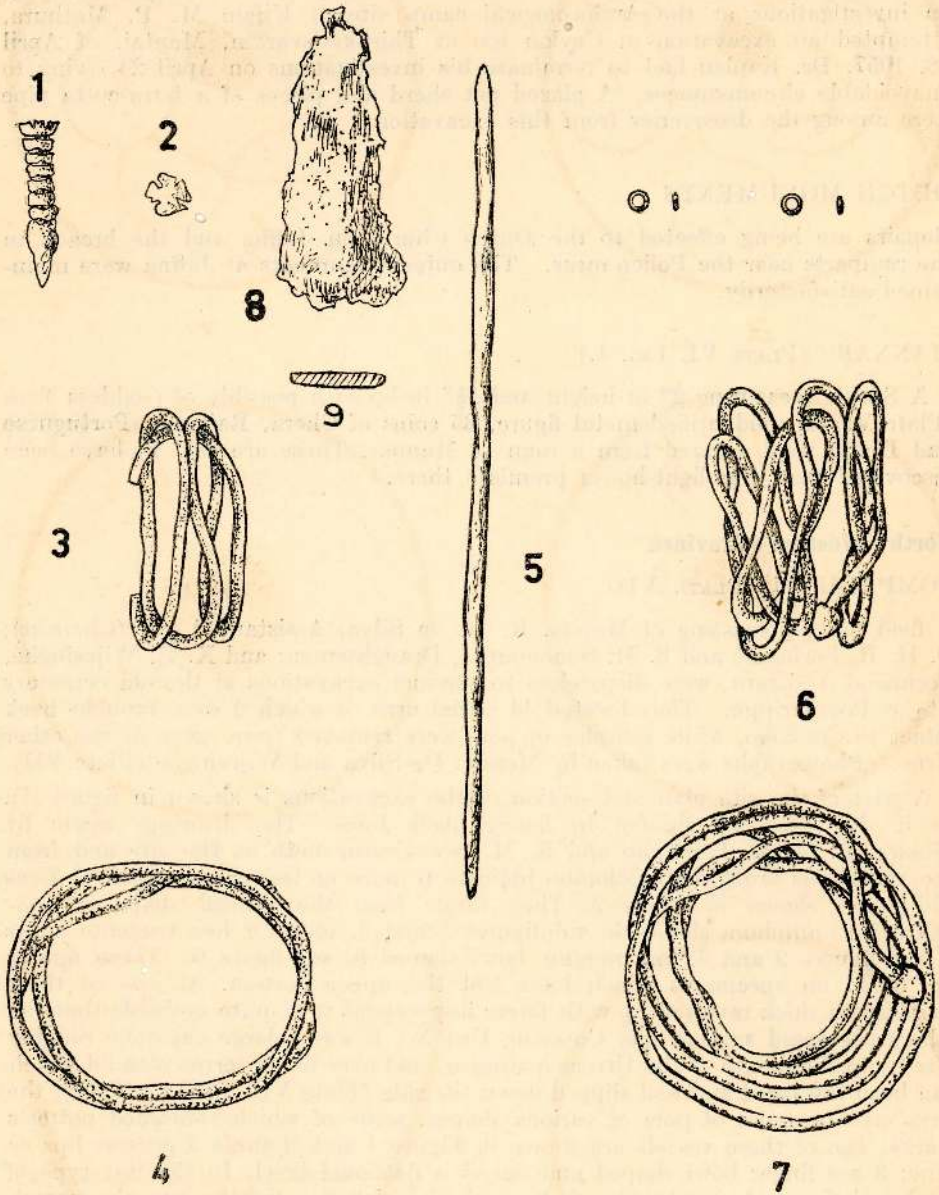


Fig. 6. Objects recovered from some urns at Pomparippu. Bronze objects are 1 to 7, Iron 8, 9, and two beads. All reduced to about three fourths of their actual size.

Figs. 1 and 2, Elevation and plan of bronze object ; 3 and 4, Elevation and plan of bronze bangle ; 5 Bronze rod ; 6 and 7, Elevation and plan of bronze bangle ; 8 and 9, Piece of iron knife blade. Elevation and section ; 10, Beads, in plan and section.

North Western Province**THIRUKETISVARAM—MANTAI**

Dr. Sydney M. Kaplan of the Ohio State University, America, while carrying on investigations at the Archæological camp site of Ujjain M. P. Mathura, attempted an excavation in Ceylon too at Thiruketisvaram, Mantai, of April 18, 1957. Dr. Kaplan had to terminate his investigations on April 24 owing to unavoidable circumstances. A glazed pot sherd and pieces of a terra-cotta pipe were among the discoveries from this excavation.

DUTCH MONUMENTS

Repairs are being effected to the Dutch Church in Jaffna and the breach in the ramparts near the Police mess. The outer monuments at Jaffna were maintained satisfactorily.

MANNAR (PLATE VI. FIG. 1.)

A Statue measuring 2" in height and 1½" in breadth possibly of Goddess Tara (Plate VI) an unidentified metal figure, 35 coins of Chera, Rajaraja, Portuguese and Dutch were secured from a man at Mannar. These are said to have been discovered near the light-house premises there.

North Western Province**POMPARIPPU (PLATE VII)**

A field party consisting of Messrs. R. H. de Silva, Assistant A. C. (Chemist); D. H. R. Fernando and S. M. Seneviratne, Draughtsmen; and K. E. Wijesinghe, Technical Assistant, were dispatched to conduct excavations at the old cemetery site at Pomparippu. They located 14 burial urns of which 2 were brought back intact to Colombo, while samples of pots were removed from some of the other Urns. Photographs were taken by Messrs. De Silva and Wijesinghe (Plate VII).

A part of the site plan and section of the excavations is shown in figure (I). In it the Urns are figured in heavy black lines. The drawings made by Messrs. D. H. R. Fernando and S. M. Seneviratne both at the site and from the specimens brought to Colombo indicate 6 more or less major types of Urns which are shown in figure 2. They range from the conical shape in sub-figure 1 to amphora shapes in sub-figures 3 and 5, more or less truncate cones in sub-figures 2 and 4, and roughly bowl shaped in sub-figure 6. These figures are based on specimens which have lost the upper portion. As one of them possessed a thick reverted lip with finger impressions it is quite probable that the others possessed similar lips. Covering Urn No. 9 was a large capstone roughly fitted into the mouth of the Urn as a stopper, and over this a terra-cotta lid which had been fractured and had slipped down the side (Plate VII. Fig. 1.) Within the Urns were a series of pots of various shapes, some of which contained potter's marks. Ten of these vessels are shown in Figure 4 and of these 5 possess lips or rims; 3 are finger bowl shaped and one is a flattened bowl. In the last type of bowl, sub-figure 4, is placed a human skull which fits tightly into the vessel. While no bones were traceable in some Urns others contained the important bones of the corpse such as of the head, arms and legs. The head was usually fitted tightly into a flat bowl, the limb bones placed more or less vertically, and beside it were seven to twelve other vessels of various shapes that contained food and personal possessions. These burials are either fractional or secondary.

Figure 5 shows five diagrammatic transverse sections of such an Urn as of type 4, with the types of vessels and bones at each level. Sub-figure (f) roughly shows the five levels. The presence of black tipped ware at first suggests great antiquity, but a study of the contents of the Urns shows that some vessels contained bones of rats or squirrels and birds, and also metal artifacts and

beads. Of the 5 metal artifacts, 4 were of bronze and one of iron which clearly indicates that this period was the Iron-age. (Figure 6.) Consequently, it is probably comparable to the 4th quarter-phase of the bronze-age, as known from the Deccan, which is dated at about 300 B.C. It is not improbable that further investigation will entail a revision of this estimate to the 2nd century A.C.

The bronze rods which might have been employed as khol sticks were always in a vertical position and had mica wrapped around the upper end. Similar rods were discovered by Sir Mortimer Wheeler at Brahmagiri in Mysore State. The iron object might be the tip of a knife blade or of an arrow head. Several beads of carnelian and other materials were also recovered from these Urns. The pottery shows that it was fired in an open hearth and not oven baked.

VILPATTU

Vilpattu was visited. Many important ruins such as Ochchappuva that lie scattered in this area require attention.

YAPAHUVA

Maintenance work was continued at Yapahuwa. The left side of the stair-case leading to the ornamental gateway collapsed after the heavy rains; action is being taken to rebuild it.

PANDUVASNUVARA

No major work was undertaken at Panduvasnuvara except for the maintenance of the Archaeological Reserve and the monuments therein. The excavated pits at the Bisokotuva were refilled and the loose brick facing was pointed.

North Central Province

ANURADHAPURA

Although the year 1957 ended in unprecedented floods it was preceded by a severe drought at Anuradhapura and elsewhere in the N.-C. P., consequently excavation work was carried out with great difficulty as the ground was very hard. Several of the conserved monuments notably the ruins at Dhatumandiraya near the Ruvanveliseya and the " Gedige " group were ' pointed '.

At the site of the monastic group near the Northern Dagaba the flight of steps of the three auxiliary buildings to the south-east, south-west and north-west of the main building, were dismantled and reset in cement concrete. The complete pillars and most of the stumps in situ, in all five buildings of the complex were dismantled and conserved on a concrete base. A large flat stone measuring 6' 11" by 5' 10" on the west of the building on which is fixed a step 6" in height measuring 6' 8" by 1' 5" was levelled and set on a concrete base. Mention may be made of two sets of lines each consisting of two lines on either end of this step, which appear to be marks made by iron rust. The two sets of marks are 5' 2" apart, and the lines in each set are 7" apart. A Yantaragala in the auxiliary building to the north-west of the main building was levelled and set in concrete.

KAPARARAMA

Two sets of soakage pots were discovered under a stone built drain by the stone revetment on the inner side of the galleries. The soakage pots were in situ and in a remarkably good state of preservation inside the main precincts of the monastic institution. One set consists of four pots and the other five. Each pot is perforated in the centre of the base. Some of the intermediate pots resemble wicker baskets in shape and their outer surfaces are impressed with a mat design. A drainage channel leads away from the lowest pot.

Conservation of the western extremity of the Kapararama complex which is connected to the main group by an avenue, was undertaken during the year and the work is still in progress. The stones in the five buildings falling within the central Prakara were set in position and the steps and the landing stone in the central structures pieced together. The flight of steps on the east of the Prakara here and part of high retaining wall on the east constructed with large irregular stones were conserved to a total length of 80 ft. The stone-built drain and other stones of the revetment of the inner side of the galleries were built to a length of 100 feet.

The eastern most building of this complex was also conserved. Its plan shows a square of 61 ft. 5 ins. with rectangular projections in the middle of each side. These projections stand 6' 2" out of the line of the square and has each a side of 25' 5" parallel to the side of the square. The flight of steps at the middle of the projections on the southern, western and northern sides and the stylobates on these sides have been rebuilt. The stylobates here consist of a foundation stone serving as plinth. Over this is a moulding on which is a tier of horizontally laid stones set on end, one foot high, surmounted by a tier of moulded coping stones.

MIHINTALE

The restoration of the Mahasāya was interrupted twice and had to be suspended as the contractors disagreed with the estimates of the Actg. A. C. (Architect). The Permanent Secretary inspected the site together with the contractor's representative, the Superintending Engineer of the P. W. D., Anuradhapura, the Actg. A. C. (Architect) and the Chief Priest, and it was decided to fill the cavity at the top of the Garbha with brick bats to prevent it from collapsing during the rainy season. This was done and the Dagaba has withstood the heavy rains of December.

Two buildings near the Lion's-bath were also conserved, and also two at the Katuseya. The southern terrace of the Dhanasalava was completely dismantled and relaid. The stone inscription near the temple was protected from pilgrims walking over it. The damaged culvert on the approach road to the flight of steps was repaired as were the deer enclosure and the approach roads. This work was supervised by Mr. V. Karunaratne, Inspector of Works, Mihintale.

A large soakage pot about 1' 9" in height and 5' 7" in circumference at its broadest point, was discovered at the ancient hospital site. The outer surface is combed and broad grooves radiate from the shoulder. The walls are thick; the body is of coarse grain, and the slip yellowish-brown.

POLONNARUVA

At Rankot Vehera a quantity of debris was removed from the pesaves to facilitate conservation work. The walls of the Shrine-room to the north-east of this Dagaba were exposed and attended to. Other projects are the conservation of the recumbent Buddha statue and the retaining wall on the western side of Alahana Pirivena. The brick facing at Pabuluvehera was pointed and the leaks in the vaulted roof at Thuparama were water-proofed.

MEDIRIGIRIYA

The Archæological Reserve was satisfactorily maintained during the year 1957 but the December floods damaged the approach road.

Central Province

SIGIRIYA

The conservation of the retaining walls on the north and western sides of the cistern at the summit of the rock was undertaken during the year 1957. It was

discovered that the dual path-ways from east to west on the recesses of the northern retaining wall had been joined together at the north-west section of the pokuna to a limestone pavement which was brought to light after up-rooting a tree. From this point only a single path-way ran along the western retaining wall. The wall was built to a length of 60 ft., its height being 13 ft. and with a recess of 8 ft. in breadth for the path-way. The second retaining wall above this path-way was also completed. It measured 52 ft. long, 20 ft. high with an average breadth of 4 feet.

The brick structures below the Lion's platform were also completed. They contain the remains of 9 rooms around a courtyard 57 ft. by 7 ft. 7 ins. which appears to be part of a palace. The conservation of the pleasure gardens included that of the ancient well at the south-west corner of the enclosure to the south of the main Island pavilion, the brick structures in front of the western ramparts, the south-west pond of the main island pavilion and general maintenance. In the course of the excavation of the south-west pond of the Island pavilion a drain 230 feet long, 12 feet broad and 15 feet deep had to be opened up to take off the water from the pond. An ancient brick-lined outlet drain and several underground channels below it were brought to light. Two hundred and thirty cubes of earth were removed in the course of this work. Excavations conducted in the floor of the cobra-hood cave and in the cave below the Audience rock exposed brick pavements 1½ feet below the present ground level. Trial trenches were cut in the pleasure gardens for the study of the pottery sequence and in one of these a stylus or Panhinda was discovered.

Several thick reddish brown flat clay dishes 14" and 13" in diameter were also discovered. Externally, they revealed a cross-hatched design, and a ledged rim tapering outwards.

ILUK VAVA (PLATE VIII)

This village is 4 miles to the north-east of Sigiriya, and the villagers who were removing earth to build a bund brought to light some terra-cotta images that belong to the Tabbova-Maradanmaduva culture. The site is on the western outer corner of the Iluk Vāva tank. The ground is of coarse gravel and many of the figures that were exposed were damaged while others had been moved together with the earth and used for repairing the tank bund. Most of the human figures are of women with necklaces, earrings and foot ornaments. There are 2 figures of a man and woman minus their heads and holding hands. The position of the legs of the man indicates that he is seated upon an elephant's back. There is also a part of the head of the elephant (8) (Plate VIII).

Sub-cylindrical vessels with terra-cotta figurines about 6 ins. in height and a little thicker than a man's thumb were also noted. The discovery of similar figures from Madirigiriya and Pandarāllāva near Kabatagasdigiliya now extends the range of this culture from Tabbova near the sea-coast to Maradanmaduva and into this area. It is possible that this same culture produced the Urns at Pomparippu. The phalli suggest that this is a fertility cult.

Sabaragamuva Province

DADIGAMA

Conservation work was continued at the Kotavehera.

SARCOPHAGI

Research is being conducted on the stone sarcophagi at Anuradhapura, Mihintale and Madirigiriya. The hollow for the corpse is from 5 ft. 11½ ins. to 6 ft. 2½ ins. long, 10 ins. wide, across the head, and 1 ft. 6 ins. wide at the shoulders, which suggests that the ordinary man of those days was about 5 ft. 6 ins. tall.

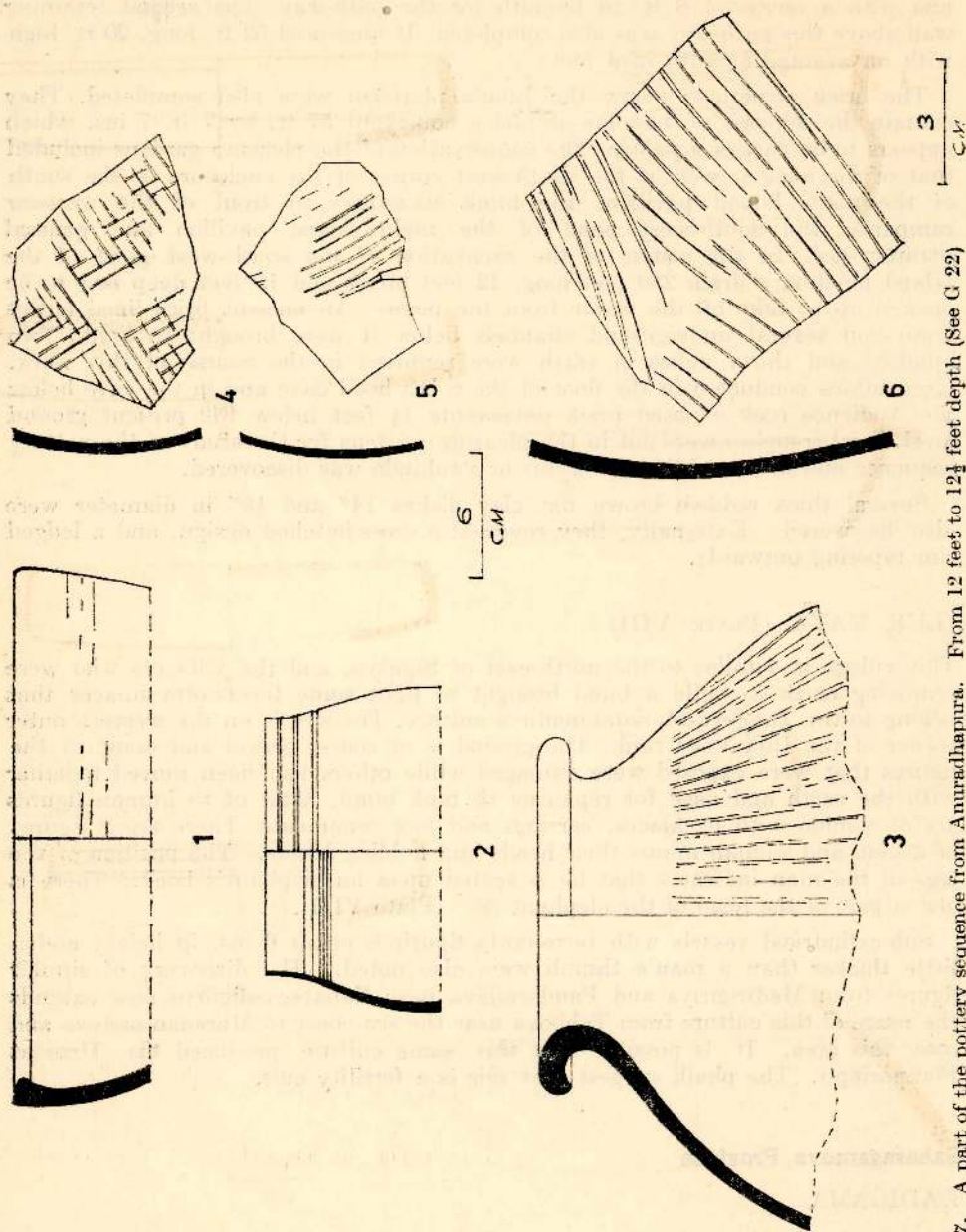


Fig. 7. A part of the pottery sequence from Anuradhapura. From 12 feet to 12½ feet depth (See C 22)

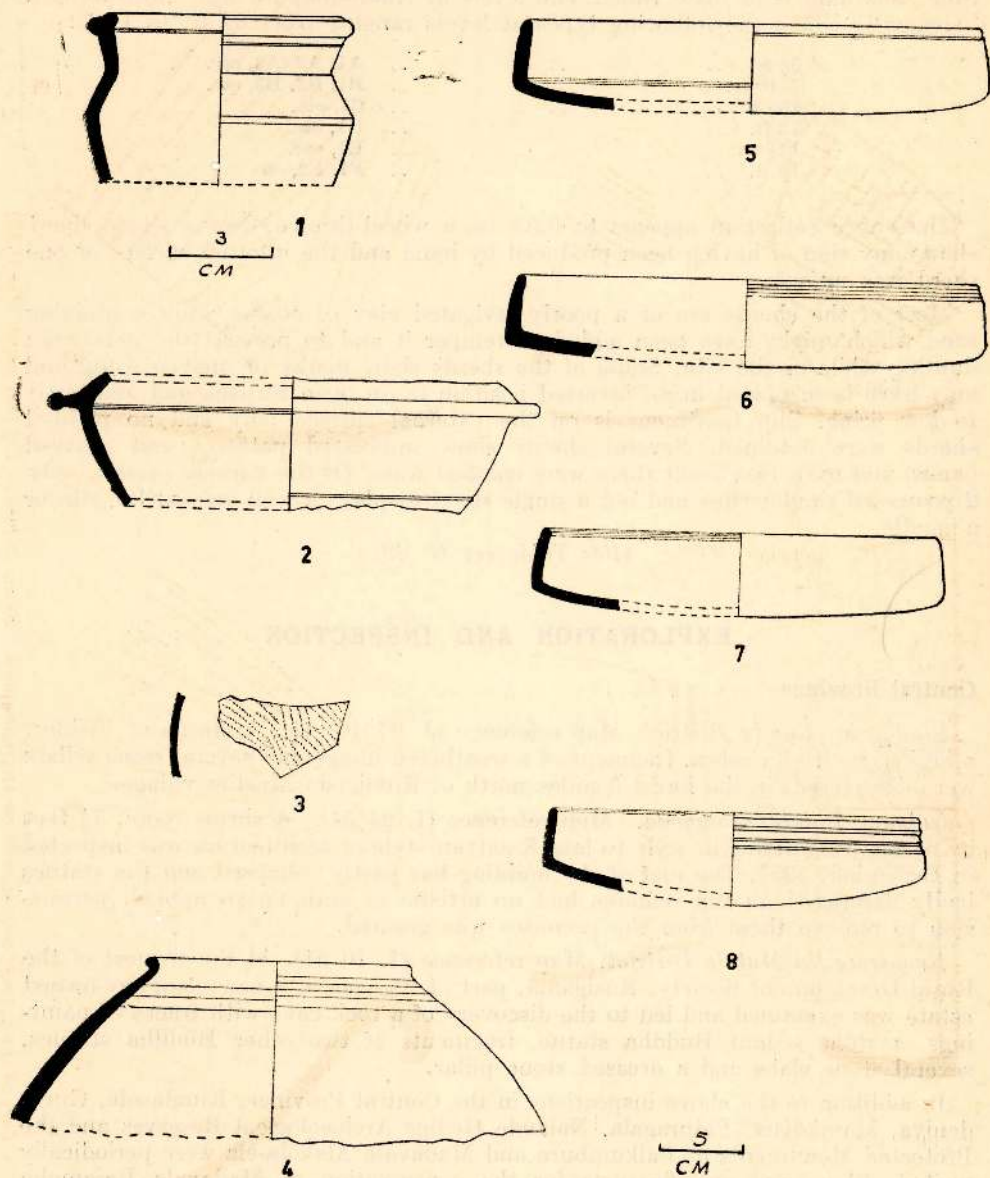


Fig. 8. Part of the pottery sequence from Anuradhapura. From 15 feet depth (See G 22).

POTTERY SEQUENCE

A commencement has been made in working out the Achaëological Pottery sequence in Ceylon, and instructions have been issued to the staff at Anuradhapura and Sigiriya. The potsherds obtained at the Sigiriya pleasure gardens were figured in last year's report, but as no careful recording of levels had been done at the time, this data is of little value. The levels at Anuradhapura near the southern 'Gedige' yielded the following types at levels ranging from 6½ ft. to 15 ft.

| | | | |
|--------------|----|----|------------------|
| 6½ ft. .. | .. | .. | A1, A2, A3, etc. |
| 7-10 ft. . . | .. | .. | B1, B2, B3, etc. |
| 10½ ft. . . | .. | .. | C1, etc. |
| 12 ft. . . | .. | .. | D1, etc. |
| 12½ ft. . . | .. | .. | E1, etc. |
| 15 ft. . . | .. | .. | F1, F2, etc. |

The entire collection appears to have been wheel-thrown. Not a single sherd shows any sign of having been produced by hand and the internal surface of one sherd was uneven.

Most of the sherds are of a poorly levigated clay of coarse grain containing sand which might have been added to temper it and to prevent the pots from dunting while in the kiln. Some of the sherds show marks of uneven firing and may have been placed in an inverted position in an open furnace and subjected to low firing. Slip treatment is on the external surface only and no painted sherds were obtained. Several sherds show impressed patterns and grooved bands, and from two levels there were combed ware. Of the various vessels, only 2 possessed similar rims and not a single sherd displays a well defined lip, rim or a handle.

(For Table see G. 22)

EXPLORATION AND INSPECTION

Central Province

Kindigoda, Kandy District. Map reference (J. 17/10, 11). A statue of Vishnu, a broken hood of a cobra, fragment of a weathered image and several stone pillars were discovered, in the forest 3 miles north of Kindigoda Muslim village.

Galgane Vihara, Gonigoda. Map reference (I. 24/51). A shrine room, 7½ feet by 6½ feet resembling in style to late Kandyan style of architecture was inspected in December, 1957. The roof of the building has partly collapsed and the statues badly damaged. As the remains had no artistic or antiquarian appeal, permission to remove them from the premises was granted.

Rusigama, in Matale District. Map reference (I. 10/51). At the request of the Rural Development Society, Rusigama, part of Rusigama, a new company-owned estate was examined and led to the discovery of a rock cave with traces of paintings, a stone sedant Buddha statue, fragments of two other Buddha statues, several stone slabs and a dressed stone pillar.

In addition to the above inspections in the Central Province, Kundasale, Gurudeniya, Manikdena, Piduragala, Nalanda Gedige Archæological Reserves and the Protected Monuments at Palkumbura and Madavala Alakola-ela were periodically visited. Plans and specifications for the conservation of Madavala Rajamaha Vihara shrine room was prepared but the work had to be postponed due to lack of funds.

North-Central Province

Siambalavava, Anuradhapura District. Map reference (F. 9/43). This is situated about 3½ miles east of Ratmale Village on the Anuradhapura-Talava Road. A treasure hunt was reported at this site. Inspection on December, 1957, revealed that a large pit had been dug near a solitary stone pillar.

A Partial Pottery sequence at Anuradhapura—Figures 7 and 8

| Level | No. of Pieces | No. of Sherd | Type | Remarks | Description | Figure |
|-------|---------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 12' | 2 | D & D2 | Two Types | Worthy of further examination | Of these one is glazed and the other is slip-dressed | 7—Sub-figs. 5 & 2 |
| 12½' | 3 | E4, E5, E6 | I | — | Represent earthenware of medium fabric incised with the basket pattern on the outer surface. The body clay is of coarse grain. Slip-dressed E5 belongs to a low-fired pot | Sub-figs. 6—4 |
| 12½' | 1 | E3 | III | — | Represents a pot of buff ware with an everted rim. The body is decorated with angular combing radiating from the top: Clay of coarse grain. Low-fired. Slip coating on the outer surface | Sub-fig. 3 |
| 15' | 4 | F1, F2, F3, F4 | I | — | Represent shallow bowls of brown ware with saggar bases and vertical sides. These reflect the influence of metallic vessels on pottery. In two sherds—F3 and F4—grooved bands run round the upper surface of the profile. The inner surface is black and burnished on the wheel. The outside is red-slip dressed. Fired in a reducing atmosphere | 8—Sub-figs. 6, 7 8, 5 |

Veheragala in Polonnaruwa District. Map reference (G. 17/25). This is a large boulder near the 4th mile post to the village of Divulankadawala from Hingurakgoda. A series of broad ledges were cut on the rock, forming 7 concentric rings. Permission asked by the Government Agent, Polonnaruwa, to lease this rock to a Buddhist Society was recommended.

Pugollagama. This is the reputed site where King Elara had his fortress 'Vijithapura' which was stormed by King Dutugemunu in the 2nd century B. C. As these ancient remains had been occupied by the Moors, the Government Agent, Anuradhapura, was asked to allot other lands to these people as early as possible.

Katiyava. Re-visited in November, 1957. The site was overgrown and there were several encroachments. Action was taken to eject the encroacher and expedite the proposed survey to declare the site an Archæological Reserve.

Navakkulama. Map reference (F. 15/51). A treasure hunt was reported by the Kakirawa Police. A large boulder had been dynamited but there were no ancient ruins at the site.

Diyattavava. Map reference (G. 1/15). On a forest clad rocky hill several rock caves with drip-ledges and Brahmi Inscriptions were inspected, in October, 1957. The caves had been enclosed by walls and in one the mouldings on a wall was in a good state of preservation.

Kammalbandivava. Map reference (G. 1/38). Lot 35 V. P. 1526. N. C. P. contained a ruined dagaba built up on an oblong platform, 40 feet by 30 feet, with a single flight of steps. A stone revetted ruin was also found in this vicinity.

Periyakulama Vihara, Maradankadawala. Map reference (F. 15/4243). The remains of a small dagaba, a torso of a Buddha statue similar to the Amara-wathie School of sculpture and stone revetted ruins were seen when an inspection was undertaken in December, 1957, at the request of the High Priest of Periyakulama Vihara, Maradankadawala.

Tirivanamadu at Trikonamadu. Map reference (G. 13/54). This is situated about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of the cart track from Walikanda to Trikonamadu. On this rocky ridge, there are several remains of double platform type of buildings, of a brick dagaba and several caves with Brahmi Inscriptions. These were discovered in February, 1957.

Olupaliyava. A medium sized ruined dagaba, a paved pokuna and large dressed slabs were seen when the site was inspected in October, 1957. A figure of a dog and a bell shaped ornament carved in low relief were also found on a granite slab. The remains are in the scrub jungle.

In addition to the above inspection, Archæological Reserves at Yakabandi Amuna, Maha Illuppalam, Dimbulagala and Veherabandigala were inspected in the year under review.

North-Western Province—Kurunegala District

Kadigala. Map reference (F. 13/36, 37). This is a massive rock on the left bank of Kaloya with a long rock-cut flight of steps leading to a ruined dagaba at the summit. On one side of the staircase is a Brahmi Inscription cut lengthways. In a cave full of ancient brick-bats, a torso of a Buddha statue and an image of Vishnu were seen. A large stone slab and the remains of a fairly large dagaba were also noted when this site was visited in November, 1957. The Vishnu image is well preserved.

Gondamana. Map reference (I. 13/56). This is a private coconut estate owned by one Mr. Lucas Fernando. Near the eastern boundary of this estate is an oblong mound with several spur stones and rough stone slabs. There is also a large Botree. Several stone pillars were discovered when the adjoining lands were inspected in November, 1957.

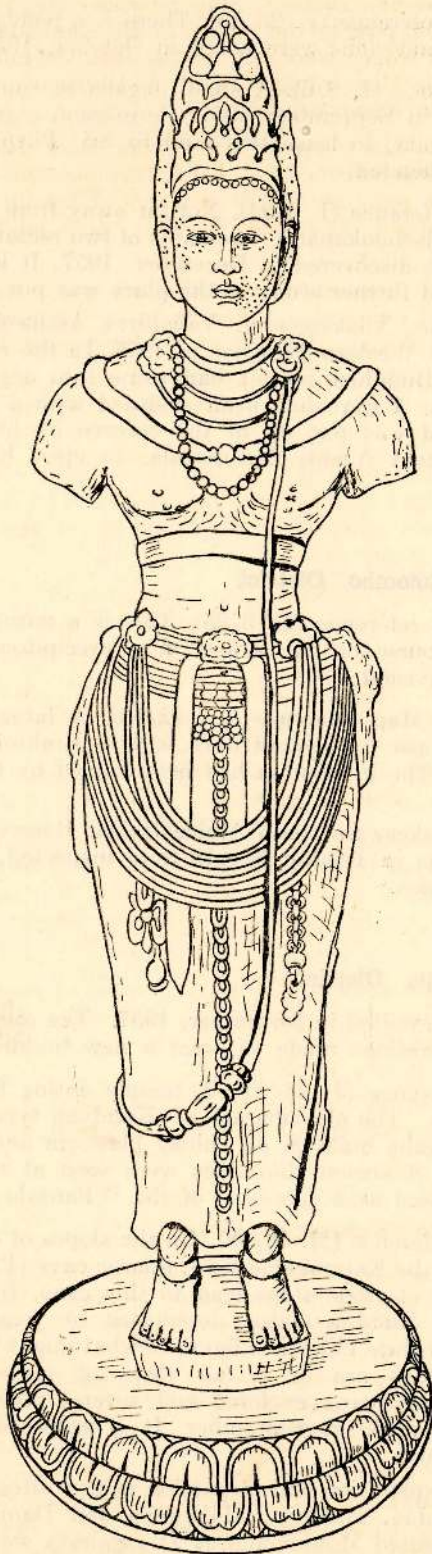


Fig. 9. A limestone statue, possibly of King Dutu Gāmunu, that is in Budu galgé, Uva—see plate IV, fig. (a).

Rajallegama. Map reference (F. 23/56). There is a paddy-heap shaped dagaba. Several stone pillars and slabs were noted in October, 1957.

Nelliya. Map reference (I. 8/6). A small dagaba in ruins, several stone slabs and pillars were seen in September, 1957. Permission requested by the Government Agent, Kurunegala, to lease this land to Sri Pusparama Viharavardena Samitiya was recommended.

Embogama. Map reference (I. 3/24). Not far away from Yapahuva in the land locally known as "Galsohonkanatta" remains of two rectangular monuments and several monoliths were discovered in December, 1957. It is presumed that these are ancient burials and further study of the place was put off for the next year.

Arankale, Rajangane, Nilakkagama, Yapahuva Archæological Reserves were inspected in the North-Western Province in 1957. In the course of an inspection it was found that a Buddhist hermit had come into occupation at Rajangane Archæological Reserve. A cave had been enclosed with a wattle and daub wall and a temporary shed was put up in the reserve by him. Action was taken through the Government Agent, Kurunegala, to eject him and demolish the structures.

Western Province—Colombo District

Urapola Cave. Map reference (L. 3/35). This is a natural rock cavern and a subterranean water course on the slopes of a precipitous hill in the Alavala Village Headman's Division.

Brahakmanakanda. Map reference (L. 12/58). A large boulder on which is found a modern "Avasa". A small cave with a Brahmi inscription exists on one side of this rock. The inscription had been copied by the Department on an earlier occasion.

Baddegama and Alakeswara tomb Archæological Reserves, and the protected monument at Ganeuda in Pasdun Korale were inspected during the year 1957 in the Western Province.

Uva Province—Badulla District

Galbuduntänna. Re-visited in November, 1957. The area had been thoroughly cleaned up and preparations made to erect a new building.

Nagadipa. Map reference (J. 22/40). A temple dating from early times with a modern shrine room. The old viharage of Kandyan type has collapsed and a fairly large ruined dagaba built on an oblong platform and several architectural remains of a variety of ancient buildings were seen at the site. An inscribed stone slab has been used as a door-step of the "Pansala".

Budugalge. Map reference (M. 18/46). On the slopes of a wooded hill $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles away from Buttala on the Kataragama road, a large cave (Plate IV) was inspected in 1957. A long flight of stone steps lead to this cave. Inside the cave is seen a colossal recumbent Buddha statue desecrated by treasure hunters, several other Buddha statues (Plate IV) and a figure of what might be King Dutugāmunu. (Fig. 9.) These statues are in a fair state of preservation. The jungle to the north of this cave was explored and several other caves with Brahmi inscriptions were discovered in September. It is proposed to declare this land an Archæological Reserve.

In addition to the exploration and inspection of new sites in the Uva Province, Buduruvagala, Galebadda, Habassa, Maligavila and Dambegoda Archæological Reserves and the Protected Monuments at Yudaganava were periodically visited. At Buduruvagala, a wooden foot bridge, 43 ft. long and $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. broad, was constructed over streams joining the approach road from the car park.

Eastern Province—Batticaloa District

Valijahakandiya. Map reference (J. 14/7). This is an ancient spillway (Bisokotuva) square in plan measuring 9 ft. by 9 ft. deep. Photographs of it were taken. Permission asked by the Irrigation Engineer, Rukam, E.D. at Chenkaladi to demolish it to construct a new spillway was approved.

Gonagalla, Mudu Maha Vihara—proposed Archæological Reserves, and the Protected Monuments at Magul Maha Vihara and Digavapi in the Eastern Province were inspected in 1957, in addition to the exploration of new sites in that Province.

Southern Province—Hambantota District

Badagiriya. Map reference (P 13/52). On the summit of a rocky hill the remains of a brick built dagaba that had been rifled by treasure hunters were seen when the site was inspected in June, 1957.

Dehigahalanda. Map reference (P 17/30). This site was inspected in June, 1957. A large collection of ancient brick-bats probably indicate the remains of a dagaba. There are 2 caves and a solitary stone pillar in the midst of a stretch of paddy fields.

Middeniya. Map reference (P 11/18, 19). On the summit of a precipitous hill, locally termed "Pansalegodalla" is an inscription which reads "Devamitta" and dated "1856" was found on a rough stone slab, when the site was inspected in October, 1957.

Siambalagasvila Parana Viharaya. Map reference (P. 12/5). This is situated in the Ridiyagama Colony in the Hambantota District. The only remains at the site were a small brick built dagaba and stone revetted ruin. The land is Crown but leased to the Ruhunu Bauddha Samitiya and occupied by a Buddhist monk.

Lot 206 in Topo-plan No. 3. Warawila. Debaravava Paschimarama Viharawadena Samitiya applied for a lease of this land and when it was inspected in October, 1957, several ancient brick-bats were seen on a low circular mound on this land. There was an "Avasa" which was occupied.

Gammaddegama. Map reference (O 15/60). On a rock cave on the slopes of a mountain called "Meemanagalkanda" at Gammaddegama in the Matara District, 50 tiny bronze Buddha Statues were said to have been discovered when this cave floor was levelled to construct a shrine room, and later 46 of these statues are supposed to have been enshrined again in a clay Image of Buddha that was constructed recently in this cave. At the time of the Inspection in June, 1957, the 4 remaining statues were brought to the Head office. They are modern and of crude workmanship.

Kustarajagala, Dondra, Galge, Ramba Vihara, Akurugoda, Galkanumandiya Archæological Reserves and the Protected Monument at Godavaya Vihara in the Southern Province were periodically inspected during the year under review. Ramba Vihara Archæological Reserve was in constant occupation by illegal cultivators for several years. In 1957 also action was taken against a squatter who was fined and ejected from the Reserve forthwith. A section of this Reserve is suited for paddy cultivation as it is low-lying, on the left bank of Walave Ganga and very fertile. In order to keep away further cultivations at the site it was decided to fence this Reserve.

Sabaragamuva Province—Ratnapura District

Lot No. 7 F.V.P. 791, Timbolketiya. A stone revetted ruin, a heap of ancient brick-bats probably the remains of a Dagaba were seen when the site was inspected in September, 1957. The proposed lease for the construction of a temple was approved.

In Sabaragamuva Province, Barandikovil, Mayadunne's Palace site and Padavi-gampola Archæological Reserves and the Protected Monuments at Serman Deva-laya and Aramanapola Vihara were inspected during the year under review.

PROTECTED MONUMENTS DECLARED IN 1957

Appendix 1 (a)

| No. | Province | District | Village | Name of the Monument | Plan, Date and No. of the Gazette Notification |
|------|----------|------------|-------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1 .. | Central | .. Matale | .. Dambulla | .. Dambulla Raja-maha Vihara | T.P. 87,076, 16 chains, R.D. No. F 25, 4A sq 54, <i>Gazette</i> No. 11,164 of August 30, 1957 |
| 2 .. | Uva | .. Badulla | .. Buttala | .. Yudaganā Dagaba | T.P. 100,016, 16 chains, R.D. sheet M/18, 2A sq 21, <i>Gazette</i> No. 11,207 of November 29, 1957 |

Appendix 1 (b)

Preliminary action was taken to declare Ridi Vihare at Ridigama in Kurunegala District, Purana Nakha Vehera in Kalagampalata, Anuradhapura District, Piduragala Cave shrine in Matale North in Matale District and the statues at Ratpat Vehara *alias* Totagamuve Vihare in Galle District in Protected Monuments under section 18 of the Antiquities Ordinance, No. 9 of 1940.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL RESERVES DECLARED IN 1957

Appendix 1 (b)

| No. | Province | District | Name of Reserve | Plan, Extent, Date and the number of the Gazette Notification |
|------|---------------|----------------|---|--|
| 1 .. | North-Central | .. Polonnaruwa | .. Dimbulagala in Tamankaduva Egoda Pattuva | F.T.P. No. 13, N.C.P. lots 220, 221, 222 in Inset 25; lots 223, 224, 225, 226 and 227 in Inset. 26; lot 228 in Inset. 27, in extent 58A. 1R. 36P., <i>Gazette</i> No. 11,119 of May 24, 1957 |
| 2 .. | Central | .. Matale | .. Manikdena in Wagapanaha Pallesiyapattu | P.P.A. 222 lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, in extent 40A. 3R. 17P., <i>Gazette</i> No. 11,112 of April 26, 1957 |

Appendix 1 (c)

Preliminary action was taken to declare, Nuvaragala and Pollebadda in Bintenna North Eastern Province, Mudu Maha Vihara in Pottuvil of Panampattu Kovilkadu in Vavuniyakulam of Vavuniya District, Budugalge at Buttala Vadirata Korale and Galbudumtenna at Wellayaya in Badulla District under section 33 of the Antiquities Ordinance, No. 9 of 1940 as Archæological Reserves.

LANDS ACQUIRED FOR ARCHÆOLOGICAL PURPOSES IN 1957

Appendix 1 (d)

| Province | District | Description | Plan, Lot Numbers and the Extent |
|----------|--|---|---|
| Southern | .. Galle, within Council limits of Hikkaduwa | The birthplace of late Rev. Sri Sumangala | P.P. A1,457, lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, in extent 0A. 1R. 28.5P |

(A). CHEMICAL TREATMENT OF ANTIQUITIES

BY

R. H. de Silva, B.Sc. Hons. (Cey. & Lond.)

Assistant Commissioner (Chemist)

Laboratory Equipment. A dark roof was equipped for the enlargement of 35 mm. films using a Leitz Focomat 1c enlarger the development of such films being performed in a Leitz Rondinax Daylight Development unit.

A long-felt need was served by the purchase of a Metallurgical microscope (Zeiss Standard) and accessories, including attachment for photomicrography with the Leica camera. A Zeiss Winkel Spindle Grinding & Polishing Machine was also purchased and installed. Among other necessary items of Laboratory equipment obtained during the year under review are semimicro analytical Oertling Balance, microscope lamp, trickle charger up to 12 volts at 1 amp., and "Wolf Cub" electric Drill.

Library. Eleven books on technical subjects and forty-one journals were received for the Library of this section.

Conservation. A hoard of 2,578 Roman coins from Debaravava, Tissamaharama, Southern Province, and 1,594 Roman coins from Rekava, Hambantota District, Southern Province, 8 Dharmasoka coins, 20 Leelavati coins and 53 Sahasamalla coins from the Dadigama Museum were cleaned.

For the second half of the year, work in the Laboratory consisted solely of the examination of the contents and the conservation of the pots excavated in the urn burials of Pomparippu, North-Western Province, during the months of May and August; drawings were made in this section by draughtsmen D. H. R. Fernando and S. M. Seneviratne. By the end of the year, 53 units of terra-cotta consisting of pots, dishes and bowls were conserved. This work is to continue.

Field Work. The last occasion when conservation was conducted at the Dambulla Raja Maha Vihara was in 1952—vide A. R. for 1952. This year, however, the Raja Maha Vihara was declared a protected monument. Conservation of the paintings and statues commenced in June after camp was pitched on the Pirivena Road off the Dambulla-Kurunegala road. Work on the fixing of the plaster to the rock background was continued for a fortnight, attention being confined to areas above the ambulatory between the row of seated Buddhas and the cave wall. The conservation of the paintings in the Raja Maha Vihara is estimated to take about ten years for completion.

Degaldoruwa. The eighteenth century shrine in this hamlet about 1 mile from the Lewella Ferry on the Dumbara side, reported to have been built under the patronage of King Kirthi Sri Raja Sinha was adorned by the master painter of that period Silvatenne Unnanse with scenes from the Jataka stories. In 1955, there was much newspaper publicity about the deterioration of the paintings in this shrine but the department was unable to take action to conserve them due to the lack of funds. During 1957, however, work was initiated on the conservation of the paintings and by the end of October all areas where the painted plaster was loose and in danger of falling off were given attention for consolidation to the rock cave wall. The treatment of the painted surface is next to be undertaken.

Gonagolla. The panel of painting at Gonagolla in the Gal Oya Valley, vide para. 16 (16) A. R. 1956, was treated for the removal of algæ.

Polonnaruwa. The brick work of the Lankatilaka, Thuparama and the external renderings of the Tivanka Pilimage had been observed to indicate an insect attack which resulted in the reduction of considerable areas on around the outer surface to a powdery condition. Treatment against insect attack and consolidation of the powdery brickwork and rough plaster was effected at the Lankatilaka and

Thuparama, where necessary, in one operation by application of a solution of polyvinylacetate (5%) incorporating 2% of pentachlorophenol. This work is to continue.

Sigiriya. Fresh cracks were brought to my notice on the panel 2 from the extreme right (figure 3, Bell; A. S. D. 1905). A solution of polyvinylacetate was used for syringing in through a small hole made in the plaster used on an earlier occasion for modelling on this panel. The solution was also sent through the fine cracks that have developed over the painting. Further attention would have to be given periodically.

(B). EXCAVATIONS AT POMPARIPPU IN MAY AND AUGUST, 1957

- Urn 1
 7 Pots
 Pot No. 1 contained pieces of bones
 Dish-shaped vessel No. 5 contained a skull
- Urn 2
 11 Pots
 Pot No. 4 contained bones
 Pot No. 8 had markings on it
 2 Bronze bangles were found in Pot No. 1
 A Portion of a skull and fragments of bones were found in the Urn
- Urn 3
 3 Pots
 Pot No. 2 contained a skull, jaw and teeth and a smaller bowl
- Urn 4
 10 Pots
 A bronze rod (5½" long) found in Urn
- Urn 5
 10 Pots
 Portion of a skull in a dish-shaped vessel
 Three sets of bones found in the urn, and also a piece of iron, part of a knife blade
- Urn 6
 8 Pots
 Portion of a skull in a dish-shaped vessel and bones found
- Urn 7
 In the Laboratory
- Urn 8
 11 Pots
 Fragments of mica and a bronze rod found
 Outside the Urn, a small pot found containing teeth
- Urn 9
 In the Laboratory

Urn 10

11 Pots

A rod of bronze ($6\frac{3}{4}$ " long) surrounded with mica. Also bones and teeth

A dish-shaped vessel (No. 11) contained bones

Urn 11

6 Pots

A piece of rod (bronze—6" long) and a few bones in Urn

Bowl No. 3 contained bones

Urn 12

Only a piece of bone found in this Urn

Urn 13

9 Pots

Urn 14

4 Pots and fragments of bones. Dish-shaped vessel (No. 3) contained bones and teeth

EPIGRAPHY

BY

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

Assistant Commissioner (Epigraphy)

The Gold Reliquary from Kotavehera, Dalivala. A unique gold reliquary of considerable Archæological importance was brought to light during the year under review. A stone casket of about 2 ft. 6 ins. in height was discovered on February 4, 1957, by the incumbent priest of the Buddhist Temple at Dalivala, near Rambukkana in the Kegalle District, while clearing the debris of the top-most pesava (terrace) of the stupa called Kotavehera, which forms part of the temple. Inside this stone casket was a gold reliquary of exceptional beauty and two plain crystal reliquaries. The gold reliquary which was approximately 3 in. high was of the shape of the oldest type of Buddhist stupa. At its base encircling the dome was a miniature " Buddhist " railing of the same pattern as those at Sanchi in India. The dome was surmounted by a similar but square railing, at each of the four corners of which was a banner of exquisite workmanship. In the middle was an octagonal " yupa " pillar by the side of which was a shaft supporting a chatra. The filigree work of the banners and the delicate pattern on the reverse of the hood of the chatra point to a high degree of skill of the goldsmiths' craft. This remarkable reliquary may be taken as a model representing the earliest type of stupa constructed in Ceylon and may well belong to any of the three centuries preceding the Christian era.

Balapitiya. In the old pilimage (Image house) of the Subhadhrarama Maha Viharaya, Balapitiya, there are some fine specimens of paintings belonging to the late Kandyan period. There is a representation among other scenes of a " mallava cakra " a circle of wrestlers on the ceiling. The costumes in some of the scenes depict the innovations introduced by the Portuguese and the Dutch. The paintings of this pilimage were threatened with extinction due to the devout attentions of the pious devotees who burnt incense near them. Action was taken to curb this practice.

Inspections. Routine inspections were carried out at Giritale, Mutur and Walawewatta, Ambalantota, for the grant of leases of Crown land for the erection of Buddhist temples, at the request of the Government Agents of the provinces concerned.

Epigraphy. Nine inscriptions were copied during the year, of which one may be considered important. It is indited on a rock on the bund of the tank at Mihintale, in the earliest type of Brahmi characters found in Ceylon. It reads: "Mahayaha putaha araka." The guard-house (or sanctuary) of the son of Maha Aya. Maha Aya was the rank given to the heir-apparent, generally a brother of the King, as the succession to the throne in early times in Ceylon passed on to the eldest surviving male member of the royal family. As the inscription is found in close vicinity to the ancient capital and as it differs in contents to the vast number of the earliest cave inscriptions, it may be considered to precede them in date.

A brief summary of the Inscriptions copied during the year is given in an Appendix:

Estampages were secured as follows:—

| <i>Site</i> | <i>Subject and Script</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1. On a rock near the pond to the south of the excavated area at the foot of Sigiriya Rock | Probably contains the name of the garden. Old Sinhalese. Late Brahmi | Circa 5th. Century A.C. |
| 2. On a rock at the bund of the tank at Mihintale | Reads: Mahayaha putaha arake. Old Sinhalese. Early Brahmi | 3rd. Century B.C. |
| 3. On one side of a pillar found to a field at Pankuliya, Anuradhapura. Now in the Archaeological Museum, Anuradhapura | Worn. Immunity grant. Mediæval Sinhalese | 9th.–10th. Century A.C. |
| 4& 5. On a rock at the tank bund at Teldeniya, Veheragala | Worn. Probably records the manumission of slaves as one inscription contains the work "vaharala", "Transitional" Sinhalese-Brahmi script. Old Sinhalese | Circa 5th–6th Century A.C. |
| 6. On four fragments of a pillar inscribed on four sides at Ambagasvava between 4th and 5th. mileposts on the road from Horovupotana to Kapugollava | Fragmentary Immunity grant Mediæval Sinhalese | 9th–10th Century A.C. |
| 7. On a square stone asana (seat) near the sluice of the tank at Andankulama, Trincomalee | Probably contains the usual panegyric account of Nissanka Malla. Mediæval Sinhalese | 12th Century A.C. |
| 8. On a four sides of a pillar found in the jungle $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the East of the Mahavili Ganga on the jeep track from Kantalai to Allai, E. P. | Certain portions worn, and incomplete copy. Immunity grant. Mediæval Sinhalese | 9th–10th Century A.C. |
| 9. On the two sides of a pillar found in a land behind the house of the Public Health Midwife at the L. B. Colony at Kandalama | Contains the figures of a cakra or fan symbol, a crow and a dog. Only four lines of an immunity grant are preserved. Mediæval Sinhalese | 9th–10th Century A.C. |

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTED MONUMENTS

THE Committee met 3 times during the year under review. The shelter to be built over the Aukana Buddha statue was discussed and the Acting Archaeological Commissioner suggested that it would be desirable to prepare a model of the entire area; try fitting on different types of shelters and select the most suitable. This proposal was accepted by the Committee and the Departmental Modeller, Mr. H. D. F. A. Sarathwattala was dispatched to Aukana to make a model of the entire statue, buildings and the surrounding rocks.

The Committee also decided to construct a brass fence around the Sacred Bo Tree at Anuradhapura removing the existing iron fence. This was consequent on a suggestion made by the Honourable U. Nu, Prime Minister of the Union of Burma.

The Committee also agreed to grant permission to the Atamasthana Committee to clear the weeds off pesavas of Mirisaveti, Abhayagiri and Jetavanarama Dagabas.

EXPLANATION OF PLATES

Plate I

RUINS AT PALLANG OYA IN THE GALOYA VALLEY

- Figure 1. Kiulégama Viharé being excavated.
 Figure 2. Image House in the Vihare with a Buddha statue of lime-stone leaning against a pillar.
 Figure 3. The same statue enlarged.
 Figure 4. The Viharagé after excavation, showing the moonstone and the flight of steps on the right, and the brick walls on the left.

Plate II

VADDHA AND STONE AGE CAVE PAINTINGS

- Figures 1, 2 & 3. From Ganegama.
 Figures 4, 5 & 6. From Mahalenama.

Plate III

Nuvaragala Rock and Pollébädde water channel.

- Figure 1. A large cistern hewn out of the solid rock at the summit of Nuvaragala.
 Figure 2. Cyclopean wall. (Note the man standing against it).
 Figure 3. The cave on the western side of the rock with Brahmi inscriptions of the 2nd century B. C. and drip ledges.
 Figure 4. Water channel made of slabs of solid rock at Pollébädde.

Plate IV

Budugalge and Galébädde

- Figure 1. Lime-stone statues in the lower cave at Budugalgé. The one on the extreme left might be a representation of King Dutu Gämunu (vide text. (Fig. 9).
 Figure 2. A urinal stone at Galébädde. (Note the channel leading back into the soakage pit).

Plate V

Maha Lënäma

- Figure 1. Flight of stone steps of an ancient dagaba in the forest near Maha Lënäma.
 Figure 2. Flight of steps cut in the rock and leading to a dagaba on the top of the rock.
 Figure 3. One of the Maha Lënäma rock shelters. (Note the drip ledge above).

Figure 4. The floor of the same shelter showing the large paving stones and also drawings by the Vāddhas or some stone age race that had occupied this cave after it had been abandoned by the Sinhalese. Two of these drawings are shown on Plate II—Figures 5 and 6.

Plate VI

Two bronze statues discovered in 1951.

Figure 1. The figure of what might be the Goddess Tara from Manaar.

Figure 2. A Buddha image from Athābāndivāva near Trincomalee.

Plate VII

Some of the Urns excavated at Pomparippu in 1957.

Figure 1. Urn No. 9 which had originally been fitted with a large terra-cotta lid over the capstone. A part of this lid which had broken and slipped down is shown slanted across the side.

Figure 2. A part of the interior of Urn No. 4 showing 4 different types of vessels and some of the bones.

Figure 3. Urn 5 showing 3 lots of bones including a skull and 3 types of vessels containing food and personal belongings. Two of the pots had been removed before this photograph was taken.

Plate VIII

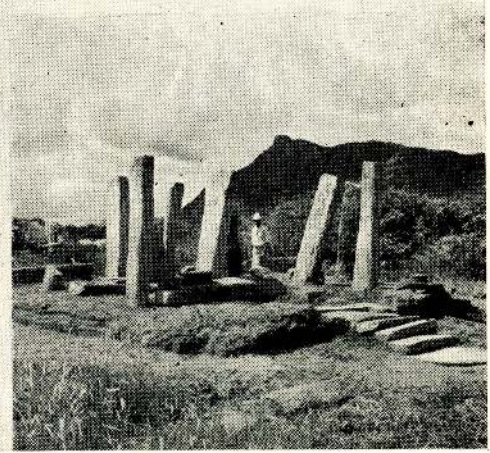
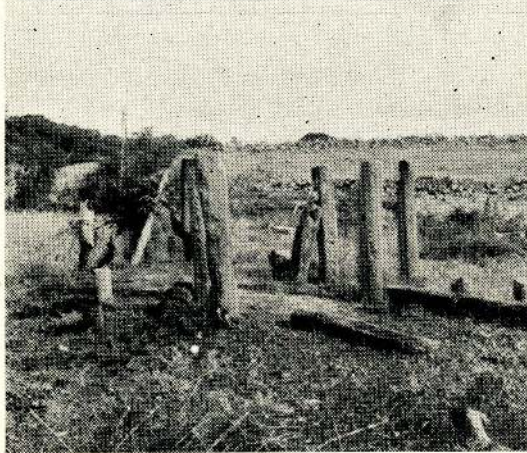
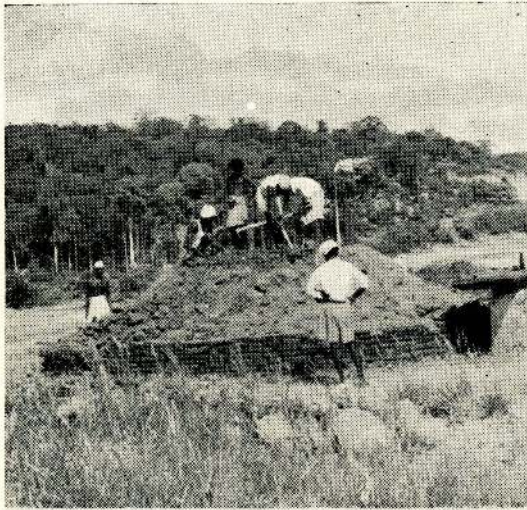
An assemblage of terra-cotta figures of humans and animals discovered at Illukvava reservoir and belonging to the Tabbova—Maradanmaduva culture. The human figures are of three sizes: large, medium, and small; the animals are of two sizes.

- (1) Faces and torsos of three different sizes
- (2) Right breast and shoulder of a large statue
- (3) Phalli with bindings and some with a face on one side
- (4) Medium and small torsos
- (5) Bears
- (6) Legs and arms of three sizes: large, medium, and small
- (7) Two tops of vessels with cylindrical bases that may have supported smaller figures as at (4)
- (8) Elephant's head with a mahout's ankus showing over the animal's head

The same scale in inches and centimetres is attached to each photograph.

P. DERANIYAGALA,
Acting Archæological Commissioner.

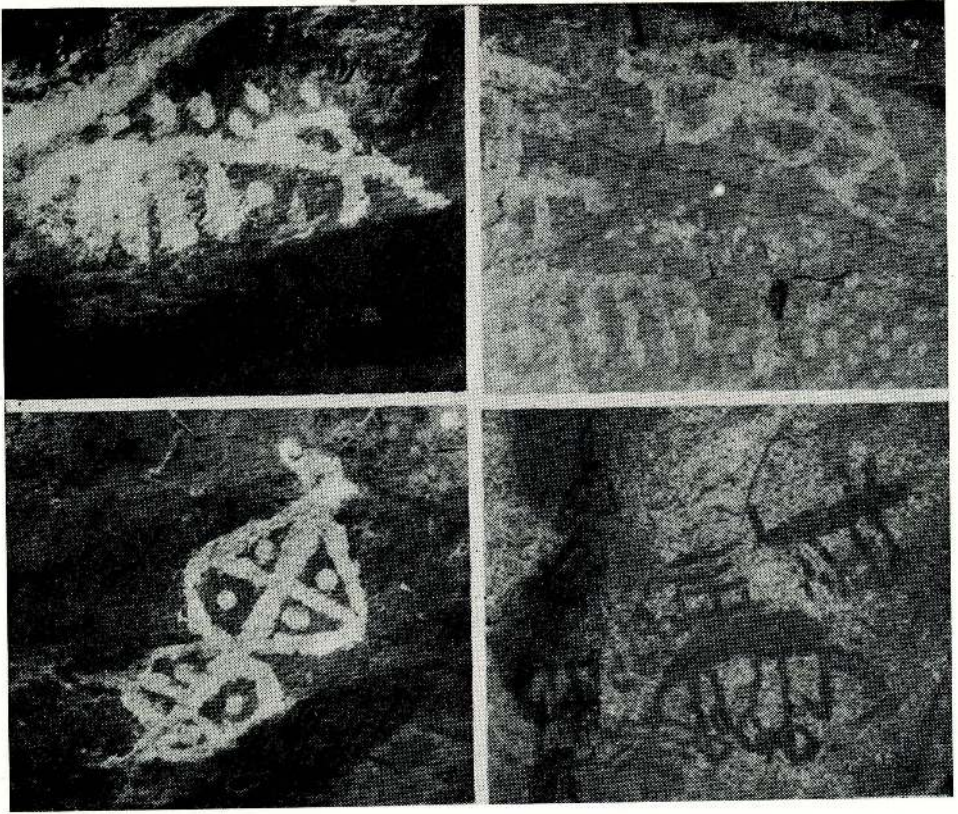
Colombo, February 20, 1958.



Ruins at Pallang Oya in the Gal Oya valley.

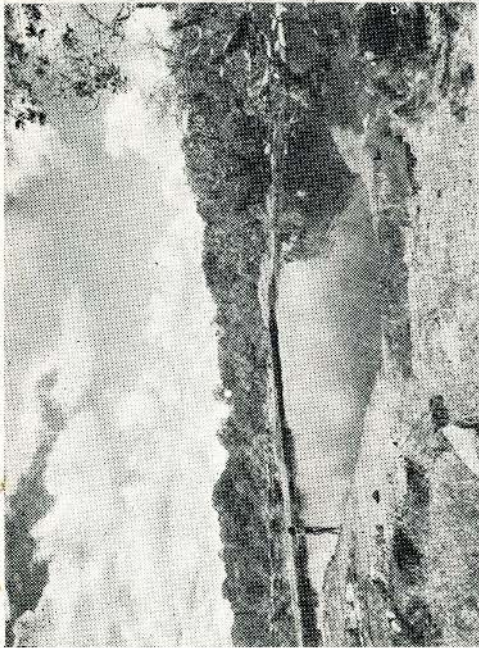
Fig. 1. Kiulegama Vihare. *Fig. 2.* Image house with Buddha of lime stone. *Fig. 3.* Image house with Buddha of lime stone enlarged. *Fig. 4.* Viharagé showing moonstone and steps.

PLATE II

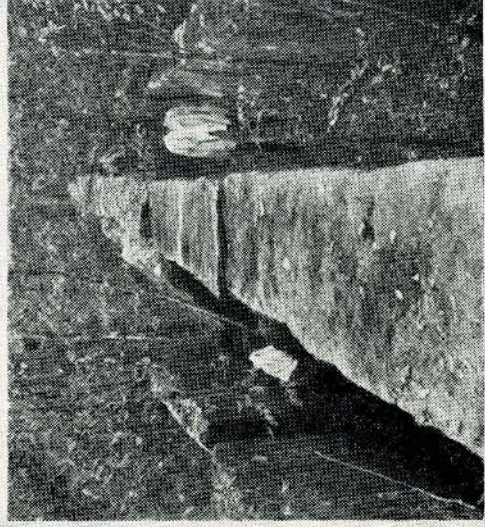


Vaddha and stone age culture cave paintings.

Figs. 1-3. From Ganegama, Eastern Province. *Fig. 4.* Bambaragastalava, Lerama, Eastern Province. *Figs. 5, 6.* From a cave at Maha I-nama, Eastern Province.



1



2

Nuvaragala, figs. 1 to 3, and Pollebädde channel, fig. 4.
Fig. 1. Cistern. *Fig. 2.* Cyclopean wall. The scale is judged from the man at 2a. *Fig. 3.*
 Cave on western side of rock. *Fig. 4.* Pollebädde channel.

a

b

c

d

e

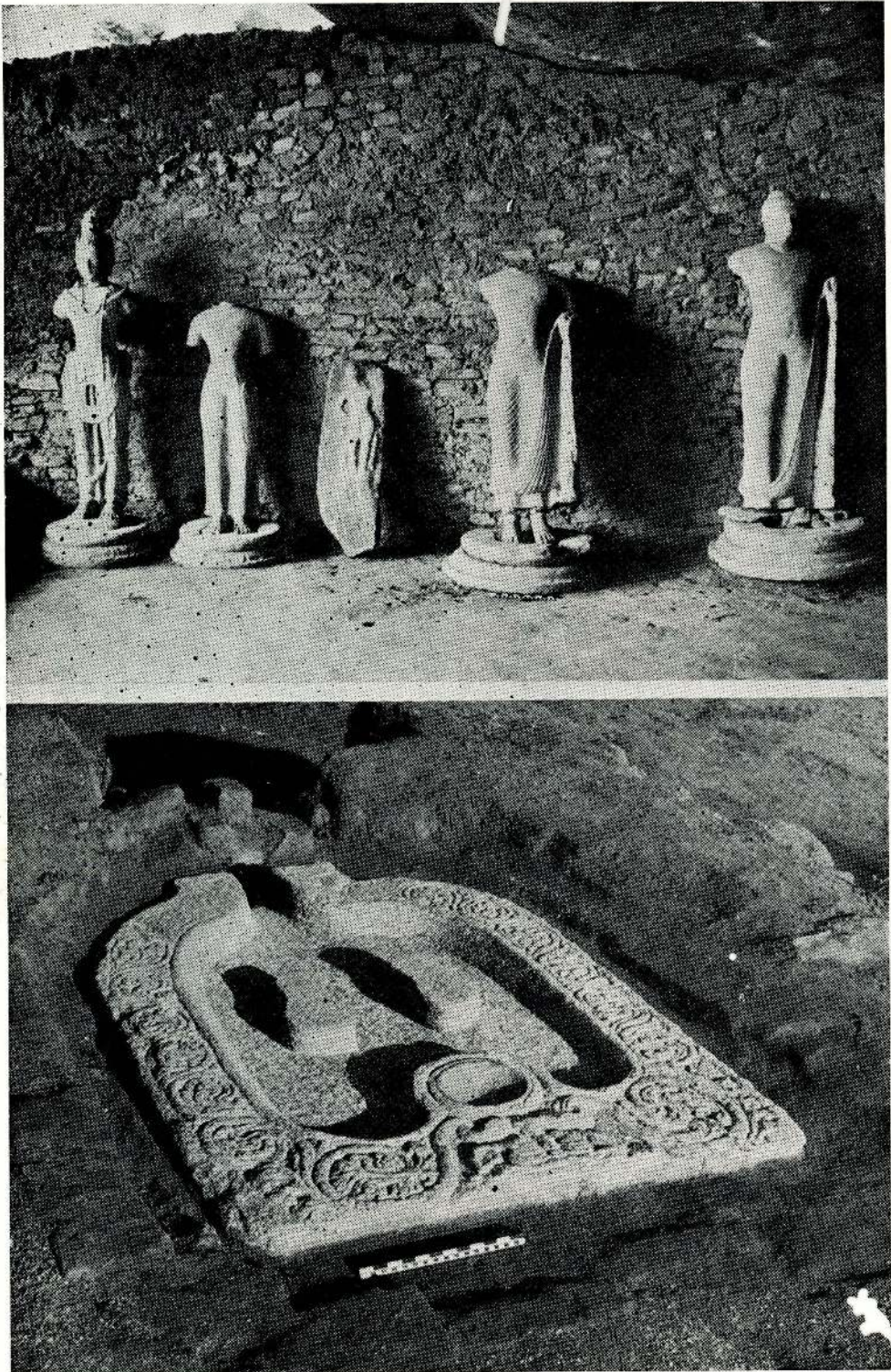
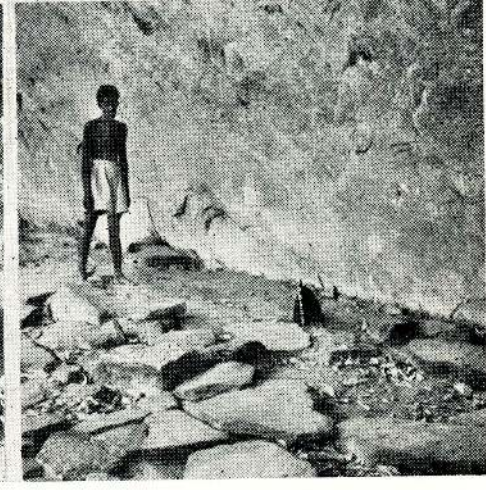
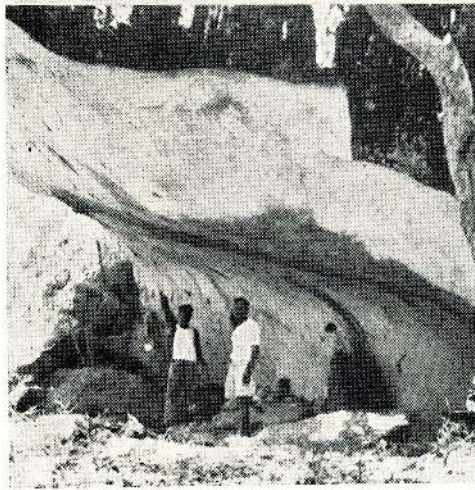


Fig. 1. Statues in Budu galge. The lime stone statue in the lower cave at Budugalge which might be King Dutu Gāmunu is at a. See text fig. 9.

Fig. 2. Urinal stone at ~~Cilreddy Notalam~~ ~~channel~~ leading into the soakage pit behind.



2



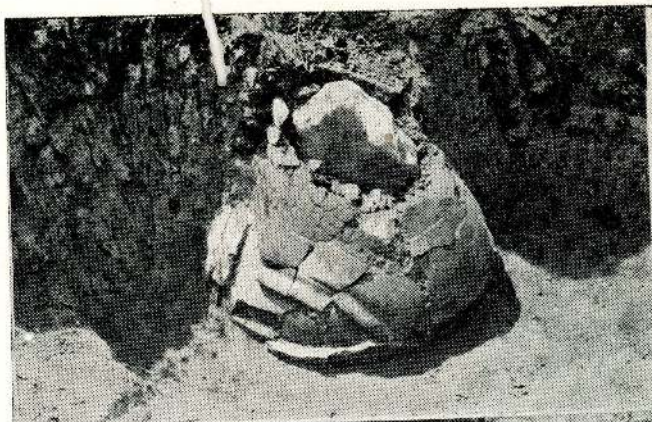
4

Ruins at Maha Lēnama

Fig. 1. Flight of steps to dagaba. *Fig. 2.* Steps cut in rock. *Fig. 3.* A cave at Kaduru pokuna, Maha Lēnama. *Fig. 4.* The floor of the above cave with Vādha and stone age drawings.



Fig. 1. Goddess Tara from Mansar. Fig. 2. Buddha from Āthābāndi vāva near Trincomalee



1



2



3

Urns from Pomparippu, in situ.

Fig. 1. Urn 9, originally with terra-cotta lid over the capstone; this lid had slipped down.
 Fig. 2. Interior of Urn 4 showing different types of vessels and also bones.
 Fig. 3. Urn 5, showing 3 lots of bones and vessels. Two pots had been removed before photography.

PLATE VIII



Terra-cotta figures of 3 sizes from Iluk Väva reservoir beyond Sigiriya.
A fertility cult termed the Tabbova-Maradanmaduva culture.
Note the phalli at fig. 3 and elephant head at fig. 8.

