

CEYLON *Today*

Archaeology in Ceylon—

No. I

W. S. KARUNARATNE

all about Elephants

the Second Colombo
an Exhibition

the Early History of the
Ceylon Railway

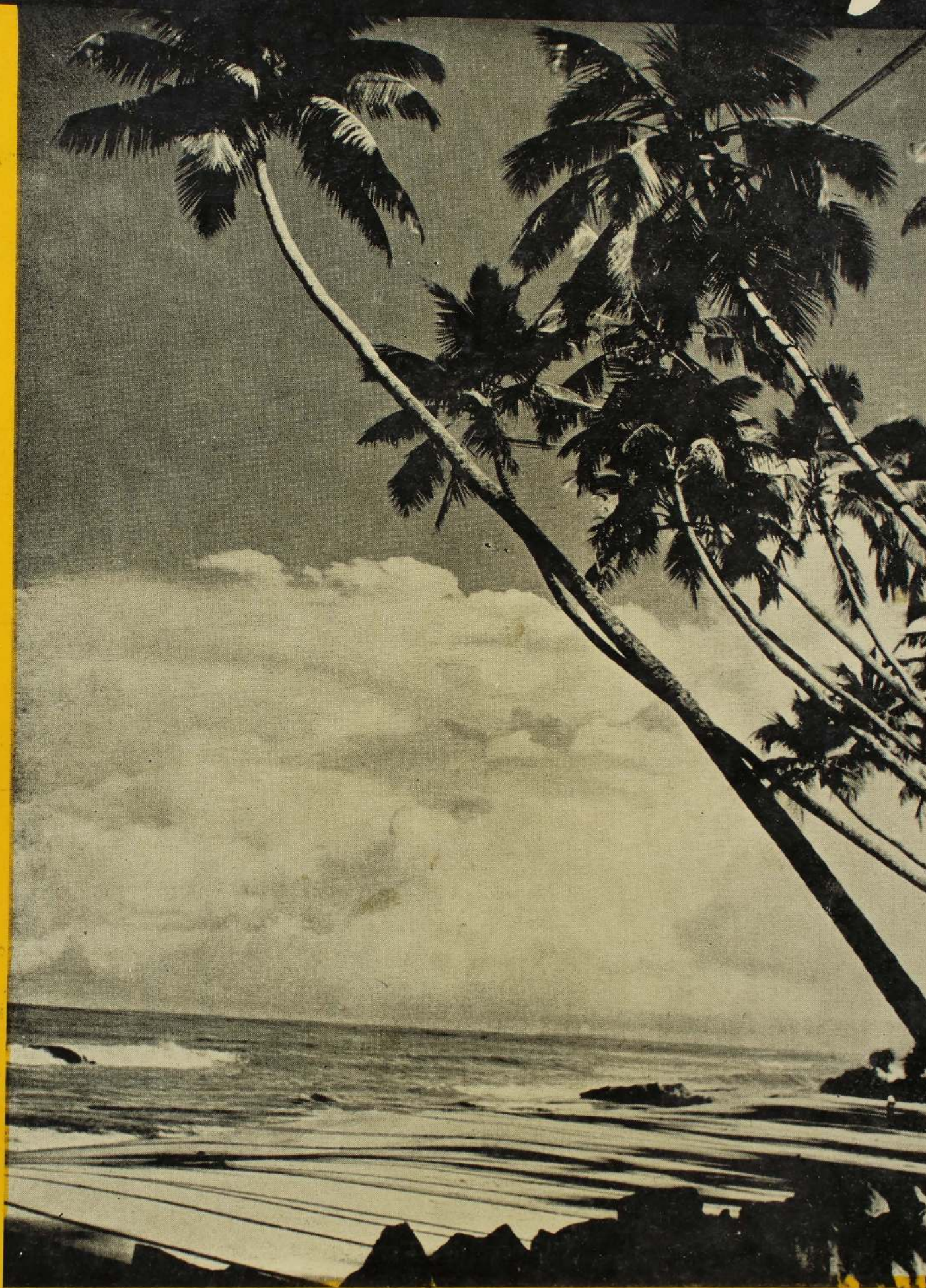
Contribution of the Ceylon
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Minor Agricultural
products of Ceylon

Foreign Affairs

Books about Ceylon
J. N. de FONSEKA

Shadows on the sea-shore



OCTOBER, 1955

Our Contributors

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CEYLON TODAY

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Archaeology in Ceylon—No. I

W. S. KARUNARATNE

THERE is an innate desire in Man to know the past. Whenever a story regarding a thing which happened centuries ago appears in a newspaper or in a magazine, many read it with great avidity and curiosity. All peoples in the world are anxious to know what their ancestors did in the past and to trace, as far back as possible, their ancestors' "Foot prints on the sands of time". Archaeology which was born as a result of this desire is now a full-fledged science.

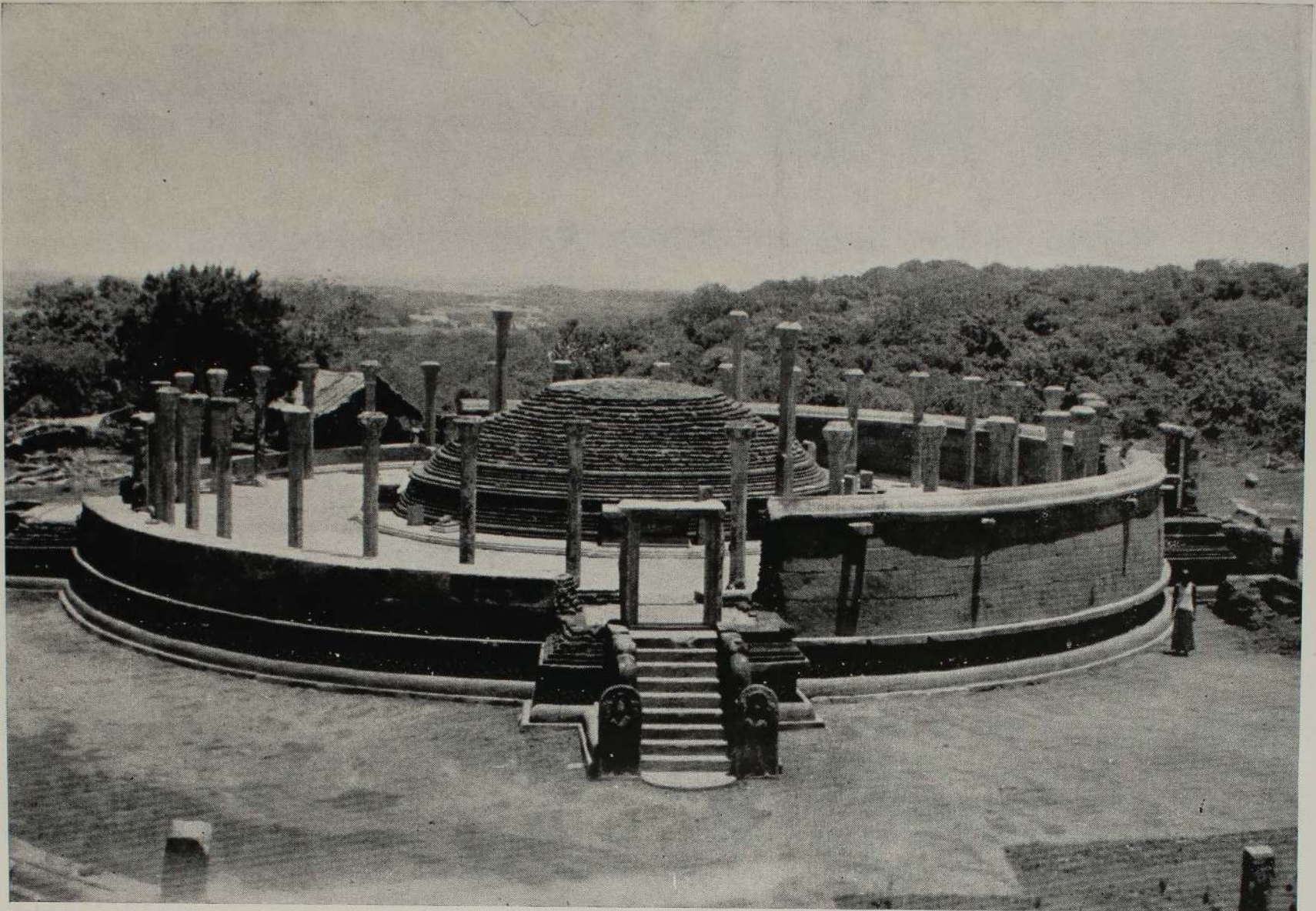
History as well as Archaeology is defined as "A study of the past". Then what is the difference between these two? History is a connected narrative concerning a group of people or a particular thing within a limited time or space. Archaeology is a study of the past based on existing monuments and antique objects. Thus it will be seen that there is much affinity between the two. Archaeological discoveries help to confirm what is already known as History and a knowledge of History is a valuable guide to the Archaeologist. Archaeological work, especially in Ceylon, contributes largely to historical research.

A knowledge of the past is essential for the progress of Man. It is by knowing what happened

before, that one can gain an insight into what will happen in the future. Let us take a few examples. A child will always imitate its elders, and especially in learning the art of speech, it reproduces the sounds produced by them. When a magistrate is called upon to give his verdict, he has to take into consideration judgments given earlier in similar cases. Every nation of the world has had a great fascination for stories of the past. In the stately mansions of Europe bards sang of heroic deeds of by-gone days to the accompaniment of music. Visvamitra who plays the role of the narrator in the great Indian Epic Mahabharata is given the epithet of Puravit, which means, "The knower of the past". When we turn to Pali Literature, there too we learn in the Tipitaka that the Buddha utilized stories from the past to illustrate his discourses. There the Buddha says "*Bhutapubbam bhikkhave desissami*", "O monks, I shall relate to you what happened in the past".

Sources for Research

THERE are two primary sources of antiquarian research. First, there is tradition and literature, and second there is the study of ancient objects and



Tiriya Vatadage

monuments. To the first category belong all that is handed down by tradition and what is recorded in ancient literary works. In the second, are included objects coming within the purview of art, sculpture, painting and the like. In certain countries only one of these two courses may be available for a particular period. In other countries where the art of writing was not known until recent times one has to depend solely on antique objects. With the exception of the discoveries at Mohenjo-daro, Harappa and such places there is very little evidence objectively to study the history of pre-Buddhist India. As most of the works of art belonging to that period have perished, we have to turn to the Vedas and the evidence contained in later works, such as, the

Mahabharata and the Ramayana. Even in Ceylon what we have remaining today comprises objects of stone, bronze and such other non-perishable material. Things made of wood in early times are now lost.

Ancient civilizations of countries like Egypt have been revealed by the systematic study of their monuments. Those who held the belief that the spirit is eternal had the practice of burying with their dead all their paraphernalia and utensils. This custom has come to the aid of the Archaeologist in helping him to build a true picture of times past. Probably due to the influence of Buddhism which lays down that all things are impermanent such burials are not found in Ceylon. In ancient times, the kings of Ceylon did not set

down in permanent record a statement of all their works. If at all they did, that was only in mediaeval times. Therefore, when we come across something which belongs to the ancient period, it has to be examined very carefully before its date could be ascertained. Its size, shape, letters engraved on it, are all to be taken into consideration. One should scrutinize not only the object but also everything else connected with it. When an Archaeologist obtains an old coin he should examine the metal used, its weight, legend and the lettering found on it, &c. He should also find out similar coins of other countries and make a comparative study. The same thing could be said if he were to come across a piece of pottery.

If the complete object could be re-constructed, its shape, the fact whether it was made on the potter's wheel and its decorative art should all come under his scrutiny.

Date of Building

HOW can an archaeologist ascertain the date of an ancient building? If he were to base his judgment solely on what is stated in historical records he will not be quite accurate. A king would have built a stupa during the earliest period of Ceylon history but, kings of later times would have repaired it and re-constructed it several times. Therefore its present-day shape

Upulvan Shrine, Devinuwara





Yapahuwa Palace

could be entirely different from its original. But in the case of an inscription its date could be definitely established with the help of the script and the language. Ascribing an object to a particular era has to be done with great care. In the case of sculpture the evolution of style has to be borne in mind. The drapery, the pose and the material are all important in respect to statues. In the field of excavation and conservation of ancient sites, the service of an architect has to be employed, and surveyors and draughtsmen too have to come to his aid.

Chemistry proves useful in the preservation of works of art. Coins and metal objects sometimes

have to be chemically treated for their proper study. The deterioration of paintings has to be arrested by chemical treatment as in the case of those at Sigiriya. Thus it will be seen that the knowledge gained in all branches of science would, in some way or other, be of service to the Archaeologist as he is dealing with all aspects of the social structure of bygone ages.

Ceylon's historical era begins from the 3rd century B.C. though the Mahavamsa goes back three centuries earlier. The introduction of Buddhism marks the beginning of Ceylon's recorded history and most of the archaeological work done in Ceylon cover sites not earlier in

date than the 3rd century B.C. As regards Ceylon's pre-history comparatively little has been done, the material available being meagre. Stone implements of chert, &c., have been found which belong to the pre-historic era. The dolmen at Padavigampola near Rambukkana is one which belongs to this period. Much progress has been made in other countries in the field of pre-historic archaeology. But Ceylon has a long recorded history of over two millenia so that the material belonging to this period is ample for archaeological work for several decades to come. This material covers the whole range of

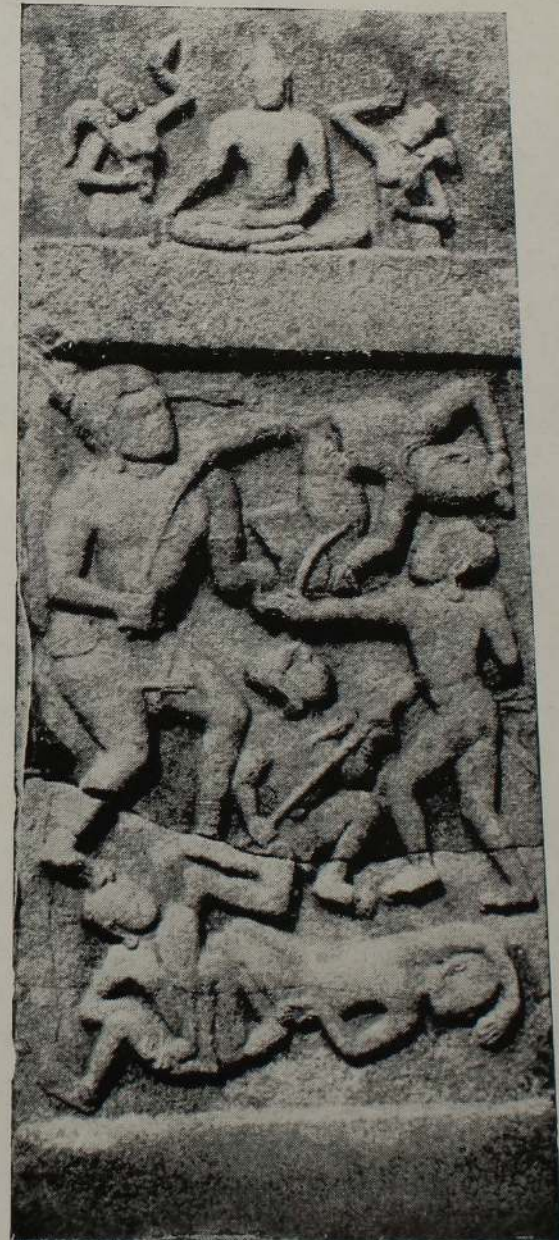
Archaeology in all its divisions of architecture, sculpture, epigraphy, painting and numismatics.

Records of the Mahavamsa

THE existing remains of ancient buildings are not dated in a period anterior to the 3rd century B.C. The Mahavamsa records that Pandukabhaya (circa 437-367 B.C.) founded the city of Anuradhapura, and credits him with the erection of several buildings. No traces of these have been found. The earliest form of building now found in Ceylon can be said to be the Stupa. The construction of



Figure of Vishnu, Kantalai



Fighting Scene (presently at Anuradhapura Museum)



Nandhi from Devinuwara Devale

stupas should logically commence with the introduction of Buddhism. The first stupa, according to the Mahavamsa, is the Thuparama built by Devanampiya Tissa (circa 307–267 B.C.) contemporary of the great Indian Emperor Asoka. The Thuparama was not built in the shape that you see now, for it originally had the shape of a heap of paddy. According to the tradition, the stupas at Girihandu Vehera and Mahiyangana are older than the Thuparama. But no evidence has been found to confirm this. Next to the stupa can be mentioned another type of building which is closely connected with it. That is the Vatadage or the “Round Relic House”. The Vatadage is a form of building which found its fullest expression in Ceylon. The Thuparama is a Vatadage and two

other fine examples are at Madirigiriya and Polonnaruwa. A vatadage serves to cover the stupa and consists of rows of pillars of stone and a domical roof generally of wood. A form of sculptural ornamentation best developed and peculiar to Ceylon is the so-called moonstone, the Sandakadapahana. Examples of the moonstone are found in places outside Ceylon like Nagarjunikonda, it is true, but they are crude when compared with the fine specimens found at Anuradhapura.

The town planning of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Panduvasnuvara, Sigiriya is also a subject for archaeological study ; ramparts, moats, palaces, parks, ponds, &c., come under this study. In addition to secular buildings religious edifices

yield much material of a cultural nature, as those edifices have buried in them ornaments—the offerings of devoted pilgrims. As regards painting, Sigiriya, Mihintale, Mahiyangana, and Polonnaruwa provide a rich field of research.

The great irrigation systems of the ancient Sinhalese are also a fruitful avenue for archaeological research. In the sphere of numismatics, Ceylon has a large collection of coins both of Ceylon and of foreign origin. Early Roman coins have been found in scattered places and hoards of Chinese coins have been found at ancient sites such as Yapahuva.

Finally, a word about Epigraphy which constitutes one of the most important branches of

archaeology in Ceylon. The majority of our epigraphical records are lithic inscriptions, and are found all over the Island. Their date can be deduced from the type of script employed, or from what their contents reveal once they are deciphered. The inscriptions of the Brahmi alphabet which corresponds to that used in most of the inscriptions of Asoka are the earliest. There are inscriptions belonging to Sri Vikrama Rajasinha the last king of Kandy, whose rule ended in the nineteenth century. Thus we have records on stone for nearly two thousand two hundred years. The contents of these inscriptions provide valuable material for the study of the political, cultural and economic development of the Island.

Devinuwara Devale Balustrade (Gajasimha)



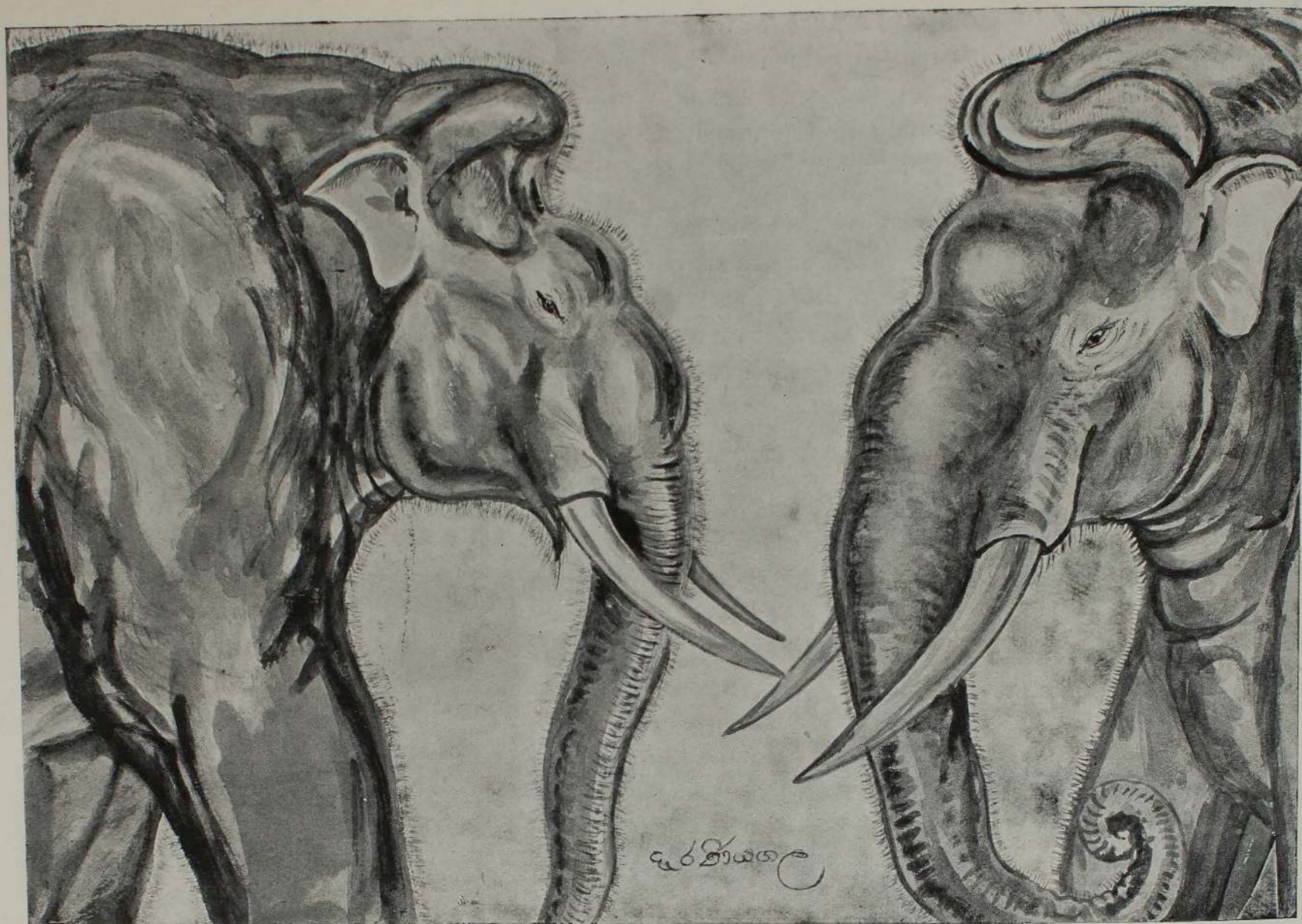


Fig. 1.—A reconstruction of the extinct *Hypselephas hysudricus* by P. Deraniyagala, based upon the skull in the British Museum

All about Elephants

“Some Extinct Elephants, Their Relatives, and the Two Living Species”

By P. E. P. Deraniyagala, Director, National Museums, Ceylon.

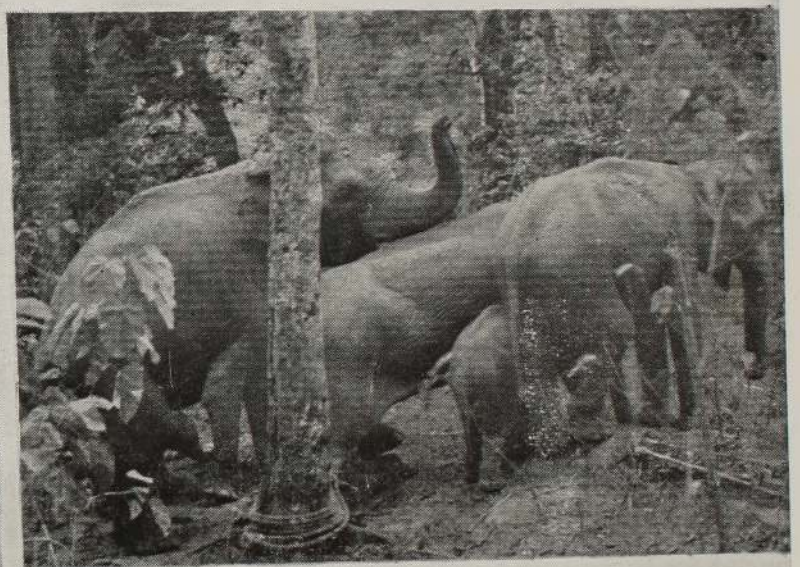
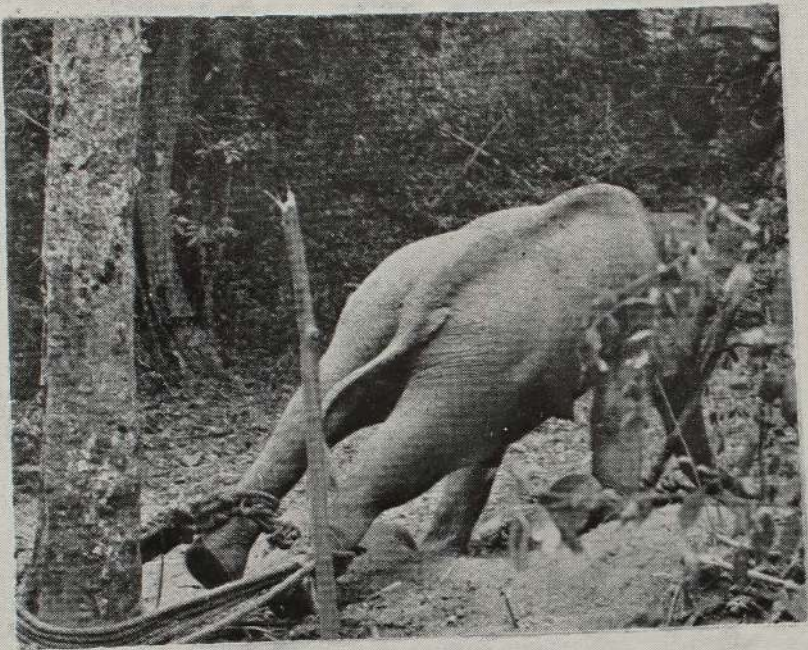
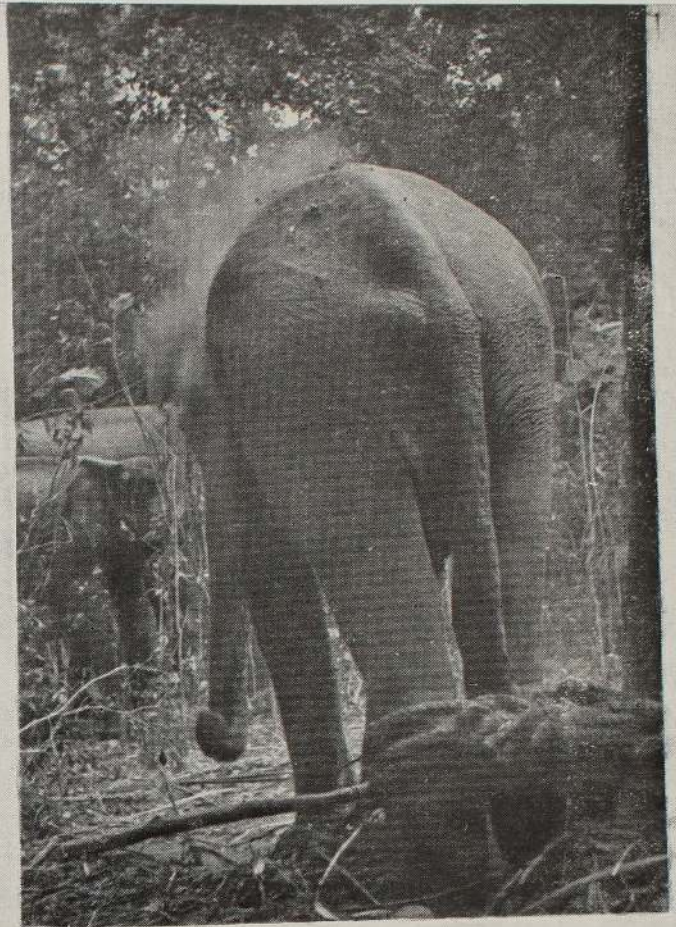
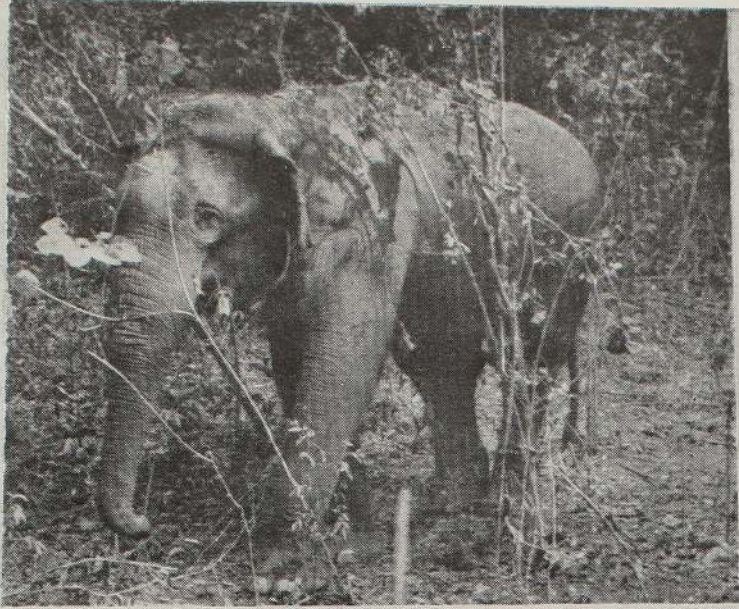
Pp. 151, 48 Plates, and 13 Text-figures. Demy quarto. Colombo Museum, 1955.

Price: Rs. 6. Postage locally, 55 cents.

TO the layman, elephants suggest one species inhabiting Africa and another Southern Asia, but he is unaware that these are only the survivors of a large Order comprising several hundred species that inhabited the earth at various times from about 55,000,000 years ago.

The above publication deals with forty-three members of this Order, the various fossiliferous

areas visited by the author during a fossil-collecting tour by motor truck and on foot as a member of the University of California's African Expedition in 1947 and 1948 from the Libian desert down to the little known Lake Rudolf, a number of new forms named by the author, among which also occur the first hornless rhinoceros known from Africa and a weird-looking periscopic-eyed



Wild elephants in the 1950 Kraal at Panamure



Fig. 2.—The author's narrow escape from a wild elephant in 1954

hippopotamus, both extinct, a number of extinct elephants of Ceylon, India, Southern Asia, Africa, Europe, and America, described with reconstructions (Fig. 1) drawn by the author after examining the fossil skulls in the British and Paris Museums ; while a series of animated sketches of elephants being noosed at the kraal of 1944 (Pl. I) and photographs of African fossiliferous sites, fossils and living elephants illustrate the book.

Apart from a wealth of information regarding these fossils others from the gem-pits of Ceylon are shown to reveal that here old fossils are mixed with younger ones as a result of the displacement by earth movements of fossiliferous strata of different ages.

The most interesting portion of the book, however, is that devoted to *Elephas maximus*,

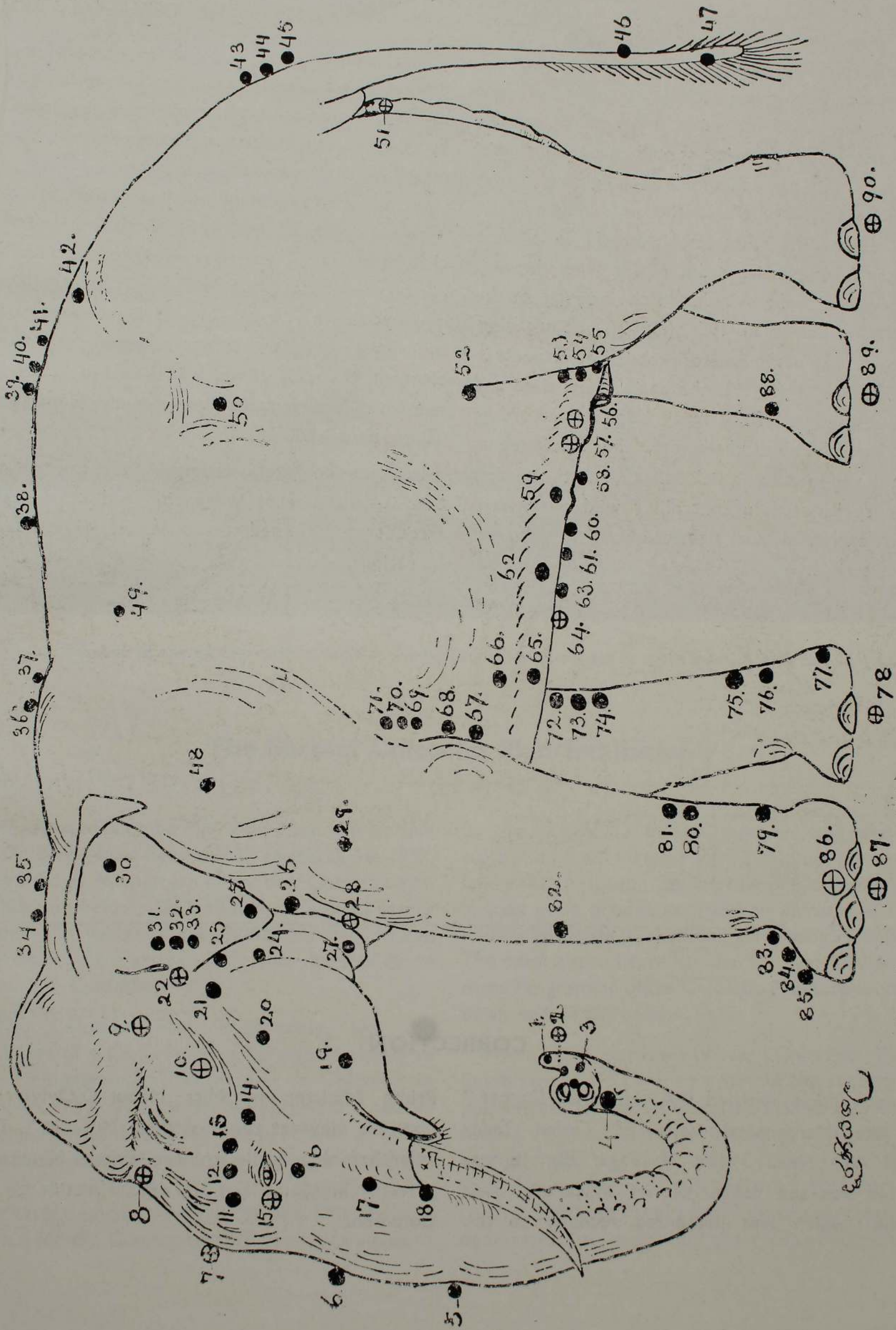


Fig. 2.—The nerve centres goaded by a mahout in controlling an elephant

the elephant of Asia, which the author has discovered to exist as 13 subspecies instead of the 4 that were known until now. The possible manner in which it has spread throughout Asia, details of its habits, its method of fighting its own species, and its diverse methods of killing humans, are dealt with at considerable length. In it is the author's own hairbreadth escape when he was charged by a herd-leader in the swamps of the Maha vili river in 1954 (fig. 2). Its breeding, growth, the nerve centres prodded by mahouts in controlling it (fig. 2), the ancient Sinhalese and Indian systems of classifying elephants according to their various characters, the medicaments employed in treating sick animals, and the charms and spells used in controlling wild ones, have been extracted from a series of ancient palm-leaf manuscripts.

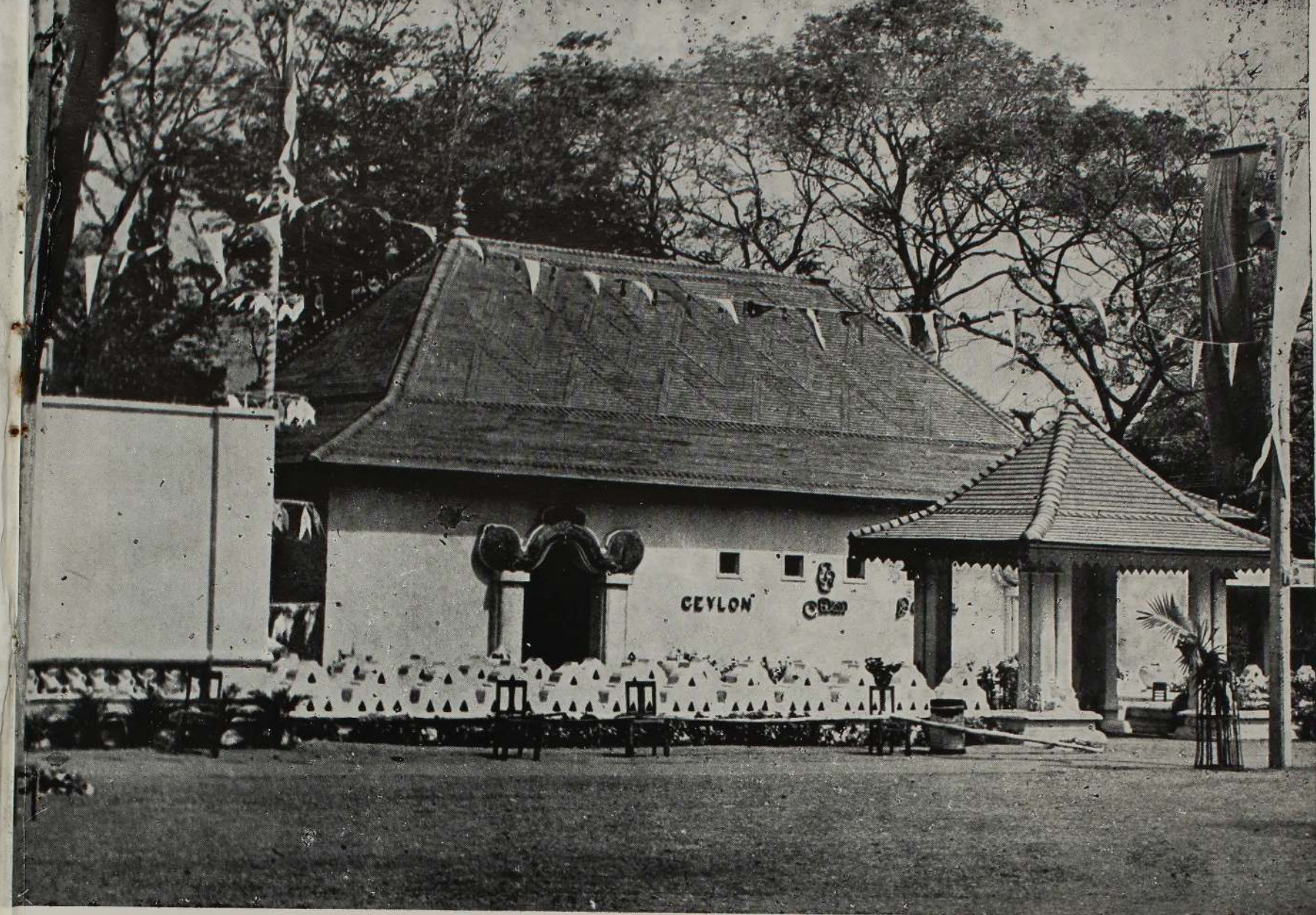
The book also contains descriptions of the different methods of capturing elephants from ancient to modern times, a questionnaire issued by a Dutch Governor to the officers of his elephant establishment, and details of the expenditure incurred in maintaining elephants during the early part of the 19th century. Other interesting chapters deal both with the recently extinct North African elephant which the Carthaginians employed in their battles against the Romans, and the various recently extinct races of the Asian elephant, the chief of which is the large Assyrian one which the Pharaohs hunted in the Euphrates valley about 1,500 B.C.

It is not too great a claim for the book to say that it is the most interesting and up-to-date account yet published on the elephant of Asia and its various relatives.

CORRECTION

IN an article entitled "A Historic Dagger" in the March-April issue of *Ceylon Today* (Vol. IV, Nos. 3 and 4, Page 29), it was stated that the dagger of Sri Wickrema Raja Sinha (which was presented recently to the

Prime Minister by Miss Mabel D'Oyly) "is now on view at the Colombo Museum". The reference was really to the Prime Minister's private museum at his official residence in Colombo.



Front-view of the Ceylon Pavilion, built in Kandyan style, which was put up at the first Colombo Plan Exhibition

The Second Colombo Plan Exhibition

THE second Colombo Plan Exhibition will be held in Colombo from February 16 to March 16, 1957. It will be on the pattern of the first Colombo Plan Exhibition held in 1952, though on a much larger scale. The venue of the Exhibition will be the Havelock Racecourse and the Independence Square in Colombo.

The Colombo Plan, incidentally, was the outcome of a Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth, which met in Colombo in January, 1950. The conference agreed that special attention was needed for the problems of South and South-East Asia, and that the problems could not be solved by the countries of the area alone. The target under the Plan for the first six-year period for the Commonwealth countries included

an increase of 13 million acres in land under cultivation ; an increase of 13 million acres in land under irrigation ; an increase of 6 million tons in food grain production ; and an increase of 1.1 million kilowatts in electrical generating capacity. The total expenditure on the Six-Year Development Programme of the Colombo Plan is expected to exceed £3,000 million.

While the purpose of the Colombo Plan Exhibition of 1952 was to promote the successful implementation of the Colombo Plan and, in that context, to enable the participating countries to demonstrate to each other their respective resources, products and culture, the forthcoming Exhibition will enable those countries to demonstrate to each other the types of economic



The Pavilion of the Republic of Indonesia

Another view of the Ceylon Pavilion



The entrance to the Indian Pavilion





Ceylon girls perform a Kandyan dance



An oriental dance by the students from the North of Ceylon



A group of Balinese dancers. All these pictures were taken during the first Colombo Plan Exhibition

and social developments that have been achieved, the nature of the assistance that has been made available, and the possibilities of future development.

The International Section

THE highlight of the Exhibition in 1957 will, of course, be the International Section which will comprise the national pavilions of the participating governments, including Ceylon. The Governments which have so far accepted the Ceylon Government's invitation to participate in the Exhibition are Australia, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, New Zealand, Pakistan, the United Kingdom (and its South-East Asian territories, viz., Malaya, North-Borneo, Singapore and Sarawak) and Viet Nam. Burma, Canada, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States of America have so far not sent final replies but they are all expected to participate in the Exhibition.

The Ceylon Government Departments' Section will comprise several sections, each representing one of the Ministries under the Government. The Ceylon Government considers that the section will be a fitting and proper opportunity to demonstrate what Ceylon has been able to achieve, during the past 25 years, in responsible government, social welfare and economic progress, under a democratic system and an adult franchise.

Another aspect of the Exhibition will be the Buddhistic Art Exhibition which will display exhibits of art and archaeology from all Buddhist countries, and portray various facets of Buddhism. Then there will be a Cultural Section in which will be included entertainments in the form of music, songs and dances of the participating countries. There will also be an Asian Music and Dance Festival. The performances will take place in an open-air theatre within the Exhibition grounds, which will provide seating accommodation for about 2,000 persons. It is also proposed to hold a

South-East Asian Film Festival as part of the cultural activities of the Exhibition. Another feature will be a Fine Arts (Painting and Sculpture) Exhibition by contemporary artists in Ceylon and other countries. The venue of this exhibition will be the Art Gallery in Colombo.

Science Section

THE Scientific Section at the Exhibition will demonstrate some of the latest scientific developments. There will be working models of atomic nuclei and of applications of atomic energy, television and radar, and also a planetarium, a celestial globe and other astronomical models of educational value.

During the period of the Exhibition, it is proposed to stage various international contests in tennis, cricket, soccer and so on. The Amusement Section will be a special feature for children.

Commercial and industrial firms, both in Ceylon and overseas, will display and sell their products at the Trade and Industries Fair at the 1957 Exhibition, which will have an international flavour and which is expected to be visited by several millions of people from Ceylon and abroad. All nationals of or firms or companies in any country having trade relations with Ceylon are being invited to participate in the Fair. Exhibitors will be entitled to exhibit and sell over the counter or book orders for all kinds of goods except liquor, dangerous materials such as explosives, and other similar goods. The Fair will be open daily, during the period of the Exhibition, from 2 p.m. till midnight.

There will, in addition, be a Cottage Industries' Fair where Ceylonese craftsmen will be allowed to sell various kinds of cottage arts and crafts.

Several committees, consisting of both voluntary and official workers, have been appointed to work out the details of the plans for the various aspects of the Exhibition and these committees have already begun to function.



Stone inscription at Vatadage, Polonnaruwa

The Early History of the Ceylon Railway

WHEN the idea of a railway was first mooted in Ceylon, it met with strong opposition from the public. But today it has become an established means of transport and communication in the Island, and it has been said that "no railway in the East has reached the altitude gained by the Ceylon railway in so short a distance, on a gauge so broad, and with gradients and curves so sharp and steep".

It was Governor Sir Henry Ward who projected the first railway in Ceylon. He himself cut the first sod in 1858 but did not live to see the completion of the line. The history of the Ceylon Railway goes back further to 1845 when the Ceylon Railway Company was provisionally registered in England. The Company provided for a capital of £1 million (in 20,000 shares of £50 each) to build, in the first instance, a line of railway from Colombo to Kandy at an estimated expenditure of £6,000 per mile.

The Prospectus stated that the object of the Company was to introduce railway communication into the Island of Ceylon, which, from its rapidly increasing commerce, had become one of the most important Colonies of Great Britain. The Company was later reconstituted and a Mr. W. T. Droyne and his staff arrived in Ceylon in 1857 to start work on the Ceylon Railway.

The question of how to negotiate the difficult country on the way became a serious engineering problem and all other considerations had to give way here to the physical features which nature had imposed. Mr. Droyne found the starting point, however, already fixed: it was "a convenient spot on the banks of the lake".

On August 3, 1858, at 5 p.m., Sir Henry Ward cut the first sod to mark the commencement of the railway in Ceylon. There was a large gathering present and, according to one newspaper, "Burgher ladies were not wanting; but we

looked in vain for the wives and daughters of the native Chiefs and gentlemen who were present".

Official Photograph

AFTER the ceremony, the people were asked to remain "perfectly still for a few seconds" as Mr. Parking, the official photographer, "had a very important business to perform, no less a business than the production of a picture of a scene which could not be repeated and which was to mark an important event in the history of the Island".

The agreements between the Ceylon Government and the Ceylon Railway Company for the construction of the Colombo-Kandy line were based on Captain Moorsom's estimate of £856,554. But the estimate suddenly rose to £2,214,000 at the hands of Mr. Droyne, the Company's engineer, and (as a result of the consternation caused by the development) the Company went off the field.

Tenders were later called and a Select Committee which examined them was unanimously of opinion that Mr. W. F. Faviell's tender for the execution and maintenance of the line for seven years should be accepted. His figure was £873,039, besides an additional £509,000 which would be needed to meet the cost of the survey, expenditure on rolling stock and so on. In 1863, Mr. Faviell's tender was accepted and ratified by the Ceylon Legislative Council. Mr. Faviell, incidentally, had also opened the first section of the railway in India.

On Monday, October 2, 1865, the section from Colombo to Ambepussa was opened to the public. At 7 a.m. on that day, a train of 10 carriages left with 84 passengers, 69 of whom travelled third-class. The first day's collection was £31-1-11. Passengers were conveyed from Ambepussa to Kandy by coach, until the entire line was opened for traffic in July 1867.



Portrait of H. E. the Governor-General by Gate Mudaliyar
A. C. G. S. Amarasekera

The Annual Exhibition of the Ceylon Society of Arts

THE 58th annual exhibition of the Ceylon Society of Arts was formally declared open on September 7 at the Art Gallery, Colombo, by the Governor-General, His Excellency Sir Oliver Goonetilleke.

Among the outstanding exhibits at the show was a portrait of His Excellency himself. The

painting is the work of Gate-Mudaliyar A. C. G. S. Amarasekera, the veteran Ceylon painter. Here is the conventional official portrait painted with all the technical command of his medium that characterizes the Mudaliyar's work. Though intended to be a "study" for a larger canvas, the

President of the Ceylon Society of Arts, Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, referring to this portrait, said that Mudaliyar Amarasekera "has succeeded in capturing His Excellency's all-conquering magnetism which has made him famous. It was this magnetism that, in the time of our greatest food crisis, launched many thousands of ploughs into action in our paddy-fields so that the spectre of starvation might be driven away. It was the same enchantment that helped us so materially when the Soulbury Commissioners were weighing our claims for Independence".

Another painting on view at the Exhibition was a portrait of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, by David Paynter who, last year, did a portrait of India's Prime Minister, Sri Jawaharlal Nehru.

This magnificent portrait of Sir John is larger than life and fills its canvas elegantly. It has caught the Prime Minister in a benign mood that does not hide his strength; it shows something of his "Lord of the Manor" dignity and assurance, and, as one critic put it, "at his unofficial best—at home". To again use the words of the President of the Ceylon Society of Arts, "here we see Sir John as a warm human personality, full of sympathy and understanding, of exuberant energy and a keen zest for life".

Strongly drawn, with Paynter's sureness of touch, the painting is remarkable for its form and design. The white jodhpurs and fawn coat, in its setting of green relieved by the maroon pullover, makes a satisfying colour scheme. The portrait will be sent to the next exhibition of the Royal

Academy, London, where David Paynter has exhibited his work regularly between 1922 and 1939.

Portrait of The Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, Prime Minister



Minor Agricultural Products of Ceylon

IN addition to the four major crops of the Island, viz., tea, rubber, coconuts and paddy, a number of economic crops which contribute their quota towards the Island's trade are cultivated in areas suitable for them. Over twenty of these products can be listed but only the following, which are exported, need be mentioned: cacao, cinnamon, citronella, cardamoms, cloves, pepper, kapok, tobacco and papain.

There are other crops cultivated mainly in home gardens or chenas which do not find a place in the Island's external trade but which have a ready local market and play a part in the development of cottage industries, e.g., sugar cane, cotton, arecanut, coffee, *kitul*, betel, cashew and fibre plants such as *wetakeiya* (*Pandanus foetidus*), *hewan pan* (*Cyperus dehiscent*), *indi* (*Phoenix zeylanica*), &c. In this article reference will be made primarily to products coming under the former category as they are the most likely to contribute towards the Island's economy.

With the present demands made on the Department of Agriculture for concentrated attention on food crops, little time has necessarily been devoted by its research staff to the study of the problems relating to these relatively minor agricultural products. Government has, however, realized that this state of affairs must be remedied and has directed that more attention should, in the future, be directed to their study. As a first step a Minor Agricultural Products Sub-Committee of the Board of Agriculture was formed to survey the position in regard to these crops and to determine what steps should be taken in order to rehabilitate the industries which they give rise to. This Committee, with the Chief Research Officer of the Department of Agriculture as its Convener, has already set to work and detailed the position in regard to two of these crops, viz., cacao and coffee.

It is apparent that surveys of this nature are of considerable importance as they furnish data

which are likely to lead to quick results so far as the rehabilitation of the particular industries are concerned. An example in point is the investigational work carried out by the Industries Department and referred to in the report on the distillation of the oil. By the adoption of a simple modification in technique a marked increase in oil output was obtained. Another example relates to the manuring of the crop in regard to which it was conclusively demonstrated that by the judicious application of fertilizers yields of oil are very appreciably increased and more than compensated for the extra expenditure incurred. These surveys also draw attention to any defects in the trade of particular commodities which may be existent and suggest how they can be rectified. It has been agreed that adulteration, which is widely prevalent in this industry, can be reduced, if not entirely eliminated, and grades of oil well defined by the adoption of a system of certification.

Sub-Committee's Recommendations

THE Sub-Committee in its study of the cacao crop has made a valuable contribution to the development of the industry by recommending to Government that areas suited for cacao and which are now under marginal or sub-marginal rubber should be replanted with the crop under the Rubber Rehabilitation Subsidy Scheme. The proposal has been accepted by Government and a sum of approximately one million rupees per annum is to be allocated for underplanting rubber lands of elevation 1,200 feet and over in the Kandy, Matale and Badulla districts with cacao. It is proposed to subsidize the inter-planting of cacao in these rubber areas at the rate of Rs. 350 per acre. The Committee has also demonstrated its usefulness in indicating which of the numerous crops referred to should or should not be developed on a plantation scale. In the case of coffee, for example, it has clearly indicated that in view of

the inability of Ceylon to compete with foreign coffee-producing countries, the cultivation of this crop for export would be of no advantage. It was, however, the view that coffee should be cultivated as a home garden crop in the villages and that marketing facilities should be improved. The Committee has also recommended that the guaranteed purchase scheme which exists for coffee should be continued and that Government should consider the imposition of an import tariff on the commodity as local production increases. In these various ways the Committee has demonstrated its balanced, sound, and practical outlook, and its further deliberations should be of the greatest value to our research workers, the industry concerned, and to Government.

Importance of Cacao

TO pass on to some of the crops themselves. Mention should first be made of the growing economic importance of cacao as a crop both for cultivation on a plantation scale and in peasant holdings. With the impetus given by the high prices prevalent for the commodity since the Korean War—the present average is about Rs. 180 per cwt.—there has been a very marked increase in the extent cultivated with the crop, largely as an inter-crop between rubber. The present extent of cacao in the Island is estimated at about 50,000 acres, but with the subsidized cacao replanting scheme another 25,000 acres would be brought under cultivation during the next ten years. There is reason to believe, however, that the prospect for cacao will remain bright in the near future because of the wide gap between world supply and demand which is not likely to be bridged for quite a long time because of the high incidence of pests and diseases in the major producing areas where most of the plantations are senile owing to failure to replant adequately during the 1934–38 depression. Ceylon cacao which is of the *Trinitario* type has a steady demand because of its fine flavour, and as it constitutes only about 0.4 per cent. of total world production, there is no danger that increasing the

extent under cultivation locally by 50 per cent. will upset the supply position and influence prices.

Tobacco

A crop which has been closely connected with the economic life of the people of the Jaffna Peninsula is tobacco, where for several decades chewing tobacco has been grown widely for the Travancore market. With the imposition of restrictions on the import of this commodity by India, there has been a decrease in the production of this variety of tobacco and greater attention is being paid to the cultivation of other crops like onions and chillies. The cultivation of cigarette tobacco is also gradually being extended in the Peninsula but the extent cultivable is limited by soil and other factors. Cigarette tobacco has, however, made considerable headway in other parts of the Island and there are today about 5,000 acres under this crop due to the encouragement given to its cultivation by the Department, the fixing of fair, guaranteed prices, and the provision of facilities by cigarette manufacturing companies. The report of the Commission to inquire into the tobacco industry in the Island which has just published its report as Sessional Paper XIV of 1955, is commended for study by those who are in any way connected with the industry. The main recommendation of this Commission is the creation under a Tobacco Industry Act of a Tobacco Board which will control the production, distribution, sale and marketing of tobacco and its products, and be the adviser to Government on matters relating to the industry. With the creation of some such Board there should be a marked advance in the development of the tobacco industry in the Island.

Pepper and Papain

A crop with distinct possibilities is pepper, of which approximately half the total production of about 5,000 tons is exported. Prices rose to a very high level in 1951 owing to a fall in world supplies but have now reached a point when

agronomic research is called for in order to ensure production at economic prices. The small grower is, however, protected by the operation of the Agricultural Products Regulation Act. New methods for the vegetative propagation of the crop are proving quite successful.

A review of this nature must take note of cinnamon of which there are about 35,000 acres in the country and of cardamons, of which there are about 6,000 acres. But little investigational work has been done on these products locally and their study would doubtless repay the time and attention paid to them.

Ceylon was the principal producer of papain not very long ago but in recent years production has increased in East Africa and prices have dropped very markedly. Here again adulteration has been responsible for the fall in the quality of the product exported and Government has, therefore prescribed certain standards of purity which papain for export should conform to before the necessary permits are issued.

There is every prospect of a successful cane sugar industry being established in the Island if the project is tackled with adequate preparation and care. Experimental work carried out at the Polonnaruwa Station has shown that high yields of cane of good quality could easily be obtained by adequate cultivation and manuring.

Kapok

Reference should now be made to a promising dry zone and semi-dry zone crop, viz., kapok for which there is scope for appreciable development in the Island. This crop should respond to good cultivation, and early agronomic investigational work on it is called for. A selection of kapok has been imported from Indonesia and its cultivation is being extended. There is a good export trade in the commodity but care has to be taken that quality standards are maintained. A Committee appointed by Government recommended the adoption of suitable standards but their recommendation has yet to be implemented.

It is clear from this brief survey that there are great possibilities in the development of the minor agricultural products of the Island. With the establishment of a Rice Research Institute in the Department of Agriculture with its own staff, the other research sections of the Department will have the time and opportunity to investigate some of the problems connected with these minor products. There is little doubt that in a comparatively short period results of considerable value should accrue from these investigations and thus appreciably increase the importance of the minor crops in the country and bring greater profits to those engaged in their cultivation.

(Adapted from the "Tropical Agriculturist" of April-June, 1955.)

Foreign Affairs

THE Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, left Ceylon by air on October 25 on his tour of Australia, New Zealand and Thailand. He was accompanied by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs, Mr. G. de Soyza, the Official Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. P. Nadesan; and by his Private Secretary, bodyguard and valet.

In a statement shortly before he emplaned, Sir John said that he had accepted the invitations of the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and Thailand to visit their countries, because he was firmly convinced there was no substitute for personal contacts in the promotion of good international relations. He said that he realised that more than ever during his last tour of several countries, which he did at the end of 1954. That tour gave him the opportunity of meeting leaders, Government officials and the ordinary folk of the countries he visited, and he learned more from it than he could ever have done from sources ordinarily available to him.

No Strangers

SIR John continued: "Australia and New Zealand are, of course, no strangers to Ceylon. They are, like ourselves, members of the Commonwealth family, they have been extremely generous to us in the aid they have given us under the Colombo Plan, and our relations with them have always been close and cordial. It is only right, therefore, that we should try to preserve and strengthen our friendships with them.

"Thailand and Ceylon are both Buddhist countries and our relations with one another go back several centuries. With the passing of Ceylon under Colonial rule, our relations with Thailand, as with other countries, had necessarily to be modified, although I am happy to say, we have been able to preserve

our religious associations with each other. Now that we are free again, there is no impediment in the way of our developing the closest ties with Thailand, and I am confident that the people of Ceylon desire this as much as I do".

Took Gifts

SIR John took with him over a hundred silver ornaments as gifts to heads of the various States that he is visiting, as well as to other distinguished persons in those countries.

For the King of Thailand, Sir John took with him a magnificent 14 in. high replica of the shrine room of the Temple of the Tooth, made in silver with gold and ivory carving. For the Prime Minister of Australia and the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Sir John took as gifts two silver caskets with ancient Ceylon motifs and greetings.

Newspaper's Comment

IN an editorial the day prior to his departure, the "Morning Times" said: "When the Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, leaves for Australia tomorrow, he will take with him greetings from the people of Ceylon to very good neighbours. This will not, of course, be Sir John's first visit to that country. He went there in 1948, when he was Minister of Transport. But it will be his first visit since he became Prime Minister".

"Relations between Ceylon and Australia", continued the editorial, "have been always cordial. Not only are both countries members of the same Commonwealth 'club' but their peoples share a love of cricket and racing. Australia is also, and to an increasing extent, a very good trading partner of Ceylon".

Referring to the C-Plan aid Ceylon has received from Australia, the "Morning Times" said: "We

cannot forget, too, that it was from Australia's representative at the Colombo Conference of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers in 1950, Sir Percy Spender, that there emanated the idea of the plan (subsequently known as the Colombo Plan) for the giving of economic aid to the countries of South and South-East Asia. Ceylon has received generous technical and financial aid from Australia in recent years in several fields of activity".

Visit of Lord Home

THE British Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, Lord Home, arrived in Ceylon by air on October 14, in the course of a tour of Commonwealth countries. The first to greet Lord Home on his arrival here was Lady Home, who flew here from U. K. earlier to join her husband on the rest of his tour.

Among the others who greeted Lord Home at the airport were the U. K. High Commissioner in Ceylon, His Excellency Sir Cecil Syers; the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence and External Affairs, Mr. V. Nalliah; Ceylon's High Commissioner in U. K., His Excellency Sir Claude Corea, who was in the Island on holiday; the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs, Mr. G. de Soyza, and several other officials.

Interviewed by pressmen shortly after his arrival, Lord Home said that during his stay here he would discuss matters of common interest with Ceylonese Ministers. He said that no special significance was attached to his visit to Ceylon. The object was to meet the Prime Minister and the people, to see the country, and to get first-hand information about conditions in Ceylon.

Later in an interview with a Press representative, Lord Home said that there were difficulties about the proposals so far suggested for the admission of new members to the United Nations, but Ceylon could count on the support of the United Kingdom. He added earlier that the U. K. had been all along very keen to see Ceylon admitted to the United Nations as they

believed that countries should be admitted individually on their merits. They should, therefore, do all they could to help Ceylon.

Referring to the extension of the Colombo Plan, Lord Home said that the U. K. had always been a strong supporter of the Colombo Plan from its inception. He added that the U. K. delegation would certainly be in favour of continuation of the Colombo Plan, because they felt that it had done so much good and had proved such a helpful medium for granting aid to South-East Asian countries.

Lord and Lady Home in the course of their tour of Ceylon visited the University of Ceylon and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya, the ruined city of Polonnaruwa, and the ancient rock fortress at Sigiriya.

Mr. Lester Pearson in Ceylon

THE Hon. Lester B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, arrived in Ceylon by air on October 14. Mr. Pearson, who was en route to the meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee in Singapore, was accompanied by his wife and eight Canadian newspapermen, besides his Private Secretary and an official of the Canadian Department of External Affairs.

Interviewed by pressmen shortly after his arrival, Mr. Pearson said that he was confident that the member-countries of the Colombo Plan would agree in Singapore that week to extend the Plan for a further period.

Mr. Pearson said that there had been suggestions that the Plan should be extended for four, five, or six years. A definite decision would be taken by the Consultative Committee. Commenting on the work of the Plan during the past five years, Mr. Pearson said it had proved very useful by providing mutual aid. He indicated that he was carrying certain proposals for the reorganization of the Plan. He would disclose those proposals at the meeting in Singapore.

Mr. Pearson dined with the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, at "Temple Trees" the same night, and resumed his journey to Singapore the following morning.

Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, 1956

THE Prime Minister of the United Kingdom has recently been in communication with the Prime Minister of Ceylon and the Prime Ministers of the other Commonwealth countries about a suitable time for the next meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers, and it has now been agreed that a meeting should take place in London about midsummer 1956.

The Government of Ceylon has greatly welcomed this opportunity for a further consultation with the Prime Ministers of other Commonwealth countries.

Finance Minister returns from World Bank Conference

THE Minister of Finance, the Hon. M. D. H. Jayawardane, returned to Ceylon on October 9 after attending the World Bank Conference in Istanbul and visiting the United Kingdom and France.

Interviewed by pressmen, he said that local commodity prices might be adversely affected by measures now contemplated by the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. R. A. Butler. The proposed measures were disclosed by Mr. Butler in the course of the two-day meeting of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers, which followed the World Bank Conference.

Mr. Jayawardane also said that some Commonwealth countries giving aid under the Colombo Plan might find it difficult to continue doing so to the same extent as hitherto, owing to their own balance-of-payments difficulties.

England's present financial position, he continued, also precluded her from granting any

assistance by way of loans and it would therefore be necessary to investigate foreign sources of financial aid or find the money in this country. He added that the discussions he had with representatives of other countries envisaged the possibility of obtaining the money elsewhere, if necessary.

While in Istanbul, the Finance Minister was able to arrange with the senior vice-president of the Manufacturers' Trust Company for the company to participate in the loan of 19.1 million dollars granted by the World Bank to Ceylon for completing stage 2A of the Laxapana Hydro-Electric Scheme by purchasing the first five maturities of this loan.

Mr. Jayawardane has negotiated with the U. K. Treasury for a very competent senior Inspector of Taxes to come here to re-organize the Income Tax Department. This official is due to arrive in Ceylon shortly.

While in France, the Finance Minister called on the French Finance Minister and the Chairman of the National Bank of Commerce and Industry, which, he said, was prepared to help Ceylon's development programmes by affording long-term credit.

A prospective manager for the Development Finance Corporation was interviewed by Sir Arthur Ranasingha, Governor of the Central Bank, while Sir Arthur was in Istanbul. He said that the selection would be made after consultation with the Prime Minister. The World Bank, he said, was giving all the assistance it could for the establishment of the Development Finance Corporation, and had agreed to an initial loan of Rs. 10 million, if necessary.

Prime Minister opens W. A. Y. Centre

THE Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, opened on October 11 the Centre for advanced study and training of the World Assembly of Youth at "Aloka", Bandaragama.

Sir John in the course of his speech said that it was Ceylon's privilege that the sponsors of the training centre had selected this country for the training of the youth of the world.

The Prime Minister said : "We are living in two different worlds today. One is the dictatorial world where we are told what to do, and the other the Free World where we listen to think and act and be friendly with each other".

Mr. Rolf Lynton, Director of the Centre, said that the Centre represented the aspirations of the young people all over the free world.

Earlier, the Prime Minister arrived at the Centre by boat across the scenic lake Bolgoda. Representatives of twenty nations carrying their respective flags led the procession from the lake-side to the centre.

Ceylon at International Rubber Study Group

CEYLON was represented at the Conference of the International Rubber Study Group, which was held in Monrovia, Liberia, towards the middle of October.

The Ceylon delegation consisted of Mr. B. Mahadeva, Rubber Commissioner ; Mr. P. H. C. Silva, M. P. for Maskeliya ; and Mr. S. C. A. Nanayakkara, Commercial Assistant of the Department of Commerce.

Last year the talks were held in Colombo, and at the end of it Liberia announced to be host at this year's conference.

International Seminar on Public Libraries

CEYLON is participating in the International Seminar on the Development of Public Libraries in Asia, which commenced in New Delhi in early October.

The Seminar was sponsored by the UNESCO. The Ceylon delegate was Mr. D. C. G. Abeywickrema, Librarian of the Colombo Municipal Public Library.

The purpose of the Seminar is to study the principal library problems in Asia and to draft plans and proposals for the development of public library services in Asia, particularly in connection with fundamental education. Twenty-one countries have been invited to the Seminar.

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Geiger first visited Ceylon in 1895, when he was Professor of Indo-Germanic Philology at Erlangen University. Later he became Professor of Indian and Iranian Philology at Munich. His interest in Ceylon has been immense as will be seen from his writings, and this country owes him a great debt of gratitude. He died in 1943, and will best be remembered as the Translator of the *Mahavamsa*.)

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