

The Ceylankam



The Journal of the
CEYLON SOCIETY
of AUSTRALIA

This issue is
dedicated to the memory of
Founding Member of the CSA
MIKE UDABAGE

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Keeping Our Heritage Alive

(Founded in 1997)

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How to become a Member of the CSA

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

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

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(Pensioners & Students in Australia A\$20).

From the Editor...

The 52nd issue of journal reaches your letter box on perhaps a note of sadness at the recent passing of stalwart and founding member of the CSA, Mike Udabage (as well as three of our other members namely, Vernon Kelly, Lalin Fernando and, as we go to press, David Parker).

As many of us are aware The Ceylankan was held in high regard by Mike. He tagged it as the flagship of the society and the 'glue' that binds all members scattered throughout the world. He was dedicated to the journal's uninterrupted publication and the setting of higher standards. Since I became editor, I have received, unfailingly with every issue, his acknowledgement stating that he enjoyed the read from cover to cover, with a word of encouragement to "keep it up".

Nothing would please Mike more than knowing the journal will faithfully leave the press quarter after quarter, growing in quality and maturity at the same time.

This, no doubt, is only possible because of our contributors. Your editor is privileged to have an enthusiastic editorial team and critical readership and a most generous band of contributors, both long standing and new.

Our Readers Write column is turning out to be a forum of discussion as it should be and our discerning readership is to be admired and encouraged for that.

Some of the contributors to this issue have submitted their work at short notice. Victor Melder from Melbourne responded with an article recording the contribution of three generations (with the fourth just emerging) of a Sri Lankan family to the Melbourne gemology and jewellery trade. Former Lobby Correspondent, Parliamentary Reporter and journalist E.C.T.Candappa brings back to life a galaxy of colourful personalities who were giants among parliamentarians in the early days of Ceylon/ Sri Lanka Parliament. He evokes a lot of nostalgia. More nostalgia is on offer from Neville Jayaweera – former Civil Servant and Director General of Broadcasting (now domiciled in the UK) who writes from first-hand knowledge on "The Dudley Senanayake I knew" – portraying little known facets of a gentleman politician. Neville has given The Ceylankan first rights to publish an extract from a forthcoming book and this will come to you in two instalments.

While we conclude Joe Simpson's saga on the wicked ways of Nicholas Gauthier Gould, Thiru Arumugam writes on Robert Knox – A Postscript, Vama Vamadevan highlights an unusual hobby of King Sri Rajasinghe II – that of 'collecting' human captives and Shelagh Goonewardene shares her poetry with us.

So dear reader, sit back and enjoy!

About the Ceylon Society of Australia

The CSA is a non-profit organisation, incorporated in Australia. Its main objectives are to foster, promote and develop interest in the cultural heritage of Sri Lanka, especially the post-medieval period when this country was first exposed to, what we now call, globalisation. Apart from publishing the journal – **The Ceylankan** which has attracted much international appreciation – the Society holds meetings quarterly in Sydney, Melbourne and

Colombo. Most importantly, it is non-political and non-partisan and studiously steers clear of political and similar controversial issues. CSA is not a formal, high profile Society but rather, a gathering of like-minded people, open to receiving and imparting new ideas, who would enjoy a quarterly meeting in reasonably modest and intimate surroundings. The Colombo Chapter caters to CSA members in and passing through Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lankan public! Likewise, the Melbourne Chapter covers members and others residing in and visitors to Victoria.

Our Readers Write

The Rentons of Middleton (I)

Dear Editor,

In the article above (Journal 51, August 2010) it was stated that the Mount Lavinia Hotel was originally built by Sir Edward Barnes, Governor of Ceylon. This is incorrect as the original building which is now the Mount Lavinia Hotel was built by Governor Sir Thomas Maitland (1805-1812) as he was not pleased living at Kings House, Fort. Sir Edward Barnes (1824-1831) lived at Kings House which was in disrepair and spent 57,000 Rix Dollars in repairing it and Maitland's home in Mount Lavinia before he married, at the age of 48, Miss Fawkes of Yorkshire who was known to have lavish parties at Kings House, Fort.

A statue of Sir Edward Barnes was erected in front of Kings House in 1847 as he was an excellent administrator and a friend of the people and is still there I believe to this day.

BRAEBOURNE EDEMA

Source: *The Presidents House Dr K.D.G. Wimalaratne* - July 2006

The Rentons of Middleton (II)

If you refer to Page 363 of the book *Tombstones and Monuments of Ceylon* by John Penry Lewis -1913, the following appears in reference to R.B. Downall: "Born 29 July 1843 died 5 December 1888. Aged 45 years. He was member of Council representing the planters. The present Grand Hotel grew out of what once was known as Barnes Hall, a bungalow put up by Lieut-General Sir Edward Barnes... It was he who selected Mount Lavinia for residence and put up the building which is now the hotel there. But the Imperial Government was at him for heavy expenditure over bricks and mortar and his energies were severely handicapped. In course of time, Barnes Hall changed hands and went to Mr R.B. Downall ... a wealthy man, who was, in the palmy days of coffee, visiting agent of Mr George Wall's estates"

Lewis was a renowned and highly regarded antiquarian, but is it possible that he was mixing up Queens Hotel, Mount Lavinia with Queens Hotel, Nuwara Eliya? The latter seems more likely a place for a coffee planter of the 19th century like Downall to invest in rather

than by the sea in the Western Province. This matter certainly merits further investigation and I hope we can all delve into this further and come up with more conclusive evidence.

- HUGH KARUNANAYAKE

Hugh further clarifies: I met up with Mahinda de Alwis who was visiting from Melbourne recently and we took the opportunity to examine some of the issues arising from Mr Edema's letter to the editor of *The Ceylankan* asserting that it was Governor Maitland who was responsible for the construction of the building which is now Mount Lavinia Hotel and not Governor Barnes as stated by Mahinda in his article which appeared in the last issue (Journal #51). We found in the *Ceylon Gazetteer* by Simon Casie Chetty published in 1834 a reference to Galkissa as follows "Galkissa, a fine village situated on the road to Caltura, seven miles south east from Colombo. Sir Thomas Maitland rendered it a place of importance, by making it his country residence, and erecting a bungalow called Mount Lavinia. This building was **razed** by Sir Edward Barnes, and a magnificent house (superior in appearance to any other in the island) erected on its site, in which he gave splendid entertainment to the society of Colombo previous to his departure for Bengal in 1831." H.A.J. Hulugalle writing in the *Times of Ceylon Annual* 1961 in an article entitled "Fabulous Barnes" supports the statement by Casie Chetty who wrote his book three years after the departure of Barnes from Ceylon. Hulugalle quoting another writer (name not mentioned) wrote: "Sir Edward Barnes lived more luxuriously than a Park Lane millionaire. He furnished himself with residences all over the island. He built for the use of the Governor, Barnes Hall in Nuwara Eliya, the Pavilion at Kandy, what is now the Mount Lavinia Hotel, and the Ambepussa and Ragama resthouses". There is therefore no doubt that the building which is today the Mount Lavinia Hotel was constructed originally by Governor Barnes and not Sir Thomas Maitland. The location of Barnes Hall, the building which was purchased by R.B. Downall in later years, as conjectured in my response to Mr Edema is in Nuwara Eliya. J.P. Lewis, writing almost 80 years after the departure of Barnes from Ceylon, obviously had erred when he referred to Barnes Hall as located in Mount Lavinia. Barnes Hall which was purchased by Downall became, in later years, after considerable alterations, the Grand

Hotel, Nuwara Eliya. The Centenary Volume to commemorate 100 years of the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club published in 1989 clearly bears out this fact.

Your letter has helped us clarify two issues (identifying the builder of the Mount Lavinia Hotel and the location of Barnes Hall) and in the process we have discovered that two of our eminent writers viz J.P.Lewis and Dr K.D.G. Wimalaratne have erred in their findings relating to the building which is now the Mount Lavinia Hotel. Mahinda was quite pleased with the results of our joint research and I trust this lays to rest any doubts that you may have entertained about the origin of the Mount Lavinia Hotel.

(It is heartening to note continuing interest shown by our letter writers in seeking the facts. Critical reading habits are encouraging - Ed.)

California calling!

Dear Editor

Let me introduce myself as a member of CSA for almost ten years. I have also written a couple of articles for The Ceylankan and must say I enjoy every issue. The stories bring back great memories of our fair isle that I left in January 1946 at a very young age.

I happened to go through some of the old issues today and reread the 'Burgher Resettlement' article by Bradman Don in the August 2009 issue. I would like to get in touch with him as our family lived next door to his parents - Dick and Nellie Don, in Wellawatte, back in the late 30s/early 40s. I think Brad was a baby at the time.

I would be most grateful if you get his permission to pass on his e-mail address to me. As a fan of Don Bradman myself, I also watched him play once, I may have a story to tell Brad, and reminisce on the friendship his parents extended to me in my growing up years.

I am also thinking of writing an article for the next issue on the subject of 15 Commissioned Officers of the Ceylon Engineers, (I was a 2nd Lieutenant at the time) to an Engineer Officers Training School (EOTS) in India back in 1944 for six months, and our activities there. I also have a B&W picture taken at the EOTS with names of all the Officers, 2nd Lieutenant to Captain that may be of interest to your readers. I hope some of these buddies of mine may still be living in Australia

66 years later or their siblings who may be living recognise them.

Incidentally, my grandfather, the late Lt. Col. B.L.Drieberg OBE, was Commanding Officer of the Ceylon Engineers.

Please advise me whether I could send you the MS and would like to know the deadline to have it on your desk. Thank you kindly.

(I may also surprise you with something for "Meals Ammi Made.")

JUSTIN DRIEBERG

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(Thank you Justin for writing from sunny California. Looking forward to your literary contributions - Ed.)

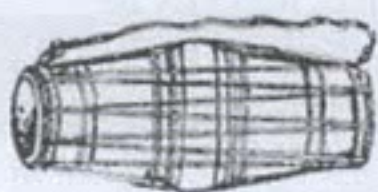
Harold Holt's support

On reading my article *The Burgher Settlement League* (see J47 – August 2009), several readers, including my brothers Terry and Norman, asked me about the role Harold Holt, the then Minister of Immigration in the Menzies cabinet, had played in the Australian government's recognition of the League; an important aspect I had neglected to mention in the article. When Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies told my dad Richard: "Mr Don, the Burghers of Ceylon can come and live in Australia at any time," Mr Holt assured my dad saying that he would do everything possible to help the burghers of Ceylon to emigrate to Australia in spite of the White Australia existing at the time.

– BRADMAN DON

Your views are valuable!

Do you have a point of view to share with our readers? Can you shed some new light on a topic discussed? Is there anything you like or dislike published here and have something constructive to offer about it? Then express your opinion in the Letters column. Please keep them brief, no more than 400 words preferably. Letters may be edited because of length and/or content.



‘Mukulu’ or ‘Kekulu’?

At the Colombo Chapter meeting of July 17, Sirilal Perera presented a talk on Thala Sastra of the Kandyan drum music and wrote the synopsis published in J51 (page 24). At the end of the talk a member of Sirilal's team, Ms Venuri Perera recited a verse in Sinhala, written by a young girl of King Narendrasinghe's harem, to demonstrate the C**/O***double beat. In her lament the harem girl says she was plucked from the safe haven of a village as a nubile lass with “kekulu” (flower bud) breasts to be introduced to the passions and pleasures on the inner court of the King. In the verse she pines and yearns for the King Narendrasinghe and says : “Oh! if thou the powerful King Narendrasinghe not come tonight; who can I set eyes on to soothe these wanton breasts of mine?”

An interesting discussion has arisen as to the accuracy of the English translation as published in the synopsis. **Chulie de Silva** points out that: “I am not in agreement with the English translation, specially the last bit of the erotic verse of the harem girl. I am not a Sinhala scholar but my own interpretation is slightly different. No doubt the verse in Sinhala is the plaintive cry of a young harem girl. It cleverly uses two alliterative adjectives to describe her breasts – “Kekulu” comparing them to flower buds (colloquial) and “Mukulu” which when used as an adjective means hard . “Mukulu “ is plural of mukula and is an opening bud but also is the body soul, spirit which could also be interpreted as wanton laughter as in “mukulu sina.”

Sirilal responds: “Thanks for keeping me informed and trying to improve the translation . But I presented a copy of this to my Sinhala teacher Arisen Ahubudu and he didn't seem to see a mistake . The word mukul is used twice in the verse. I agree that it could have two meanings. If we use the meaning hard it might not mean much at the second instance of usage.”

Chulie says: “That's what I was trying to say, in the second instance mukulu I think means “wanton.” Pendulous is hanging -- not what I would associate with a harem girl with mukulu

and kekulu breasts. I agree Arisen Ahubudu is a Sinhala authority but maybe lacks my imagination.

We leave it to you, the reader, to tell us what your views are as briefly as you can.

Webmaster wanted



Members may be aware the CSA has its own website and is now looking for a member with the necessary aptitude and know-how to undertake the role as its webmaster. The position will be voluntary and a labour of love. The person we are seeking will need to have his/her own PC, software and internet service. Some knowledge of community type websites, familiarity with HTML and an ability to do simple graphics will be appreciated. It is essential to set aside sufficient time for a firm commitment to maintain and periodically update the CSA website.

This is an ideal opportunity for the appointee to interact closely with a wide membership of Sri Lankan scholars, intellectuals and others from across the globe.

If you have the dedication and the drive to undertake this important role please email the editor and include a brief resume.

CORRECTION

Gremlins got the better of us in the August 2010 issue of J51 and our apologies go to (a) Justin Visser for our omission of his name as author of his moving tribute to the late Pat Williams, his much-loved grandfather; (b) Bill Mackie for the incorrect spelling of his surname in the byline of his concluding article on Lionel Wendt; and, (c) Mahinda de Alwis who was referred to as Mahinda de Silva in our editorial. Any embarrassment or inconvenience caused to our contributors is greatly regretted.

The Hamid dynasty in Australia by VICTOR MELDER

The Hamid family has long been connected with Gemology in Australia and to this day, remain a respected name in the industry. Very few realise that the Hamid's originated from Ceylon and have been residents of Melbourne for over a 100 years.

Casim 'Charlie' Abdul Hamid, who was born in Galle, left Ceylon in 1898 at the age of 16 accompanied by his cousin 'Prince' Salih to seek their fortunes overseas. They travelled on the open deck of a sailing ship to Australia, bringing with them a parcel of Ceylon Sapphires. After three months they landed in Western Australia and a short time later, ventured to Melbourne.

They also brought with them an introduction to A. Benjamin & Sons, Jewellers

in Melbourne. It was interesting that Hamid was a Muslim and Benjamin a Jew, the Hamids are trading partners with the Benjamins to this day. Hamid and Salih lived at Port Melbourne for a while, before Salih moved to the United States and established a successful jewellery business there. Hamid then travelled to Ceylon and returned to Melbourne with parcels of Sapphires.

'Charlie' married a Christian Anglo-Saxon Australian, Anne Twist, in 1901 and made Footscray in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne their home, where they lived all their lives. 'Charlie' and Anne had eight children, whom they were fiercely proud of. He ran a Jewellery Store and Watch Repair Shop in Barkly Street, Footscray, for many years.

It was not until World War II that 'Charlie' began to make good profits from his jewellery business. He rarely traded in Diamonds, as Sapphires, Emeralds and Rubies were not only his favourites, but began to boom with the Servicemen who preferred them. He made regular business trips to Ceylon during these prosperous times, but his last two trips after the

war convinced him that a quiet life in Australia was best.

Transport was difficult at the time and he was forced to travel to Ceylon on one occasion in an improvised American Air Force plane that had been turned (pretty raggedly) so as to carry passengers. The plane limped into Colombo, four hours late, but no sooner had he stepped off the plane, than the engines burst into flames. Returning to Australia, on another of his subsequent visits to Ceylon, he was a passenger aboard Air Ceylon's first flight to Australia, in May 1949. In the 1950s depression, he lost his business and fell upon hard times, but being a resolute businessman, he never gave up.

While a Footscray identity for more than 60 years, 'Charlie' was identified with many facets of the Footscray area. Trees he brought back from one of his visits to Ceylon still stand in Footscray's hill park as a silent memorial to their donor's affection for the city. He was also a generous donor to many charities, and showed a ready willingness to help less fortunate members of the community, and took a keen interest in local civic affairs. He was also well-known for his work in Masonic lodge circles. In 1921, he joined the Lodge of England to obtain his background in administration. By

1928 he reasoned that his experience and know-how were sufficient and formed Footscray's first Buffalo Lodge, little realising it would be the nucleus of many thriving branches. 'Charlie' was presented with a medal to mark completion of 50 years membership of the 'Free Gardeners' Lodge'. He founded two Buffalo Lodges, one which bears his name, and was a foundation member of the Williamstown Maritime Services



• 'Charlie' Hamid much later, when he was about 70 years.



• 'Charlie' Hamid on his 55th birthday while on a visit to Galle.

Lodge. For many years 'Charlie' had been one of the hardest workers for the Footscray Hospital and had a document of appreciation for his work displayed at his home. Once when he was asked if he was naturalised, his reply was typical: "Why should I, I was here before the Federal Government".

A great family man, 'Charlie' revelled in the company of his eight children, one, however, died young. The

children were encouraged to take to Sports and were brought up as Christians. His children are: sons Alby (a former Victorian boxing champion and later successful boxing trainer), Ernie (ex-VCA umpire, becoming President of the Victorian Football Umpires Association), Les (was prominent in Church cricket) and George William (FFC Reserves secretary-manager and former VFL umpire) and daughters: Elsie (Mrs Beckingsale, Amy (Mrs Bishop) and Jessie (Mrs Bishop). Jessie was one of the pioneer Women Cricketers of Australia. She was opening batsman for Victoria in 1938.

Sadly, 'Charlie' was knocked down and killed by a motorist while crossing a street in his beloved Footscray, aged 79 years. His widow, Annie Elizabeth Hamid (75) died 13 days after her husband's premature death. Her sons believe she died of a broken heart.

His son George William Hamid, was born in Footscray in 1916. He obtained his Primary and Secondary education at State and Technical Schools. He left school early to financially help the family, earning 15 shillings per week. During the Second World War he was conscripted to the 22nd Battalion of the Australian Army and was based in Queensland for two years. He became a Corporal, topped his physical training, umpired inter-battalion football tournaments and was recommended for Officer training.



• *George William Hamid (the son of Hamid senior.)*

Returning to Melbourne upon his release from the Army, George continued his interests in Football and Sprinting and won the Bendigo 75-yard sprint in 1943. At the age of 27 he married Joan Smith and they had two children, a daughter, Debbie, born in 1952 and son, Grant in 1955. They grew up in Footscray and were encouraged by George in their sports.

On his father's death, George took over the business, expanding it and naming it 'Hamid Bros' and moved to Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, wholesaling gems. The business subsequently moved to Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

George's daughter, Debbie Hamid became a proficient Ice Skater at the age of 15. She joined 'Holiday on Ice' and toured the Far East. She worked in Brisbane as an Ice Skating Instructor during which time she developed an interest in equestrian riding. She keeps a number of horses on her 80 acre property in Lara, frequently taking part in equestrian events around Australia.

She also undertook formal studies in Gemology.

Son Grant was a very keen cricketer from the age of ten. He was chosen to play for the Dowling Shield, a prestigious event for Victorian under-16 cricketers and he scored an unbeaten century to win the 1972 shield for Footscray. Famous Australian cricketers such as Merv Hughes and Tony Dodemaide have played under Hamid's captaincy for the Footscray team.

George encouraged Debbie and Grant to develop an interest in gems by taking them to the office on weekends and school holidays. They were trained to measure and pack stones for wholesaling. While Grant was studying for his degree in Civil Engineering, he saw the potential of joining his father and assisting to further develop the business. Grant then completed a degree in Gemology at the Victorian Gemology Association and since then became the State President, Federal Chairman and Federal President of the Gemology Association of Australia.

In 1983, George and Grant requested Debbie to join in their business. After Grant and Debbie took over the business they moved to a new location in 227 Collins Street, Melbourne. From 1994, George gradually reduced his role in the business, to only a few days a week. Debbie

(Continued on Page 11)

Giants of the Ceylon political stage

by E.C.T.Candappa

The excellent synopsis by Shelagh Goonewardene (The Ceylankan, November 2009) of the talk delivered by Mr Sunil de Silva on *The Law and Drama*, while causing deep regret at having missed such an entertaining evening, moved me to recall some of the legislative entertainers I have known.

Legislative assemblies attracted me and some of my friends from our mid-teens. And when we did not have the wherewithal for a cheap (gallery) seat we took ourselves to the public galleries for some free entertainment.

My first view of the State Council was when that most elegant personage Sir Francis Molamure presided over that assembly. Young as we were, we had heard of that colourful person's somewhat florid personal life – which, needless to say, lent some enchantment to the view.

But of the members themselves, though they included some of the giants of Ceylon's political stage, they made no great impression. We youngsters were not sufficiently educated politically. I do remember, however, standing in a long queue outside the House to gain admission to listen to a part of the debate on the Free Education Bill, introduced by the redoubtable Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara.

This was the time of the transition from dominion status to Independence; and the liveliest entertainment was provided by the members of Parliament of the Left – a wide range of Parties from the Communist Party to the splinter groups of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP).



• Dr Colvin R. de Silva

I would place Dr Colvin R. de Silva of the LSSP (and later of the BLP and again LSSP) as the foremost of these entertainers. Apart from his appearing in the Law Courts, from which he earned a lucrative income, he also appeared in Parliament and on soap boxes in Colombo,

notably the Galle Face Green. Here he dispensed with the black coat to don a real shirt. But no where was he able to contain his voice, restrain his flamboyant mannerisms and gyrations of his stocky self. As a public speaker he was a number one draw card. He attracted listeners and held them mesmerised.

After Comrade Colvin, I would have rated the Gunawardene brothers, Philip and Robert – the Marxist 'Sons of Thunder' as coming close. Colvin, along with Dr N.M.Perera, were the visible intellects of the movement.

Philip and Robert were at the forefront of those who stoked the revolutionary furnace, who cast fire and brimstone in the path of opponents. They roared and stomped the floor when they spoke, banged the table, brandished documents, hurled rough but never coarse language and subjected their spectacles to needless violence.



• Robert Gunawardene

Other colourful personalities included W.Dahanayake, S.W.R.D.Bandaranaike, G.G.Ponnambalam, Stanley de Zoysa, C.Sundaralingam in the House of Representatives and S.Nadesan, Reggie Perera, Doric de Souza and Dr E.M.V.Naganathan in the Senate.

"Daha" was the master of theatre. He employed various gimmicks to emphasise a point. On one occasion to draw attention to the shortage of textiles, he arrived in Parliament (but was not permitted to enter the chamber) clad only in an 'ámude', the peasant's fig leaf. He has arrived in a buggy cart, spouted Shakespeare and mouthed all the figures of speech familiar to a former teacher of English. He was, for all that, the ultimate politician and ultimate democrat.

Almost everything he did was legendary, including his rise to the position of Prime Minister; while even residing in Temple Trees he slept on a mat.

S.W.R.D.Bandaranaike was the pre-eminent orator. His Oxford background, aristocratic lineage and whose mastery of the language in which he spoke, always made him the star attraction. His speech delivered when

Ceylon received Independence must surely rank among the world's classics in oratory. On occasions when he was to open a debate or wind up in the House, the sense of expectancy and palpable awe in the chamber, the Press and public galleries were always electrifying.



• *Mr SWRD
Bandaranaike*

He too used his arms and body in various contortions and the menacingly wagging finger when the mood seized him.

C.Sutheralingam did not need to enter politics to shine. He was an eminent academic, a brilliant mathematician, holder of the envied Maths tripos. But when he rose to speak in Parliament, he more than held the floor. He thundered forth his involved, and often rambling arguments, he bullied and bamboozled his opponents, his rapier-like wit slashed pitilessly at anyone who interrupted to heckle him. He was also the master of the filibuster. He could speak on forever.

Colourful and not flamboyant

Others who were colourful, while not being flamboyant speakers were Sir Razik Fareed, the orchid fancier, always seen with one in the lapel of his elegantly cut coat, and a pleasant smile to match. He held for several terms, one of the three seats in Colombo Central, as rough and proletarian an electorate as could be found, along with the other anomaly, the suave, very Western-educated Communist, comrade Pieter Keuneman.

R.G.Senanayake, a very handsome man, elegantly clad in suits with a hint of Saville Row, cut a figure with his limp.

Stanley de Zoysa, one time Finance Minister, was the ultimate native Englishman, with his clipped accent and monocle over one eye – which he dropped when he emphasised a point.

In the Senate we had, among the colourful characters and performers, the brilliant Wickremanayake brothers E.B. and E.G., Doric de Souza, Dr E.M.V.Naganathan, Reggie Perera, Kuruban Adamaly, Edmund Cooray. Mrs Bandaranaike sat among them until she won a

seat in the House of Representatives.

The Wickremanayake brothers came from a family of brilliant legal lights. Their performances were purely intellectual. It was a treat to listen to them and observe the canny way in which they attacked a subject.

When 'E.B.' was Minister of Justice, I recall a debate during which a dozen speakers expressed opposing views. 'E.B.' appeared to be fast asleep during the entire debate – his head cradled in one hand. Of course, experienced Senators must have known he was listening. When the time came for him to reply, he stood up and answered all the objections raised and all within a few minutes.

S.Nadesan was another speaker at this level of brilliance. Like Dr Colvin, he shone in Hulftsdorp as well as in other places where he was retained to represent wealthy clients and institutions. A diminutive man with wiry close-cropped hair and a fixed smile of apparent scorn, it was difficult to keep pace with his mind. He hardly gesticulated – he didn't need to. The cut and thrust and the punch of his eloquence did all the work. It was a very uncomfortable individual who was at the receiving end of his attack.

Dr E.M.V.Naganathan was the affable physician, the "cricket tragic" who would much rather have been listening to a cricket commentary than to a debate in the House. Yet he was the voice of the Federal Party.

Another interesting person in the Senate was Senator Reggie Perera, of the LSSP. He was dark, stocky with a shock of wavy hair and a deeply resonant voice. He did not wave his arms about, but commanded attention when he spoke. He reminded me very much of the actor Francis L.Sullivan, a popular star of the British Rank studios.

For a politician he could, when necessary, be the very epitome of succinctness. He attended the funeral of a colleague, Stanley Wickramasooriya, who died tragically. At the conclusion he uttered a single word epitaph in his sepulchral voice: "Duppatha" (Poor chap).

Felix Dias (later Banadaranaiké) lent a crisp polish to his speech with his faultless diction and skillful turn of phrase.

Pieter Keuneman, the mob orator, was a suave, polished speaker in the House. He was always clad in a white cotton suit and red tie. He was a model politician, available to all at all times, fully involved as much in the routine

of Parliamentary affairs as he was in a host of activities as a dedicated communist. He was the son of a distinguished Judge – and it showed.

Bernard Soysa of the LSSP was another model Member of Parliament. His contributions in the House were quietly dignified, thoroughly well prepared and utterly polished. It was always a delight to listen to him and report him.

G.G.Ponnambalam, Q.C., while he was popular in the State Council with his communal cry for “Fifty-Fifty”, he made only occasional appearances in the House. He reserved his enormous argumentative skills and verbal armoury for the Courts, where he held an eminent position and enjoyed a most lucrative practice. He presented his sartorially splendid self to Parliament when the occasion demanded it. He was wont, as in Courts, to place his right foot on his chair when he stood to deliver his speech.

Among the Sinhala orators in the House, Prime Minister, (later President) R. Premadasa led all the rest. Those who appreciated the language waited for him to speak with the same eagerness as they would, say, for Bandaranaike.

The fire-brand of his time was the communal politics drum beater, K.M.P. Rajaratne. An interesting character was Pani Illangakoon, one of the several Sinhala poets who had drifted



• G.G.Ponnambalam

into Parliament. He was a tall, angular man with long arms that he waved about so wildly that in the Press Box we called him the ‘Flamingo’. Other poet MPs were Sagara Palansuriya and T.B.Tennekoon. Some of them

were inclined to chant their speeches in verse; a practice disallowed by the speaker.

A character who could not be forgotten, and no cartoonist did, was the Minister of Posts and Telecommunication C.A.S.Marikkar. The rotund and jovial Minister’s fondest wish was to visit Japan in cherry blossom time, and the wags added, to meet the geisha girls – a wish constantly frustrated by the wild cat strikes affecting his Ministry.

It must be mentioned that my list of interesting persons in Parliament is from a period limited to two decades – 1947- 1965. I covered both Houses of Parliament as a reporter from 1956 to 1965. All the names mentioned are recollected only from memory.

I have not been inside the new Parliamentary complex in Kotte. Thus I missed some interesting and historic events there of which I only read occasional reports. However, from what I gathered the years of elegance and style had passed with the old Parliament. So it is best at this point to ring down the curtain.



The Hamids of Melbourne... (from Page 8)

and Grant became equal partners of ‘Hamid Bros’ Melbourne. They instigated a much needed course to accredit valuers of Jewellery for the National Council of Jewellery Valuers.

Debbie has one son, Jay, who is a keen skier. Grant is married to Sue Marshall, who is also a gemologist and jeweller. They have two children, Curtis and Mallory Hamid. Curtis is a promising cricketer and Mallory has tremendous potential to become a stage performer.

On George’s retirement from the industry and the business, Grant and Debbie operated the business full time. In his retirement, George still took a keen interest in the business, enjoyed a flutter at Moonee Valley Racecourse, also being a keen spectator at most football and cricket matches. He loved his classical music too. George passed away on July 21, 2009, aged 93 years, after a long and well-lived life.

With the fourth generation of the Hamid dynasty now emerging, the jewellery industry in Melbourne, will continue to flourish. What was a small ember that emerged in 1898 with ‘Charlie’ Hamid arriving from Ceylon, the industry has now grown into an empire and, no doubt, will continue to grow.



A Warm Welcome to New Members

Palinda de Silva, Texas, USA
Shivaraj & Shamini Rasanayagam,
Strathfield NSW.



The remarkable story of Nicholas Gautier Gould continues on its colourful way with one mischievous ploy followed by yet another piece of wanton villainy...

*Born Under a Dark Star:
The Rise and Strange Fall of Jaffna's
Nicholas Gautier Gould*

by JOE SIMPSON

[The next episode in the tale is the 1885 Owen Morgan Bribery Case.] In A.C. Dep's "History of the Ceylon Police", under the heading *Allegations against the Attorney General's Department – 1885*, there appears this paragraph:

"In the meantime in a case of attempted murder, "bad accusations of bribery were brought against the Attorney-General's Department by a notorious individual by the name of Gould who also laid a charge of conspiracy and bribery against Mr. Crown Counsel Morgan before Mr. Boake, Justice of the Peace".

It appears that Owen Morgan, the accused Crown Prosecutor, then filed a counter case. Magistrate Boake J.P. (possibly a relation of the famous Irish Principal of the Colombo Academy, by then deceased in Australia) took up Gould's case first, and dismissed it, but not without making certain "adverse observations" – presumably implicating Morgan. After the counter-case was over, the Superintendent of Police for the Western Province, a Mr. Hansard, made a request to the Governor through the Inspector-General's office for an executive enquiry into Gould's allegations about corruption in the Attorney-General's Department. Governor Gordon gave the all-clear and Hansard searched the premises of Edward Perera, Proctor. No incriminating letters were found – but a seized cheque counterfoil indicated that Morgan had indeed received money from the Buddhist Defence Committee, a pressure group formed the year before in the aftermath of the 1883 Kotahena Riot. Edward Perera was their leading lawyer. The hapless Morgan was charged *inter alia* with "corruptly receiving Rs. 52.50 from E.F. Perera".

One problem now arose for the bribery investigation: Superintendent Hansard's search had been made on a defective warrant, Boake the J.P. having neglected, in his haste, to actually

sign it. Hansard in equal haste had forgotten to check the warrant before raiding Edward Perera's law office. Thanks to this Keystone Kops comedy of blunders, the police search was – technically – illegal! Nonetheless, Governor Gordon had already gone on record as deploring as a "serious evil" the "general belief in the venality of the prosecution department...among the people". Evidently, with his acutely tuned antennae, Nicholas Gould had found here a rich vein of public disenchantment with the authorities to exploit to the utmost, as he knew best how to do from his long experience of making mischief up north. Crown Counsel Owen Morgan was interdicted by direct order of the Governor, pending receipt of his explanations. These proving less than satisfactory, he was found culpable and removed from office. To no avail, he cast frantic aspersions on the Commissioners enquiring into the bribery allegations and on Magistrate Boake for hearing Gould's case before him. He even demanded to go to England to interview the Secretary of State for the Colonies! The vengeful Gould must have literally rubbed his hands together over all these bureaucratic shenanigans.

In the wake of this unseemly imbroglio, Inspector Hansard was sued for damages in Colombo District Court, presumably by Edward Perera and the Buddhist Defence Commission. Long-time District Judge Thomas Berwick heard both the cases (there seem to have been two court files). Now, Berwick was a talented but



• District Judge
Thomas Berwick

extremely eccentric English jurist, an expert in Roman-Dutch law with a massive chip on his shoulder about most of the Supreme Court Bench above him, even though he had served there from time to time as Acting Puisne Justice. He was never confirmed in the post, which likely was a large part of the problem. As far as Berwick was concerned, the Colombo District Court was the highest tribunal in the land, and the Supreme Court deserving of his overt contempt. He loved to “overrule” the higher court’s judgments when it suited him. Once he was cited for “contempt of court” after publicly lambasting certain Supreme Court Justices. Stories about Berwick were legion: when he attended a fancy dress ball as a gentleman of the 18th Century, a leading Colombo newspaper pointedly remarked that “the disguise was perfect!”

Supreme Court bamboozled

At any rate, Judge Berwick found in favour of the complainants, whereupon the matter went up (or in his view, down!) to the Supreme Court. The Puisne Justice hearing it commented adversely on the conduct of both Boake and Hansard. By then Attorney General Sir Francis Fleming had heard quite enough: according to him, the Supreme Court had been bamboozled by that old rogue elephant Tom Berwick, who had “so altered and doctored the evidence given [by Mr. Boake] as to bring it into close conformity with his own judgement”. In the opinion of the exasperated Sir Francis, “mistaken zeal in a righteous cause” was the most that either man was guilty of. The A.G. recognised that Superintendent Hansard, in particular, had faced “great difficulty” in pursuing his enquiries into the bribery allegations, thereby risking “no slight discomfort and danger” from “numerous and powerful enemies”. Hansard’s fine imposed by Judge Berwick was paid in part from the Police Reward Fund, but as A.C. Dep adds darkly, “Hansard had to pay dearly in other ways, too”. As for District Judge Berwick, it was felt that his eccentric “vanity and self-confidence”, rather than any malice or corruption, had led him astray. After one last cathartic, blazing row with the Supreme Court, he was “invited” to send in his retirement papers, which he finally did, and which were gladly accepted. No doubt for the “notorious” Nicholas Gould, gleefully watching from the sidelines as this “domino effect” unfolded beyond even his wildest dreams, Tom Berwick’s enforced

departure must surely have provided the icing on the cake!

The background to these events deserves mention, as it directly relates to the next episode in the Nicholas Gould saga. Both Magistrate Boake and Superintendent Hansard had distinguished themselves in Colombo during the Easter Monday of March 1883, the day after the Easter Sunday “Kotahena Riot” between rival religious processions of Sinhalese Catholics and Buddhists, by courageously persuading a volatile Catholic crowd to disperse. Shortly afterwards, Boake and several other officials - including the ill-fated Owen Morgan - peaceably escorted small groups of Buddhists back to the Bridge of Boats, after armed troops of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers had blocked their march towards Kotahena and the waiting Catholics.

In the months after the rioting the authorities did little to prosecute those most responsible. Edward Perera acted as counsel for the family of Juan Naide, a Sinhalese Buddhist killed in the Easter Sunday clashes, and warned publicly

For Nicholas Gould the moment was now ripe to explore some new opportunity for creating merry mayhem – and where better to look than the hotbed of Colombo municipal politics...

about the Government’s “inability to punish [Catholic rioters] setting a dangerous precedent to the peace of the Colony”. Accusations flew over alleged “corruption” in the A.G.’s Department and officials’ religious bias against Buddhists. Questions even were asked in the British Parliament later that year, about (alleged) bribery of policemen in Ceylon. The Buddhist Defence Committee, formed in January 1884, held a mandate to seek redress and push for major reforms in favour of the Buddhists. Col. Olcott of the Theosophical Society in Madras, recently arrived on the Ceylon scene, was recruited to travel to London to lobby the politicians there. The Ceylon authorities became

acutely aware of a sudden and widespread loss of public confidence in the integrity of the justice system. The religious nature of the March 1883 rioting introduced a frightening new complexity. Migettuwatte Gunananda Thera, the energetic incumbent at the Kotahena Buddhist temple, famed for his superior oratorical skill during the so-called Panadura Debates with Christian clergy during the early 1870s, was also a very smooth political operator.

Such, by the mid-1880s, was the witches' cauldron noisily brewing its "double, double toil and trouble", at least within the Sinhalese community. For Nicholas Gould, fresh from his latest bout of mischief-making with the authorities, the moment was now ripe to explore some new opportunity for creating merry mayhem – and where better to look, than the hotbed of Colombo municipal politics...?

Mid-to-later 1880s: The Maradana Election Scare

In his *"Interesting and Racy Reminiscences of Persons and Incidents connected with the old Legislative Council, by an Old Parliamentary Hand"*, serialised by the "Ceylon Daily News" during 1918 and published under his real name some 30 years later in an entertaining little booklet entitled "Our Legislature", Supreme Court Advocate J. A. Weinman observed that Rudyard Kipling must have been thinking of the glacial speed of the Legislative Council of Ceylon when he spoke of the fool who tried to hustle the East. Weinman went on to describe the unprecedented occasion during the Governorship of Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon (1883-90) when the Council passed a bill in a single sitting. The cause of such mind-blowing celerity? Why, that perennial thorn in the side of authority, Nicholas Gautier Gould, of course!

Sir Frederick Saunders, epitome of the Ceylon colonial establishment, captor (after a fashion) of the robber bandit Sardiel, etc. etc., was used to deference from his fellow Colombo Municipal Councillors. As Government Agent for the Western Province, including Colombo, he was *ex officio* Chairman of the Municipal Council, a relatively new body created in the later 1860s and to some extent still the preserve of Burgher lawyers. Saunders' utter consternation can easily be imagined when he heard not only that the Jaffna Tamil notoriety Nicholas Gould, with the "Ceylon News"

blowing hard at his back, was planning to run for the Maradana seat in an upcoming ward election, but that the fellow was likely to win it by a landslide. Bad news indeed for Sir Frederick, who had already suffered the indignity of being blamed (*sotto voce* and far behind the scenes, naturally) for blindly ignoring for weeks obvious portents of the Easter 1883 clashes, and then being uselessly absent 6000' upcountry in Nuwara Eliya at the critical time.

Working-class Maradana had certainly been a city "hot spot" at the time of the 1883 Kotahena Riot, providing more than its share of key ringleaders and armed "roughs" on the Buddhist side that Easter Sunday. Buddhists from Maradana and Borella had organized the Easter Sunday procession to the *pansala* erected at the far end of Kotahena Road, which had led to the Easter Sunday clashes. Maradana mobsters had formed part of the crowd that later plundered the Catholic Church in Cotta (Kotte) and then physically harassed and extorted money from both Buddhists and Christians going about their normal business in the area. One identified Maradana Buddhist ringleader, G. Perera Abeyasekara, had until recently been the elected Mudaliyar of the Municipal Council. A few days after that Easter Weekend, the *Vidana Arachchi* of Maradana reported in some alarm to the Government that "whenever a Buddhist and a Catholic met [in Maradana] there ensued a fight...[it is]...a fine opportunity for the rogues and vagabonds of this place".

Determined not to be caught napping this time by low-life troublemakers, as the election day fast approached a distracted Sir Frederick finally turned in near-desperation to that Burgher Rock of Gibraltar, Mr. (later Sir) Samuel Grenier, ten years the senior of his brother, the future Justice Joseph. Sam Grenier (a one-time Secretary and later a Member of the Colombo Municipal Council) took over from Sir Francis Fleming as Ceylon's Attorney General in 1886, so these exciting events may well have taken place around that time. Like his sibling, the elder Grenier probably knew a thing or three about his near-exact contemporary Gould, from their shared Jaffna childhood. "Are you going to the wedding of the Maha Mudaliyar's daughter?" was all that Grenier asked. "I am," replied Sir Frederick. "Good, we can talk over the matter further, there," concluded Grenier. The wedding of the daughter of Coenraad

Pieter Dias Bandaranayake (known as "Peter Maha Mudaliyar") - a major social function - coincidentally was planned for the same afternoon as the Maradana election, a few hours before the three o'clock time set for the voting. After Sir Frederick left Sam Grenier's premises, it was noticed that F. J. de Saram (Jnr.), the senior partner of the prestigious law firm founded by his late father, F. J. de Saram (Snr.), had a meeting with Grenier. De Saram (Jnr.) was one of those careful and cautious lawyers of whom it could be safely said, and was said, that he had never made a mistake in his life.

Immediately after the ceremonies, F. J. de Saram left the wedding house and along with his own proposed candidate, John Ohlmus, was at the Maradana polling booth well ahead of the advertised 3:00 P.M. voting time. Nicholas Gould and his men were already there, noisily jubilant at the prospect of an easy win. Unaccountably, Sir Frederick was missing, and voting could not begin without the Chairman present. In fact, he was still at the wedding reception, showing "unwonted hilarity" as someone noted. At about 3:30 P.M. he finally showed up, apologizing profusely to all and sundry, particularly Gould. F. J. de Saram professed high indignation, complaining vociferously (he was known for his "stentorian voice") of the Chairman's discourtesy in keeping them all waiting for half an hour. Again, Sir Fredrick displayed unexpected humility, scattering apologies about like wedding confetti! While accepting all the blame himself, he had no choice but reluctantly to rule that any election held later than at the advertised hour would be null and void, and to adjourn matters "sine die". Gould and his supporters knew that somehow they had been done, but didn't know quite how!

Within a few days of this episode, the Legislative Council held a special meeting, and *in one sitting passed at first reading* a Bill to disqualify anyone convicted of an infamous offence from being returned to the Colombo Municipal Council. Nicholas Gould, not as yet quite outdone, then put up one Thepanis Appu, a small liquor-shopkeeper in Maradana,



F.J.de Saram

to contest the Maradana seat. His man was duly returned, but took cold feet when about to take his seat, and soon after resigned. The Government promptly made him an *Arachchi* for his "conspicuous services"!

Commenting on Gould's strange influence over so many people, and not just the "hoi polloi", Weinman noted that the people of the country had a perverse sympathy for criminals. Nicholas Gautier Gould also played to perfection the role of martyr and victim of the vengeance of high officials whose evil deeds he had laid bare. As Weinman observed: "This pose always takes." Possibly this is as close as we can ever get from this distance in time, to the mystery of Gould's wide appeal.

Conclusion: *All that glitters...*

In the years after his imprisonment, according to Joseph Grenier, the disgraced former Advocate Nicholas Gould devoted his life to secretly interfering with the due administration of justice by tampering with and tutoring court witnesses, and attacking high government officials with a ferocity unequalled by anyone: "[Gould] was very persistent in his activities in several directions, which was fraught with danger, and which would have placed him in the criminal dock again." His chief weapon was anonymous letter writing. Whatever ethical restraints the requirements of his profession had formerly imposed upon his ruthless and essentially feral nature, were cast to the winds after his disbarment. The natural rebel sublimated his personal grudges by posing as a spokesman for the common man against the tyranny of government officials. Modern psychology might diagnose him as a narcissistic personality - compulsively in need of the admiration of others, and creating dissension and mayhem behind the scenes when, inevitably, unable to fully satisfy that need.

Had it not been for that perverse imp of destruction, and self-destruction, forever perched upon his shoulder, the career of Nicholas Gautier Gould might easily have outshone even those of such internationally renowned late 19th and early 20 century Tamil leaders as Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan (whom Prime

(Continued on Page 20)

The Dudley Senanayake I knew

by Neville Jayaweera (Part 1)

*An extract from the author's unpublished
"My experiences of some national leaders of yesteryear"*



One of the important lessons I have learnt over my long career in public life, both in Sri Lanka and in the international arena, is how people's perceptions of national leaders are rarely founded on anything more substantial than hearsay. Hearsay often shrouds national leaders under dense layers of disinformation, either extolling them or denigrating them, spewed out either by their admirers or by their detractors, or systematically crafted by a partisan media, so much so that it is often impossible to form an impression of the individuals concerned, that reflects who they really were. I have found this to be true concerning four of Sri Lanka's Prime Ministers/ Presidents with whom I have worked closely - Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, Mr Dudley Senanayake, Mr J.R. Jayawardena and Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Public perception vs direct experience

I can truly say that the public's perceptions of them, whether they were the good, the bad or the ugly, rarely corresponded with my own impressions of them formed through direct



• Dudley Senanayake

experience, and that none of them were fully the persons who the public thought they were. Granted that absolute objectivity in presenting the image of any person is never attainable, I believe that the image of national leaders presented by someone who has worked closely with them, and who even after the passage of time still retains vivid memories of encounters with them, and who is not motivated by a personal interest in presenting any particular view, for or against, can lay a very strong claim to credibility over the more partisan perceptions of them that have littered the corridors of history.

My preferred way of presenting my subjects, will be, as much as possible, to relate anecdotes involving them, in which I also had been a participant or an observer, which will speak more eloquently to who

they really were, rather than indulge in broad generalisations about them. However, in the case of Dudley Senanayake, I shall not entirely abandon the generalising mode, but they will be generalisations based on a whole range of direct personal experiences which are too numerous to relate individually.

The popular view

Ever since Dudley Senanayake burst on the national scene in 1952, when through a series of fortuitous circumstances he was unexpectedly sworn in as Sri Lanka's (then Ceylon) second Prime Minister, the view has consolidated that he was very diffident in decision making and that he could not cope with crises. I want to present here a profile of the man, based on personal experiences, which is somewhat antithetical to this popular view and at the same time reveals aspects of his personality hitherto not widely known.

Let me say straightaway that Dudley Senanayake (hereafter Dudley) was not the weakling that people thought he was, lapsing into a nervous condition every time he had to face a crisis. He could be obstinate, firm, and when presented with the facts, very effective at making decisions.

He was the last of the "gentlemen" politicians of our country (I use the word "gentleman" in the highest traditional sense) and his guiding motto was that certain things are "simply not done". He was shy, a loner, and avoided company as much as it was reasonably possible for a man in his position to be. He

was absolutely incapable of doing the “dirty” by anyone, was never mean, and the thought of taking a bribe or exploiting his office for personal gain, were totally against his grain. Whenever he returned from a foreign trip, he would empty his pockets and briefcase of all presents he had received abroad – gold cigarette cases, gold tie pins, diamond studded cuff links, expensive meerschaum pipes and silk ties and ask the office assistant to take them on to the Prime Minister’s office inventory so that he thereby surrendered any private claim to them. Once he explained this conduct to me saying that all these presents were showered upon him only because he was the Prime Minister and he did not think it right to exploit his office for private benefit.

Although he had inherited extensive coconut properties from his father, much of it was either on mortgage or had been sold for financing the party coffers and he was always cash strapped. On the day he died the balance of cash in his only bank account was just Rs 252. His inherited wealth had been greatly depleted and he never added to it.

He loved the “good life”, preferred the comfort of his study to public places, enjoyed playing golf, photography and listening to classical music and not least, was incurably lazy.

First encounter

I came to know to know Dudley for the first time only in 1966, when I was already the Chairman and Director General of the Ceylon Broadcasting Corporation, appointed to that position by the then Minister of State Mr. J.R. Jayawardene (hereafter JR). He was 56 years of age, exactly 20 years my senior. However in August 1966, rather precipitately, Senanayake took the broadcasting portfolio away from Jayewardene without even first telling him, and brought it directly within his own portfolio.

Actually, Jayewardene first came to hear of the removal of broadcasting from his portfolio only when I told him, which really meant that Senanayake had sacked him. The content and circumstances of that sordid event show up certain characteristics of both the JR and Senanayake personalities hitherto not known to the public.

JR’s vision

From the time he took over the broadcasting portfolio in 1965, JR had resolved to transform

the extant Department of Broadcasting into a Corporation and in early 1966 asked that I be appointed as the department’s Director General (DG) firstly to “clean up the wretched place” (his words) and to plan and manage the switchover to a Corporation. When I called on J.R. on my first day as DG, he outlined to me what he had in mind. He said that he was quite disgusted with the state of the Department of Broadcasting which he had taken over from the previous regime and said it was corrupt, inefficient and riddled with politics. He said that he had therefore resolved to transform the Department into a Corporation and give it complete freedom from political interference so that it may clean up the old department and establish new traditions of professionalism and integrity. He said my first task was to draft the legislation for the changeover and after the Corporation was set up, to be its first Chairman and DG. He said he knew nothing about broadcasting corporations and he left it to me to consult with the appropriate people before drafting the legislation but insisted that the following clauses to be included in it:

- 1. When appointing the Chairman and Members of the Corporation, the Minister should consult the Prime Minister as well as the Leader of the Opposition, and obtain the agreement of the government party as well as of the Opposition;**
 - 2. The Chairman and the Board of the Corporation should have complete freedom to shape broadcasting policy, to make appointments and to take disciplinary action where necessary, without any interference from the Minister or any politician or official;**
 - 3. The Minister in charge may issue instructions to the Chairman of the Corporation only in national emergencies, but all such instructions should be in writing and should be tabled in Parliament within two weeks, and gazetted; and**
 - 4. The Chairman of the Corporation should enjoy the same immunities as a Supreme Court Judge, and may not be removed from office without a resolution in Parliament.**
- Even as I was taking down notes I said to the Minister, “Sir, while your intention is quite unprecedented and admirable, speaking realistically, I doubt that it will be acceptable to any government, and furthermore, I do not think that any broadcasting corporation anywhere in the world enjoys such privileges.” He responded

rather icily, "Let me manage that. You get on with your assignment," which I proceeded promptly to do.

After appropriate consultations with the Legal Draughtsman and other Commonwealth Broadcasting institutions, within two weeks, I came up with the draft legislation, which JR accepted in full, and said he will now submit to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet for their approval.

In a very short time the Prime Minister called a meeting in his office to discuss the draft proposals and I accompanied JR to the meeting.

Dudley's rage

Seated at the head of the conference table, Senanayake was visibly in a rage. JR sat on the Prime Minister's left and I on JR's left. The PM was biting on his Sherlock Holmes pipe with smoke billowing from it as if from an express train. Ignoring JR, and fixing me with a glare that felt like a spear through me, Senanayake bellowed, "Who did this draft?" I responded, "I did, sir." Whereupon, still glaring at me and very angrily he shouted at me, "Are you out of your mind? Are you telling me that this clause about the rights and privileges of the proposed Corporation and granting immunity to the chairman of the Corporation on a par with a Supreme Court judge was thought up by you? I understand that you are to be the Corporation's first Chairman. Is that right? Is this your way of exalting yourself? This is pure fantasy and only an enemy of my government could have proposed this."

To which I had to remain silent, because, in fact, it was not at all my idea but my Minister's, but my Minister J.R. Jayewardene remained speechless. It was my Minister's responsibility to own up and tell the PM that I had included that particular clause only on his specific instructions and in fact, contrary to my advice, but he continued to remain silent and icily impassive.

The PM continued his tirade – "I have checked it out with the High Commissioners of the UK and Australia and Canada but none of their broadcasting institutions enjoy such privileges. Is this your idea of democracy? Tell me who included these provisions!"

I could not even then say that it was my Minister who had instructed me to do so and contrary to my advice as well! So, I continued

to remain silent, but so did my Minister, which made Senanayake even more irate. Throughout this tirade directed at me, not once did Senanayake even recognise Jayewardene and neither did the latter interject once to exculpate me. I felt painfully let down by the latter.

However, after about 15 minutes, abruptly pushing back his chair JR stood up. Throughout this encounter he had not once recognised the PM, nor had he uttered one word, but now, turning to me said,

"Jayaweera, you redraft the legislation exactly as the Prime Minister wants," and so saying, collected his papers and stalked out the room. It was all so dreadfully embarrassing. I had not realised up to that moment how deep the animosity was between the Prime

Minister and his deputy and I was the luckless public servant caught in the middle of the simmering conflict, which seemed about to erupt in a conflagration..

Following Jayewardene's abrupt exit, I stayed on and listened to Senanayake's angry effusions, until after a while he dismissed me saying that bar the particular offending clause the rest of the draft was in order and may be submitted to the Cabinet.

Dudley sacks JR from broadcasting

However, that was not to be the end of the story. A few days later, the PM's Secretary, phoned me to say that a special gazette notification was being published the following day excising the broadcasting portfolio from Jayewardene's Ministry and transferring it to the Prime Minister's. That was on a Thursday and the gazette would be out on Friday and Jayewardene was out of town for the weekend. I assumed that the transfer of the portfolio from Jayewardene to the PM had been discussed between them before Jayewardene left for the weekend. As a public servant I had nothing to say about the transfer of the portfolio, except that I thought that as a matter of course I too will be



• J.R. Jayawardene

transferred out from the broadcasting department because, considering the *faux pas* over the draft legislation, it did not seem plausible that the Prime Minister would continue to keep me in his Ministry.

It used to be the practice that Jayewardene expected me to see him every Monday morning in his private residence "Braemar" at Ward Place, on my way to work, and discuss with him issues concerning his Ministry where I was also the Additional Secretary, in addition to being the DG of the Department of Broadcasting. Accordingly, the following Monday I had a telephone call from Jayewardene asking me to bring with me the file on the proposed legislation so that he may discuss with me how I may amend the draft to meet the PM's wishes. Taken aback I responded, "Well sir, considering the special gazette notification that was published last Friday I do not think it will be right for me to discuss broadcasting issues with you hereafter, officially". Nonplussed, Jayewardene replied, "What gazette notification? What is all this about?" Equally nonplussed I replied, "Don't you know sir, that the broadcasting portfolio was transferred to the Prime Minister's ministry last Friday?" Jayewardene was aghast and fell silent and replaced the phone. I then called him back to say that I am dreadfully sorry to know that he had not been consulted about the transfer of his flagship portfolio and said I would like to call on him anyway, not to discuss broadcasting, but as a gesture of my personal loyalty to him. Whereupon he tried to dissuade me from doing so because he said that the CID was covering his house and noting everyone who went in and out. I assured him that that did not bother me because I had every right to see him as a private individual, and he relented, but admonished me with a "Take care"!

The sordid underside

When I saw him at about 10 that morning, his wife Elina ushered me to JR's bedroom where he was still in bed, visibly shaken and distraught. Over the next two hours Jayewardene poured out a long litany of the wrongs and back stabbings he had allegedly received from Dudley Senanayake and his circle of friends and officials. He also went on to make sweeping statements about Dudley's supposed abnormal psychological condition, and in support of his

claim, pulled out a sheaf of papers purporting to be medical reports issued by a psychiatrist who had treated Dudley when he was in the US a few months earlier, which he said he had obtained surreptitiously, and which according to Jayewardene, had diagnosed Dudley to be psychotic who will soon turn homicidal! At that point I wasn't sure whose conduct was more horrifying and more disgusting, Dudley's or JR's. It was all so sordid and stomach turning. Thereupon, I told JR politely but firmly, that it was palpably wrong to pry into another's medical reports, and much worse, to circulate them and use them for political purposes and said that I would not want to read them ever, and so saying left his house.

As events panned out, my new Minister, Dudley Senanayake who as PM now also held the broadcasting portfolio in addition to Defence and External affairs, did not transfer me out. To the contrary, he sent for me and assured me that he had the highest confidence in me as a public servant, and that he looked forward to working with me as the Chairman and Director General of the new Corporation.

I should also mention that the sordid stories concerning Senanayake that JR narrated to me when I met him at "Braemar" that morning have stayed with me to this day, and have not been repeated to anyone, not even to my wife! Had I whispered any of those stories in Senanayake's ear he would have sacked Jayewardene from the Cabinet without any hesitation, and the UNP led coalition would have come apart within a few weeks.

The model Minister and boss

During the four years that followed I worked under Senanayake without a single glitch. He respected my rights as a public servant and likewise I accorded to him the respect due to him, but I never grovelled, nor was I ever obsequious. In fact he allowed me such exceptional discretion in running the new Ceylon Broadcasting Corporation that it was as if the very clauses to which he took strong exception in the original draft of the Broadcasting Act, were now effective in practice. During the four years 1966 – 1970 not once did he issue me any instructions either in writing or orally, nor did he even inquire after the reasons for certain drastic courses of action I had taken which I

(Continued on Page 21)



Meals
Ammi
Made

DATE CAKE

by CHERYL D'ABRERA

Ingredients

4 cups dates, chopped
4 cups cashew nuts, chopped
4 cups sugar
6 cups flour, sifted
4 cups boiling water
4 eggs, beaten
4 tsps soda bicarb
1 tsp salt
4 tsps vanilla
250g butter

Method: Pour boiling water over chopped dates, add soda bicarb, then butter and set

aside to cool. Beat eggs, add sugar, then mix in chopped dates and flour alternately until well mixed. Bake in a pan approximately 6" x 9" at 325 degrees for an hour or longer until cooked.

This cake can be iced, if desired. The following will make enough cream to cover the cake.

Icing

3 cups icing sugar
4 tbsp melted butter
2 tsp lemon juice

Send us your recipes

Readers are invited to submit their favourite recipes for publication in this column. Preferably your recipes will be simple and easy to prepare. They must be of Sri Lankan origin and as this is a family-orientated column, we suggest that your recipes be of meals you learnt to prepare from your Amme or Achchi.

So why wait? Send those mouth-watering recipes to the editor without delay.

Nicholas Gould.... (From Page 15)

Minister D. S. Senanayake once described as "the greatest Ceylonese of all time") and his brother, Ponnambalam Arunachalam. His ability to cross ethnic boundaries and attract support from both Tamils and Sinhalese was obvious at the time of the Maradana election. It is interesting, if futile, to speculate what even greater role the Tamil people of Sri Lanka might have played in the early national independence movement, had Gould's unparalleled intensity and brilliance turned him into the kind of Tamil statesman able to lead the way. It was said that of him that, at the very least, had circumstances been very different he would have made an outstanding Chief Justice of Ceylon.

Instead, Gould spent his most productive years dabbling in all manner of mischief and shady commercial ventures. Sir Gerard Wijeyekoon recalled as a young Colombo barrister in the early 1900s, when Gould would have been in his early sixties, seeing him around the law library and the courthouse, pursuing his intrigues and vendettas in various cases before

the courts. Once Gould and his proctor (solicitor) approached young Wijeyekoon in the law library to request his support for a Motion before the District Judge. Wijeyekoon gave a tentative "yes", but was quickly taken aside by some of his older legal friends in the library, and quietly warned about Gould. Sensibly, the budding young Advocate then asked Gould to be excused from his commitment.

Nicholas Gould is said to have turned to his bride while giving a speech at his wedding reception, and told her: "If not for 'u', I would have been Gold!" The clever pun on his name became famous, and reportedly upset his long-suffering wife every time the poor woman heard it repeated. Another more appropriate adage automatically comes to mind, however, when including this profile of Nicholas Gautier Gould. It begins with the words: "All that glitters...."

(Now concluded)



Poetry...

THE CHILDREN'S WARD

In the heat and fury of modern war
Consider the little children.
Small, bruised uncomprehending faces
Bathed in blood, sweat and tears
Stare out at us from TV screens
From Sri Lanka, Sudan and Afghanistan.
The faces of anguished mothers and fathers
Unable to assuage their suffering,
Images of the loss of hope
The utter frustration of the helpless.

Yet there is hope where still the furies rage
In Sudan and Afghanistan,
Human compassion expressed in action
Concern and care for children
In new hospitals, clinics given by generous donors.
In the children's ward somewhere in Sudan
Yacoub who has a defective heart valve
And cannot cope with the insecurities of war
Waits for a life-giving operation
Pure gift, for his poor parents cannot afford such a luxury.

In a hospital at Kabul
The children's ward is full of amputees.
Innocent children who picked up small mines
New toys to play with (so they thought)
Until they exploded, shattering fingers, hands,
arms or feet.
Murtaka is still mischievous

When Insults had Class

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first
night of my new play;
Bring a friend... If you have one." --
(George Bernard Shaw to
Winston Churchill).
Winston Churchill - in response:
"Cannot possibly attend first night,
Will attend second... If there is one." -

"He has no enemies,
But is intensely disliked by his friends.."
-- Oscar Wilde

Undaunted by his injured hands.
His endearing smile lights up the ward,
With whispered words he comforts
Others who moan or weep in pain.

Outside in a secluded place a lovely garden
grows
To comfort the children who come there, some in
wheel chairs,
Whenever the sadness overwhelms them.
Their spirits lift and renew hope and energy
As they linger amidst the colorful blooms,
They talk of how it will be when back at school.
One says, timidly, "will the others laugh at us?"
Another replies robustly "I couldn't care less!"
A venerable old man tends the flowers with love
and warns 'no picking'
Cheeky Murtaka steals a flower, buries his nose
in the perfume of a pink rose.
When He walked the earth so many centuries
ago,
The Saviour said: 'Suffer the little children to
come unto me,
And forbid them not for of such is the kingdom
of Heaven.'
In the children's ward where God's name is often
invoked,
We discern the Kingdom.

– SHELAGH GOONEWARDENE

The Dudley Senanayake I knew *(from Page 19)*

knew displeased many of his colleagues. When
several individual members of his Cabinet
actually complained to him that I was intolerably
arrogant and not amenable to their requests
he stood by me solidly and did not even once
expose me to their wrath. He was indeed the
model Minister and boss such as I have not heard
of in Sri Lanka or elsewhere.

I shall now turn to a narration of several
other events that occurred during the years 1966
and 1970 and during the three years following his
exit from office in 1970, that throw further light
on Dudley Senanayake's complex character.

(To be continued in next issue)

Synopses of Meetings

Sydney, August 22, 2010

The speaker at the well attended meeting was the President of the Ceylon Society of Australia, Sunil de Silva. The subject of his talk was *The Theatre of the Court Room and the Court Room of the Theatre*. Sunil was the Attorney General in Sri Lanka and now works as a Crown Prosecutor in Australia. His acting career goes back to the 1950s in Sri Lanka and continues in Australia where he is a well known Thespian acting in a variety of plays. He is therefore well equipped to explore the relationship between the Court Room and the Theatre.

Sunil started off by saying that similar techniques are used in the Theatre and the Court Room. There were many lawyers who were competent actors and John de Silva, Charles



Dias, Percy Collin Thome and Sidat Nandalochana are prime examples. The Court Room and the Theatre present to the jury and the

audience respectively a plot and characters as they develop. To start with, both a Court trial and a theatrical performance present audiences with stories that focus on disclosing information that will resolve a central conflict and are presented in a manner that ensures that any "audience" will be able to understand and follow the plot as well as connect to the characters they develop.

Television and films feature legal dramas that are "based on actual events", which usually means that fictional variations have been added to a real situation. However, this phrase also applies to the actual trial itself as both prosecution and defence construct stories based on common events.

They both construe their accounts as "fact" or "reality" but often the stories do not overlap, indicating that at least one account is false, and perhaps both accounts shade the truth towards their respective sides. In these instances, juries merely make the best decision after

weighing the evidence. Perhaps the only true fact is that truth is as subjective and shifty as lying.

He quoted as an example the Walasmulla shooting cases. Due to disputes between two families, a person is shot dead but there are no witnesses. So the relatives of the deceased create a witness – usually a person with an unsavoury criminal record. A typical theatrical situation is created. The witness says that on the night in question he went outside from the deceased's house to answer a call of nature and he saw the accused creeping up to the house with a gun and knocking on the door. When the deceased opened the door he was shot dead. The defense Counsel asked him what was the distance between the accused and the deceased and he replies that it was about ten feet. Later the Government Analyst gives evidence and says that judging by the spread of pellets in the deceased's body, the shot must have been fired from a distance of about hundred feet. The credibility of the defense witness is totally destroyed.

A play comes alive as drama not when it is read but when it is acted out on stage. Similarly, defense counsel strive to create a theatrical effect. G.G. Ponnambalam would arrive in court one minute before the judge arrives. Three peons would carry his books, bag and brief, and this dramatic entry creates an effect on the jury.

At this point, before examining the theatrical format, Sunil invited Ernest Macintyre the well known playwright and dramatist to join him as a moderator and add his own comments on theatrical aspects. In a play, the plot is not just a story but the structure of how it is presented. Drama displays in today's context an event from the past using props, costumes and lighting to create a theatrical effect so that the audience believes that it is happening in the present and is current. A court case presentation follows a similar style. It is a sequence of narration of evidence. It has to be worked into a format, the pieces have to fit together for the benefit of the jury. The technique is the same in the court and in the theatre.

An actor has to prepare himself for his part in a play. He has to believe that he is actually the part that he is playing. Theatre entails the creation of characters that react to delivered lines, play off the energy of the other characters and the audience, and respond to the action on the stage. In other words, the magic is in the life of the

plot as seen on stage, where every show will be different because the drama keeps changing every time it is presented. The legal proceedings of the court room follow the same concept. Presentation of story is the key to an effective case, denoting the attorney as the main actor in the trial.

Lawyers require advocacy training, and must be able to project what they wish to say and develop the art of persuasion. A Prosecutor is not allowed to use words that evoke sympathy and he must be impartial. However, he can frame his questions to get the response he wants from the witness. Sunil said that one of the important lessons he learned from Senator Nadesan QC was that from the beginning of the case one must keep in mind the closing address and work all questions to witnesses towards material for the closing address.

Other aspects are presentation of character, chain of events, cause and effect, diction, language, projection and choice of words which must carry conviction. Sunil said that perhaps the finest examples of theatrical presentations in a court room were by Colvin R de Silva. The Austrian drama producer/director Jubal who was on contract to the University of Ceylon in the 1950's said that Colvin could carry off any role in the theatre and could be trained to become a superstar.

A court case is a spectacle of dramatic presentation. The court stands when the judge arrives. The judge and barristers wear wigs for theatrical effect – but as one wag said, their wigs are the only example of horse's hair adorning the heads of donkeys! Theatre and court room follow a similar dramatic structure. In the case of the theatre it is props and scenery whereas in the court room it is photographs and exhibits. Over two-thirds of Shakespeare's plays feature trial scenes. The argument can be made that law has a more noble aspiration than theatre, which is often done simply for the sake of art. The legal system aims to find truth and uphold justice based on facts. If the performance aspect of law is a vital component, suddenly a link is drawn to the theatre. In fact, it could be even said that "trials and oral arguments are as necessary to the judicial system as performance is to drama".

Sunil illustrated his talk with many humorous anecdotes of Sri Lankan court room tales some of which are reproduced here. G G Ponnambalam was opposed to Bunty de Zoysa in a case and noticing that a Police

Constable giving effective evidence against Ponnambalam's client was not having the chin strap of his hat in place, Ponnambalam snapped, "Don't stand there looking like a monkey with your chin strap out of place". Bunty jumped to his feet, "I object to that question Your Honour, the policeman has no opportunity of saying what Mr Ponnambalam looks like!".



• Among the guests at the well-attended talk by Sunil de Silva (at left in picture opposite). Photos by Senanie de Silva.

Shortly after Daya Perera was appointed a President's Counsel, he was cross-examining a Police Officer recently promoted as a Sub-Inspector. He had been a Constable for many years and a Sergeant for many more years before he was finally promoted. Daya could not break through the version that the Policeman was giving in evidence and thought of a way of reducing the effect of the evidence on the Jury. Daya asked him "You are a Sub-Inspector?", "Yes" said the Policeman with pride in his voice. "And when, Sir, were you appointed a Sub-Inspector?" Back came the reply, "The same day you were appointed a P.C."

The forensic expert was giving evidence in a case of murder by throwing a hand bomb and said that death was caused by shrapnel. The young defense lawyer asked "Are you sure?", "I am certain" replied the Doctor. The lawyer turned to the Judge and said "I move that the accused be discharged". "Why?" asked the surprised Judge. The lawyer replied, "The Doctor says that death was caused by Shrapnel, but my client's name is Saranelis".

George Chitty had a perfect command of the English language and used it to maximum effect. In one case a cantankerous opponent was forced into a corner and the Judge asked him "Mr X, what do you say to that?" The Counsel

pompously replied "To that I cannot say 'nay'" – to which Chitty promptly said, "Of course you cannot, you are not a horse".

A very lively question and answer session followed, after which the usual social evening was held.

– *Thiru Arumugam*

COLOMBO Chapter September 4, 2010

President of the Chapter Ms Chulie de Silva introducing the speaker said Dr.P.G.Punchihewa having entered the Ceylon Civil Service had held very senior positions in the Government of Sri Lanka and also had been the Executive Director of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, an intergovernmental organisation based in Jakarta, Indonesia. She also referred to his publications which included the state literary award winning translation "The Shattered Earth" Punchihewa commencing his presentation said that it was based on his most recent book entitled "Maha-Senapathi Dutugamunu." In the inscriptions he said Dutugamunu's paladins are mentioned as Senapathis – commanders - and the king as Mahasenapathi -the Commander in Chief. In addition to Mahavamsa he said he had delved into number of other sources such as Dhatuvamsa, Rajavaliya, Pali commentaries, rock inscriptions and more recent publications. In particular he referred to the publication "Ceylon History" by an Englishman William Knighton published in 1845 which spoke of Dutugamunu in glowing terms. It described Dutugamunu as "persevering, indefatigable, energetic, warlike, and religious prince, beloved by his people, honored by his contemporaries and extolled by posterity, as the deliverer of his country, the embellisher of Ceylon and the prop and support of Buddhism itself".

Continuing his presentation he drew the attention of the audience to the role King Kavantissa, Dutugamunu's father played in preparing the ground for a future invasion of Anuradhapura and said that he was not the timid ruler The Mahavamsa paints him to be but a far-sighted, intelligent, patriotic and a highly religious ruler. Punchihewa credited him as the first ruler in the island to set up a professional

army with the ten paladins as the core group. In addition he had set up factories to manufacture arms and had taken steps to safeguard the borders of the Kingdom from the King Elara by sending Dighabaya, his foster son, to be in charge. The speaker also referred to the action taken by Kavantissa to consolidate his position by bringing the smaller kingdoms in Ruhuna under his suzerainty.

Punchihewa then spoke of the preparations made by Dutugamunu prior to marching against Elara. He reinforced the army with additional recruitment. He restored the road to Anuradhapura, undertook a food drive and won over the Sangha and the people with his clarion call that his struggle was to establish the Sambuddha sasana and not for personal gains. In presenting a map showing the probable route Dutugamunu had taken he described the King's march to Anuradhapura where he met Elara face to face and killed him. He then referred to the decree Dutugamunu made after felling Elara and to the monument he built in his memory instructing that those who go past it should pay due respect to it. He said this decree had been followed till very recent times.

After subjugating his rivals, Dutugamunu then concentrated on religious and social service activities

Ruvanweli Dagaba, Mirisavatiya Dagaba and Lohamahapasdya were three monumental religious works he had undertaken . He also worked for the common good by setting up 18 hospitals and manning them with physicians. He had provided expectant mothers with provisions and midwives with gifts. He had set up law courts and for the first time in the history of the island had introduced one legal system.

In evaluating the contribution Dutugamunu made to the country, Punchihewa said he was the first to bring the country under one rule administratively. He was the first in the Island to convene an international gathering as was seen on the occasion of commencement of building the Mahathupa. He was the first to build colossal stupas in the world. As mentioned previously he was the first to bring the country under one legal system and first to build hospitals.

Though he was compelled to go to war he abhorred blood shed as was seen when he called Tissa to surrender and Elara to fight in

single combat. He probably took the risk of facing Bhalluka to avoid further blood shed.

Punchihewa concluded his presentation with the remarks that even after 2000 years name Gamini is perpetuated, honored and is a source of inspiration. He said the young soldier who sacrificed his life by jumping into the LTTE tanker laden with bombs at Elephant Pass to avoid a catastrophe was a Gamini (Kularatna). Punchihewa added that he dedicated his book "Maha Senapathi Dutugamunu" to all the soldiers who sacrificed their lives, lost their limbs and eyesight in safeguarding the country, the nation and the religion and to Commanders-in-Chief from the time of Dutugamunu to date.

Following the lecture several questions were posed to the speaker. As to the question about the age of Elara and Velusumana

speaker said he did not make any calculation about their age. However, Elara would have been about seventy at the time of his death as Dutugamunu was 44 when he killed Elara and at the time Gamini was born Elara was reigning in Anuradhapura. Similarly Velusumana too would have been of advanced age as he was well known as a valiant soldier before the birth of Gamini.

Another question was whether Dutugamunu adopted a policy of reconciliation against the vanquished. Speaker commented that Elara was an invader and there wouldn't have been a permanent Tamil population to reconcile with. While Elara's army had a fair number of Sinhalese, any foreign elements would have got absorbed into the Sinhala population.

– Chulie de Silva

Don't count on the Court Jester

One day Andre, the court jester, heard the rich owner of a terraced rice field in the hilly district say: "There is a hill right in the centre of my field. I wish I could get it removed." Andre's fertile brain mused upon those words. Then he went to the rich rice field owner.

"Sir," said Andre. "I can throw that hill which is right in the middle of your field as far as the Sinha Raja forest."

The rich rice field owner was most pleased. "What do you want as payment for this work?" he enquired.

Andre blushed. "I don't want any payments as such," he said. "I'll do it just to help you. I like helping people." Andre scratched his ear. "But it would be nice if you could strengthen me up with rice and black-fowl curry for about three months."

"That's not difficult," said the rich man. To himself he thought it was cheap only to have to feed the man.

So for the next three months Andre forgot about the palace. Morning and evening

Andre called at the rich man's house and ate delicious hill country rice and black-fowl curry. He began to get nice and fat.

"Isn't it time to remove the hill?" asked the rich man one morning.

"Tomorrow I will do so," said Andre speedily. "I will throw that hill as far as Sinha Raja forest. Ask all the villagers to come and watch me."

Next morning after a hearty breakfast of fragrant hill country rice and more black-fowl curry, Andre stepped out to the hill. The entire village had stepped out to watch the spectacle.

Andre carefully placed a dry arecanut leaf on his shoulder. Then he looked at the large audience about him and said: "Come on, all of you. What are you just standing around for? Come and lift the hill and place it on my shoulder. Then I will throw it."

The owner of the rice field and the villagers slowly realised that this was Andre, the court jester. They had fallen victim to another joke of his.

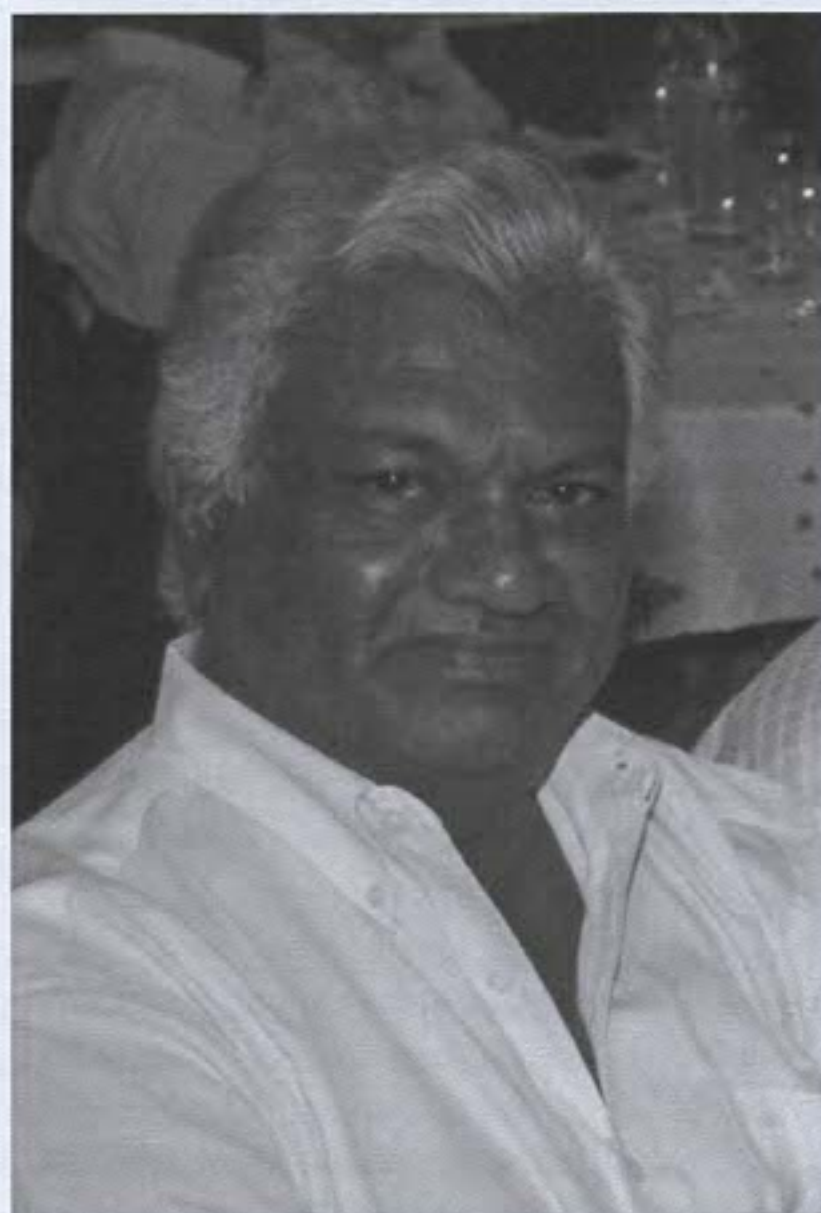
Andre went home laughing. What a pleasant three months that had been.

Manel Ranatunge – How Andre Threw the Hill, from the collection *Folk Tales of Sri Lanka*.

Appreciations

MIKE UDABAGE (1940-2010)

A large crowd of friends and relatives thronged the Northern Suburbs Cemetery to bid farewell to Mike Udabage who passed away on October 8 after a brief but



devastating bout of pancreatic cancer. Mike was a founding member of the Ceylon Society of Australia and his contribution to its growth and development was unique and invaluable. Members of the Society were privileged to provide a guard of honour for Mike on his final journey to the chapel.

He worked for the Society in numerous ways and did so with unbridled determination that can only come from a person who believed passionately in the Society's work and objectives. I believe that this driving passion came to him from the love he had for the land of his birth and the cultural milieu from which he emerged. I first met Mike almost 26 years ago when we met at dinner at the home of a mutual friend.

It was a case of instant rapport as we both shared many common interests not the least of which was collecting antiquarian books on Sri Lanka. It seemed as if we had not severed the umbilical cord that tied us to our motherland but on the contrary it appeared to be giving us sustenance and untold pleasure. The history of Sri Lanka, the story of its peoples long gone and of those who are still with us, its many interesting places, anecdotes on men and matters, seemed to fascinate him no end and he found the Society the ideal vehicle to transport those delights to him. His response to my invitation to join us in forming the Society 13 years ago was prompt and very positive and he was one of our founding members full of optimism for its future and ready to do anything to help it along.

Mike was a man of action and a person who made things happen. He was extroverted, and revelled in personal relationships underscored by honesty and sincerity, consequently enabling the growth of a large and resourceful network of friends and associates. From the very inception of the Society, Mike was its Publication Officer, a position which really meant being a *de facto* guardian angel for the Society's flagship "The Ceylankan"; and he filled that position superbly. Apart from his valuable counsel as a top ranking professional in the field of commercial publication, Mike used his considerable clout to call upon his network of friends to assist in the production of the quarterly journal with substantial donations. He has over the years brought in donations of over \$6400 to the Society which we all acknowledge with much gratitude. Mike was the founder of the Society's Chapter in Colombo where he worked behind the scenes to establish the Chapter and to see to its continued success. His demise has left a void that will be almost impossible to fill.

Mike Udabage born in 1940 in the village of Udabage, the birth place of his forbears, showed early promise of future success as a schoolboy of 17 years when he

won the coveted New York Herald Tribune Fellowship to USA in 1957. That may well have laid the foundation in him for excellence in public speaking and in the art of "making friends and influencing people". He returned to Sri Lanka to complete his education and to work in the private sector as an executive. He was as a sculler in the Ananda College Rowing team and later for the Colombo Rowing Club where he subsequently was elected the President. One of his great pleasures was the assistance and guidance he was able to provide to the Ananda College Rowing team in later years.

On migrating to Australia in the 1970s, he worked in the marketing and advertising industry, first as General Manager in charge of computer publications of the Australian Consolidated Press where he worked for 23 years, followed by six years with IDG Communications as the President of the PC Division.

He retired from regular employment five years ago but continued to provide consultancy and advisory services in the advertising and marketing industry. From about 10 years ago he has been spending a part of each year in the home that he acquired in Sri Lanka, and returning to his home in Sydney to enjoy the summer. That arrangement suited him to the tee and he was able to enjoy the best of both worlds. It was during his recent stay in Sri Lanka that the first signs of the dreaded terminal illness appeared.

Mike, the gregarious man who loved company and conversation, who revelled in banter, a man who enjoyed good cuisine and a glass of red, has gone to his eternal rest. The unforgettable Mike, a source of strength to all who knew him, is no more. His unlimited energy, his genial personality, and the glowing brightness of his friendship will be sorely missed. It is with deep sadness that I offer the Society's condolences to his grieving wife Rosemarie, son Ray, daughter Mihiri and family.

– Hugh Karunanayake

Mike Udabage (2)

It is a very sad day for a number of institutions and individuals to have heard of the death of Mike Udabage. He died of cancer of the Pancreas which we learned in Medical School in our book on Surgery by Hamilton Bailey, was a "General among the Captains of Death". It is practically incurable and spreads swiftly.

He was a very resourceful person who passed on his expertise and help in a generous way to others. Not expecting anything in return, he did what was right.

I know of two areas in which he shared his knowledge and this helped immensely. I am sure there are many more stories to be told about his selflessness and dedication to causes that he believed in.

The first of these was with the Ceylon Society of Australia, where he was a founder member and contributed enormously in making it a great success. I saw him in action when the CSA Founder President of the Sri Lanka Chapter, Somasiri Devendra resigned, and the chapter was left without anyone to run it. Mike stepped into the breach and guided the Society through this most difficult time until they found a substitute leader in Chulie de Silva who has performed admirably. This is a non-profit making honorary society which provides a crucial function in modern Sri Lanka and all those who are office bearers do so with great love and sacrifice of their time.

We were blessed to have had him in Sri Lanka at that time.

The other area which I am aware of was his contribution to the setting up of the Rowing Club in his old school - Ananda College. He gave of his time, expertise and I believe even some money in setting this up. It has turned out to be a winner where Ananda College is doing so well already. It must have given him great pleasure to see this happen.

His journey through life was like a pathfinder who illuminates his path so that others who follow him can see in the light.

We all shall miss him immensely and we can only be thankful that in our own journey through life we touched each other, which turned out to be a very great experience for us.

We convey to his family our most sincere condolences on the death of a truly great and unassuming man.

– Dr Brendon Gunaratne

Mike Udabage (3)

"Absent in body, but present in spirit"

*A tribute from the Colombo Chapter of
the Ceylon Society of Australia*

We never thought we would have to write an Appreciation of Mike Udabage. "After all," as Somasiri Devendra observes, "I am that much older than him and he was yet a schoolboy when I joined Ananda College as a Teacher. With a fading memory I cannot recall him in a classroom," he muses, "but I was in charge of the Debating Team he led and he showed me with pride the formal photograph of the team hung on a wall close to his living room."

"We are all aware of his achievements at school," reminisces Daya Wickramatunga. "Head Prefect, winner of the Fritz Kunz Prize for the best student of the year, winner of the New York Herald Tribune Fellowship in 1958, following an all island essay competition. He would say that the essay he wrote on 'What new contributions can my country make to human understanding' was built around the Buddha's way to Peace." Needless to say he became imbued with the values on which Ananda was founded: a deep sense of empathy for the less privileged, the many faceted pluralistic societal values and irrepressible love for the country and its people. "I could not understand why he decided on employment, in spite of gaining entrance to the University of Ceylon in 1961" says Daya. "I am now made to understand that it was but a supreme sacrifice of an elder brother who willed to illuminate a life's path for his siblings. That was the all pervading spirit of this man who extended his loving kindness to all he came into contact with."

Says Somasiri; "I remember his schoolboy face and grin, just a slimmer version of the same face I met, again, about 50 years later. It was the CSA and 'The Ceylankan' that brought us together again. We had exchanged emails about something I had written, which had caught his eye because of his interest in ships and boats. So he called over and thus began a new relationship that led to the creation of the Colombo Chapter of the CSA. He had already roped in his school mate Daya Wickramatunga to be Secretary and wanted me to be President/Convener. I was already familiar with the journal and so I had no hesitation in saying 'Yes'. This was the beginning of the Colombo Chapter. We encountered some teething problems, partly because I was unaware of how the CSA functioned. I remember that the CSA Constitution was amended at our request. My role was of a

father figure; it was Mike who looked after the nuts and bolts, kept accounts, collected subs, lent the Secretary a helping hand, talked to the Bank, recruited new members and represented the CSA when the need arose. He presided at the inaugural meeting and I remember with gratitude that, when I launched a book at a Colombo Chapter meeting, it was Mike who chaired the meeting. When I resigned after two years of chairing, he carried on his broad shoulders the task of finding a successor. The Colombo Chapter of the CSA was his baby".

He took an abiding interest in the Rowing Club of Ananda College of which he was President. He had told his wife and daughter that instead of the flowers that people would bring for his funeral, tell them to contribute to the Ananda College Rowing Club. These excerpts from the letters he wrote to the Joint Secretary of the Rowing Club, Mr. Ravi Jayaratne, describes in ample measure the leadership spirit of the man and his continued presence as mentor for the young boys of the Rowing Club.

His last note to the boys, just before the 2010 Sri Lanka National Rowing Championship in September, where Ananda College won two Gold and two Bronze medals was:

"Please convey my very best to our boys, wish them much success. These are the Rowing Nationals and they are not dress rehearsals. My rowing coach the late Ray Wijewardene who passed away recently gave me a piece of advice, the spirit of which I have never forgotten. He saw me getting off a boat after a race and Ray got really stuck into me saying he was watching me getting off the boat with plenty of energy left. Next time, he said, when you finish a race I want to see that you have given everything you got, nothing more left, just a limp body. Extreme, but that's how it should be."

And his poignant last message, on 30th September, "signing off" in style:

"Ravi, On my return from Sri Lanka last time I was admitted to hospital and now there is conclusive evidence that I am terminally ill with incurable cancer. Consequently I wish to resign from the post of President Ananda College Rowing Club. If we stick to the foundations we laid down, I have no doubt we will one day produce Sri Lanka's best oarsman. I leave with you the feeling that I have done the best I could.

All my best, Mike"

A visit to his home in Sydney, as many have said, was to enter a veritable sanctuary of Sri Lanka relics, from valuable first editions to

old paintings and invaluable Sri Lanka antique furniture and artifacts, creating an ambience which few Sri Lankans, if any, at home can match. Over all of this he would stand colossus like, a culinary expert with a ladle in hand and a puckish smile on his lips, cooking his favourite curry for the visitors he loved to entertain. The conversation sooner than later, would turn to Sri Lanka, its politics, its glory, its challenges, its future, always assuming he knew best. The banter, the arguments and the laughter on which he wallowed, would invariably follow. Mike and Rosemarie celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary weeks before he passed away and their deep love, care and concern for each other is the lasting legacy of a spirit he leaves for their children Ray, Mihiri and her children.

Anicca vata sankhara

VERNON NOEL KELLY (1922-2010)

Vernon Kelly who passed away on July 22, 2010 was a long standing member of our Society. He migrated to Australia with his family in 1958 in the days of the "White Australia" immigration policy. Vernon lived in his adopted homeland for the greater part of his life – over 50 years, and has during this period contributed to Australia the benefits of his well rounded education and early employment experience gathered in the land of his birth – Sri Lanka. His profile could well be considered as a desirable prototype for an ideally successful migrant.

Vernon Noel Kelly was born in Kollupitiya in Sri Lanka on October 20, 1922. He was educated at Royal Preparatory School and Royal College, Colombo where he distinguished himself both in and off the classroom. He was a Senior Cadet with the Royal College Cadet Battalion, a Senior



Prefect and a colours man at Rugby for Royal. On leaving school with an exemption from the London Matriculation Examination, he chose to follow engineering studies and graduated from the Institution of Civil Engineers in London with an AMICE. He was one of the earliest Ceylonese executives to work for the Shell Petroleum Company where he worked as a Designs Engineer until he migrated to Australia. In the early 1950s Vernon represented the Havelocks

Rugby Club as a second row forward and was a teammate of CSA stalwart Dr Robert Sourjah in the championship winning team that also included the brothers Fred and Hugh Aldons and S.B. Pilapitiya, among others. A keen and versatile sportsman, in addition to rugby, he played cricket, golf, squash and hockey in his younger days and lawn bowls in the latter years.

Vernon migrated to Australia with his family at the age of 36. It was the "lucky" era where there were no restrictions on remittances from Ceylon. The family including his wife's parents arrived in Sydney with all their possessions and £40,000 in funds to invest in a home. They first settled in Sydney where he worked for British Petroleum (BP) for nine years and then in Melbourne, also for BP, till 1983 when he retired. Since his retirement, he has been involved in a variety of community service activities and was on the Committee of several Clubs and Associations to which he gave his time and counsel unstintingly, quietly, and without fuss. Although not a very active member of CSA he looked forward to reading every issue of *The Ceylankan* to which he contributed an interesting article a few years ago on an exorcism or devil dancing ceremony that he had witnessed in Kalutara during the days of his youth.

Vernon was a man who led a rich but unostentatious life which reflected the intrinsic moral and social values that guided him. Such men are rare in today's uncompromising and materialistic world and it is our sad duty to record his passing. He is survived by Maureen his wife of nearly sixty years, daughter Vanessa and son Nigel.

LALIN FERNANDO (1940 –2010)

Lalin Fernando, member of the CSA, was hours away from attending our Public Meeting on August 22, when he died under tragic circumstances.

He was from an illustrious family – his father, the late J L M Fernando was former Chairman of the then Air Ceylon. His mother, the late Edith Fernando was former Chairperson of Pegasus Reef Hotel. He was the nephew of the late Justice H N G Fernando, Chief Justice of Ceylon.

My friend and adviser for over 55 years, Lalin had his entire education at St Joseph's College, Colombo. He was involved in the extra

curricular activities of the College and excelled in the activities of The Film Society and The Music Art & Drama Society.

Under the direction of the then Fr. Noel Crusz we both produced for The Film Society a schoolboy production of a silent film called "LITTLE BIKE LOST". He was the founder of the Old Josephians Association of NSW.

Lalin was an Engineer at Colombo Commercial Company, Kandy and left for London to further his education. In London, he met Carmen (nee Cameron) and married her in 1965. They had three daughters, Dayanthi, Shamin, Michelle and six grandchildren.



Lalin was the veritable "Mister Fix It" - there was nothing he could not do, be it around the house, in the garden or giving new life to some electronic gadget or other. The Patio at the back of his home is a glowing tribute to his expertise in building and carpentry

When in London, he worked as a Cab Driver and Postman to earn a few shillings for his pocket money. My younger brother Fred and Prof. Rene Kahawita related stories to me of how when they arrived in London, Lalin picked them up from Liverpool Station and kept them in his hostel, till they found a roof above their heads, to start their new lives in London

When I was in England in 1960, I mailed a picture postcard one morning to Lalin to inform him that I was in London with my mother who had an appointment with a Harley Street specialist. I was surprised to receive a phone call from Lalin late that evening. I asked him "How did you know that I was in London?", to which he replied: "If you mail a letter before 10 am on any weekday, same day delivery is assured."

Lalin and Carmen moved to Sydney with their three daughters over three decades ago. He worked for Standards Australia for 15 years during which time he helped develop the world's first Australian Standards for electronic funds transfer that has now become part of everyday life. He was on contract with St. George Bank at the time of his death.

The huge attendance at the funeral service at the Our Lady of The Assumption

Catholic Church, Homebush, his Parish Church he unfailingly assisted in many ways, was a fitting farewell to a man who was always available to lend a helping hand where ever it was needed.

May he rest in peace.

- Harry de Sayrah, OAM JP

Obituary – DAVID PARKER

We are sorry to report the passing of David Parker, in Melbourne on October 27. He had been a CSA member for many years and is the elder brother of Brian who is well known to Sydney members --we extend our sympathies to him & other family members. David wrote two very interesting articles on planting in PNG, a few years back—he was, of course, a tea planter in Sri Lanka for many years as were his two brothers and his father. His mother's family, the Hurst's were also a well known planting dynasty.

The call of the jungle

Countless are the times when men have returned completely sore with tick bite infections and fever or wounded or ill. But no sooner are they cured than the same men yearn to return whence they have come. Every hardship remains a pleasant memory; a challenge overcome; the misery forgotten and a longing to return abides in the mind. Nature calls once more. Adventure inveigles, and the jungle spirit haunts one, until all reasoning or bonds of duty to one's occupation break down in the face of the irresistible wild beckoning. One succumbs and goes again, deep into the bosom of Mother Nature: back to those open glades where herds of spotted deer graze—where newborn fawns frolic and play; back to where elephants wander at will, along tunnelled trails ... back to those wild places whose very names sound sweet music to one's ears, like balm to the fevered brow - to *pimbura-hiti-gal-ge* (the-rock-cave-where-the-python-stayed); *gona-vatichcha-kama* (rock-hole-where the-sambhur-fell); *Kimbula-ketu-gala* (rock-where-a-crocodile-is-carved); *Boom-boom-wala* (the earth water hole that goes "boom-boom"); *Akasa-chaittya-gala* (rock-with-the-dagoba-in-the-sky); *Bambara-gas-talawa* (the-plain-with-the-bambara-trees); *Mahallige-damana* (the-old-woman's-pasture-ground) and a host of other jungle places...

Can time be better spent than walking leisurely through forest trails at dusk or dawn? *Source: Jungle Lore (Chap.1), Ceylon Vagabond, Lala Adithiya 1969.*

BOOKSHOP & WEB RESOURCES

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

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Musings & Meanderings by Derrick Mendis SJ Publisher Carl Fernando, "Orient" 7 Mosque Road, Dehiwela. Printed by Channel Link (PVT) Ltd. ISBN 978-955-96636-1-4 Price \$15 (including postage in Australia) obtainable from Michael Berman (02) 9416 7779 Email: MBerman@bigpond.net.au Price in Sri Lanka Rs. 750 Copies from the author at 53/7 Gregory's

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Robert Knox – a Postscript

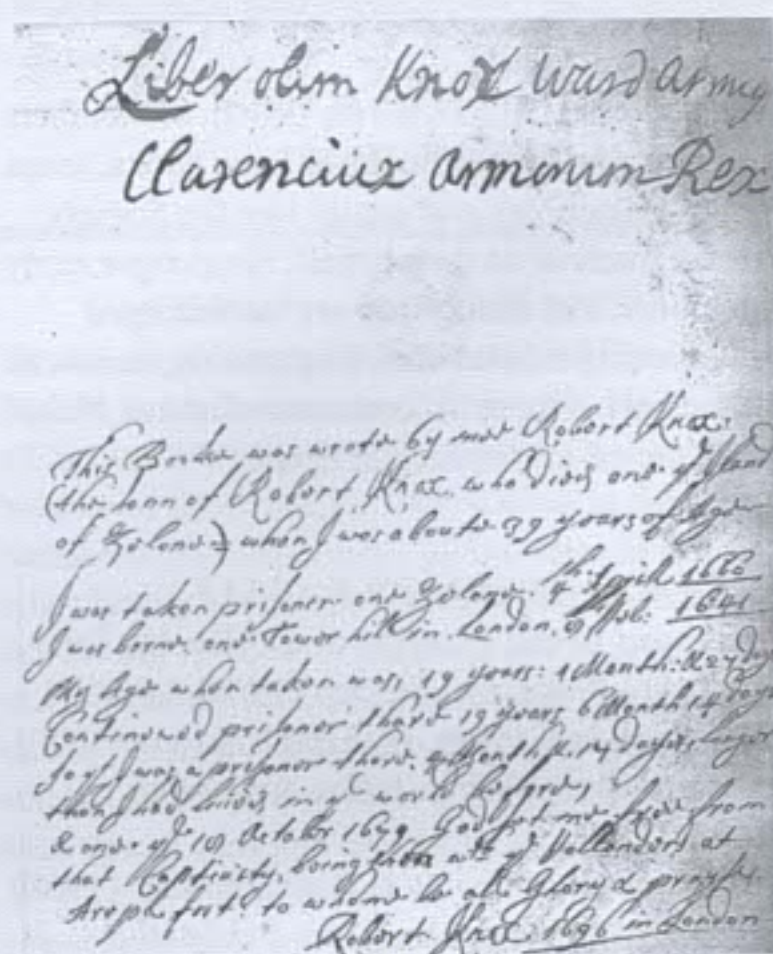
by Thiru Arumugam

The November 2007, 10th Anniversary Collectors Edition of *The Ceylankan* included an interesting and comprehensive article by Dr Brendon Gooneratne about Robert Knox and his 1681 book *An Historical Relation of the Island Ceylon in the East Indies*. The book describes life in the 17th century Kandyan Kingdom where he was incarcerated for 19 years. Daniel Defoe is believed to have been influenced by the book when he wrote *Robinson Crusoe*. A Postscript to that article is a reproduction of the first text page of the copy in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. The Latin inscription at the top of the page: *Liber olim Knox Ward armiger(?) Clarenceux Armorum Rex* has been translated by CSA Members and Classicists, Valentine Perera and Nalini MacIntyre as: **A book formerly (of) Knox Ward, arms bearer (of) Clarenceux King of Arms**. The only doubtful word is the fifth word which is probably *armiger*. Perhaps an erudite reader of *The Ceylankan* may be able to resolve this issue.

Robert Knox is believed to have been a misogynist and that could explain why he did not join most of his captive shipmates who formed liaisons with local women during their long captivity. He remained a life-long bachelor and having no progeny, he bequeathed "The Manuscript of my own life" to his nephew, Knox Ward (Richard Garnett, *The Age of Dryden*, 1895, p. 273). Knox Ward was the son of Sir John Ward, Lord Mayor of London in 1718, which shows that Robert Knox was well connected. The manuscript subsequently went missing for many years.

Knox Ward was Clarenceux King of Arms from 1726 to 1741. The College of Arms in London was founded in 1420 and still exists. It is the official repository of the Coats of Arms and is the office regulating heraldry and the grant of new armorial bearings. Clarenceux is the senior of the two provincial Kings of Arms and has jurisdiction over England, south of the River Trent.

The manuscript page, except for the inscription, is in Robert Knox's own handwriting. The date given in the last line is 1696, which is 15 years after *Historical Relation* was published



in 1681. It therefore probably forms part of the proposed revised edition which was to include his autobiography also, but was never published.

The text of the manuscript reads as follows (note his use of the word "one" instead of "on" and "in", and that his father was also Robert Knox):

This Booke was wrote by mee Robert Knox (the sonn of Robert Knox who died one the Iland of Zelone) when I was aboute 39 years of Age. I was taken prisoner one Zelone, 4th Aprill, 1660. I was borne one Tower hill in London, 8th Feb. 1641. My Age when taken was, 19 years: 1 month : & 27 dayes. Continewd prisoner thare 19 years 6 month 14 dayes So I was a prisoner thare 4 Month & 17 dayes, longer then I had lived in the world before, & one the 18 October 1679 God set mee free from that Captivity, being then with the Hollanders at Arepa fort to whome be all Glory & prayse.

Robert Knox, 1696 in London

Author's Note: : For those who are interested a genuine 1681 first edition of Robert Knox's book is available in the National Library of Australia, Canberra.

A collector king with a love for human trophies

By Vama Vamadevan

King Rajasinghe II of Kandy succeeded his father King Senerath as King of Kandy in 1635. The good news was that he was a collector but the bad news was that the trophies he collected were a menagerie of European captives. It was a quaint hobby which he pursued with assiduity. By the time his reign came to an end, he had over 500 European captives interned in various villages in the Kandyan provinces. They hailed from various European countries such as – England, France, Holland, Germany etc. These human trophies he isolated and interned in different villages scattered in the Kandyan Provinces.

Many of these captives were absorbed into the Kandyan society and the assimilation was so complete that the only trace left is the lighter skin of the Kandyan population and some of the names. Names such as de Appu living in the village of Pupuressa were traced by James Ryan in 1918 to the English captive William Day. Denton in his census report of 1911 mentions Amerasinghe Mudalige Duky de Lenard Bastion de Lye Appuhamy and another Dorkiendoe La Nerolle Franse Mohottige don Samuel Appuhamy. Both these men were descendants of the French Ambassador sent to the Kandyan Court and taken captives by the King. Similarly, there was the Dutch ambassador Hendrick Draak and a French Prisoner Monsieur Du Plessey and Jean Bloem.. With over 500 white men on the loose the Menikes had a field day.

One of the best collectibles King Rajasinghe acquired was Robert Knox. Robert Knox (Senior) died in captivity, while Knox (Junior) spent 20 years as a captive in different villages where he was quartered, the last one being Ellapata in Udunuwara, ten miles North of Kandy. Both Knox senior and junior were Puritans by upbringing and steered clear of women. But not so the other captives. They went about sowing their wild oats indiscriminately. Their amorous advances were not resisted either by the villagers nor frowned upon by the King, who was well aware of the goings on.

With Knox there were 16 other English men. Some of them were taken into the Kings service such as Richard Varnham. Then there was Henry Man taken Prisoner from the ship Persian Merchant. Many of these captives were very unruly, boisterous drunks, plunderers, and assaulted

people and stole livestock. But the collector King turned a blind eye to their excesses. Other known names are Rodger Gold, Ralph Knight, Stephen Rutland, James Kirby, William Vassal, Loveland, Hugh Smart, Henry Man etc. On one occasion Smart tried to be smart and was caught by the Kings men and punished.

It has been a mystery to historians to fathom the mind of the King. It was not for profit



• *King rajasinghe II of Kandy*

nor envy or ill-will. He loved his captives and delighted in their company. No one is certain if he held them to discourse with them and learn about the Western world or whether it was to fight the Dutch or was it just a whim, or a quaint hobby. What ever was his motive he pursued it with great assiduity and success.

Punster in the ranks

- When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
- What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead give away).
- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

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

While every effort is made to print material that is relevant and correct, we do not

take the responsibility for errors. The editor would appreciate if any inaccuracies are brought to his attention.

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

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

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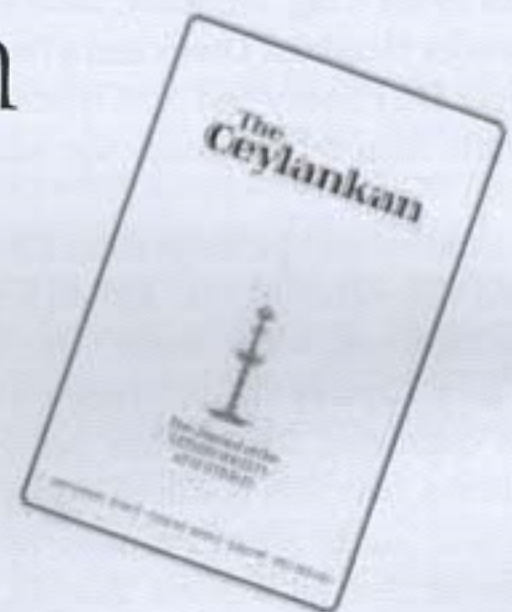
A politician is a man who understands government, and it takes a politician to run a government. A statesman is a politician who has been dead 10 or 15 years.

— Harry S. Truman, April 12, 1958.

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Sunday November
28, 2010
at 6.30 p.m.

CSA Annual Dinner

One date you must set aside on your calendar is Sunday November 28. It's the night of the CSA's traditional dinner & carol singing. It is a fun, family-orientated evening when you all join in the sing-along. From past experience, it is a night to remember! So please organise your tables from now. The venue is the Thornleigh Community Centre, corner Central & Phyllis Avenues (off Pennant Hills Road) Thornleigh.

For special dietary requirements & other details: Chandra Senaratne on 9872 6826. Bookings and tickets from Upali Dharmakirti: 9986 0337. Email: upalid@optusnet.com.au Mail: 3 Viola Avenue Warriewood NSW 2012

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on Sunday December 12
from 7.00 PM to 10.00 PM at

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Shelagh Goonawardena

will talk on:

"My Impressions of George Keyt"

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The hermitage at Kurunegalle

The hermitage (sketch above) is situated about a mile from at Kurunegalle (Kurunegala as we know it now), the former capital of the princes of the seven korales and the principle British station of the district.

The sketch was done by Lt. Charles Auber, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster in the 83rd Regiment, who was ordered to explore the interior of the country and survey the unknown parts, which he did extensively. Notably, some of Auber's surveys were used for the construction of the Colombo-Kandy Road as well as in General Fraser's early maps of Sri Lanka.

In a letter datelined "Kandi, December 24, 1818" to Major (later Major-General) Charles Joseph Doyle, he describes the extraordinary hill country he traversed, the system of warfare in the Uva campaign of 1817-18 to counter the Sinhalese rebellion against the British led by Keppetipola Dissava.

The hermitage has been in existence since pre-Christian times and it is believed that the hermitage was founded by King Vattagamini Abhaya (89-77 BC) part of the five shrines of Dambulla and are in a huge cavern running east to west and divided by rock walls.

Ref: Dr R.K.de Silva "Early Prints of Ceylon" – London 1985