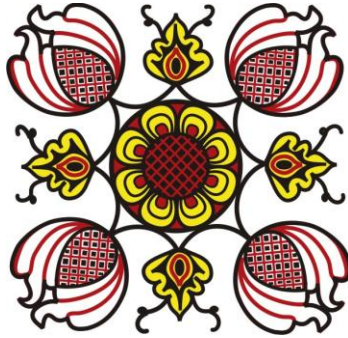


Quarterly Tours – No. 5



National Trust – Sri Lanka

26th May 2007

Compiled by Nilan Cooray

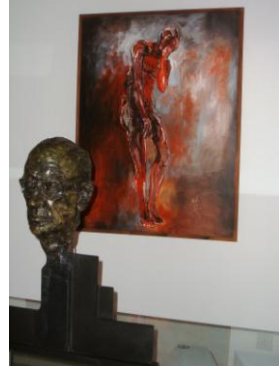
National Trust – Sri Lanka

Quarterly Tours – Saturday, 26th May 2007.

Programme

0700 hrs:	Leave PGIAR
0830 – 0900 hrs:	Visit to Sarath Chandrajeewa studio at Dummaladeniya
1000 – 1100 hrs:	Panduwasnuwara, the Sub-Capital of Dakhinadesa
1200 – 1230 hrs:	Bihalpola, a Buddhist Temple with a rare Relic House
1300 – 1315 hrs:	Panavitiya Ambalama, with fine wood carvings
1330 – 1430 hrs:	Lunch at Dr. Roland Silva's house at Giriulla.
1415 – 1545 hrs:	Dambadeniya, the third Capital of Sri Lanka
1600 – 1630 hrs:	Andigama Estate, and an innovative Scottish Castle
1645 – 1730 hrs:	Loluvagoda Mills, a coconut factory in the coconut triangle
1900 hrs:	Arrive at the PGIAR.

Sarath Chandrajeewa Studio



Dr. Sarath Chandrajeewa is a well known artist who has a reputation of not only in portrait sculpture, but in painting, graphic design, including design of stamps, posters, logos, calendars, terracotta murals and pottery. Dr. Chandrajeewa has sculptured the portraits of almost all the Sri Lankan leading personalities, as well as of foreign dignitaries, and they are exhibited all over the world. The National Portrait Gallery in London has recently selected the bust of Mr. Christopher Ondaatji sculptured by Dr. Chandrajeewa as one of its permanent exhibits. Dr. Chandrajeewa is the first Sri Lankan to be selected to display an artwork on a permanent basis in this reputed international gallery.

The visit to this newly established studio at Dummaladeniya will provide an opportunity to see how this master artist gives life to a lump of clay and then transforms it to bronze. One can also view his recent work for the cathedral of Tewatta.

Panduwas Nuwara



This is the provincial capital of the deputy king of Dakkhinadesha, who later was consecrated as king Parakkramabahu the Great of Polonnaruva of united Lanka during the 12th century. The present remains consist predominantly of a citadel and two ancient Buddhist monasteries located to the north and south of the citadel. The citadel is fortified by a high and wide brick rampart and a moat with a single entrance gateway facing east. Within the citadel, the dominant monument is the palace, which resembles the Royal Palace at Polonnaruva, but to a smaller scale. The council chamber located beyond the citadel and restored by the Department of Archaeology in recent times still shows the lost glory of this ancient political center.

The Tamil inscription found at Panduwas Nuwara records the construction of certain edifices in Sripuranakara by the Commander-in-Chief. The title given in the inscription is that of “the Ruler of Dakinadesha”. The circular moated site close to this council chamber is very popular among the locals as

being the residence of the legendary noble lady Ummadacitta. It is alleged that this site with unusual features is the *akasa-stamba* (*ektam-ge* or single pillared chamber) where this prince was forced to reside in by her brothers due to the soothsayer's prediction that the child borne from her would destroy all the brothers and become the ruler. Parnavitana who excavated the central edifice at the site discovered the central brick of the inner most edifice which had a curved aperture and refers to it metaphorically as being possibly a symbol to represent the center of the universe. .

Bihalpola Temple



The shrine positioned on an elevated location, displays the simplicity, which is so characteristic of the shrines of the community. The temple consists of a stupa of modest proportions, two image houses, one of which is on pillars and a relic shrine, which is a rare survival of a building type where sacred relics were displayed for public veneration. The architecture and the functional layout, is similar to the

Sacred Tooth Relic Temples at Dambadeniya and Kandy, but the detailing is of a most vernacular in nature. The relic depository, housed in the high priest's residence, is at the foot of this raised temple.

The other special feature of this temple is the roofed foot-print of Lord Buddha, which had been carved on the living rock. This practice of paying homage to the sacred foot-print is perhaps due to Thai and Burmese traditions of venerating the sacred foot - print in these countries of south-east Asia, after the 13th century.

The image shrine-on-pillars and the relic shrine have paintings, the outer most layers of which consist of murals of the Kandyan period. The exposed inner layers of the image shrine - on - pillars contains some rare paintings of the Dambadeniya period, the dark age of Sri Lankan paintings (13th – 15th century), comparable to the inner layers of the Tooth Relic shrine at Dambadeniya.

Chutiwongs, Prematilleke and Silva refer to some of the paintings thus: *“The representation of Vanakagiri (Labyrinth) as a tangle of intricate circles displays yet another example.....The hell scenes seem to have been painted to impress fear on the onlookers by all conceivable terrific modes of punishment. In one instance, the victim is seen being split with a long saw used by carpenters. Yet another scene depicts the victims being pressed between two gigantic wheels. These gruesome scenes are executed in an expressionistic style, rarely visible elsewhere”*.

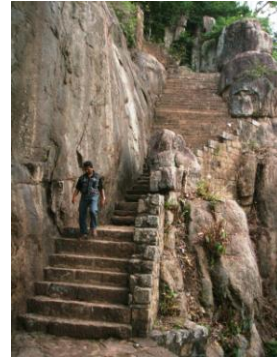
Panavitiya Ambalama



Although it is microscopic, this is perhaps the most decorated wooden structure in the country. It probably belongs to a period not long after the Dembadeniya era. Its nearest counter part is Embekka. The measurements of various utilitarian elements that are used for sitting, leaning, sleeping, etc. confirm to modern anthropometric standards. It is truly a gem in wood carving.

Dambadeniya

Although Dambadeniya is not a popular destination among the local tourists, it is Sri Lanka's third political capital in the 13th century, after Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa. The archaeological investigations are recent, and the buried remains are just being unearthed at this site, which has a high potential as a destination of cultural tourism. Dambadeniya is well known among the scholars due to the fact that near



fifty literary works were accomplished during the reign of king Panditha Parakramabahu. The 'Palace Rock' is a dominant landscape feature in the area where the elevated palace was once located. The stairway which leads to the summit of the rock and the retaining walls encircling it, reminds one of Sigiriya and Yapahuwa which are of the same architectural style.

However the grandeur that is at Sigiriya is missing in Dambadeniya, and only the basement of a building of a modest scale has survived. The rest of the structures have

been eroded considerably, to offer clue to their function and form. The immediate area surrounding the foot of the rock is the citadel and it is fortified by a moat and a rampart. Beyond the citadel is the ancient site of Vijayasundararama, where the former Tooth Relic Temple had been located. The two storied building resembles in every respect, the present Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy. Near this shrine is a kaludage (stupa-shrine), which was perhaps the structure for the display of the sacred Tooth Relic, and it is quite similar to the Nissankalata Mandapa located near the Hatadage, the sacred Tooth Relic Shrine, during Polonnaruva period. A carved stone pedestal near this structure is believed to be the pedestal for the relic depository. The so-called 'Prison Rock' is nearby. According to Liyanagamage, Jambuddoni is mentioned in the Culavamsa or the first time in connection with the reign of Vijayabahu I. Prior to that there is no mention that it ever was a seat of royal authority.

While Parakramabahu the Great of Polonnaruva was noted for the major irrigation works and the extension of irrigation infrastructure to cover the entire country, Panditha Parakramabahu of Dembadeniya was noted for the contributions he made to literature. Liyanagamage refers to this aspect when he states: "In the first place, these efforts resulted in an active study of the Buddhist doctrine, by analyzing and examining the work of the previous authors. Commentaries and subcommentaries and glossaries came to be written in order to facilitate better understanding the sacred text". Some of the near fifty literary works executed during this period constitute '*Visuddhimarga Maha Sannaya*', *Pujavaliya*, *Saddharmaratanaivaliya*, *Dhammapadatthakatha*, *Rasaavahini*, *Samantakuta Vannana*,

Hattavanagallavharavamsa, Pajjamadhu, Dambadeni Katikavata, Yogarnava, Prayogaranavaliya, Mahasami, Daivajakamadhenu, Bhesajjamanjusa, Rupasiddhi, Payogasiddhi, Sidatsangarava, Kavsilumina, Vanavinisa Sannaya and many others. Ven. Pandita Pannala Sumedha will be able to enlighten the visitors on the literary work.

Castle at Andigama Estate



This exceptionally attractive castle is located within the Andigama Estate in Dambadeniya on the summit of a mountain. Constructed by a Scottish planter in 1922, the building is a mixture of Neo-Elizabethan and Scottish castle

architecture. The castle provides a commanding view of the coconut plantation and retains a near 360⁰ visual panorama of the whole landscape. Although the castle is located on the summit of the most elevated point of the estate, its geomorphology does not provide any clue to the existence of such a castle of this elaborate nature, and hence, it reveals a surprise to the visitors approaching the summit of the mountain, but the fire place inside the castle at a latitude almost on the equator, is beyond belief. This well maintained castle and the estate, is the property of the National Livestock Development Board.

The nearest reference to this neo-classical edifice is a reference by Banister Fletcher who states: *“Sixteenth-century Scottish Castles built on re-distributed monastic lands, have highly characteristic and individual styles, combining French influences with the native tradition of the peel tower. Round towers placed at the corners help to make up ‘L’, ‘T’ or ‘Z’ plans. Exterior walls sheer from the ground with few and small openings, all the ornaments being concentrated at roof level where the buildings break out into conically-roofed turrets and decorated dormers. Also very French are the corbelled-out stair-turrets placed at angles. The finest example of this ‘Scottish Baronial’ style is perhaps Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire, where the extremely spare detailing gives the building an almost abstract quality”*.

Loluvagoda Mills

The country surrounding Dambadeniya is at the center of the 'coconut triangle', and it could not be by-passed without a visit to a coconut factory. The one selected is Loluvagoda Mills, which was set up originally at the turn of the 19th century and now upgraded in 1988. It handles desiccated coconut, coconut oil, coconut cream, coconut fiber and coconut shell flour, all items meant for export.