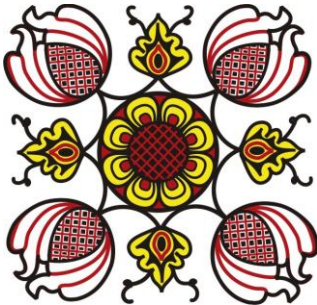


Quarterly Tours – No. 8



National Trust – Sri Lanka

31st May 2008

Compiled by Nilan Cooray

National Trust - Sri Lanka

Quarterly Tours - Saturday 31st, May 2008

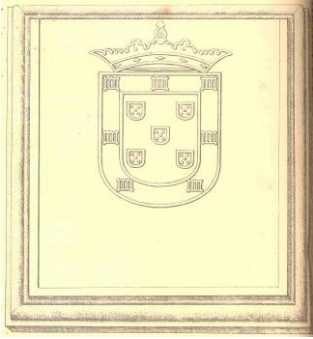
Programme

- 0700 hrs : Leave PGIAR
0715 hrs : Portuguese Padaro on boulder, Colombo Harbour.
0730 hrs : Navel Museum, Colombo Harbour
0800 hrs : Churches at Gintupitiya
0845 hrs : Ramanathan Kovil, Kochchikade.
0900 hrs : Wolvendaal Church
0945 hrs : St James Church, Mutwal
1045 hrs : Whist Bangalow, Mutwal
1130 hrs : St Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena
1200 hrs : St Peter's Church, Fort
(Former Dutch Governor's Residence)
1245 hrs : Taprobane Hotel

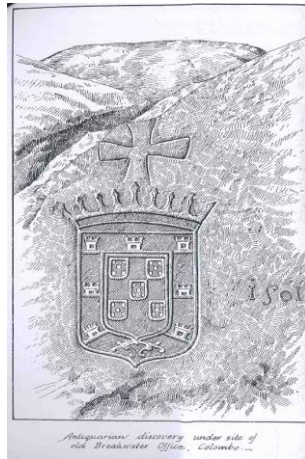
1300 hrs : *Lunch at Taprobane Hotel*

1400 hrs : Dutch Entrance gate and Canal, Fort.
1430 hrs : Dutch Hospital, Fort.
1500 hrs : Dutch Period Museum, Pettah.
1530 hrs : Old British Town Hall, Pettah
1600 hrs : Wesleyan Mission House
1630 hrs : British Law Courts at Halftsdorf
1645 hrs : Anglican Church at Halftsdorf.
1715 hrs : Present YWCA at Union Place
1800 hrs : 'Karlsruhe'
(Present Residence of the Principal of Wesley College)
1900 hrs : Arrive PGIAR

The Portuguese Padrao on boulder



ISOL



Over 125 years ago not far from where the present boulder sits this important archaeological discovery was made on 7, September 1898. The site of the discovery of this boulder weighing almost five tons was the old building at the foot of the breakwater, which at the time was the Headquarters of the Harbour Police near which was the excavation site for construction work commenced for the new breakwater for the Port of Colombo. The Padrao was excavated from the foundation of the Portuguese Church of St Francis-about where the Queen Victoria statue used to stand facing the

Harbour and Jetty entrance. In contrast to the present where indifference and scant respect is the order of the day as regards such historic monuments-. a century and quarter ago-it caused a sensation.

The Catholic archbishop Zaleski informed the British Governor Gordon of this chance find. It was reported in the *Ceylon Independent*, now defunct newspaper. Although I have personally delivered a short lecture and submitted appear on this to the Authorities – there has been general indifference. The then Director of the Museum, Gerard A. Joseph, (as opposed to now) immediately convened a meeting and several well known scholars were invited to make their observations. This included F.H.de Vos, Advocate, Galle, A.E.Buultjens and D.W.Ferguson and Ladislaus Michael, and the Assistant Engineer, Colombo the participants all gave some very interesting accounts supporting their point of view. Their response was immediate.

The general interpretation was that the inscriptions suggested the date supposedly engraved was 1501. There were several divergent views . F.H.de Vos was of the opinion that even though the general view is that the engraved inscription suggested 1501. – the shape of the individual engravings on the rock could also be interpreted to mean *Jesus Salvator Orientalium Indicorum..* On the other hand A.E.Bultjens raised several queries and pointed out:

- a) *What was the significance of the engraved Coat of Arms, the cross, so called date and other symbols?*
- b) *Who engraved them?*
- c) *If so on what date? And what was significant about the date.*

There are only two or three such examples now extant of this type of Portuguese padrao-known or so it was in 1898. One example on the river Congo, in Africa was carved on the order of the King of Portugal in 1484.The other was in Malidi in Kenya East Africa in 1497 by the order of Vasco de Gama. Butjens suggested that a padrao in Colombo was engraved by Gonzalo Gonsalves by the

order of Dom Loureco and put his name on there foot of it. The records indicate that the Morrish traders were so incensed they chiselled or burn this evidence on stone. All the known historical records of Portuguese and Dutch Historians suggest that the date of the arrival of the first Portuguese crew was in 1505.

Donald Ferguson whose views were sort after by H.C.P.Bell the then Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society strongly believed that the date of 1501 was not logical. He drew the attention of the arrival of Vasco de Gama's first Voyage to Calicut in India. Barros, Barros, Queroz, Dom Lourenco de Almeida, Castandeneda, Correa and others suggest it was 1505 and it is unlikely and almost unconceivable that the date could be 1501. The Padrao erected by Almeida was still standing in 1508 but had been destroyed by the Moors. Queroz, Dom Lourenco de Almeida, Castandeneda, Correa and others suggest it was 1505 and it is unlikely and almost unconceivable that the date could be 1501. The Padrao erected by Almeida was still standing in 1508 but had been destroyed by the Moors.

Harward suggested that the cross and other inscriptions were added on later after the engraving of the Coat of Arms. So did Price. Also comparisons were made of the Coat of Arms discovered by H.C.P.Bell in his archaeological work in Menikdiwara which was described by him in detail in the Kegalla Report. The dissimilarities were brought to the attention of the readers and public and is quite different from the one engraved on the boulder in Colombo.

Although this boulder now lying at the entrance to the Harbour Master's Office, it is a major historical landmark signifying the advent of the Europeans to this Island.

Dutch Ware House, Colombo Harbour



This is perhaps the only surviving barrel vaulted Dutch ware house found outside the Netherlands. The roof of the ware house, constructed out of brick masonry, assumes double barrel. At present, it is being used as the Maritime Museum. The museum has a collection of models of old ships and various other items of maritime use on ships. The maritime records found within are a significant collection.

Churches at Gintupitiya



The two churches now at Gintupitiya dates from the Portuguese period. The one to the south is now patronized by the Roman Catholic Church, while the other to the north is patronized by the Anglican community lead by the Ondaatji family and the Colombo Chitty population. Portuguese tomb stones are still to be seen within the interior of the latter church and outside.

One of these churches is dedicated to St. Thomas Church crowns the hill at one of the most degraded suburb of Colombo, where Sea Street and Reclamation Street meet Kotahena. Sir Robert Brownrigg is due the chief credit for the erection of the present Anglican Church, the foundation of which was laid in 1815. This was a revered sites of one of the oldest Portuguese Churches in Colombo. . It appears that a portion .of this ground had been used from the time .of the Portuguese occupation of Colombo as a small burial yard.

During Dutch period rule between 1656-1796 the majority of the three important sects that dominated the dissemination of the Catholic religion - Dominican, Franciscan and Augustinian sects were forced to be abandoned their religious services. The churches were under severe restriction to conduct prayers not only in Colombo but in most of the territories under the Dutch East India Company's administrative rule. By the time of the arrival of the British, the church was abandoned and in a state of disrepair. The present church was built on the existing site of the ruins of the Raman Catholic Church, which was totally demolished before the foundation of this Anglican Church was laid- but thanks to the historians we can still get a glimpse of Portuguese in this suburb-which continues to have a strong Catholic presence. The evidence is best described by the great Portuguese historians De Queroz and De Couto record the details of this locality which is further substantiated by the *Rajavaliya*

De Queyroz has recorded the fact that the revenues of Dunugaha in the Alut Kuruwa Korale and Horana in Rayigam Korale, were set apart for the maintenance of the orphans, and beggars and destitute who were looked after by the Rector of St. Thome, which was then in the suburbs of Colombo – just outside the walls of the Portuguese Fort. Adjoining it was the *campo* (Anglice, “plain,” Sin. “Pitiya”) of Sao Thome, which is mentioned by De, Couto. As the *Rajavaliya* (English edition p. 91) says, “Adirippu Palliya stands on Baralugada hill and in the lower Baralugada lies *San tum pitiya*.” Moreover Gintumpitiya Street still runs from St. Thomas Church to *Adirippu Palliya*, or Wolvendahl.

The exact origin of the name of the place Gintupitya is still mired in controversy. According to Paul E. Pieris who quotes a source from the *Monthly Literary Register* (A Brief Sketch of the History of St Thomas Church by “Clevid, 1893) suggest this explanation:’ The apostle of the East, has degenerated through *San tum* to *Gin tun*, thence the fall to *Gintu* is but

natural; and what is *Gintu* but *Gentoo*, the Portuguese *Gentio*, the heathen? And so the local philologist, with easy lore, has dragged the name of the locality from the lofty origin of the converting apostle to that of the unconverted Gentile. *Facilis descensus AveI'no*.

Many an interesting sight has that hillock witnessed Raja Sinha's great hosts dashing themselves to pieces against the walls of Colombo, behind which stood the bravest warriors of Europe; Gaspar de Figueyra, the one figure which justified the Portuguese policy of intermarriage with the Eastern races -for was not his mother a Sinhalese?-leading the mutinous Portuguese army from Tanque Salgado,. Where now is the dockyard; Gerard Hulft planting his batteries when for the last time Colombo was laid under siege; and the Sinhalese Disava consecrating the spot where soon after .the brave Dutchman lay prone in death-never more, they declared, was foot of man to tread on that awful spot?

It is a sad commentary that this part of Colombo redolent with very rich history is being torn apart by urban renewal of the worst type. The majority of the residents of Colombo especially the well to do and supposedly the best educated hardly know or care about the erasure of these richly endowed historical suburbs- Pettah, Hulftsdorp, Kotahena and Mutwal.



One of the interesting tombstones dating from 1691 and still extant here has an interesting engraved inscription and image. The text translated reads as follows-

“Here is buried the virtuous Anna Piris wife of the Patangatin Francisco Piris. She died on the 3rd November 1691, being 38 years”

Patangatin is a word which is of frequent occurrence in the early Portuguese and Dutch writers and is the former version of the Tamil word *pattankatti*. It signifies a headman among the Paravas and Tamil Karayar, and is a word that often recurs in the letters of St. Francis Xavier in connection with South India. In Sri Lanka the word signifying such a headman is used among the Tamils and Sinhalese. The word *Patabendi* which was in use among the later hardly occurs in any Portuguese official documents or by a Portuguese writer of the period.

Several of the prominent and notable Tamil Colombo Chetty families of the 17th and 18th century like the Mutukrishna and Ondatjie are well represented by their over decorated tombstones. The present congregation is almost wholly Tamil.

Ramanathan Kovil



The Ramanathan Kovil at Kochchikade which was established by Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan and family, stands on an old site of a Hindu shrine. The present temple was constructed, following the traditional silpa text, by the stone masons brought down from India.

Wolvendaal Church

The name Wolvendlaal is a Dutch translation of the Portuguese "Agoa de Loupe" meaning "The dale of the wolves". The hill on which the Church stands took its name from the low lying marshy swamp, which was infested with jackals and not wolves (A species not represented in Ceylon).



The Church was built in 1749 or even earlier as claimed by Wolfgang Heydt in his interesting work on Batavia and Ceylon published in 1744. The site was that of an earlier Portuguese Church. It was originally intended for converts and Sri Lankan adherents of the Dutch Reformed Church but later this notion was changed and it became the official Church of the Dutch East India Company. The church was dedicated on March 6, 1757 and the service was attended by Governor Gideon Loten, his successor Schredeur and other high Dutch Officials. About this time it was open for public worship. The site is a commanding one and overlooks the town, harbour and the sea.

The plan of the church is that of a Greek cross with walls more than 1.5 meters thick, over which the gables have been raised. The transepts were originally roofed with brick barrel vaults and the nave with a brick dome, which was surmounted with a gilt weather-cock. A stroke of lightning in 1856 destroyed this weather-cock and so disturbed the dome, to the extent that the brickwork had to be removed and replaced with a wooden roof, covered with blue Bangor slates, somewhat detrimental to the acoustic effects. The slates were

again replaced with corrugated galvanized iron sheeting, somewhat later at the end of the 19th century.

J. L. K. Vandort the versatile and talented Ceylonese Artist who did several accurate views of this, Dutch edifice in the middle of the nineteenth century describes the church vividly:

"This Church was originally surmounted by a dome, or rather by an octagonal bell-shaped cupola. This cupola was composed of lead, and above it was a brazen lion with a crown on its head, and bearing a sword in one hand and the seven arrows representing the seven United States of the Dutch republic, as seen in the arms of Holland, and which appear on the coins used in Ceylon before the introduction of the British and Indian currency. This dome was struck by lightning some time in the thirties. The molten lead poured down to the ground and the masonry was shattered.

"The molten lead was surreptitiously was sold to Moorish traders by the Sexton of that time, for which crime, as the records state, he was summarily dismissed. But owing to later indifference on the part of those concerned, much if value has since been ruthlessly disposed of, such as castings, mouldings and carving brought from Holland, which it will be difficult or rather impossible to replace. The octagonal lantern which hung from the centre of the dome, as well as the quaint square lamps, might well have been preserved when chandeliers were introduced. With the new central chandelier goes the story that it was gifted to the church by a maiden who was Jilted, and who spent the entire sum recovered in 'damages' on this chandelier, under which brides in happier circumstances were married. The carved Font, as well as the Church Plate remain, also an old brass ink-stand, in the shape of a cruet with two vases for ink. A queer shaped. bell, and a bottle in the shape of

a flower-pot containing sand to be sprinkled over writing, have all disappeared. The valuable exquisite chairs which would delight the soul if a collector, and secured wealth to the Church at this time, were by the same indifference disposed of for a trifling sum."

The short nave was covered with Brick vaults as seen in this photograph. The brick dome was damaged by lightning in 1856 and in the same year was replaced by a timber roof covered with slate tiles. Some time later at the end of the nineteenth century the whole roof was replaced with corrugated galvanized iron sheeting.

In 1870 (during the tenure of office of the British Governor Sir William Gregory) the stained glass windows replaced the original plain glass windows.





To those who admire Dutch furniture, the Church was a veritable mine of treasure. There was a remarkable collection of ebony chairs dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries that fascinated and capture the admiration of the visitor. The pulpit, lectern, Governor's and Elder's pews are as those were originally constructed, including the old pews along the walls for the members of the public.

When the Dutch Reformed Church at Gorden Gardens was dismantled in 1813, the remains and tomb stones of prominent Dutchmen and their families were exhumed and re-interred at the Wolvendaal Church. The remains included those of five Dutch Governors. The older tombstones bear the date 1607 and thereabout. Another note worthy memorial at the church is that to the memory of

General Hulft, who commanded the Dutch forces at the siege of Colombo in 1656.

It is also recorded that the remains of King Dharmapala of Kotte (1542-1581), who was converted to the Roman Catholic faith in 1550 and died in 1607 were also interred in the old church at Gorden Gardens and his tombstone was among those removed to the church at Wolvendaal. It is a matter for regret that this stone bearing "an inscription in pure Portuguese" is not to be found here at present, although it was there in 1766.

St James' Church at Mutwal



Designed to Italian neo-Baroque, the Roman Catholic Church of St. James at Mutual is one of the finest architecturally, and is a well proportioned Christian Church in Sri Lanka. On the interior walls and on the ceiling are found the paintings of Henricus, whose style was influence by that of Michael Angelo. However the paintings on the ceiling have survived at the extreme front and the back.

Whist Bangalow at Mutwal



The Whist Bangalow is referred to in the earliest account of the first year: of British occupation in 1796. It owes its unusual name to the fact that young English officers used to meet at this remote villa to have whist parties on Sundays which ended in noisy drinking bouts. This house is placed on a charming site overlooking the bay where the river enters the sea.

Up to 1820 the Whist Bangalow was used as a club and in the next year it was occupied by Henry Byre, the puisne judge, from 1819-1920. A notice in the Ceylon Government Gazette of 1821 refers to: *An elegant Fete at the Whist Bangalow on November 23. Dinner was 10 be served on the Banks of the Mutuwal river.*

Thereafter it was occupied by Dr. Lourensz and later by his son-in-law Sir Richard Morgan right up to his death. The Whist Bangalow over the half century of occupation had grown from a small plain house into a large villa. Morgan spent a large part of his fortune in rebuilding,

extending and decorating it. The large garden was planted with fine trees and ornamental shrubs. An extensive colonnaded verandah, with handsome pillars was added.

In a study of the Whist Bungalow van Dort sketched the *Vacant chair*. This mixed media crayon and pen-and-ink work in Van Dort's favourite style was drawn in 1876 in 'memory of his friend Sir Richard Morgan who died in the same year. The artist was inspired by an engraving based on a similar theme of Charles Dickens's study in London sketched the day after his death- which became quite a famous work. . This work supposedly inspired Vincent van Gogh for his well known painting "the Yellow chair".

This study by Van Dort shows Morgans study . But it is a typical room in the house with its lofty ceilings, panelled walls, book shelves and other fittings. Through the open window across the verandah there is a fine view of the sea. The two elephants seen on the patio were sculptured and brought from Mutturajawella. Morgan's crest with the motto, 'Let the deed show' is seen in the top corner of the sketch. Van Dort who was a close friend of Morgan and a regular visitor to the house knew the place intimately

Richard Francis Morgan was an eminent lawyer who was appointed in 1851 as an unofficial member of the Legislative Council and represented the Burgher community, of which Van Dort was one. He became a District Judge of Colombo in 1856, later a Queens Advocate, and in 1874-75 he was acting Chief Justice. He was offered the permanent post but declined the offer due to his failing health. He was the first Ceylonese to hold this position.

"Whist Bungalow" owes its extraordinary name to the circumstance! that its first owner, an old English officer, at the beginning of the century, used to invite his friends out to this remote villa to play whist on Sunday evenings. As the strict observance of the English Church is, of course, strongly averse to such an employment on Sunday, these jovial meetings were kept a profound

secret; and the whist parties and drinking bouts in the isolated bungalow seem to have been uproarious in proportion to the satisfaction of these jolly comrades at having escaped the dreary tedium of an English Sunday and orthodox society.

At that time, however, "Whist Bungalow" was :) small plain house, buried in its shrubbery; it was enlarged to its present handsome dimensions by its next owner, a certain lawyer named Morgan. He, too, seems to have made the most of life, and spent a large part of his fortune in building and decorating this villa in a manner worthy of its beautiful situation. The large garden was planted with the finest trees and ornamental shrubs. A handsome colonnade and airy verandah were erected round the house, which was much enlarged, and the spacious and lofty rooms were fitted with every fitting in a princely style. For many a year dinners and wine-parties were given here, more luxurious and splendid if not noisier and more riotous-than formerly at the whist-playing officer's less pretentious drinking-bouts. It would seem, however, that Mr. Morgan at last failed to balance his enormous outlay on his residence and his magnificent style of living against his large income. When he died suddenly, a considerable deficit was discovered in his accounts; his creditors seized the bungalow, and, when it was finally sold under the auctioneer's hammer, were thankful to recover a small proportion of their money out of the proceeds.

Ernest Haeckel the renown German biologist who coined the word ecology during his visit to Sri Lanka in 1880-1881 stayed at the Whist Bungalow both as soon as he arrived and later the last week before he left Sri Lanka. His comments are amusing and interesting

"The delightful residence in Colombo in which I passed the two first weeks of my stay in Ceylon, stands, as I have said, at the north end of the town, or, to be accurate, in the suburb of .Mutwal, precisely in the angle made by the Kalany Ganga, or Colombo river, at its junction with the sea. Starting from the Fort, it is a good hour's walk among the brown mud-huts of the natives, through Pettah and its northern outskirts, before

reaching "Whist Bungalow." Its isolated position, in the midst of the most luxuriant natural beautiful. from the business quarter of the town, and farther still from the fashionable southern suburbs or Kolpetty and the Cinnamon Gardens, was one source of the extraordinary charm I found from the very first in this quiet country retreat. Another reason, no doubtless was the hearty and homelike hospitality which the masters of "Whist Bungalow" -Stipperger himself and three other friendly countrymen-showed me from the first hour of my arrival. I woke on the first morning of my .stay with the happiness of having found here on this unknown island of wonders, six thousand miles from home, a friendly roof to dwell under. The few days which were all I at first intended to spend there soon stretched into a fortnight; and as I again spent a week there on my return from the south, and another at the end of my stay in Ceylon, nearly a month out of my four months in the island were passed in this delicious country-house. There was ample room in "Whist Bungalow" for arranging my numerous cases and collections and I found it the most convenient head-quarters "



JOHN LEONARD KALEMBERG VAN DORT- THE VACANT CHAIR- 1876

St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena



Constructed on the site of an ancient church, this is the finest example of Italian Baroque style in Sri Lanka in a series of grand churches built throughout the Island by the Roman Catholic Church in the latter half of the 19th century. The construction of the present structure commenced in 1873 by an Italian architect specially brought to Colombo, Fr. Stanislaus Tabarrani. Construction work was completed in 1878 and became the cathedral church of the vicariate of Colombo. Inspired in its facades by St. Peter's Cathedral in the Vatican City, the church is crowned by a masonry dome which rises 50 meters above the floor and is supported on four great arches, each with a span of 12 meters. Its facade stands on ionic columns and its interior is beautified with a number of statues positioned along the nave. There are several sculptured depictions of saints inside this cathedral. In the year 1924 most of these statues were installed in the cathedral by the renowned artist, Rev. Fr. J Milliner. Its confessionals are also diligently designed.

St. Peter's Church in Fort (Former Dutch Governor's Residence)

The engravings of the residence of the Dutch Governor (at present the St. Peter's Church) in Colombo published during the century are of considerable interest to architectural historians, particularly, those of the Dutch East India Company from 1656 as they show the evolution of the structure from a small chapel to an extensive residence in the century and a half of their rule in Sri Lanka which ended in 1796... It clearly illustrates the manner in which the Dutch readily adopted the architectural elements of the Indo-Portuguese style they flourished in Sri Lanka in the 16th century onwards. By the middle of the 18th century the Governor's House was landscaped with sunken gardens, fountains, pavilions and other ancillary buildings in a style current in Europe. Later the Dutch were encouraged to lay out the first public Botanic Garden in the early 1750's based on these trial experiments of landscape gardening.*

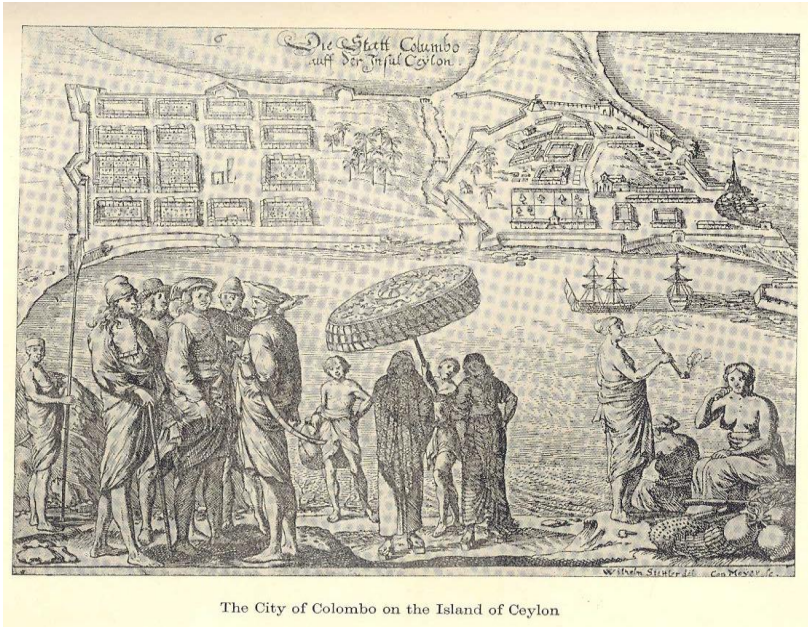


The original site which the Dutch opted to build the Governors residence complex was where the Portuguese church stood which was occupied by a building that housed an orphanage –the *Miseri Cordia* of the Portuguese administration. This monastery building is clearly marked on the chart of Colombo reproduced in Baldaeus work on Sri Lanka (1672). It is also referred to by the 16th century Portuguese chroniclers when describing the fortified town of Colmbo which they occupied as the headquarters from 1505-1656 and served as the head quarters for their territories in Sri Lanka.

Almost a decade after the capitulation of Colombo by the Portuguese in 1656 this structure was altered from a religious to residential building . It continued to be used for the official residence of the Dutch Governor right through out their rule till the British took over the Dutch East India Companies territories including Colombo in 1796. One of the earliest birds eye view of the fortified town of Colombo during Dutch rule is included as an engraving in the account by Herport (Berne 1669) . Herport arrived on the vessel *Malacca* and disembarked in Colombo in 1663 May-almost 7 years after the Dutch occupation of the fortified town. By then there had been a major transformation of the layout of Colombo and its buildings. The grid pattern which the Dutch town planners of the 17th century were fond of had already been transplanted in Colombo... The main focus of the walled fortified township was the Governors Residence and ancillary buildings that housed the Political Council's offices. This engraving clearly shows central tower- which still retains the cross still in position on its front gable. Its position might indicate that the Portuguese Dominican monastery, was still not wholly transformed

The long arcaded front, sunken gardens and the raised building are indicated clearly in this interesting engraving. The successive views in the engravings of Dutch historian these buildings appear time and time again in the century and half of Dutch rule.

Even at present these prominent diagnostic features of Dutch building style are still evident in the remnant structure presently known as the St. Peter's Church. All one has to look for are such features as the raised veranda podium, sunken- garden area which - now a shabby parking lot for the Inland Revenue Department. Also the small clear story windows and the prominent gable walls...



The City of Colombo on the Island of Ceylon

Hereport Chart of Colombo (1681) On of the earliest recorded chart of the town of Colombo soon after the Dutch seized it in 1656 clearly shows the monastery complex known as the *Miseri Cordia*

The Dutch author-Predikant Valentyn voluminous work (1723) also confirms this. Although Valentyn travels took him to remote places such as the Cape of Good Hope, Batavia, East Java, Amboina and the Banda Islands he did not visit all the places in South Asia described in his monumental work. Valentijn never set foot in Ceylon or in the Indian Mainland. But above all, Valentijn's acquaintance with the first Dutch Governors the van Goenses (the elder and his son) who both served with distinction in Ceylon proved to be valuable to obtain the necessary sources for his books. Considering the time and age they were published and the meticulous lengths to which the Company set out to

maintain secrecy-Valentijn's work stands out as primary source of information. It is a veritable encyclopaedia encompassing details, vital for students of Dutch Colonial History

The engraving reproduced in the English translation of the Hakluyt edition illustrates the Dutch Governor's House from the west facing the sea. Elements of typical Dutch building technique and style are evident in the doorways, windows, gables, pillasters and balustrades. Valentijn commenting on the Governor's Residence describes it as follows:

"Among the buildings which I found in Colombo, the house of the Governor excels over others as it reveals itself in the Fort. It is a wonderful building and may be reckoned among the best in the whole Indies".

He also adds that on the west side the building consisted of three storeys and on the east facing the land side it is two storeys in height and there is a beautifully laid out garden, a pavilion overlooking the sea and an out-house surrounded by flowering shrubs and plants introduced from all over the extensive global territories under Company's rule..

The facade of Governor's residence shown in great detail in Valentijn's work is remarkable for its accuracy when compared with original design drawings of plans and elevations in the Dutch National Archives in The Hague. The number of columns, bays, details of balconies in Valentijn's plate matches the original plan except for a few flaws a residential building of the previous Portuguese administration was converted and remodelled to form the Dutch Governor's Residence. The attached balconies on the north and south gables indicate Portuguese influence. The sunken garden which was laid out on the grounds attached to the building at a subsequent period shows an influence of both Eastern and Western style of landscape gardening which was prevalent in Asia during the Dutch

Colonial Period.

Wolfgang Heydt (1744) t who visited Sri Lanka in 1732 and other Dutch possessions gives a clear account of this building.

“Further inland a flat building is to be seen (*e*), named the “Material”. In this many slaves of the Company work, to prepare all sorts of stores of tools, both for building and other. This, as also the Governor's Residence, are said to have been a Portuguese monasteries, as may well be judged even now from their outer appearance; and as regards the Governor's Residence both from the manner of the building and from the fine garden lying behind it. The “Material” also, although most of it has been pulled down and used for other purposes, can nevertheless be readily seen to have been such a building, lying as it does beside the Church, which also was built by the Portuguese”

By the arrival of the British the Dutch Governor's residence became Government House during the first years of their rule under Governor North. It was occupied by General Macdowall, the Military Commander under North's administration but was in a state of neglect and disrepair. In 1804 the extensive hall (as shown in this engraving) was altered and put into use as the main garrison

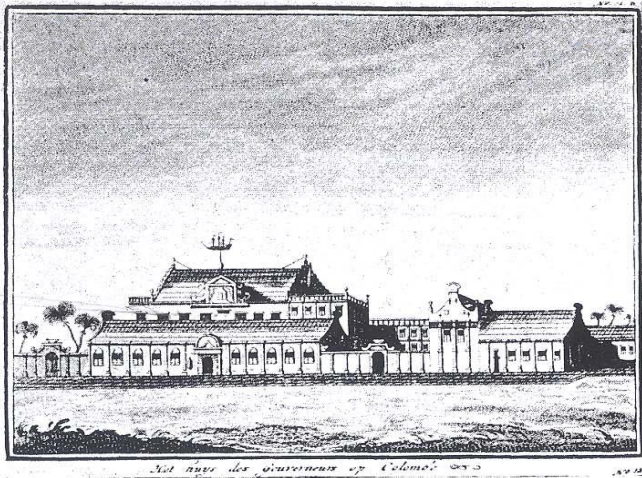


Fig. 2. The Governor's house
(Valentijn V. 1, facing p. 24, No. 12D)

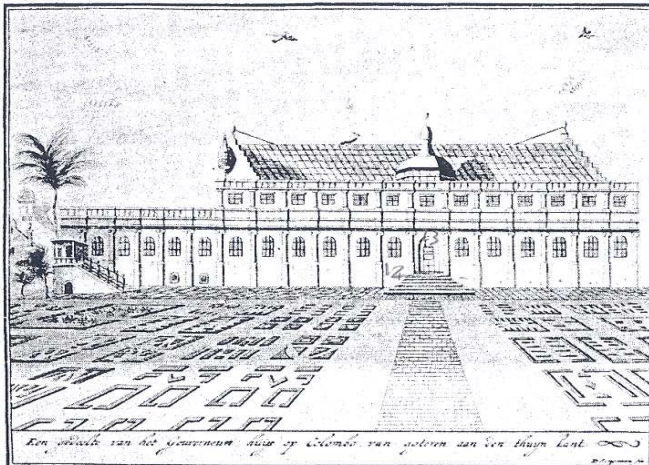
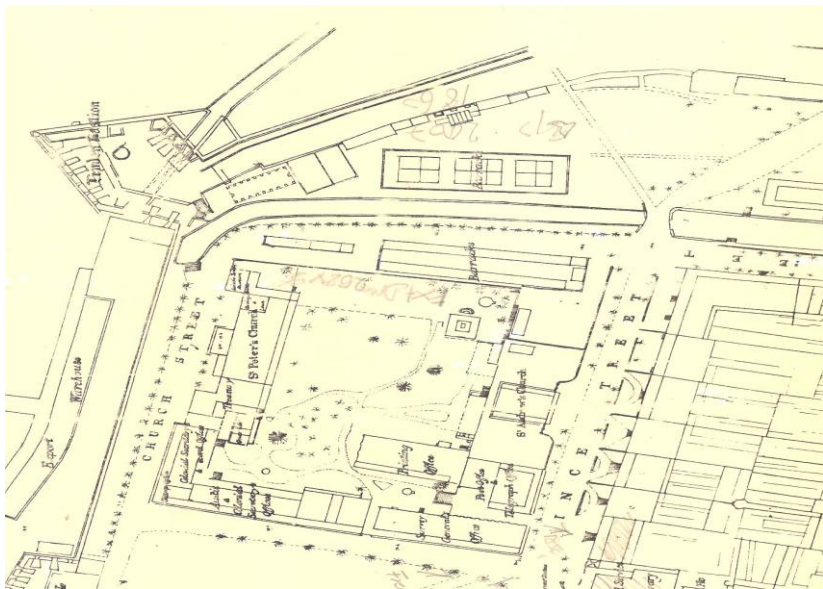


Fig. 3. Another view of the Governor's house from the rear
(Valentijn V. 1, facing p. 24, No. 12E)

Church in close proximity to the open space which was used as parade grounds for the military. It remained so until it was consecrated on 22 May 1821. The ceremony was performed by the Bishop of Calcutta, Dr. Thomas Franchise Middleton. Until that date it was referred to as the Fort Church, but from the time of its consecration it was called St. Peters.

House. The present StPeter: church stands on a small part of the site occupied by the Dutch Governor's residence but with hardly any vestiges of the Dutch colonial style of architecture...



Segment of a map produced by the British PWD in 1866 showing the St. Peters Church and adjoining fort walls of Colombo that was demolished in the next two years.

From September to December 1832 the building that housed St. Peters church was closed for repairs. It was during this period that the present portico and verandahs supported by tall masonry classical columns, so typical of the buildings of the British period, were added. Also a substantial part of the original residence was torn down and demolished. In the intervening year-; between 1810.1820 a part of the residence which remained unoccupied was used as a Court The Jury scene commemorating Sir Alexander John stons tenure of Chief Justice illustrates the interior of the building when it was temporarily used for judicial purposes, as court house. A contemporary text which accompanied the engraving states that the engraving was a copy from a painting by J. Stephaloff who based his work from an original sketch done on the spot by one of the jurors who was a Ceylonese. The text describing the engraving gave interesting details.

An accompanying key was issued with the engraving' giving the names, titles and rank of the various persons and judicial officers who took part In this memorable event. The list enables one to Identify the notables and important officials of Colombo's society at the beginning of the 19th century. It was originally intended that the scene of the painting is nave of St. Peters Church in the Fort of Colombo



The Taprobane Hotel

The Taprobane Hotel, used to be known as the Grand Oriental Hotel in the 19th century, when it was described as "the largest and best hotel in the East" in the guide books of the day. Originally it was a simple, low building with open verandah to the streets, but as Colombo prospered, it too developed, and because of its excellent location opposite the landing jetty of the Colombo Harbour, it became for many years of many a visitors to the Island, being the most famous hotel in the city.

Its proximity to the Fort and Railway Station, the Post Office, Banks, the Queen's House, Shipping Offices etc., made it very popular by the end of British occupation in the Island. It was also an excellent base from which to make a tour of the town. Besides the attraction of the electric lift, electric lights and bedroom fans, it had such old-fashioned and charming features as a "Palm - Court" and a "Tropical Garden" with its own private orchestra. The Grand Oriental Hotel would overflow with visitors when several mail steamers were in Port. The animated scene at such a time was said to rival that of the Shepherds Hotel in Cairo. Sadly, today it does not have the same standing among the visitors to the Island. The lovely harbour room on top floor, where a most pleasant evening can be spent dining, while watching the lights of the ships in the Port, is capable of bringing back the past with romantic music to accompany.

Dutch Entrance Gate to the Fort and the old canal



Next to the YMBA building is the old Dutch Entrance Gate to the Fort, conserved by the Department of Archaeology. It is associated with the canal which is the old waterway joining the Beira Lake with the Colombo Harbour.

Dutch Hospital in Fort

The earliest reference available of this building is in 1677 by the German soldier Christopher Schweitzer. It was originally built and functioned as the hospital for the Dutch community residing in the Fort of Colombo and its suburbs, and also for the soldiers and sailors.

Heydt's description of 1734 is the first eye witness account of this hospital and he describes this as the "best hospital in all the Indies".

The hospital, which was one of the earliest public buildings of colonial occupation of the Island, had three units. The most prominent among them is the central unit, which is identified as the hospital proper, or wards. The second unit is that identified as the Ward Master's house, dispensary and chemist's house. The central portion of this unit has an elevated storey. The third unit known as the quarters of the hospital cook, of which there are no traces today. The verandahs of the building were additions by the British. The windows, with large fanlights and lattice work represent some of the best examples of the prevailing Dutch style. The building now used as police station in the Fort was conserved by the Department of Archaeology through the funds allocated by the Urban Development Authority.

Dutch Period Museum, Prince Street, Pettah



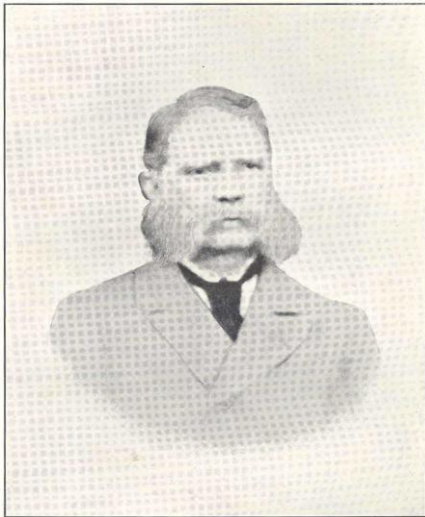
This is a typical Dutch town-house, built in the latter part of the 17th century. It was the residence of Governor Thomas van Rhee (1692-97), who later sold it, to Dutch East Indian Company (VOC). Thereafter it was used as a Seminary/ Orphanage until the Dutch territory was ceded to the British in 1796. Under the British, the building had been used successively as a military hospital, armory, Police Training Centre and lastly as the Pettah Post and Telegraph Office. In 1974 when a part of the building collapsed, the post office was shifted to its present location, and steps were taken to restore the building. At present it is the Dutch Period Museum managed by the Department of National Museum, depicting various aspects of life in Sri Lanka during 140 years of Dutch occupation of the maritime provinces of the Island. It opens a window to the General public, to look back on an important period of Sri Lanka's history to better understand and to see in perspective, the colonial Dutch impact on the recent socio-cultural evolution of Sri Lanka's society.

Old British Town Hall, Pettah



The Colombo Municipal Ordinance to create the township was enacted in 1866. One of the conditions was to define the extent of the town to levy rates and other administrative laws to govern the new burgeoning port city of Colombo. Simultaneously conceived was the idea of building a town hall –and the sensible site was the heart of the town the Pettah. The newly constituted Colombo Municipal Council met for the first time on 16th January, 1866 - Mr.C.P. Layard was the Chairman and Mr. Samuel Grenier was the Secretary. One of the first subjects discussed at this meeting by the Council was the building of a Town Hall worthy of the City of Colombo. At first the Council attempted to obtain a suitable building from the Government but failing to do so resolve to erect a hall in close proximity to the public market which was to be constructed on land reclaimed on St.John's river. Designs and estimates were there upon invited and many plans were received. The Public Works Committee recommended the design submitted by .G. Burton of the Survey Department. He was awarded a handsome sum of 50 guineas for his design. The plans for the hall including a museum, a library, a magistrate's court; a Council Chamber, offices for the Secretary and Superintendent of the Works Committee, rooms for other officers, etc.were very grandiose. It was in the style of domestic Gothic architecture. As the cost estimated was found to be prohibitive had to be abandoned. The cost was also enhanced because the ground on which the building was to be constructed was marshy. However the subject was revived in 1868 and more modest plans were drawn up for "Municipal Offices". This is the building that we see today and it was designed by the British Architect J.G.Smith. It was a very handsome structure with a "Cruet-like top" and was flanked and backed by the Edinburgh Market so called because no lesser a personage than His Royal Highness, Prince Alfred the late Duke of Edinburgh, laid the foundation stone in April 1870.Almost opposite this hall was St.Paul's church which was then attended chiefly by the descendants of the Portuguese whose incumbent was at one time the Portuguese Colonial Chaplain. The offices included a lofty Council chamber-58 ft.-and a waiting lobby on the ground floor. There was a court-37 ft.in length and 21 ft. in width-with broad verandahs both at the front and at the rear. The front was ornamental and included a

very large porch for carriages. The elaborately carved windows and doors are very handsome and much thought has been given to the construction of the windows. By the use of a pulley system the windows could be closed either by wooden shutters or glass shutters according to the wishes of the user taking into consideration the conditions of the weather. Also the lace-like carvings of the valance boards enhances the richness of the building. The Council unanimously approved the plan submitted by Mr. Smither and the cost was estimated at £ 7,000. The building was declared open by Governor Sir William Gregory in 1873. Mr. Smither himself designed the furniture to match the wood work of the building for example the back rest of the chairs have the same shape and design as the windows and doors. Some of these could now be seen in the lofty chamber on the first floor of the building. The elaborately carved record shelf could be seen in the record office of the present



Mr. J. G. Smither was Architect to the Ceylon Government for eighteen years from 1865 to 1883. Some years after retirement he published an exhaustive work on architectural remains, Ceylon. The full title of which is the *Architectural Remains Anuradhapura, Ceylon comprising the Dagabas and certain other Ancient Ruined Structures ; measured, drawn and described by*

J. G. Smither, F.R.I.B.A., late Architect to the Government of Ceylon. Sixty-seven Plates. Published by order of the Ceylon Government''

Smither after retirement in England called to design and carry out (which he did most courteously, and without any fee) the arrangements, buildings, &c., of the Ceylon Court at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London (including the 'Ceylon Tea House,' 'Ceylon Porch' -(at the old Imperial Institute.) also the ornamental Indian screens enclosing the Ceylon Court and other works at the Paris Exhibition, and the dagabas forming the central feature and other works at the Glasgow Exhibition." Among many important buildings designed by. Smither during his term of office, the Colombo Museum stands prominently forward in all its graceful beauty as a monument of his great architectural. Skill and ability “

Smither was an invalid when he died in 1910 but was often called upon to help out the Government at the time to work on design projects for which he charged no professional fees for his services.

The building was conserved under the supervision of the Department of Archaeology.

Wesleyan Mission House



The Chapel of the Wesleyan Mission, Dam Street, Pettah in Colombo was completed and open for public worship on 23rd December 1816. It was erected after the model of Brunswick

Chapel, Liverpool. This interesting engraving is one of the earliest views of a street facade during the British occupation. It shows the introduction of masonry columns of a classical style which replaced the elegant wooden supports which were so common during the Dutch Colonial. Period.

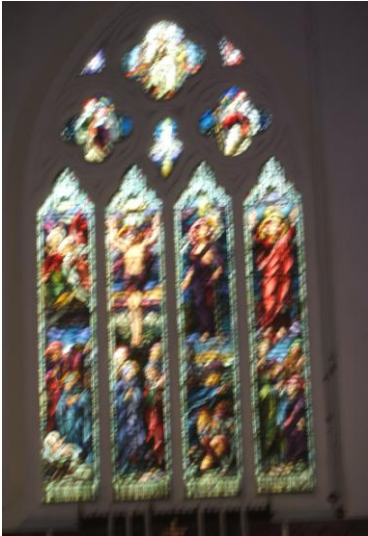
Gualterus Schneider was the "master builder" of this Chapel. The Mission establishment consisted of a place of worship, a dwelling house , (on the left of the Chapel), a large schoolroom, printing press and book binding offices, foundry and warehouses. In 1863 the arrangement of the seats was altered and the pulpit which was formerly at the same end as the entrance porch was moved to the' opposite side. Except for the exterior of the Chapel which has been slightly modified after the remodeling done in 1966- very little else remains of the other buildings -as shown in this view. Over the last century this part of the Pettah and Colombo which was a handsomely laid out residential area has degenerated into a slummy commercial sector, crowded with small shop. and warehouses with little or no charm.

British Law Courts at Hulftsdorf



Constructed in the neo-classical architectural style during the British period, this was the Law Courts in Hulftsdorf. The building with an internal courtyard was conserved with special efforts by Justice Amarasinghe, when he was the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice.

Anglican Church at Hulftsdorf



Near the law courts is the Anglican Church built to Neo-Gothic architectural style which was patronized by the Bandaranayake family.

‘Karlsruhe’ (Residence of the Principal of Wesley College)

Charles Ambrose Lorenz (1829-t 1871) in his Will and Testament made and dated 13, April, 1871, 4 months before he died at Karlsruhe, presented a detail account of the properties and other items he owned. During his life time he lived in several houses. Some as far and distant as Matara, Kalutara and Colombo. Many of the residences Lorenz is associated with were sited in these coastal towns .He was born in Rose Cottage Matara which is still extant - right on the banks of the Nilwala Ganga. His father Johan Lorenz built Lodge Harmony soon after his retirement as Sitting Magistrate in 1841 – just 4years before his death. Lodge Harmony in contrast to Rose Cottage on the opposite side of the Main Street, Matara was a pretentious two storied building. This building too has survived and needs protection.



After his stint at the Colombo Academy and his training as lawyer he came to live in Colombo. The holiday home for Lorenz as a busy practicing lawyer was Teak Bungalow in Kalutara- this too was on the bank of a river the Kalu Ganga. Quite well known earlier as Mount Layard it was the house of Charles Edward Layard-C.C.S. (Government Agent Western Province) and had 26 children. One was famous naturalist after whom several animals and birds are named after? Fred Layard is remembered by ornithologists as the naturalist after whom a Parakeet and wood pecker are named. Lorenz purchased the Teak House in 1860. I believe this house was also owned in late 1870s and early 1880s by Henry Hay. Cameron the son of Charles Hay Cameron and the famed nineteenth century photographer Julia Margaret Cameron. He was then the G.A. of Kalutara-and his parents spent their last year of their life before they moved to the ire coffee Estes in the hills... It was here that Julia Cameron took the famous portraits of the botanical artist Marianne North whose oil paintings are now in Kew Gardens, London housed in a specially designed building by Fergusson.

Of the five houses associated with Lorenz in Colombo only two survive needless destruction and demolition. Three were demolished in the last two decades. The site of Elie House which is now a reservoir for North Colombo was where the famous house stood. Originally built by Ansthruther the Colonial Secretary from 1840-1845 it was leased to Emmerson Tennent who preceded him till this Colonial Secretary was recalled by the British Parliament in 1845. Marvellously beautiful water colour views were painted by his Belfast friend Andrew Nicholl- who taught drawing and painting at the Colombo Academy. It is likely he would have given lessons to Lorenz and van Dort. Lorenz owned that house right up to his death Ellie House was sold to Mudaliyar Rajpakse and the government on behalf of the Colombo Municipal Council acquired it from him for 20,000 Pounds for the 8 acres, a copy is available of his Christmas Debates Autographed at Elie House to his niece to whom inherited Karlsruhe at his death-an 11 acre house in Welikada – now days you will not mention that you live in Welikade for obvious reasons.

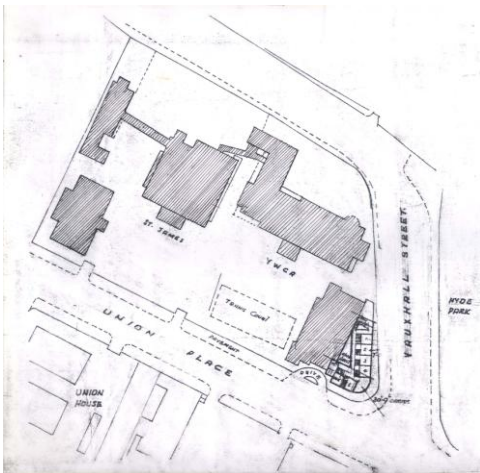
Before he moved into Elie House he lived in Gatherum. In the late 1950s -at the time when Lorenz's biography was being written by E. Blaze – he described Gatherum- the house was in the heart of a forest in Maradana. At present the site with its demolished building is a howling wilderness and lost in a urban sprawl.

The name Gatherum was given by him- no doubt derived from the fact that Lorenz's numerous friend gather there for drinks and dinner. One other residence he had some dealings is the present YWCA building called St. James which he might have leased. Rented or owned.

At his death in 1871, he also had substantial property (a residence) in York Street, Fort, Colombo, as well. Though his doctors failed to induce Lorenz to take a rest from his arduous public duties and obligations, they succeeded in convincing him at last that his days were numbered. It was a concession to their repeated warnings that he should have named his new residence Karlsruhe, or Charles's Rest. It was not until early in 1871 that Lorenz came into residence at Karlsruhe, and he was then a

dying man! He knew that himself... There 'is a letter which he wrote nearly a year previously, in ,which he refers to his illness. The house, which still stands as Lorenz lived in it, is on a slight eminence, and is now the residence of the Principal of Wesley College. Among those who lived here before Lorenz was the Registrar-General of Ceylon; W. J. McCarthy, brother of Lorenz's friend Sir Charles who later was elevated to the post of Governor...

Lorenz bought the place from Messrs. Dickman and Vambeek; it then consisted of over eleven acres of land. However in his will he gifted it to his house keeper, and niece Eliza La Brooy, on her birthday. The property passed into the possession of Louis Pieris, who sold it in blocks, a good portion including the house itself being acquired by the Methodist Mission as the new premises of Wesley College.



One interesting link,"with Lorenz that still remains in the old house is the. historic screen", as it has been described, which separates the sitting-room from the dining-room. It is built into the archway, eight feet by twelve feet, elaborately decorated panels on either side with a background in the acanthus pattern, and

standing out in a diA-erent style the letter L for Lorenz on the left and the letter K for Karlsruhe on the right. Originally, these panels were the doors of the screen. The soft brown of the old satin-wood is still beautiful in spite of later coatings of varnish.

