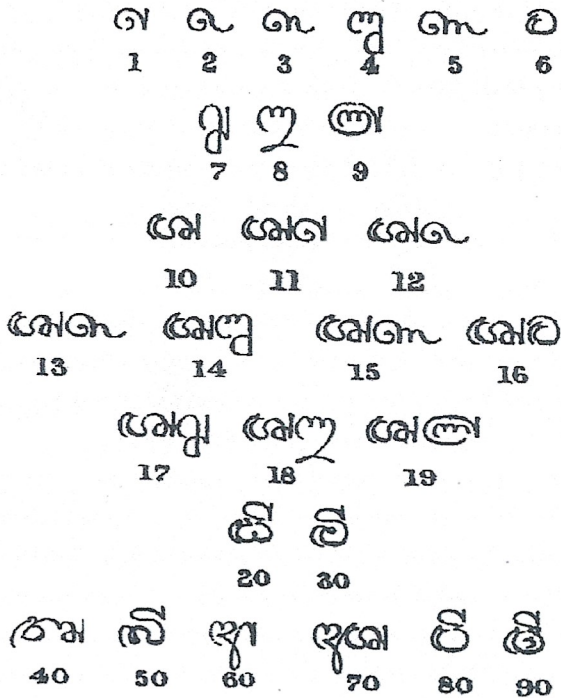


THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA LECTURE ON THURSDAY 24th APRIL 2014

CULTURAL MATHEMATICS By PROF. J.B. DISANAYAKA

The 61st Session of the Monthly Lecture Series of the National Trust - Sri Lanka will be held at the HNB Auditorium, 22nd Floor, HNB Towers, 479 T.B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10 at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday the 24th April 2014.



In Mathematics all numbers have numerical value. In culture however, only some numbers are significant or meaningful. What are the numbers that have cultural meaning? And what are the numbers that do not have such meaning? These questions lead to a fascinating field of inquiry which maybe called “*Cultural Mathematics*” which Prof. J.B. Disanayaka will speak of. Our members will recall the very enlightening lecture given by Prof. Disanayaka in November 2012 titled “*Water that flows through our Culture*”

Desamanya J.B. Disanayaka, Emeritus Professor of Sinhala occupies a prominent place among the Sinhala Scholars in contemporary Sri Lanka. He has had a major influence on Sinhala language and grammar and a significant effect on a range of other areas from culture to journalism, children’s literature and language technology.

He graduated in the field of Sinhala language and literature from the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya and received his MA in Linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley . His doctoral dissertation on “The Word in Modern Literary Sinhala” was submitted to the University of Colombo in 1980. He was

instrumental in establishing the Department of Linguistics in the University of Colombo. Prof. Disanayaka is also a former Ambassador for Sri Lanka in Thailand.

Prof. Disanayaka has made a lasting contribution to advance the knowledge of Sinhala grammar , language and culture. He has published more than 100 books in Sinhala and English the latest being "Encyclopedia of Sinhala Language and Culture" which gives a comprehensive account of the history, structure and development of the Sinhala language. Some of his major works on Sinhala culture and folklore are "Aspects of Sinhala Folklore"(1984), " Water in Culture: The Sri Lankan Heritage" (1992), "The Monk and the Peasant"(1993) and "Understanding the Sinhalese" (1998). In recent years Prof Disanayaka has ventured into Sinhala Children's literature including the series "Once upon a Time" and "Wisdom of the Folk" that explains to children the wisdom of their forefathers as found in their proverbs.

As a member of the Presidential Task Force for a Trilingual Sri Lanka; Prof. Disanayaka has been busy recently doing language courses and methodologies that will ultimately create a new Sri Lanka where all can live in peace, harmony and dignity.

The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures on the last Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the public at a nominal fee. The HNB Sustainability Foundation is the principal sponsor of the events of the National Trust – Sri Lanka. Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel 2682730 and at the Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology, 407, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7.