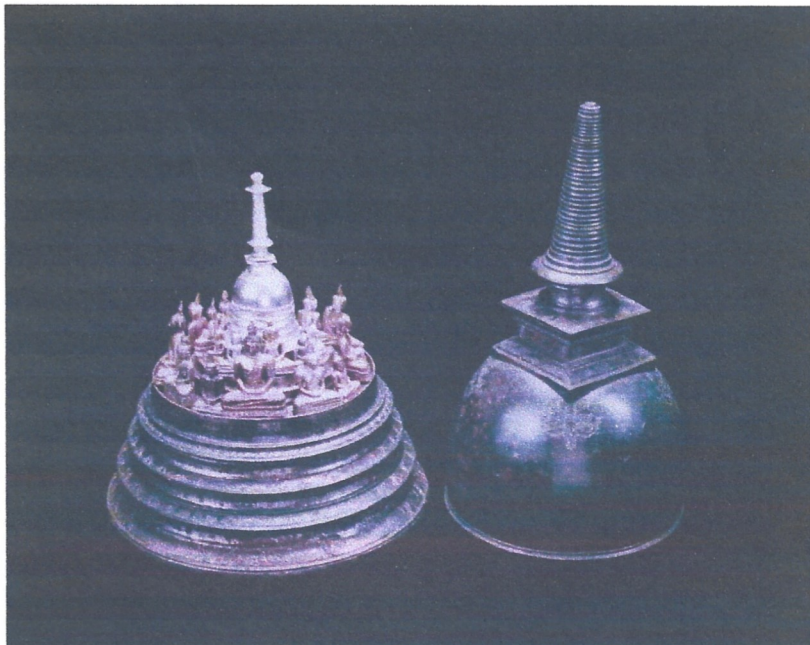


THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA LECTURE ON THURSDAY 26th JUNE 2014

**EXCAVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE ROYAL STUPA AT UDA ALUDENIYA – GAMPOLA PERIOD
By PROF. NIMAL DE SILVA**

The 63rd 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 26th JUNE 2014.



The Stupa found at Uda Aludeniya near Gampola , built by Bhuvanekabahu IV (1341 -1351 AD) King of Gampola was abandoned, neglected and destroyed and was covered with vegetation. The people of the area would have been under the impression that this was a funeral stupa of a chief monk who lived there, as it was very small; hence neglected it.

In year 2004 the Kandy Project of the Cultural Triangle attended the conservation of this stupa. This became one of the most important existing sites with nearly 250 artifacts including a unique relic casket with 22 Buddha images placed inside, cast in gold and silver. Within the innermost golden casket of a globular shape, there were seven portions of bodily relics of the Buddha wrapped in gold foil. This had been placed inside a Silver casket found within two larger stupa shaped Bronze caskets.

The other enshrinements found within the relic chamber had more than 150 bronze Buddha images with many other silver artifacts made as replicas; probably to emphasise the architectural and ritual practices performed in worshipping Buddha relics. The largest and well sculptured seated Buddha image weighing about 2 Kg found inside the relics chamber can be taken as one of the best Bronze images of the Gampola Period.

Prof. Nimal de Silva currently the President of the National Trust – Sri Lanka was the Director of the Kandy Project of the Cultural Triangle at the time of the excavation of the Royal Stupa at Uda Aludeniya.

He was the former Director General of the Central Cultural Fund and Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology and Emeritus Professor of Architecture, University of Moratuwa and is on the Advisory Board, Departments of Archaeology and National Museums. He was also Honorary President of ICOMOS (Sri Lanka) and the International President of ICOMOS Scientific Committee on Wall Paintings.. He is the author of several books and research publications including “Flags & Flag Traditions of Sri Lanka”.

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 at the Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology, 407, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7.