



**THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA**

***“Use of Armour in Ancient Sri Lanka”***

By

**Anandalal Nanayakkara**

**The Monthly Lecture Series No: 152 of the National Trust**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 6.00 pm**

**at the Auditorium of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka,**

**No. 6, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7.**

(For those who join online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85772196478>)

For the purpose of the lecture, Armour is defined as the defensive covering used by soldiers on the battlefield. As one expert study puts it, the evolution of armour has been along the same lines everywhere, but has not gone equally far in all countries. Throughout history, armour has been an essential part of warfare, providing protection against weapons and creating a sense of strength and invincibility. Sri Lanka, has a detailed history of warfare and battles where armour would have played a crucial role in protecting warriors on the battlefield. From ancient times to the colonial period, the study of arms and armour provides us with fascinating insights into the military strategies of this small island nation. This lecture is a preliminary look at a fascinating area of warfare hitherto little studied and perhaps largely misunderstood and/or ignored by scholars. Drawing on literature, painting, sculpture and extant artefacts, the speaker seeks to bring together the scant evidence on the subject.



Mr. Anandalal Nanayakkara, Attorney-at-Law, is a Life Member of the Royal Asiatic Society and former Hon. Treasurer thereof. He is also a Member of the National Trust and the former Hon. Secretary of the Ceylon Society of Australia. Mr. Nanayakkara has made several lecture presentations on the subject of arms such as ‘Military Use of Rocket by the Sinhalese as a Gunpowder Projectile Weapon against the Dutch’ at the 1<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Fortifications and Military Heritage, ICOFORT Sri Lanka, ‘The Story of the Kastane’ at a monthly lecture of the National Trust, ‘The History of Gunpowder and Firearms in Sri Lanka’ for the Ceylon Society of Australia, ‘A Form of Light Artillery (Kodituwakku) of the 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century Sinhalese Army’ for the Royal Asiatic Society and ‘Historical development of Firearms Use in Sri Lanka’ for the Association of Retired Flag Rank Officers. He has also published an article titled ‘A 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Century Ritual Sword from Kandy’ in the book ‘Ancient Swords, Daggers and Knives in Sri Lanka Museums’ edited by Dr. P. H. D. H. de Silva and Mr. Senarath Wickramasinghe.

**The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures generally on the last working Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the general public. 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.0112682730/ 0719566929