



THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA

DR ROLAND SILVA MEMORIAL LECTURE

“Story of Thrones and Crowns of Sinhale Royalty”

by

Prof. Nimal de Silva

The Monthly Lecture Series No: 157 of the National Trust

Wednesday 31st January 2024 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/81708355365>)

Coronation is a ceremonial ritual conducted in crowning a sovereign. At this ceremonial occasion it was the tradition that King was seated on a special seat or a chair, a throne and a special head dress a crown in addition to the ceremonial dress that he was adorn with. The golden throne and the crown used by the last King of Sinhale, Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe that was taken to England by British Governor, Sir Robert Brownrigg in 1820 and presented personally to King George IV, returned to Sri Lankan on September 22nd 1834 and now displayed at the National Museum, Colombo. According to historical and archaeological evidence these were made around 1687. Up to this, Sinhale Kings had pedestal thrones. Kandyan throne and crowns were exquisite artistic products of Otunupattale Arachchi, a Kandyan master craftsman. Out of the four crowns of Kandyan Kings, two; one in gold and the other in silver were lost to the nation due to the irresponsibility of the Sri Lankan government authorities. The silver models of the throne chair and crown made by the craftsman for Dutch Governor's approval is still available to understand the historical origin.



Emeritus Prof. Nimal de Silva served at the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa and the Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya, teaching Architecture, Archaeology and heritage conservation. Currently he serves as the Academic Advisor & Professor, School of Architecture at Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT). He is a senior chartered architect currently working as a Managing Partner of the firm, Devoco Architects. He is also an archaeologist, art historian and a conservation specialist and has provided expert advice to numerous heritage related projects throughout the country. He was also the Director Conservation of the Kandy Project of the UNESCO-Sri Lanka Cultural Triangle Program and later became the Director General of the Central Cultural Fund. He is a Past President of ICOMOS Sri Lanka and also served as the President of the Scientific Committee on Wall Paintings of ICOMOS International. He is also an Honorary President of the National Trust, Sri Lanka.

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.

Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel.0112682730/ 0719566929