



THE ORIGIN, DEVELOPMENT, AND CURRENT PERSPECTIVES ON ARCHAEOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

In the early decades of the 20th century, archaeology was introduced as a subject in Pirivena education which mainly consisted of a segment of epigraphy. In the 1950s, the Department of History, University of Ceylon offered archaeology as a sub-discipline for the degree programmes of Sinhala, History and Buddhist Civilization. After retiring as the Commissioner of Archaeology in 1956, Dr. Senarat Paranavitana was appointed as Research Professor of Archaeology by the Vice-Chancellor Sir Nicholas Artygalle in 1957. Subsequently, the University of Ceylon formulated a sub-Department of Archaeology under the Department of History in 1960. The special degree programme in Archaeology was initiated at the sub-Department of Archaeology in 1976 that was converted to an independent department, recruiting new staff under the headship of Dr. P.L. Prematilleke in 1979. Later the degree programme of Archaeology was improved to classical and new archaeology, with a view to fulfilling national needs. After establishing the Cultural Triangle in 1980, undergraduates and graduates in Archaeology had an opportunity to do their fieldwork as well as find employment in archaeological projects. The studies carried out by the Department of Archaeology for sixty years reflect the unique features of these research traditions. These works reflect the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of the subject representing prehistory, proto and early history, ancient built environment, archaeo-zoology, archaeo-botany, heritage management, and museology, and constituted a great source of information for archaeologists and historians around the world. Most of these research publications are available in print and electronic media for local and international readers.

Key words: Department of Archaeology, University of Ceylon, Research Museum, Fieldwork

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INTRODUCTION

Ceylon began its initial archaeological investigations following the establishment of the Committee for Archaeology in 1871. The colonial government created the Department of Archaeological survey in 1890, appointing Mr. H.C.P. Bell as its Commissioner for the furtherance of archaeological research. Subsequently, the Archaeological Survey Department made a large number of discoveries of the ruins of monuments, statues, Brahmi inscriptions, and various artefacts (Karunaratne 1990).

One of the main areas of study in Archaeology during the early part of the 20th century was the origin and development of the Sinhalese language based on these inscriptions, and the well-known Buddhist educational centers of Vidyodaya Parivena and Vidyalankara Parivena were established to serve this purpose. Later, the University of Ceylon also started to offer courses in Archaeology beginning in the year 1950. Dr. Tennakoon Wimalananda was the first to teach a course in Archaeology at the University of Ceylon, having qualified with a doctoral degree in epigraphy from the University of Calcutta (Prematilleke 2004). This paper explores the development of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Ceylon, and later the University of Peradeniya.

EARLY DAYS

After retiring as the commissioner of Archaeology in 1956, Dr. Senarat Paranavitana was appointed as Research Professor in Archaeology in 1957, by then Vice-Chancellor Sir Nicholas Artygalle. Prof. Paranavitana had special training on epigraphy under the supervision of Subramania Ayyer, a renowned epigraphist, in Ootacamund, South India from 1923 to 1926, and obtained his PhD for the dissertation titled *The Stupa of Ceylon* from the University of Leiden, Holland in 1936 (Jayawikrama 1965; Prematilleke et al

1978). During the time marked as the official beginning of the Department of Archaeology, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Paranavitana taught subjects such as Archaeology in Sri Lanka and India, Buddhist Civilization, and Antiquity (Annual Report 1959).

In 1959, Prof. Paranavitana spent most of his time in preparation for the book *University of Ceylon – History of Ceylon* (Vol. I from the earliest time to 1505), in which he included lengthy chapters on Buddhism, economic, political, social conditions of early Ceylon, and the art and architecture from the Anuradhapura Period to the arrival of the Portuguese (Nicolas and Paranavitana 1961). Another prominent publication of his was *Ceylon and Malaysia in Medieval Times* (1960). He was also engaged in epigraphic studies from the beginning of the 18th Century (Annual Report 1959 & 1961).

Sub-Department of Archaeology: 1960-1979

In 1960, the Sub -Department of Archaeology was constituted as per the recommendation given by the Needham Commission of 1958 (Annual Report 1958). During his term from 1960 to 1964, Professor Paranavitana was able to obtain maximum support from the State Department of Archaeology for the development of the newly formed Department. Functioning as Head of the Department until 1964, Professor Paranavitana managed to make provisions for two lecturer positions in the Department (Annual Report 1960). Consequently, the University recruited Mr. P.L. Prematilleke as Assistant Lecturer, who had an MA Degree from the University of Calcutta (1954-1956) and working experience at the University affiliated project of the Sinhalese Encyclopedia (Dharmadasa 1990).

The Degree Programme in Archaeology: Early Days

At the beginning, the Department offered the subject of Archaeology for undergraduates

as part of the History, Sinhala, and Buddhist Civilization Programme. Professor Paronavitana who expected to train archaeological officers for requirement to the state service, wanted to offer courses all the way up to the postgraduate level, a mission that was originally mentioned in the Report of the Needham Commission. Considering these factors, an archaeological course with practical studies was introduced by the Department, and two Master students were registered under the guidance of Professor Paronavitana (Annual Report 1960; Prematilleke 2004). Then measures were taken to establish an archaeological museum at the University in 1960. Courtesy of then Vice-Chancellor Sir Nicholas Artygalle and Professor Paronavitana, the collections of Biddle, Hettiarachchi, Batuwantudawe, and de Saram were placed in the museum for public display, which was complemented by a list of classified artefacts compiled by Professor Paronavitana along with Mr. Prematilleke (Prematilleke 2004).

In 1961, Dr. Tennakoon Wimalananda was transferred from the Department of History to the sub-Department of Archaeology. When Mr. Prematilleke joined the University of London for his PhD studies, Professor Paronavitana and Dr. Wimalananda continued academic work at the Department, most prominently including Professor Paronavitana's work on the periodization of Sri Lanka and the Arya Kingdom of the North (Annual Report 1961).

In 1962, Dr. Wimalananda organized a field trip to India with 30 students, with the financial support of the University (Annual Report 1962). During the academic year 1962/1963, Prof. Paronavitana engaged in teaching art and architecture of Ceylon for the undergraduates of Sinhala and History departments, and served as the supervisor for the two PhD dissertations in Sinhala. Further, he conducted research on areas such as the inscriptions of Hindagala,

Padaviya and Nachchaduwa tanks, arrival of the Portuguese, Panduwasnuwara, the inscription of Lankatilleke and Wilpattu, etc. Around this time, the Department requested additional space for its research activity. Mr. Prematilleke completed his PhD dissertation on *Religious Architecture and Sculpture of Ceylon* in November, 1963 and came back to the University (Annual Report 1963). When Prof. Paronavitana retired from the service in 1964, Dr. Wimalananda left for the Vidyalankara University as Professor of History. Dr. Prematilleke remained as a lecturer in the sub-Department of Archaeology, and was selected as a member for the international committee of museums (University of Ceylon Calendar 1964). The Department of Archaeology remained under the Professor of History, until a new Head was appointed (Annual Report 1968).

K. de B. Codrington, Professor of Indian Archaeology, University of London visited in the University in August, 1965 to conduct research on potsherds from Anuradhapura, which were similar to the pottery unearthed from the Gangetic Valley, belonging to the historic period dated from the 1st Century BC to 3rd Century AD). He postulated that pottery from Ambalantota was comparable with similar artifacts found in Arikamedu, South India, which somewhat resembled Roman Arretine ware. These research findings were forwarded to then Vice-Chancellor Sir Nicholas Artygalle. In addition, Professor Codrington had carried out an excavation, with the help of the students from the University in 1965 (Annual Report 1968). With the support of Professor K. de B. Codrington, the state Department of Archaeology conducted the excavation of the Citadel of Anuradhapura in 1969, in which students from the University of Peradeniya participated for two weeks (Annual Report 1970). In 1969, an exploration was conducted in Kudagala, Polonnaruwa, in which Drs. Prematilleke, R.A.L.H. Gunawardane, and K.

Inrapala along with undergraduates like W.H. Wijepala, R. Wijewickrama, P. Padeniya, and G. Senadeera participated (ibid).

Dr. Prematilleke undertook a six-day field trip to Polonnaruwa, in which two academic staff members and 55 students consisting of Buddhist monks participated. When the insurgency of 1971 broke out on the 5th of April, the team could not move anywhere for a few days. In relation to this incident, Professor Sarachchandra has written a novel titled *The Curfew and a Full Moon* (Dharmadasa 1990).

Despite requests to establish Archaeology as an independent department, it was housed under the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies due to the process of restructuring of the education system in Sri Lanka during the early 1970s. Dr. Prematilleke was the selected consultant to replace the *Nalanda Gedige* and Menikdena archaeological restoration work in 1975 (Annual Report 1977).

Department of Archaeology 1979-2017

Dr. Prematilleke was able to start a special degree programme in Archaeology in 1976, which was a crucial juncture in the development of the Department. An independent Department was created in 1979. Dr. Prematilleke became Head of the Department and was able to recruit three members to the academic staff namely S.D.S. Seneviratne, W.H. Wijepala, and K.H. Jayatilleke (Annual Report 1979).

During the 1980s, the curriculum of the Department of Archaeology was prepared in accordance with the international standards, with a view to grooming graduates for national needs (Annual Report 1980). After acquiring the required qualifications, Associate Professor P.L. Prematillake was promoted to the post of Professor of Archaeology in 1983 (Annual Report 1983). Rev. Wetara Mahinda, Ms. M.R. Tampoe, Ms. D.K. Wanigasekara, and Mr. A.M. Piyatissa were recruited to the

academic staff of the Department in 1984 (Annual Report 1984). Under the supervision of Prof. Prematilleke, conservation work of the Nalanda Gedige was completed in 1985 (Annual Report 1985).

Prof. Prematilleke, who served the University of Peradeniya as an Assistant Lecturer, Professor and Research Professor between 1960 and 1989. He also held positions like Director of Kandy and Polonnaruwa UNESCO Cultural Triangle Projects, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, and was also a member of the Advisory Committee for the State Department of Archaeology. His previous experience in India and the United Kingdom were helpful for the archaeological fieldwork in Sri Lanka. The Department of Archaeology, under the direction of Seneviratne, former professor Prematilleke was felicitated Festschrift titled *Perspectives in Archaeology* in 1990 (Seneviratne et al. 1990). In view of the centenary celebration of the State Department of Archaeology, the museum of the Department was named as the "Senarat Paranavitana Research and Teaching Museum" (Annual Report 1990).

While Mr. K.H. Jayatilleke was on sabbatical leave in the USA, he resigned the post of Senior Lecturer in 1990. Subsequently, the University recruited Mr. R.M.M. Chandraratne as a Lecturer, and Mr. D.K. Jayaratne and Ms. M.W.C.N.K. Rambukwella as Assistant Lecturers. When Prof. Seneviratne left for Cornell University under a Full Bright fellowship in 1990, Dr. Tampoe was appointed to the headship of the Department. By this time, the Department accommodated eight staff members within a single room; hence, the Department had requested additional space (Annual Report 1990). Having won a scholarship from the postgraduate Institute of Archaeology and the University Gant Commission (Ford Foundation), Mr. Chandraratne obtained study leave between 1991 for his PhD studies at the University

of Poona, while Mrs. D.K. Gunasekara left for the Thessaloniki University in Greece for her PhD research in 1992 (Annual Report 1993). The University recruited Ms. A.G.C.H. Aluvihare as drafts person in 1995 (Annual Report 1995). Dr. Gunasekara and Dr. Tampoe resigned from their posts in 1998 and 2000 respectively (Annual Reports 1998; 2000). Considering the above resignations, two vacancies were made available. Hence, Mr. A.S.T. Rajapaksha and Ms. A.G.D.N. Karunarathna were selected for Assistant Lecturer positions in 2002 and 2006 respectively (Annual Reports 2002; 2006). Rev. Mahinda handed in his resignation (due to personal reasons) when he was spending his sabbatical leave in the USA, in 2011 (Annual Report 2011).

Administration of the Department

Prof. Paranavitana gradually made conditions conducive to meet the basic requirements for the sub-Department of Archaeology from 1960-1964. Afterwards, Dr. Prematilleke carried out

this duty until 1979. After re-structuring the University system in 1978, Dr. Prematilleke (later Professor of Archaeology) administered the Department up to 1987. Dr. Seneviratne (later Professor of Archaeology) was Head of the Department on several occasions (Table 1). Subsequently, Dr. M.R. Tampoe held the headship from 1990 to 1993. Rev. Wetara Mahinda was thrice appointed as Head of the Department, and was the chairperson of the University Research Committee in 2003. After that, Dr. Jayaratne twice served as Head of the Department (2005-2008 and 2013-2016), and was appointed as the chairperson of the University Research Committee in 2010 (Table 1). Dr. Chandraratne (later Professor) was thrice appointed as Head of the Department (2008-2013 and 2016 up to date). The Department was able to complete the self-evaluation report for the existing degree programme under the Faculty Quality Assurance process in (Annual Report 2017).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING AFTER 1980

Table 1: Heads of the Department of Archaeology from the Inception to Date

Name of Head of the Department	Official Duration	Department
Prof. S. Paranavitana	1960-1964	Sub-Department of Archaeology
Dr. P.L. Prematillake	1965-1979	
Prof. P.L. Prematillake	1979-1987	Department of Archaeology
Dr. S.D.S. Senaviratne	1987-1990	
Dr. M.R. Tampoe	1990-1993	
Prof. S.D.S. Senaviratne	1993-1996	
Rev. Wetara Mahinda	1997-1998	
Prof. S.D.S. Senaviratne	1998-2000	
Rev. Wetara Mahinda	2000-2003 2003-2005	
Dr. D.K. Jayaratne	2005-2008	
Dr. R.M.M. Chandraratne	2008-2011 2011-2013	
Dr. D.K. Jayaratne	2013-2016	
Prof. R.M.M. Chandraratne	2016 up to date	

Sources: Annual Reports 1960; 1965; 1979; 1989; 1990; 1993; 1997; 1998; 2000; 2005; 2008; 2011; 2013; 2016

During the decade of 1990, Dr. Sudharshan Seneviratne, Dr. Tampoe, and Mr. Jayaratne participated in the Science and Technology programme at the Institute of the Fundamental Studies (Annual Report 1990). Prof. Seneviratne, as the Director of the *Pinwewa-Galshonkanatta* Megalithic Archaeology Project (1996-1997), conducted an excavation in 1996, and a research seminar on same at the University.

Prof. Seneviratne was appointed as the Archaeological Director for the Jetavana Central Cultural Fund Project in 2000, where Dr. Senanayeke was selected the Assistant Director for epigraphical studies (Annual Report 2000). Dr. Chandraratne was involved in a research on faunal studies under a university research grant between 2003-2008. Prof. Seneviratne also carried out the *Vessagiriya* Excavation Project in Anuradhapura between 2005-2007, which provided multidisciplinary training to students. Subsequently, both Dr. Senanayeke and Dr. Jayaratne were appointed to the Director position of the *Jetavana and Sigiriya* Archaeological Projects at different times (Annual Report 2008).

With regard to other research activities, Dr. Chandraratne and Dr. H.A.H. Jayasena jointly undertook an exploration of the Pleistocene deposits in the North-Western Province, with the assistance of the Ministry of Environment in 2008. Furthermore, Dr. Chandraratne conducted an excavation at the *Somawatiya Raja Mahavihara* complex, courtesy of Ven. Pahamune Sumangala Nayaka Thero in 2010 (Chandraratne & Ranaweera, 2017).

One of the main objectives of the teaching of archaeology was to provide practical studies for undergraduates. As such, the Department sponsored various field activities which students participated in. These activities included excavations of the *Batadomba* Lena in 1982 and 1983 (Annual Report 1983), upper *Mahaoya* valley in Kegalle District

Kelimune, the ancient iron-smelting site in the Kurunagala District, and *Fahien gala* in 1986, and the Citadel of Anuradhapura and Tissamaharama in the 1990s (under the Australia-Sri Lanka Maritime Archaeology Programme and German joint excavations) (Annual Reports 1989; 1990; 1993). After the year 2000, undergraduate students had many opportunities to obtain training from projects sponsored by the Central Cultural Fund including excavations in Kandy, *Jetavana*, Sigiriya, and the marine archaeological unit in Galle.

Postgraduate Research

The Department soon reaped the benefits of its research and training investments by way of the accomplishments made by its staff. Mr. Wijepala obtained his MA from University of Peradeniya in 1980, while Mr. Jayatilleke completed his MA in 1983. Mrs. Wanigasekara was able to complete her Master's degree in 1986 (Table 2). Mr. Seneviratne secured a Merit Fellowship from the Indian Council of Historical Research (1976-1980), and completed his PhD degree at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1987. Ms. Tampoe received a presidential scholarship for postgraduate studies at the University of Oxford and finished her PhD degree in 1989 (Table 3).

Further, Mr. Jayaratne completed his MSc degree at the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya in 1993. Rev. Wetara Mahinda and Mrs. Rambukwella obtained their Masters from the University of Peradeniya, in 1995 and 1998 respectively. Mr. Senanayeke and Mr. Chandraratne earned their PhD degrees from the University of Peradeniya in 1997 and University of Pune in 1999 respectively (Table 3). Mr. Rajapaksha obtained his MA from the Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management in 2007, while Mrs. Karunarathna obtained her MPhil from the University of Peradeniya in 2008 (Table 2).

Mrs. Rambukwella, Mrs. Karunarathna, and Mr. Rajapaksa obtained their PhDs from the University of Leicester in 2014, University of Newcastle in 2015, and University of Peradeniya in 2017 respectively (Table 3). These accomplishments demonstrate the increasing research strength of the Department around this time. It is important to note that a significant number of researchers, who were not attached to the Department, have completed doctoral and masters' degrees (Table 4).

Postdoctoral Fellowships, Visiting Professorships, and Other Distinguished Positions

Prof. Prematilleke served as Visiting Professor at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London in 1984 (April-July) and was a visiting scholar at the Waseda University in 1985 (Annual Reports 1984; 1985).

Prof. Seneviratne obtained a Fulbright-Hays Senior Research Fellowship (1990-1991) while he was Visiting Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1996 (3 months). He subsequently held several visiting Professorships at the Carleton College (1998 and 2000, Jan-Jun), Bowdoin College (2000, July-Dec) Swarthmore College (2010-2011), and Whitman College (2012-2013) in the USA. Furthermore, he served as Director General of the Central Cultural Fund from

Table 2: Research Conducted for Master's Degrees by the Academic Staff of the Department of Archaeology, University of Peradeniya

Degree	Title of thesis	Author	Institute	Year
MA	Mesolithic Stone Technology of Sri Lanka: A Study of the Stone implements from Beli-Lena	W.H. Wijepala	University of Peradeniya	1980
	Terracotta Industry of Sri Lanka	K.H. Jayatillake	University of Peradeniya	1983
	A Critical Study of Ancient Coins of Sri Lanka: From the Beginning to the End of the Ninth Century	D.K. Wanigasekara (later, Gunasekara)	University of Peradeniya	1987
	Medical and Psychological Treatment in the Buddhist Monastic Tradition in Sri Lanka: A Study of Archaeological, Textual and Epigraphic Evidence up to 12th century.	Rev. Wetara Mahinda	University of Peradeniya	1995
	The Distribution Pattern of Proto and Early Historic Sites in the Montane Region of Sri Lanka: A Study of the Middle and Upper Maha-Oya River Systems.	M.W.C.N.K Rambukwella	University of Peradeniya	1998
MA	Excavation at Vadnagar District Mehsana with Special Reference to Trench No. B1 Qd 1-4 and World Heritage Sites of Champaner (India) and Anuradhapura Sri Lanka – Scope for Further Tourism Prospects	A.S.T. Rajapaksa	Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management, I.P University	2007

Sources: Alahakoon 2011; Annual Reports 1993; 2007

Table 3: Research Conducted for Doctoral Degrees by the Academic Staff of the Department of Archaeology, University of Ceylon and Peradeniya

Degree	Title of thesis	Author	Institute	Year
PhD	The Stupa in Ceylon	S. Paranavitana	University of Leiden	1939
	Religious Architecture and Sculpture of Ceylon: Anuradhapura Period	P.L. Prematilleke	University of London	1964
	Social base of early Buddhism in south east India and Sri Lanka, (c. 3rd Century B.C. - 3rd Century A.D.).	S.D.S. Senaviratne	Jawaharlal Nehru University	1987
	Maritime Trade between China and the West: An Archaeological Study of the Ceramics from Siraf from the 8th to 15th Centuries AD	M.R. Tampoe	University of Oxford	1989
	Roman Coins from Sri Lanka	D.K. Gunasekara	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	1996
	A Preliminary Analytical Study of the Historical Archaeology of Inscriptions Located in the Middle and Upper Valleys of Deduru Oya System: 3rd century B.C. -3rd Century A.D.	A.M.P. Senanayake	University of Peradeniya	1997
	A Study of Subsistence Pattern Based on Faunal Remains from the Citadel of Anuradhapura Excavations, Sri Lanka (circa 900 B.C – 700 A.D)	R.M.M. Chandraratne	University of Pune	1999
PhD	A Comparative Study of the Early Iron Age of Peninsular India and Sri Lanka	D.K. Jayaratne	Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute	2005
	Heritage Representation in Culturally Diverse Societies: A Case Study of the Colombo National Museum in Sri Lanka	M.W.C. N.K. Rambukwella	University of Leicester	2014

Degree	Title of thesis	Author	Institute	Year
PhD	Imaging the Role of Women in Changing Socio-Cultural Contexts: A Study of Female Representations in Murals in Pre-Modern Sri Lanka	A.G.D.N. Karunarathna	University of Newcastle	2015
	Heritage Management and Cultural Tourism in Sacred Cities Located in the Cultural Triangle of Sri Lanka: A Critical Study of Anuradhapura and Kandy World Heritage Sites	A.S.T. Rajapaksa	University of Peradeniya	2017

Sources: Alahakoon 2011; Annual Reports 1964; 1989; 1997; 1998; 2012; 2014; 2015; Prematilleke et al. 1978; Weerasinghe 2017

Table 4: Research Conducted for Masters and Doctoral Degrees by Graduates Outside of the Academic staff of the Department of Archaeology, University of Ceylon and Peradeniya

Degree	Title of thesis	Author	Institute	Year
Ph.D.	Literary and Archaeological Monuments of the Mahayana in Ceylon	N. Mudiyanse	University of Ceylon	1964
	Lankawe Bauddha Loha –Murthi	P. Seetha Padmini Gunaratne	University of Peradeniya	1977
	New Light on the Prehistory of Sri Lanka in the Context of Recent Investigations at Cave Sites	W.H. Wijepala	University of Peradeniya	1997
	The Historical Archaeology of Palm Leaf Manuscript Art in Sri Lanka	A. Lagamuwa	University of Peradeniya	2004
MA	The Art and Architecture of the Gampola Period (1341-1415)	N. Mudiyanse	University of Ceylon	1960
	<i>Mahanuvara Yugaye Mati Karmanthaya</i>	W. M. Chandra Weerabahu	University of Peradeniya	1987
MA	<i>Lankave Buddha ha Bodhi Satva Pratima Laksana Pilibanda Adhyayanayak</i>	Ariya Lagamuwa	University of Peradeniya	1988
MPhil.	<i>Sri Lankave Nirmitha Parisaraye Sampath Madhyayak Iesa Pashana Varga Bhavitha Kireema</i>	H.D.T.L. Wagalawatte	University of Peradeniya	2004

Degree	Title of thesis	Author	Institute	Year
	A Study of Trade and Commerce at Anuradhapura and its Hinterland Based on Early Historic Coins Excavated at the Jetawana Archaeological Site (3rd Century B.C. to 3rd Century A.D.)	I.D. Balasuriya	Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS) University of Peradeniya	2015
	An Environmental Study of the Early Iron Age Burial Site at Ihala Kalawella Ulpatha and its Environs in North Central Sri Lanka	J.D.K. Jayaratne	PGIHS	2015
	A Comparative study of the Punch Marked Coins found in Sri Lanka and South India	K.W.C. Tharangani		2015
	A Study on Human Resources Development in the Underwater Archaeology Field in Sri Lanka with Special Reference to the Galle Maritime Archaeology Site	P.R. Mutukumarana	PGIHS	2015
	A Study of the Development of Sri Lankan Buddhist Institutions Based on the Inscriptions from 3rd Century B.C. to 5th Century A.D.	W.I. Malsiri	PGIHS	2015
	Role of Heritage Tourism Management in Provincial Sustainable Development: A Case Study on the Magul Mahavihara Archaeological Site in the Eastern Province	K.K.D.K. Bowatta	PGIHS	2015
	Reconstruction of Palaeo-Environment in the Middle Malwatu Oya Basin in Sri Lanka: With Special Reference to the Jetavanarama Archaeological Site	K.K.D.C. Ranaweera		2016

Sources: Alahakoon 2011; Weerasinghe 2017

2007 to 2010, in addition to holding the post of the Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India between 2014-2015 (Annual Report, 2016).

Mr. Jayaratne, who attended the University of Pennsylvania on a scholarship from the Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Education

programme (ISLE) in 1993 (January-April), participated in the excavation at Mahastan, Bangladesh in 1996. He was also a postdoctoral visitor to the Institute of Earth Sciences, Freie Universität, Berlin in October of 2016. This visit was funded by the German

Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) (Annual Report 2016).

Mr. Chandraratne visited the early Hominidsites of South Africa in 1998, a visit sponsored by the Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, South Africa, in collaboration with the International Association for the Study of Human Palaeontology (IASHP) and the International Association of the Human Biologists (IAHB) (Annual Report 1998). He was also a visiting postdoctoral fellow (January-April, 2006) on Environmental Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London (Annual Report 2006). In addition, he held the following positions: Academic Visitor to the Dept. of Archaeology, University of Turku, Finland under the Erasmus Mundus Action II [project exchange promoting quality education, research, and training in South Asia (EXPERT) coordinated by the University of Gottingen, Germany] in April, 2012; Postdoctoral Fellow to the Department of Geography and Geology, University of Turku, Finland, under the Erasmus Mundus Action II [coordinated by the Montpellier University, France (PANACEA)] from 2013-2014; Postdoctoral Visitor (October- November 2016) to the Institute of Earth Sciences, Freie Universität, Berlin (sponsored by the DAAD) in October-November 2016 (Annual Reports 2012; 2013; 2016).

Dr. Senanayake won a fellowship to the Institute of Earth Sciences, Freie Universität, Berlin as a Postdoctoral Visitor in 2015, under the DAAD Landscape Archaeology Programme (Annual Report 2015). Ms. Karunarathna Participated in a training programme on Cultural Heritage & Museum Studies in Pennsylvania, USA in 2007 (July–August), hosted by the Smithsonian Institution & University of Wisconsin, Madison in collaboration with the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, India (Annual Report 2007).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TRAINING AND NEW TRENDS IN RESEARCH

In 2013, the Departments of Archaeology of the University of Peradeniya and the Department of Geology of Freie University, Berlin signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Landscape Archaeology for a joint research project aiming at academic exchange, training, and programme linking (Annual Report 2013). Consequently, both universities conducted several workshops pertaining to both the field and the laboratory. The first summer workshop was conducted in Anuradhapura in 2016, with the participation of students from both Universities (Annual Report 2016). Further, Archaeology undergraduates from the University of Peradeniya had the opportunity to participate in a Summer School in the Federal State of Brandenburg, Germany, supported by the DAAD, courtesy of Freie University, Berlin under the Landscape Archaeology Programme, from 20-31 July, 2017. Five special undergraduates, two from the third year and three from the final year of the Special Degree programme in Archaeology were selected for the Summer School based on merit (Annual Report 2013, 2017).

The contribution of the Department of Archaeology to research has been vital not just for the Department itself, but also for archaeologists around the world, as evidenced by publications in both print and electronic media, citations by the local and international academic audience, and reviews of such work. Among the most cited scholars of the Department were late Prof. Paranavitana, Prof. Prof. Chandraratne, Dr. Tampoe, Rev. Wetara Mahinda, and Dr. Jayaratne.

CONCLUSION

On the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the University of Peradeniya, the Department of Archaeology too reaches its 60th anniversary (1957-2017). The research strength of the

Department is reflected in the multi- and inter-disciplinary publications of its faculty that touch on prehistory, proto and early history, ancient built environment, archaeo-zoology, archaeo-botany, heritage management, and museology among other things. This essay has explored the journey of the Department through the years from its early days as the sub-Department Archaeology of the University of Ceylon to present day Department of Archaeology at the University of Peradeniya. It has presented the development of the Department into a degree issuing entity, and the gradual development of the academic capacity of its faculty.

Among the most prominent contributions of the Department's faculty to the archaeological heritage of Sri Lanka are the main restoration work of Nalanda Gedige which was carried out by then Professor of Archaeology Prematilleke in 1985, and the conservation project of the Jetavana Chaitya in the final stage was completed under the direction of then Professor of Archaeology Seneviratne in the year 2009.

During the above periods, joint research work was conducted with numerous prominent archaeologists from India, Europe, and North America. The academics of the Department also undertook independent research and received their postgraduate training in countries such as India, Japan, the United Kingdom, the USA, Germany, Finland, Holland, and Greece. This extremely well qualified academic staff has been instrumental in maintaining a culture of rigorous research and knowledge dissemination process in the Department for the last six decades.

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