

# THE CEYLON JOURNAL



*A bi-annual publication*

Volume 2 Number 2

**Edited by  
Avishka Mario Senewiratne**



2025



DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF  
**AINSLIE JOSEPH**  
1949 – 2025

*Co-Founder and Sub-Editor of  
The Ceylon Journal*

# Committee of The Ceylon Journal

## **Patron**

Desamanya M. D. D. Pieris

## **Editor-In-Chief**

Avishka Mario Senewiratne

## **Consultant Editor**

Prof. Chandra Richard de Silva

## **Sub-Editors**

Dr. Kanchanakesi Warnapala

Pradeep Jayatunga

Dr. Praveen Weeratunga

Odile Melder

## **Legal Advisor**

Manohara de Silva PC

## **Secretary**

Devishka Ranasinghe

## **Treasurer**

Janani Wijeyeratne

## **Assistant Treasurer**

Athraja de Silva

## **Branding**

Ralston Joseph

## **Social Media and Project Co-ordinator**

Dr. Shane Halpe

## **Illustrator**

Dr. Akalanka Jayasuriya

## **Sales and Marketing**

Avisha Senewiratne

## **Tech Visionary**

Naveen Liyanage

*The Ceylon Journal*  
Published by Heritage Publications  
394/4, Biyagama Road, Gonawala, Kelaniya.  
[www.theceylonjournal.com](http://www.theceylonjournal.com)

ISSN 3051-5386  
Volume 2 Number 2

December 2025

A bi-annual publication

**Authors alone are responsible for views expressed in the articles of this  
journal**

*Articles for publication, books for review & journals in exchange to:*  
Editor-in-Chief  
*The Ceylon Journal*  
[avishkamario@gmail.com](mailto:avishkamario@gmail.com)

For inquiries and subscriptions:  
Sri Lanka: +94 72 583 0728  
Australia: Jeremy De Lima +61 421 478 485  
United Kingdom: Susantha Senanayake +44 7810 30427

Portrait and Caricatures by Dr. Akalanka Jayasuriya

Cover page by Naveen Liyanage based on an illustration by Baldaeus, 1671

Layout by Avishka Mario Senewiratne

Printed and bound in Sri Lanka by  
Direct Printers,  
No. 295, Biyagama Road, Pattiya, Kelaniya.

# Foreword

Desamanya M. D. D. Pieris



With this publication, *The Ceylon Journal* completes two years during which four issues have been produced. The journal was the vision of Avishka Senewiratne. Most visionaries do not see beyond the vision. But Avishka had and still has the skill and the capacity to translate a vision into tangible concrete results. This is due to his remarkable coordination and implementation skills covering all relevant areas of structure, finance, talent mobilization, management and other diverse skills that a production of a journal of this quality requires. In this endeavour, it is society's good fortune that he has been supported by a highly talented multi-skilled and experienced set of academics, scholars as well as others expert in legal, accounting, advertising, computing and other disciplines and achievements all working voluntarily on this knowledge producing project.

The journal itself as had been stated before seeks to discuss, analyze and record rich and relevant areas pertaining to the historical, cultural, social, legal, biographical and other attributes of a rich and complex society such as Sri Lanka. Its articles traverse the rich by-ways of Sri Lankan beliefs, rituals, customary practices, patterns, and modes of speech of regional areas, folk lore, and performing arts very often closely bound with folk religious and local beliefs. Some of these matters have been discussed and represented as stand alone matters in various publications. They are, therefore, inaccessible to those without a specialist interest in the subject matter. The articles which appear from time to time in *The Ceylon Journal* present a broad conspectus and a panoramic overview of an integrated whole which cannot be viewed from reading specialized publications. The journal, therefore, documents, preserves and presents critical issues pertaining to the richness of the country's socio-cultural fabric and enriches the general reader with a greater expanse of knowledge, understanding and appreciation. There is more to say. But this will suffice. I feel to fulfil my obligation to the invitation I received to provide a foreword to this 2<sup>nd</sup> year anniversary publication.

If we succeed in these difficult times to continue publication for more years and also the space to think of a Sinhala and Tamil version of the journal, we will enhance value to society. I urge the current highly accomplished multi-disciplinary team of voluntary contributors who by now have forged close bonds with one another to sustain this valuable venture as a signal contribution of theirs to this by now indispensable scholarly product which would have relevance beyond Sri Lanka to international levels of scholarship and research.

The already increasing interest of foreign researchers and scholars in the journal and their requests to contribute articles is an indication of the global importance of this local initiative.

# From the Editor's Desk

---

December 2025

The Ceylon Journal

Vol. 2 No. 2

---

As we greet the dawn of a new year, *The Ceylon Journal* proudly releases its fourth issue, marking the completion of two full publishing cycles. It is a gratifying milestone — one that reflects both the endurance of print and the enduring curiosity of our readers. The first two issues, published in 2024, are now out of print and have become sought-after volumes among readers and collectors alike.

With each issue, demand for the Journal has grown steadily. In response, we expanded the volume of both the third and fourth editions. The third issue, much like its predecessors, was met with wide acclaim — performing admirably in the market and receiving thoughtful reviews in both local and international publications. For an age increasingly detached from the tactile experience of print, these numbers are not merely statistics; they are a quiet triumph for reading, collecting, and remembering.

We are particularly heartened by the growing overseas readership, with a noticeable rise in subscriptions from foreign nationals and members of the Sri Lankan diaspora, especially in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Yet, amidst our celebration comes a moment of deep sorrow. We mourn the loss of our Sub-Editor and Co-Founder, Ainslie Joseph, who passed away on July 2, 2025, aged seventy-five. Ainslie was a pillar of strength to me personally and to the Journal as a whole. His vision, wisdom, and dedication were instrumental in shaping *The Ceylon Journal* into what it is today. Accordingly, this issue is dedicated to his memory, in gratitude for a life devoted to the cultural and intellectual enrichment of Sri Lankan society.

In this issue, we record a few changes within our editorial team. Ashan de Alwis, who served as Secretary since our founding, stepped down from his position after a year and a half of faithful service. His meticulous record-keeping and organizational clarity were invaluable to the

smooth functioning of the Journal. The role of Secretary now passes to Devishka Ranasinghe, who has already displayed exceptional promise and diligence. Following the passing of Ainslie Joseph, Odille Melder has joined us as Sub-Editor, further strengthening our editorial circle. Together, we look forward to the continued journey of *The Ceylon Journal* — a space for reflection, research, and remembrance, ever faithful to the cultural soul of our island.

This issue of *The Ceylon Journal* continues the diversity of features that has defined our first three editions. The main article is a seminal study, “The Elephants of Sri Lanka,” by Prof. C. R. de Silva — a work of immense value that explores the profound role of this majestic creature in Sri Lankan historiography, particularly from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and beyond. Rare images of Sri Lankan elephants enrich the piece, making it truly distinctive. We selected it as our lead feature to highlight the ongoing human–elephant conflict that continues to claim lives on both sides. We trust the discerning reader will grasp the deeper message — that the elephant’s influence on our history is immeasurable, and its loss would be an irreparable one.

We are equally pleased to feature several new contributors who have written on subjects seldom documented yet of wide interest. As this issue goes to press, two consecutive talks organized by *The Ceylon Journal* are being planned with the support of Sampath Bank Private Banking, which we hope to report in our next edition. We extend our gratitude to all our friends who supported us with advertisements, Sampath Bank Private Banking in particular. We are also thankful to the many who assisted in sourcing rarely seen photographs, and especially to Jerome Crusz for his fine work in restoring and enhancing some of these historic images.

A. M. S.



## Contributors

### **Prof. C. R. de Silva**

Professor Emeritus, Old Dominion University, USA, having served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, College of Arts and Letters at that institution. Formerly Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Peradeniya

### **Avishka Mario Senewiratne**

BA (University of West of Scotland), CPL/IR (Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka)  
Independent Researcher, Visiting Instructor – Asian Aviation Centre

### **Dr. Nimal D. Rathnayake**

Ph.D. (Aldersgate College Philippines),  
Member of the Amphibia and Reptile Research Organization of Sri Lanka, Member of the IUCN/SSC Monitor Lizard Specialist Group, Practicing Marketer, Independent Researcher

### **H. M. Chryshane Mendis**

MA (Amsterdam), Independent researcher in archaeology and history with a special focus on colonial period fortifications.

### **Dr. Michiel Baas**

(Netherlands), Ph.D. (Amsterdam)  
Anthropologist & Writer, Leiden University

### **Hasini Haputhanthri**

B.A.(Hon) (Delhi), M.A. (Lund)  
Independent Researcher

### **Prof. Indrani Munasinghe**

B.A. (Ceylon), Ph.D. (London)  
Professor Emeritus of History, University of Colombo

### **Uditha Devapriya**

LL.B. (London), PGDip (BCIS)  
Writer, Researcher, Analyst

### **Dr. Asoka de Zoysa**

MA, Pd. D (Freie Universität Berlin),  
Former Professor and Head of German Studies at the University of Kelaniya, and Director, Samkathana Research Centre and Archive.

### **Dr. Srilal Fernando**

MBBS (Cey), MRCP, DPM, MRCPsych, FRANZCP  
Consultant Psychiatrist in Melbourne since 1988, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist at General Hospital Kandy, and Antiquarian

### **Dr. Kanchanakesi Warnapala**

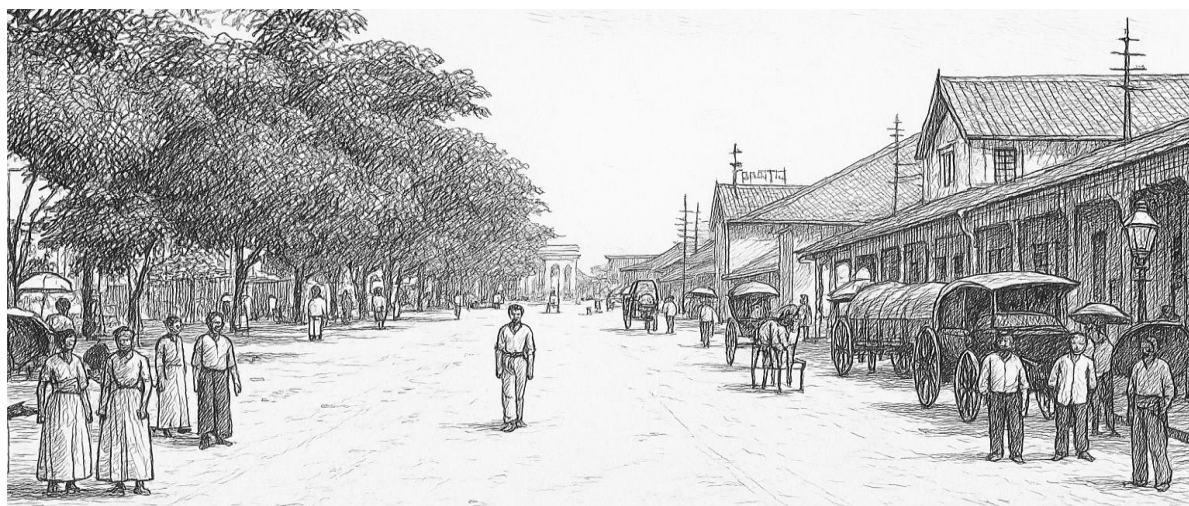
BA (Hons)(Peradeniya), MA(USA), PhD (USA),  
Head of the Department, Department of English and Linguistics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

### **Dr. Anslem de Silva**

M.Sc., D. Sc. (H.C. University of Peradeniya)  
Recipient of the IUCN Sir Peter Scott award for conservation merit, 2019

### **Dr. Sunil Tantirige**

BAsc (Moratuwa) MASC, PhD (Toronto)  
Senior Technical Officer, Ontario Power Generation, Canada  
Author: *The House of a Thousand Memories* (2019)



# Contents

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Editor's Special</b>  | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>English Periodicals of Old Ceylon and the Other <i>The Ceylon Journal</i></b><br><i>Avishka Mario Senewiratne</i>   |            |
| <b>Elephants in Sri Lanka: Their Impact on History with Special Emphasis on Developments in the Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries</b><br><i>C. R. de Silva</i> | <b>16</b>  |
| <b>The Two Women's Cave at Buddama Village, Monaragala District, Sri Lanka.</b><br><i>Nimal D. Rathnayake</i>  | <b>33</b>  |
| <b>The Archaeology of Lanka's Early Urban Centres Part 2</b><br><i>Chryshane Mendis</i>  | <b>40</b>  |
| <b>An Analysis of Population Statistics in Sri Lanka from Ancient Times to the Portuguese Period</b><br><i>Avishka Mario Senewiratne</i>                                     | <b>46</b>  |
| <b>What's "Dutch" about the Dutch Burghers of Sri Lanka?</b><br><i>Michiel Baas</i>  | <b>56</b>  |
| <b>The Lost Temple: Tenavaram and the Hindu Heritage of Southern Sri Lanka</b><br><i>Hasini Haputhanthri</i>   | <b>65</b>  |
| <b>The Construction History of the Uda-Pussellawa Railway in Sri Lanka</b><br><i>Indrani Munasinghe</i>  | <b>73</b>  |
| <b>Colonialism and the Evolution of a Sri Lankan Mind:<br/>The Life and Work of Martin Wickramasinghe (1890 - 1976)</b><br><i>Uditha Devapriya</i>                           | <b>77</b>  |
| <b>Buddhism in Candlelight</b><br><i>Asoka Mendis de Zoysa</i>   | <b>89</b>  |
| <b>The Birth of Air Mail in Ceylon: The Indian Influence</b><br><i>Srilal Fernando</i>   | <b>99</b>  |
| <b><i>Vanitha Viththi</i>: A Pioneering Newspaper for Women</b><br><i>Kanchanakesi Warnapala</i>   | <b>105</b> |
| <b>Laki, Me, and the <i>Floral Unicorn</i></b><br><i>Anslem de Silva</i>   | <b>116</b> |
| <b>Book Review - <i>Sri Lanka, Serendib and the Silk Road of the Sea</i></b><br><i>Sunil Tantrige</i>  | <b>120</b> |