

Chapter 1 : Full text of "The Buried Cities of Ceylon: A Guide to Anuradhapura and Pollonaruwa"

The Buried Cities of Ceylon A Guide Book to Anuradhapura and Polonaruwa, With Chapters on Dambulla, Kalavewa, Mihintale and Sigiri by Stephen Montagu Burrows A Guide Book to Anuradhapura and Polonaruwa, With Chapters on Dambulla, Kalavewa, Mihintale and Sigiri.

Urban Area[edit] Protohistoric Iron Age Although according to historical records the city was founded in the 5th century BC, the archaeological data put the date as far back as the 10th century BC. Further excavations in Anuradhapura have uncovered information about the existence of a protohistoric habitation of humans in the citadel. The city was strategically situated of major ports northwest and northeast. It was surrounded by irrigable and fertile land. The city was also buried deep in the jungle providing natural defence from invaders. During this time King Pandukabhaya formally planned the city, with gates, quarters for traders etc. The city at the time would have covered an area of 1 square kilometre, which would have made it one of the largest in the continent at the time. Beginnings[edit] The layout of Anuradhapura as described in the Mahavamsa: He laid out four suburbs as well as the Abhaya-tank, the common cemetery, the place of execution, and the chapel of the Queens of the West, the banyan-tree of Vessavana and the Palmyra-palm of the Demon of Maladies, the ground set apart for the Yonas and the house of the Great Sacrifice; all these he laid out near the west gate. He constructed a reservoir named Abhayavapi. He established shrines for yakkhas such as Kalawela and Cittaraja. He housed the Yaksini-Cetiya in the form of a mare within the royal precincts, and offerings were made to all these demi-gods every year. The slaves or Candalas were assigned their duties, and a village was set apart for them. They build dwellings for Niganthas, for wandering ascetics and for Ajivakas and Brahmanas. He established, the village boundaries. The tradition that King Pandukabhaya made Anuradhapura the capital city of Sri Lanka as early as the 4th century BC had been very important. The administrative and sanitary arrangements made for the city and the shrines he provided indicate that over the years, the city developed according to an original master plan. His son, Mutasiva, succeeded to the throne. During his reign of sixty years, he maintained Anuradhapura as his capital and further laid out the Mahameghavahana Garden which was to play an important role in the early history of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. It was in the period of his successor, his son Devanampiya Tissa , that Buddhism was first introduced to this island years after the passing away of the Buddha. Emperor Ashoka of India was a contemporary of Devanampiya Tissa. Mahinda was the son of Emperor Ashoka of India. Ashoka embraced Buddhism after he was inspired by a very small monk named Nigrodha. The king, who was in great misery after seeing the loss of life caused by his waging wars to expand his empire, was struck by the peaceful countenance of such a young monk. Meeting this young monk made a turning point in his life and he thereafter, renounced wars. He was determined to spread the message of peace, to neutralize the effects from the damages caused by him through his warfare. As a result, both his son and daughter were ordained as Buddha disciples, and became enlightened as Arahats. According to Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa, Thera Mahinda came to Sri Lanka from India on the full moon day of the month of Poson June and met King Devanampiyatissa and the people, and preached the doctrine. This is the point at which a kingship began and a civilization developed based on one of the most significant religions of South Asia , Buddhism. Buddhism and Anuradhapura[edit] With the introduction of Buddhism, the city gained more prominence and the great building era began. The Mahavamsa states that King Kutakannatissa built the first city wall to a height of seven cubits with a moat in front of the wall. This fortification was further enlarged by raising the wall a further 11 cubits to 18 cubits by King Vasabha. The king also added fortified gatehouses at the entrances of which the ruins can be seen to date. The Mahavamsa also states that soothsayers and architects were consulted in the construction. As such, they frequently commissioned works of art and donated these items to Buddhist temples. Art works featuring depictions of Avalokitesvara , the Bodhisattva of Mercy and Compassion, became increasing popular. The Abayagiri complex covers an area of hectares. The height of the stupa is feet and has a diameter of feet at the base of the dome. It is built on a stone paved platform. The techniques used in Anuradhapura era is outstanding. Thus the living facilities were improved to accommodate the expanding population. King Vasabha constructed many ponds which were fed

by a network of subterranean channels which were constructed to supply water to the city. The Tissa and Abhayavapi tanks were built, the Nuwara weva was built and the Malwatu Oya was dammed to build the Nachchaduwa weva which was 4, acres Parks were also provided in the city. The Ranmasu Uyana below the bund of Tissavapi or Tissa weva was one such, but it was strictly reserved for the members of the royal family. Health care and education were two other aspects to which the authorities paid attention. There were several hospitals in the city. In the 4th century King Upatissa II provided quarters and homes for the crippled and the blind. For the maintenance of these doctors, one tenth of the income from the fields was set apart. He also set up refuges for the sick in every village. Doctors were also appointed to look after the animals. General Sena in the 10th century is believed to have built a hospital close to the ceremonial street Managala Veediya. The history of medical care began early, for in the 4th century BC King Pandukhabaya , in the course of sanitizing the town constructed a hospital. A large workforce was entrusted with the task of keeping the city clean. Nuwara weva and Tissa weva are among the best known lakes in the city. The Great City[edit] Anuradhapura attained its highest magnificence about the commencement of the common era. The city had some of the most complex irrigation systems of the ancient world, situated in the dry zone of the country the administration built many tanks to irrigate the land. Most of these tanks still survive. European discovery[edit] The area was uninhabited for many centuries, but the local population remained aware of the ruins. A large tank, numerous stone pillars, two or three immense tumuli, probably old dagobahs, are its principal remains. It is still considered a sacred spot; and is a place of pilgrimage. Some of them contain enough masonry to build a town for twenty-five thousand inhabitants. Remains of the monastic buildings are to be found in every direction in the shape of raised stone platforms, foundations and stone pillars. The pokunas are bathing-tanks or tanks for the supply of drinking water, which are scattered everywhere through the jungle. The city also contains a sacred Bo-Tree , which is said to date back to the year BC.

Chapter 2 : The Buried Cities of Ceylon

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Prehistory of Sri Lanka The pre-history of Sri Lanka goes back , years and possibly even as far back as , years. In these caves, archaeologists have found the remains of anatomically modern humans which they have named Balangoda Man , and other evidence [37] suggesting that they may have engaged in agriculture and kept domestic dogs for driving game. The 19th-century Irish historian James Emerson Tennent theorized that Galle , a city in southern Sri Lanka, was the ancient seaport of Tarshish from which King Solomon is said to have drawn ivory , peacocks , and other valuables. Pre-Anuradhapura period Main article: Ancient cemeteries that were used before BC and other signs of advanced civilization have also been discovered in Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan dynastic history ended in , when the island became part of the British Empire. Thereafter, Anuradhapura served as the capital city of the country for nearly 1, years. Bodhivamsa [53] Invasions Sri Lanka first experienced a foreign invasion during the reign of Suratissa , who was defeated by two horse traders named Sena and Guttika from South India. Dutugemunu , the eldest son of the southern regional sub-king, Kavan Tissa , defeated Elara in the Battle of Vijithapura. He built Ruwanwelisaya , the second stupa in ancient Sri Lanka, and the Lovamahapaya. These invaders were all subsequently driven back. Kala Wewa and the Avukana Buddha statue were built during the reign of Datusena. The council was held in response to a year in which the harvests in Sri Lanka were particularly poor and many Buddhist monks subsequently died of starvation. Later periods Frescoes on the Sigiriya rock fortress in Matale District , 5th century Sri Lanka was the first Asian country known to have a female ruler: Anula of Anuradhapura r. The Sigiriya rock fortress is surrounded by an extensive network of ramparts and moats. Inside this protective enclosure were gardens, ponds, pavilions, palaces and other structures. Bisu Kotuwa, a peculiar construction inside a dam , is a technological marvel based on precise mathematics that allows water to flow outside the dam, keeping pressure on the dam to a minimum. It maintained close ties with European civilisations including the Roman Empire. For example, Bhatikabhaya 22 BC – AD 7 sent an envoy to Rome who brought back red coral , which was used to make an elaborate netlike adornment for the Ruwanwelisaya. In addition, Sri Lankan male dancers witnessed the assassination of Caligula. Taking advantage of this situation, Rajendra I , son of Rajaraja I, launched a large invasion in Mahinda V was captured and taken to India, and the Cholas sacked the city of Anuradhapura. Subsequently, they moved the capital to Polonnaruwa. Following a seventeen-year-long campaign, Vijayabahu I successfully drove the Chola out of Sri Lanka in , reuniting the country for the first time in over a century. In , Kalinga Magha , a South Indian with uncertain origins, identified as the founder of the Jaffna kingdom, invaded and captured the Kingdom of Polonnaruwa. He sailed from Kalinga [76] nautical miles on large ships with a 24, strong army. Unlike previous invaders, he looted , ransacked, and destroyed everything in the ancient Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa Kingdoms beyond recovery. His reign saw the massive migration of native Sinhalese people to the south and west of Sri Lanka, and into the mountainous interior, in a bid to escape his power. The north, in the meanwhile, eventually evolved into the Jaffna kingdom. Chinese admiral Zheng He and his naval expeditionary force landed at Galle, Sri Lanka in and got into battle with the local king Vira Alakesvara of Gampola. Zheng He captured King Vira Alakesvara and later released him. Thomlin at Galle in and is now preserved in the Colombo National Museum. Kandyan period See also: In , after decades of intermittent warfare with the Portuguese, Vimaladharmasuriya I moved his kingdom to the inland city of Kandy , a location he thought more secure from attack. In , the king signed a treaty with the Dutch East India Company to get rid of the Portuguese who ruled most of the coastal areas. The Dutch remained in the areas they had captured, thereby violating the treaty they had signed in An ethnic group named Burgher people emerged in Sri Lankan society as a result of Dutch rule. He was married to a Telugu -speaking Nayakkar princess from South India Madurai and was childless by her. Kings of the Nayakkar dynasty launched several attacks on Dutch controlled areas, which proved to be unsuccessful. Following his death, a nephew of Rajadhi Rajasinha, eighteen-year-old Kannasamy, was

crowned. By this time, experiments with coffee plantations were largely successful. Falling coffee prices as a result of the depression of stalled economic development and prompted the governor to introduce a series of taxes on firearms, dogs, shops, boats, etc. Tea production in Sri Lanka thrived in the following decades. Large-scale rubber plantations began in the early 20th century. British appointed Kandyan chiefs, By the end of the 19th century, a new educated social class transcending race and caste arose through British attempts to staff the Ceylon Civil Service and the legal, educational, and medical professions. Buddhist and Hindu revivalism reacted against Christian missionary activities. This step was strongly criticised by the Tamil political leadership, who realised that they would be reduced to a minority in the newly created State Council of Ceylon , which succeeded the legislative council. However, this demand was not met by the Soulbury reforms of 1946” Modern Sri Lanka Main articles: Sri Lankan independence movement , History of Sri Lanka 1948”present , and Sri Lankan Civil War The formal ceremony marking the start of self-rule, with the opening of the first parliament at Independence Square The Soulbury constitution ushered in Dominion status , with independence proclaimed on 4 February Senanayake became the first Prime Minister of Ceylon. A countrywide popular demonstration against withdrawal of the rice ration, known as Hartal , resulted in the resignation of prime minister Dudley Senanayake. Bandaranaike was elected prime minister in 1956 His three-year rule had a profound impact through his self-proclaimed role of "defender of the besieged Sinhalese culture". Although partially reversed in 1960 , the bill posed a grave concern for the Tamil community, which perceived in it a threat to their language and culture. Chelvanayakam , leader of the FP, to resolve the looming ethnic conflict. The bill, together with various government colonisation schemes , contributed much towards the political rancour between Sinhalese and Tamil political leaders. During her second term as prime minister, the government instituted socialist economic policies, strengthening ties with the Soviet Union and China , while promoting a policy of non-alignment. In 1972 , Ceylon experienced a Marxist insurrection , which was quickly suppressed. In 1978 , the country became a republic named Sri Lanka, repudiating its dominion status. Prolonged minority grievances and the use of communal emotionalism as an election campaign weapon by both Sinhalese and Tamil leaders abetted a fledgling Tamil militancy in the north during the 1980s. The Black July , 1983” Tamil civilians were killed across the island in the anti-Tamil Pogrom allegedly backed by hard-line Sinhalese ministers within the government.

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iv the time wh en the s t ream of vi s it ors through Ceylon is nat urally the l arges t and a week of o rdinary t rav el will int rod uce the vi s it or to an arti.

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