Ceylon

Orientalia 8

John Randall
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The archive of George Keyt’s muse with original artwork

Early political essays of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike

Stunning colour plates of Sri Lanka’s fish

Catalogue of George Claessen’s drawings inscribed by the artist

An original sketch by Claessen on a Bombay menu

Splendid study of Sinhalese art by Ananda K. Coomaraswamy

Early guide to investment in Ceylon

Ceylon’s first Freemasons

Andrew Nicholl’s earliest drawings of Sri Lanka

Stunning original photographs by Charles Scowen

Sir James Emerson Tennent’s classic account

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The archive of an artist’s muse: George Keyt’s gifts to Barbara Smith

A remarkable archive from the estate of Barbara Smith, later Barbara Buchanan, recording her intimate relationship with George Keyt and other members of the Sri Lankan ’43 group across more than fifty years, with original artwork, autograph letters, and printed works.

The archive dates from the publication of Keyt’s first book of poetry in 1936, through their first meeting in 1946, when Barbara was an editor with Oxford University Press in Bombay, to the re-kindling of their relationship in 1982.

George Keyt (1901-93) was born in Kandy and began his artistic career colouring photographic negatives. He was encouraged by his childhood friend Lionel Wendt to begin painting seriously in the late 1920s, and painted his first nude a few years later. He was one of the founding members of the ’43 group.

In 1946 Mulk Raj Anand visited George in his retreat outside Kandy and invited him to Bombay, where he would remain until 1949, illustrating Anand’s newly formed Marg magazine and exhibiting with the Progressive Artist’s Group. While there he met Barbara with whom he had an intimate relationship for several years. She left for London around 1953, and married a Scottish engineer, John Buchanan. Keyt re-established contact with Barbara 30 years later, and she assisted with his London exhibition.

This archive, described in the following pages, contains a unique illustrated copy of Keyt’s first volume of poetry, four original drawings by Keyt, and his letters to Barbara.

Price on request

“Keyt’s output is prolific. His themes range from Indian mythology to erotic love. He is both a poet and a lover. His early poems and his translation of Gita Govinda show strong lyrical qualities. It would be difficult to find a single drawing without a strong trace of sensual love.” – S.P. Amarasingam, in Times of Ceylon.
The Poems

A unique illustrated copy of the first and only edition of Keyt’s first volume of poetry, typescript copies of all three of Keyt’s collections of verse, and a signed autograph copy of an unpublished poem by George Keyt.

First edition. 8vo, pp.[iv], 42, extra-illustrated with 28 original drawings in ink and wash. Bound in original printed wrappers, chipped and soiled, spine detached. Contents in very good condition; drawings bright and clean. With enigmatic inscription from Justin [Daraniyagala] to George [Keyt]: “Marginal amusement for George with best wishes from Justin, 1936.”

A unique copy of George Keyt’s first collection of poetry, with twenty-eight of his poems illuminated with original wash drawings. Although we first thought these drawings were by Keyt, we now believe they were drawn by Justin Daraniyagala. This privately printed collection, written at a pivotal time in Keyt’s artistic formation, is exceedingly rare. Our unique copy is inscribed to the author by his friend, Justin Daraniyagala, and illustrated throughout with 28 original wash drawings.

We surmise that this copy was given to Barbara to prepare the following item.

[The H.A.L. Goonetilleke Collection at the University of Peradeniya has copies but we cannot trace any further copies in institutions.]

1.2 Keyt, George. Poems. [undated].
Typescript, 4to, single-sided, pp.42. With a few ink corrections to the text. In very good condition; final sheet browned. A little marginal wear.

A contemporary typescript copy of Keyt’s first collection of poetry, probably typed by Barbara directly from the very rare first edition printed at the Gamini Press in 1936. Each page is titled “(From ‘Poems by George Keyt’)”. 
1.3 Keyt, George. **The Darkness Disrobed.** [undated].
Typescript, 4to, single-sided, pp.35. First sheet lightly browned, with a short marginal tear and some spotting, final sheet spotted with a short tear. Overall in very good condition.

A contemporary typescript copy of Keyt’s second collection of poetry, probably done from the first edition printed at the Gamini Press in 1937. Each page is titled “(From ‘The Darkness Disrobed. Poems by George Keyt’)”. This and the above were probably both typed by Barbara in an attempt to interest Oxford University Press in publishing a new edition.

[The H.A.I. Goonetileke Collection at the University of Peradeniya has a copy. We locate no other copies in institutions.]

1.4 Keyt, George. **Image in Absence.** [undated].
Typescript, 4to, single-sided, pp.40. A few marks to first sheet, final sheet soiled. Corners turned up. A little marginal wear. Overall, in very good condition.

A contemporary typescript copy of Keyt’s third collection of poetry, probably done from the first edition printed at the Gamini Press in 1937. Each page is titled “(From ‘Image in Absence’ - Poems by George Keyt)”.

[We locate no institutional copies of the published edition.]

1.5 Keyt, George. **The Torment.**
[undated, possibly written for Barbara in Bombay?].
Autograph manuscript on paper, single sheet (26.5 x 18 cm), with 28 lines of cursive written in ink, titled and signed by the author. With fold marks, otherwise in very good condition.

An unpublished autograph poem, signed by the poet.
The Drawings
Four original drawings by George Keyt, and two by his friend, Shiavax Chavda.

1.6 Keyt, George. [Two sketches.] [undated, but 1946]. [Bombay].
Two sketches on paper, measuring 22.5 x 11 cm & 12.5 x 20 cm. The first, in pen and pencil, depicts a naked woman looking into a mirror. A note in Keyt's hand reads: "For Barbara with love, G.K." The second, in crayon and pencil, depicts a man on horseback looking through a window at a naked woman, with an ascetic at side. It is inscribed: "Asanka Jataka – rough sketch - actual picture 4 ft. x 4 ft., too foul for words but with lots of skilled lines & all that – to keep the wolf from the door." Both in very good condition. The second drawing with her ownership inscription on verso: Barbara Smith, Oxford House, Bombay.

Two sketches by Keyt presented to Barbara Smith (later Buchanan) during his 1946 visit to Bombay, when the two first met.

1.7 Keyt, George. [A large sketch of a man and woman embracing.] [circa 1946]. [Bombay].
Drawing in ink on paper, measuring 44.5 x 28 cm, depicting a nude woman and a man embracing, the man's face shown in profile, the woman facing away. Signed by the artist. With fold marks, edges chipped, and three short marginal tears, just touching image.

This drawing appears to date from the same period as the two sketches done for Barbara Smith, and may depict her with the artist.

1.8 Keyt, George. [Study of a male dancer.] [Undated].
Drawing in ink, pencil, and tempera on thin paper, measuring 19 x 23 cm, tipped on to a sheet of thicker paper, depicting a male dancer against an abstract geometrical background, sections coloured in brown, orange, and turquoise.

A vividly coloured study of a male dancer. [See cover illustration.]

1.9 Keyt, George. [Drawing of a woman.] 30 September 1982.
Drawing in ink and wash on card, 11.5 x 18 cm, depicting a woman in robes. Inscribed by the artist: For Barbara with much Love G Keyt, 30.9.82.

1.10 [Chavda, Shivaax.] [Drawing of a female dancer.]

[Undated].

Drawing in red ink and wash on paper, measuring 25.5 x 10.5 cm, tipped on to a sheet of thicker paper, depicting a dancer wearing bangles and scarves from behind. Small cipher in bottom right corner.

A striking drawing of a dancer from the rear.

1.11 [Chavda, Shivaax.] [Bust of a woman.] [Undated].

Ink drawing on thick red paper, measuring 41 x 30.5 cm, depicting a woman with necklace, tying her hair.

Fold marks, one short marginal tear. Small cipher in bottom right corner.

A portrait of the head and shoulders of a woman, her face in profile, head bent while tying her elaborately styled hair and heavy necklace.

The Letters

Four letters and two cards from George Keyt to Barbara, 1951-1953.

1.12 Keyt, George. [Note.] 3 March 1951.

Card, written on both sides.

Discussing a pastel painted eleven years earlier, which Keyt had posted to Bombay.

1.13 Keyt, George. [Note.] 14 March 1951.

Postcard, with image of Sri Lankan beach, written on one side.

Keyt asks Barbara to confirm receipt of a package of poems.


4-page autograph letter with original envelope.
Discussing paintings, visitors, Siva, and referring to Barbara as “o girl of benevolent loins”.

1.15 Keyt, George. [Letter.] 2 July 1953.
1-page autograph letter in pencil, with original envelope.

Asking Barbara to send on Hansa Jataka to London for forthcoming exhibition.

2-page autograph letter with original envelope.

Discussing his work, “I was at work on version of the jataka just to work off the thing which was still in my fingers so to speak”, and Martin Russell, signed “Much love, George.”

2-page autograph letter in pencil.

George asks for Martin Russell’s London address, as he must send him six paintings urgently, refers to Bill Archer, and implores Barbara to “Write SOON.”

“It’s raining & raining, & I never was so poor!”

Ten original letters by George Keyt, with related material.

1.18 Keyt, George. [Note to Barbara Buchanan.] 23 May 1982.
Autograph note on paper, with six lines in ink, signed: George.

Keyt hopes that Barbara will find something in the enclosed book which she might enjoy, and looks forward to seeing her soon. The book is probably the signed copy of the 1977 volume of essays published in Keyt’s honour. [See item 20]
1.19 Peiris, Harry. [Letter to Barbara Buchanan.]
   22 August 1982, Colombo.
   Letter typed on a single-sheet blue aerogram, with final sections in manuscript, signed.

   A letter from Harry Peiris (1904-1988), George Keyt’s brother-in-law, fellow member of the Colombo '43 Group, and co-founder of the Lionel Wendt Art Centre, which largely consists of a typed copy of a recent article about Keyt published in the Times of Ceylon.

1.20 Keyt, George. [Nine letters to Barbara Buchanan.]
   1982-87, Sirimalwatta and elsewhere.
   Nine autograph letters, all written on single-sheet blue aerograms, seven in ink and two in pencil. Written from Sirimalwatta, Dullewe’s Cottage. Foldmarks and some edge wear, one with a tear repaired with tape, but otherwise in very good condition.

   These letters written to Barbara Buchanan over five years express Keyt’s love for her as a lone ally who can assist him in his claims for recompense from other friends, Martin Russell prominent amongst them, who have profited more than he has from the sale of his paintings. The letters are scrawled, though clearly legible, and show the artist under stress and perhaps even paranoid.

   The first, dated 2nd June 1982, thanks Barbara for her recent enclosures and encourages her to do “whatever you think fit – and get at everything Martin [Russell] has” for the planned documentary on his life and work. Keyt adds that of the four documentaries made of him, “I have never seen a single one.” He suggests she write to Harry Peiris for further material.

   The second, dated 26 February 1983, notes “I’m in a state of utter bewilderment regarding what should be done about the paintings with Martin,” and confirms he wants the “BAT show in Zurich” to go ahead. He talks of “adverse circumstances brought about by so many nightmare conditions here” and ends “I’m in a mess here – more paintings stolen …& in desperation having to make arrangements to go elsewhere.”

   In the third, dated 9th July 1983, Keyt appears under more pressure. He reminds Barbara that he has moved away from Sirimalwatta, and discusses the sale of pictures and payments to him. “I continue to be exploited like mad … cheated again & 6 or 7 more pictures stolen”. He is critical of Martin who apparently “clings to the pictures” and failed to send them to the Zurich show, and mentions that his will has been changed.

   In the fourth, dated 26 July 1983, Keyt says he is happy that Martin and Barbara are once more on good terms. He mentions “the difficult side” of Martin, various sales of pictures, and the pictures intended for the National Gallery of Modern Art in Delhi. He says he is working hard and sending off pictures, and refers to his troubles: “Have to take strong drugs all the time to prevent another tipsturvey.”

   The fifth, in pencil, dated 28 August 1983, reassures Barbara that he is safe after the July unrest, and has visited Kandy and Colombo, although a curfew is still in effect and he was searched. He discusses the complicated relationship between Martin and Anne Russell, and Barbara, and comments on Martin’s indiscretion.

   The sixth, dated 24 October 1983, reverts to his not receiving money due from the sale of his paintings, and refers to the Wendt collection. In the seventh, dated 29 January 1984, Keyt says, “I don’t intend leaving any further dealings with Martin …,” and mentions a lady “who has with her my recent work. She does not transact anything as a business, but just friendship & love & admiration for me.” “Sujata cannot protect me from anything; but being here and near her … means I’m away from being boxed up with a dozen dangerous hornets.”
The eighth, dated 27 August 1984, implores Barbara to write to him, and expresses his longing to be with her in London.

In the final letter, dated 27 June 1987, Keyt asks Barbara to send him two books by Bulwer Lytton which he read as a boy, and moves on to complain once more that she never writes to him. He wonders whether this is because she has now established a relationship with Martin Russell, or because he was merely a distraction for her during troubled times. He concludes by saying that he will always remember her, and all the times they had together in Bombay and Sri Lanka.

1.21 Keyt, George. [Letter to Martin Russell.] [Circa 1995], [England?].
Photocopy of typed letter dated 22 March 1982, sent from Sirimalwatta. One leaf, in envelope, labeled in Barbara Buchanan’s hand with contents and the letter's date.

Copy of a letter from Keyt to Martin Russell, defining his distinction between nude and naked in art. Nude, according to Keyt, is a figure naturally without clothing, “like a tree or flower”, as in Ingres’ Odalisque, whereas naked is when men and women have just taken off their clothes, as in the work of Picasso and Utamaro, or Hindu erotic sculpture. This photocopy was probably given to Barbara Buchanan by Martin Russell.

Typed letter, with 27 lines, addressed and signed in ink, sent to Mrs John Buchanan, 28 Clarewood Court, Seymour Place, London W1H 5DD, with colour photocopy of a page from a Sotheby’s catalogue.

Sent two years after Keyt’s death, this letter expresses regret that Barbara has been depressed, noting that Russell sometimes gets depressed as well, and sometimes angry, but much prefers being angry. He asks if she would like to write an article about George, and notes that he has consigned two pictures from his own collection to Sotheby’s New York, illustrated by the colour photocopy enclosed.
Finally, he devotes a long paragraph to the question of Keyt’s ethnicity.

1.23 Russell, Martin. [Postcard to Mrs John Buchanan.] [15th June 1987]
Picture postcard of Keyt’s Siva Parvati, with seven brief lines in ink.

Praising Keyt’s June, 1987 exhibition in London as part of the ‘43 Group Colombo London show at the Lyre Room, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, and promising to telephone her. During ten days, the exhibition was seen by 34,000 people.

1.24 Buchanan, Barbara. [Postcard to Martin Russell.]
[undated]. [England?].
Picture postcard of Keyt’s Siva Parvati, with six brief lines in ink.

A brief unsent note from Barbara Buchanan to Martin Russell, saying that she is unable to buy the “holly and mistletoe”, but suggesting he might like the enclosed instead.

Printed material

1.25 [Album of clippings kept by Barbara Smith (Buchanan).] [1949-51, 1993]. [India].
Folio album, 79 leaves of thick brown paper, newspaper clippings tipped in, many with Barbara Buchanan’s manuscript notes of date and source publication. Copy of George Keyt’s obituary from the Independent loosely inserted. In original cloth-backed boards, partially detached. Contents in very good condition.

An album of newspaper clippings compiled by Barbara Buchanan in India, consisting almost entirely of articles and published letters by Martin Russell, the majority printed in the Bombay newspaper Thought, which he co-owned. The remainder of the clippings are reviews of Russell’s 1950 book on George Keyt. A copy of George Keyt’s 1993 obituary in the Independent is loosely inserted.

First edition. Folio (35 x 26.5 cm), pp.54, [1], [1, blank], [ii], with 102 plates, 26 in colour, and 8 text illustrations. Bound in original cloth-covered boards, printed label on upper board, with remnants of original pictorial dust-jacket. Light stains to cloth, top of spine damaged, front hinge cracked. Intermittent worm track to upper gutter, but contents and plates otherwise in very good condition. Barbara Buchanan’s ownership inscription on front pastedown.

Barbara Buchanan’s copy of the first major survey of Keyt’s work, written by her patron and collector, Martin Russell.

1.27 Marg, Volume 5, No.3. [undated]. Bombay
This issue of Marg is devoted to Ceylon, and contains articles on modern and contemporary Sri Lankan artists, including Keyt, who is also listed as a contributing editor, and who provided his drawings to illustrate the paper on The Selalihini Sandesa.

First edition. 4to (29 x 23 cm), pp.[x], 125, [1], with 41 colour plates, 10 tinted illustrations, and 38 text illustrations. A very good copy bound in original black imitation leather, with pictorial dust-jacket. Dust-jacket worn at edges, with one short tear to upper wrapper.
A volume published in honour of George Keyt, extensively illustrated, mixing essays and poetry by the artist himself with essays and poems about him, including a biographical sketch and bibliography by H.A.I. Goonetileke.

This signed copy was sent to Barbara Buchanan by Keyt in May, 1982.

1.29 [George Keyt]. 1984, [Colombo].
First edition, pp.[4], in original pictorial wrappers
The printed catalogue for an exhibition of Keyts paintings at Barnes Place, Colombo, 2nd to 12th May 1984, listing 186 works.
[with] Pictorial card, cover image after a drawing donated by Keyt, printed for the Mallikarama Health-Aid Organization in 1982
[and] Postcard reproducing a photograph of Keyt with one of his paintings, taken by Henri Cartier-Bresson.
Privately published history of Buddhism in Sri Lanka

Acariya Vimalasara Thera. The Sasanavansa Dipo, or, the history of the Buddhist church in Pali verse, compiled from Buddhist holy scriptures, commentaries, histories, &c.


First edition. 8vo (21 x 14 cm), pp.[viii], vii, [1, blank], 163, [1, blank]. Pali text in Sinhalese characters, with English title-page and preface. Handsomely bound in contemporary red morocco, gilt. Boards and spine heavily rubbed. Short worm track in gutter of final section not affecting text. Otherwise in very good condition. Ownership inscription of C.H.B. Reynolds. [201417]

£475

An attractively produced history of Buddhism in verse, written by Acariya Vimalasara Thera in 1879, and published privately at the expense of B. Mendis, B.D.A. Rajapaksa, and H.D. Silva, “with the view of promoting the interests of religion.” At the suggestion of the author “we have decided not to sell copies of this work, but to present free copies to those whom we may consider deserving.” The eleventh chapter provides a rare early bibliographical survey of Buddhist literature in Ceylon.

[We locate copies at Göttingen, Leiden, and SOAS only.]
3 Anthonisz, R.G. The Dutch in Ceylon. An account of their early visits to the island, their conquests, and their rule over the maritime regions during a century and a half. Volume I. Early visits and settlement in the island. (All published).

1929, Colombo, printed at the C.A.C. Press.
First edition. 8vo (22 x 11.5 cm), pp.[iv], 2, iv, ii, [ii], 198, 12 plates, 1 folding, folding map, 21 text illustrations. A very good copy in lightly worn original cloth. [77408] £250

This first volume of a projected history, intended to supply a “connected and complete, yet concise account of the Dutch occupation of Ceylon” from 1640 to 1796, deals with the first twenty years of the Dutch colony. A second volume to complete the history to 1796 was advertised, but never published.


1926, Colombo, Art Press.
First edition. 8vo (21 x 13.5 cm), pp.vi, iii, [1, blank], [2], 70, frontispiece portrait. A very good copy in contemporary limp leatherette. Bookseller’s stamp of W.E. Bastian & Co on title. Probsthain ticket on front pastedown. [201558] £75

Rice, cotton, & reform

Bandaranaike, Solomon West Ridgeway Dias. **The spinning-wheel and the paddy field.** A consideration of the problems of our food and clothing.

**1933, Colombo, J.D. Fernando, printed at the Granthaprakasa Press.**

First edition. 8vo (21.5 x 14 cm), pp.[x], 92, frontispiece portrait and 9 plates. A very good copy in original cloth-backed boards, edges lightly worn. [201383]

£850

One of the earliest political publications by S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, edited and revised from his articles on Mahatma Gandhi’s Charka Movement published in the *Daily News* and *Silumina*. Bandaranaike provides a scathing polemical sketch history of capitalism and industrialisation in Europe and its inevitable decline. “Capitalism, at its last gasp has evolved a remedy that will in the end only quicken the descent into the pit,” he writes, identifying the trap of increasing efficiency through mechanisation, cheapening and eliminating labour, and increasing unemployment. Not even ever cheaper power will redeem this system, and socialism is too great a conceptual leap.

For Bandaranaike, the Charka Movement bridged the gap between capitalist collapse and socialist ideal. He outlines the present state of cotton cultivation and weaving on the island, and describes the handful of weaving centres active by 1933, the first founded at Kittampahuwa in 1928. These centres trained weavers, mainly local women, and encouraged the collective cultivation of cotton.

The final section deals with the poor state of the island’s rice paddies, superseded under colonial administration by rubber, coffee, and tea cultivation, and calls for a renewal of self-sufficiency, to insulate Sri Lanka from the wild fluctuations in market prices for cash crops.

The frontispiece depicts the author in traditional dress with a spinning wheel, while the illustrations depict Mahatma Gandhi, women working at the weaving centres, cotton cultivation, and paddy fields.

S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike (1899-1959) was a lawyer and leading political figure in Ceylon’s National Congress, founder of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, and the fourth prime minister of Ceylon. His term was tragically ended with his assassination by a Buddhist monk.

[We locate no other copies.]
The first comprehensive account of the Maldive islands, prepared by the British civil servant Harry Charles Purvis Bell (1851-1937). Bell served his entire career in Ceylon, and developed an abiding interest in the Maldives, hitherto largely ignored by the British government at Colombo, under whose supervision they fell.

Bell devotes most of his study to the inhabitants of the islands, their productions and manufactures, and trade, and adds a chapter on money, weights, and measures. He notes the paucity of earlier writings, and makes use of Ibn Battuta and the 17th century account of Pyrard de Laval. He includes a great deal on Arab and Persian period, and the history of the sultans of the Maldives, from the earliest arrival of Islam through to the 19th century, and their important role as way-station between the Middle East and India.
Spectacular plates of Sri Lankan fish

Bennett, John Whitchurch. **A selection from the most remarkable and interesting fishes found on the coast of Ceylon.** From drawings made in the southern part of that island, from the living specimens.


First edition. 4to (31.5 x 25 cm), pp.viii, 30 leaves of descriptive text, 30 engraved plates with contemporary hand-colour, heightened with gum arabic. Handsomely bound in contemporary black straight-grain morocco, elaborately gilt. All edges gilt. A little wear to corners, one discreet repair to upper corner of the front doublure. Text and plates with some very light spotting. Images unaffected and in fine condition. [200398]

£8,500

The first illustrated survey of the fish of Sri Lanka, with thirty spectacular plates after John Whitchuch Bennett’s original drawings. Many of the fish are depicted as life-size. They include exotically spined scorpion fish and vividly coloured parrot fish. Bennett worked from multiple specimens of each fish and sought to depict the finest possible example in terms of colour and pattern. A distinguished provincial judge in Ceylon complimented the artist on “the fertility of his imagination” after seeing Bennett’s drawing of Hembila Girwah, no.14. The next morning, Bennett produced two equally spectacular live specimens on the judge’s breakfast table. He intended his jewel-like drawings to depict each fish as accurately as possible. Each of the thirty plates is accompanied by Bennett’s descriptive text, which gives both Linnean identification and local names, printed in Sinhalese and romanised text, with a physical description and a note describing the size, habitat, and desirability for the table.

Bennett served as a magistrate in Ceylon from 1816 to 1827, and was an early member of the Ceylon Literary and Agricultural Society, founded in 1820. He exhibited his drawings to the Society’s members, who provided criticism and support in equal measure, and the publication of this work was supported by an advance from the Governor, Sir Edward Barnes. Bennett began work on this book after his return to London in 1827; the first fifteen plates were issued in
1828, five were issued in 1829, and the final ten in 1830, with the letter press title and dedication to King George IV both dated 1830. He donated his original specimens to the Linnean Society. Further editions of this magnificent work followed in 1834 and 1837.

[COPAC records complete copies at the Natural History Museum, Royal Society, and St Andrews University. We trace no copies at auction since 1992.]
First map of Sri Lanka based on a systematic survey

Bertolacci, Anthony. *A view of the agricultural, commercial and financial interests of Ceylon*. With an appendix; containing some of the principal laws and usages of the Ceylons; port and custom-house regulations; tables of exports and imports, public revenue and expenditure, &c.&c.

1817, London, Black, Parbury, and Allen.

First edition, 8vo, pp.[xvi], 577, [1], blank, 26 tables, large hand-coloured folding map, 51 x 32 cm. A good complete copy bound in modern imitation leather. Text foxed, final leaves preserved in Japanese tissue. Map in very good condition, with one short split and a few paper repairs to reverse. [205157]

£1,250

A valuable, comprehensive description of the economic state of the island of Ceylon in the early years of British administration, by Anthony Bertolacci (1776-1833), a Corsican colonial administrator on the island who rose to be Auditor-General. This was the first economic history of Ceylon to be published, and benefits from Bertolacci’s decades of first-hand experience of the island’s financial administration.

Although our copy of the book has suffered from long residence in the climate of Ceylon, the large folding map, *A new map of the island of Ceylon*, compiled by Captain Schneider, Colombo, 1813, and printed by Black, Parbury & Allen in London in November 1816 remains in very good condition. It is perhaps the earliest map of the island based on systematic surveying, after the 1812-13 surveys of Captain Gaulterus Schneider, the Dutch officer appointed Surveyor-General under British rule.
An unrecorded missionary text on Catholic education

Bonjean, Christophe. *A few words on Catholic education in Ceylon*. Sold at the Catholic Book Repository, Jaffna for the benefit of the Jaffna Catholic Schools and Orphanage.


A spirited defense of Catholic missionary schooling in Ceylon, written by the recently arrived French missionary, Christoph Bonjean (1823-1892), arguing for the need to provide a satisfactory alternative to the proliferating Protestant mission schools, many of which were educating local Catholic children. Bonjean chides local Catholics for failing to fund their own schools sufficiently, and notes the appeal of well-funded Protestant schools and colleges. He makes a number of comparisons to the situation in Dublin, where Catholic educational institutions competed with Protestant equivalents funded and supported by the British authorities. All funds raised from the sale of this publication were for the benefit of Jaffna Catholic Schools and Orphanage.

The final section calls for all local Catholics to ensure that their family homes are furnished with a suitable library of good Catholic texts, available in English and local languages at Jaffna and Colombo, and the creation of local Catholic lending libraries across the island. Bonjean, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, first reached Ceylon in 1855. He served on the island for the rest of his life, firstly in Jaffna, he had learnt Tamil in India, and later became the first Catholic archbishop of Colombo. Perhaps he needed to print in Madras as the only presses in Jaffna at that time were Protestant. [We locate no other copies.]
10 Unattributed watercolours of Ceylon flowers

[Botanical watercolours]. [Album of 92 botanical watercolours.] 1897-1900, [Ceylon].
Oblong folio album (45 x 65 cm), 38 leaves of stiff blue card with 92 watercolours pasted in, and 1 loosely inserted, the largest 50 x 35 cm, the smallest 13 x 13 cm, the majority 35 x 25 cm. All but a handful of the watercolours are dated and located. A few have short captions added in pencil or ink. Bound in modern imitation leather over buckram. Some very light spotting, a handful of the watercolours cockled. [206113]
£2,500

A charming and substantial album of watercolour botanical studies, all executed by the same hand, depicting flowers observed at various sites across Sri Lanka. The vast majority of the watercolours are both dated and located, allowing one to trace the unattributed artist’s travels through the island. Among the places she, or he, visited were Colombo, including the Grand Oriental Hotel and Grasmere, and Kandy, where Hillwood College, Trinity College, Chowleigh, Florence Villa, Tambo, and the botanical gardens at Peradeniya provided subjects. Paintings were also executed at the Galle Fort Hotel, Hatton, and Coonoor.
11  
Fifth-century Buddhism

Buddhaghosa. **Papancasudani**. Part 1. 1911, [Colombo], Grantha Prakasa Press.
8vo (22.5 x 15 cm), pp.[ii], 400. Pali text printed in Sinhalese characters. Bound in Ceylon, in contemporary red leather, gilt. Spine and corners rubbed. [201274]
£350

An early Colombo edition of the first part of the fifth-century monk Buddhaghosa’s commentary on the Buddhist scripture *Majjhima Nikaya*.  
The full text was not completed until 1923.  
[We locate no other copies.]

12  
Victorian tourists in Kandy

Fifth edition, revised and enlarged, pp.xiv, [4], 77, xxiii, [2], 6 plates, folding map. A rather dusty copy in original wrappers, spine missing. Corners a little thumbed. Contents in very good condition. [201405]
SOLD

A scarce early guide book.
Demonology in Ceylon

Callaway, John, *translator. Yakkun Nattannawa*: A Cingalese poem, descriptive of the Ceylon system of demonology; to which is appended, The Practices of a Capua or Devil Priest, as described by a Budhist: and Kolan Nattannawa: A Cingalese poem, descriptive of the characters assumed by natives of Ceylon in a masquerade. Translated by John Callaway.


First edition. 8vo (26.5 x 16 cm), pp.xi, [1, blank], 64, (65)-69 [advertisements], [1, blank], [2, colophon], 9 lithograph plates, 7 coloured by hand. A superb copy in fine condition with large margins, bound in contemporary cloth. Gilt stamp of Royal Institution on spine, and their rubber stamp on title page. Autograph letter from Abraham Mendis, dated 1889, to Trubner & Co. loosely inserted. [201217]

£2,000

Two poems, and one narrative, which describe the demons of Sri Lankan cosmology, the practices of local priests, and the numerous masked ceremonies practised in Ceylon. This text was printed in the same year as *The History and Doctrine of Budhism*, by Edward Upham, who contributes a letter on the origin of Sri Lankan masks. The attractive illustrations are after a small collection of native drawings assembled by the translator, Reverend John Callaway.

Gate Mudaliyar Abraham Mendis Gunasekera (1869–1931) was a leading literary figure in Ceylon. He produced a Sinhalese grammar as well as Sinhalese-English and English-Sinhalese dictionaries.

13.a

[Another copy.] 8vo (22 x 13 cm), pp.xi, [1, blank], 64, 9 lithograph plates, 7 coloured by hand. A very good copy trimmed and bound in modern half calf, cloth boards. Printed subscriber leaf for the Earl of Shrewsbury. Discreet stamp on title and half-title. Blind stamp of Wigan Public Library on subscriber leaf and title. [204559]

£1,200
The Ceylon Almanac and Annual Register for the Year of our Lord, 1853. 1853, Colombo, William Skeen, Government Printer.

First edition. 8vo (22.5 x 15 cm), pp. 397 [1, blank], [ii], 32, colour plate of shipping signals. Pages 177-182 are folding tables. Lacking the map of Kandy. A very good copy bound in modern half calf. Occasional spotting at rear. Bound without the map of the Environs of Kandy. With contemporary manuscript notes updating entries. [79002]

£385

Significantly enlarged from previous almanacs, with the use of smaller type and more pages, this 1853 almanac comprises six parts: Part I: The Calendar, etc; Part II: Establishments; Part III: Public Institutions; Part IV: Statistical; Part V: Legal and Mercantile; Part VI: Directory. A thirty-two page appendix by W.C. Ondaatje on local plants and their uses is included.

The first part includes lists of historical rulers and governors of the island, local festivals, and a list of foreign consuls. Part II covers everything from the Government Printing Office to the Executive Council, including a complete list of the Ceylon Civil Service. The third part lists numerous libraries, banks, insurers, schools both charitable and missionary, and shipping firms.

Part IV provides annual statistics for Ceylon’s revenue, import, exports, and major products, including coffee. The fifth part includes twenty-six council ordinances from 1852, postal regulations, and carriage rates. The last part has a full listing of estates with their proprietors, together with an alphabetical list of European residents not belonging to Army or Navy, with their address and employer.

Our copy has been annotated by a contemporary owner to indicate where listed members of the civil and military establishment have died or changed post. The compiler’s preface records that this almanac’s publication was delayed until March 1853, by the death of his assistant.

[COPAC records copies at the British Library, Cambridge, National Archives, and SOAS.]

14
A Sinhalese grammar for Catholic missionaries

Chounavel, Constance. **A grammar of the Sinhalese language** for the use of European students.

**1886. Colombo, Catholic Orphan Press.**

£450

An elementary grammar of Sinhalese designed primarily for the use of Chounavel’s fellow Roman Catholic missionaries and other European students of the language. Chounavel pays close attention to idiom and common usage throughout his grammar and includes a short appendix of idiomatic phrases and a list of animal noises in Sinhalese including the peacock’s “scream” and the jackal’s “howl.” A printed slip with an endorsement from H.W. Green, Director of Public Instruction for Ceylon: “Your grammar ought to be most useful to civil servants for passing their examinations in Sinhalese, and to all Europeans who desire to learn Sinhalese but who frequently find native Sinhalese grammarians perplexing to their European ideas of grammar,” is bound in facing the contents leaf. Constant Chounavel, born and educated in France, joined the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. One of two novices ordained at Marseille in the winter of 1852, he was at first assigned to the order’s Arctic mission while his companion was destined for Ceylon. But Chounavel’s hands and nose suffered from the unusually harsh cold in Marseille that year and it was decided that the two new priests should swap destinations. Chounavel stayed in Ceylon for some seventy years until his death in 1923 in Borella having lived to almost 100. From 1852 to 1883 he worked as a missionary at Jaffna, and then moved to Colombo where he served as Vicar-General and Pastor of the Cathedral in Kotahena. He wrote a number of Christian devotional works in Sinhalese, including the Litany of the Rosary, the Foundation of Salvation and the Life of St. Lucy. His greatest literary achievement was his translation of the New Testament into Sinhalese published in two volumes, Colombo 1897. [We locate copies at the Bibliotheque nationale de France, British Library, Cambridge, Harvard, London Library, Lyon, and Munich.]
16 Scarce catalogue inscribed by the artist

[Claessen, George]. **George Claessen Drawings** Edited by Ian Goonetileke. Foreword by Arthur van Langenberg.  
**1946. Colombo, Jataka.**  
First edition, 4to, pp.[24], 20 plates. Original wrappers. Inscribed, on last page: To Barbara/ with great regard/ George Claessen/ 2 July 1949. Barbara Smith, later Buchanan, was an editor at Oxford University Press, Bombay, and a close friend of the artist.  
[207298]  
£2,000

George Claessen (1909-1999), a Sri Lankan burgher, was a self-taught artist. He began painting in 1938 and was one of the original members of the ‘43 group.  
The publisher, Jataka, was formed in 1946 by Ian Goonetileke, George Claessen, and Arthur van Langenberg to publish the creative work of the ‘43 group artists. Funded by van Langenberg to the tune of 500 rupees, and with a brilliant foreword by him, this catalogue was a model of its kind. However it sold few copies, and was the first and only book published by the press.  
Claessen was in Bombay in 1949, and got to know Martin Russell who was staying in the Taj. Russell helped him find his passage to England.
Mind not on the meal?

Claessen, George. [Original ink sketch of nude couple.]
[1949?].
Ink sketch on reverse of advertisement for the Rendezvous restaurant in the Taj, Bombay, measuring 22.5 x 13 cm. The obverse of the card is covered with the artist’s doodles. From the estate of Barbara Buchanan, née Barbara Smith, editor at Oxford University Press in Bombay in the late 1940’s, and close friend of the artist. [207949] £2,000

A rapidly done and carelessly blotted ink sketch which appears to show the artist copulating with an unknown woman, drawn on the back of an advertising card for the new de-luxe air-conditioned Rendezvous cafe in Mumbai’s iconic Taj hotel. The printed face of the card is also covered with Claessen’s revealing partially erotic scribbles.

18
First edition, pp.40, frontispiece. A very good copy in original cloth. [207948] £250

The second volume of poetry by the celebrated Sri Lankan artist.
Revised edition of the first comprehensive Sinhalese-English dictionary

Clough, Benjamin, Reverend. A Sinhalese-English dictionary.


New and enlarged edition. 4to (25.5 x 18.5 cm), pp.[ii, manuscript title], iv, 824. Lacking title-page, supplied in manuscript. Bound in full local morocco. Upper joint starting, lower with a long split, but both holding, and a few worm tracks on rear pastedown. Pages 441-6 with old tape repairs, but text otherwise in very good condition. [118553]

£250

Benjamin Clough (1791-1853) arrived in Ceylon with the first mission in June of 1814, and stayed until 1838. He published a grammar of Pali in 1824 and the first edition of this dictionary in 1830. A new edition was felt necessary because “the book has for many years been out of print and copies have been obtained only at very high prices.” The work of preparing an enlarged edition fell to Reverends George Baugh and Robert Tebb. It was revised for the press by Bartholomew Gunasekara, Mudaliyar of the Colonial Secretary’s Office. Special care was taken to expand the number of terms for Ceylon’s flora and fauna. A new feature of this edition was that every Sinhalese word was rendered in Roman as well as Sinhalese characters.

johnrandall@bookofasia.com
Coomaraswamy's first published work, with notes in his hand

Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. [Ceylon Papers] Eight papers on the geology of Ceylon by Ananda Coomaraswamy, extracted from academic journals, with nine related papers by his colleagues. *1900-1903.*

First editions. 8vo (22.5 x 15.5 cm), pp.224-227; 590-614, 1 plate; 348-350; 8, plate; 171-177; 11, 8 illustrations, folding plate; 43-48; 171-266; 185-188; 198-210; 399-424, 2 folding plates; 425-440; 680-689, folding plate; 690-702, folding plate; 703-718, 5 plates, 1 folding; 253-165. Approximately 85 pages by Ananda Coomaraswamy. A very good set stoutly bound in contemporary green buckram. Most parts in original wrappers. Two pages of pencil notes in Coomaraswamy's hand loosely inserted. [118554]

£850

A remarkable group of eight scientific papers by Ananda Coomaraswamy, including his first published work, *Ceylon Rocks and Graphite* (1900), from the *Journal of the Geological Society*; with *Notes on the occurrence of Corundum...* (1901); *The crystalline limestones of Ceylon* (1902); *The Point-de-Galle group* (1902); *Contributions to Ceylon geology* (1903); The crystalline rocks of Ceylon (1904); *Mineralogical notes* (1904); and, with G.T. Prior, *Serindibite, a new borosilicate from Ceylon* (1903).

The earliest paper, bound in second place, bears an inscription from Coomaraswamy to James Parsons, his assistant, and author of a paper on quartz in Ceylon. Parsons disappeared in the jungle in 1909.

A paper each by Coomaraswamy's teachers at University College, Professors Bonney and Garwood, are on alpine geology. Their presence, and the two pages of pencil notes in Coomaraswamy's hand suggest his ownership. The paper inscribed to Parsons was presumably returned to Coomaraswamy after his death.
21 Coomaraswamy’s arts-and-crafts masterpiece

Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. *Mediaeval Sinhalese Art*. Being a monograph on mediaeval Sinhalese arts and crafts, mainly as surviving in the eighteenth century, with an account of the structure of society and the status of the craftsmen.

**1908, Broad Campden, Essex House Press.**

First edition. Folio (35.5 x 27.5 cm), pp.xvi, 340, [2], 53 plates, 8 in colour, 153 text illustrations, 1 printed in red. No.327 of 425 copies printed at the Essex House Press. A very good copy in the original cloth-backed boards, neatly recased, minor rubbing to cloth spine restored. Some very light spotting on preliminary pages and final leaf, but overall in fine condition. [206122] £5,000

A magnificent example of private press production on William Morris’ press, an encyclopaedic study of the arts and crafts of Ceylon as they existed before British influence, and Ananda Coomaraswamy’s first major achievement as an art historian. His English wife Ethel took the photographs.

Ananda Coomaraswamy lived in Kandy from 1902 to 1907, a period he devoted to studying and collecting traditional arts and to talking with and observing local craftsmen, many of whom were working on his home. Coomaraswamy had been much influenced by William Morris during his education in England and was particularly concerned with the role of the artist-craftsman in Kandyan society. When he returned to England Coomaraswamy moved in to Norman Chapel, a Tudor house in Broad Campden, and took over the Essex House Press which had been founded by his friend C.R. Ashbee in 1898 with the purchase of the presses (though not the type) formerly owned by William Morris' Kelmscott Press. Ashbee had printed books for 9 years, with vellum, ink, and paper identical to that used by Kelmscott in an effort to carry on the tradition Morris had established.

Coomaraswamy continued the tradition, printing this work by hand in his home on the press used by William Morris, a process which occupied some fifteen months.
22 Rare German edition of Davy

First German edition. 8vo (20.5 x 12.5 cm), pp.190. A very good copy bound in contemporary half morocco. Ex-libris of Eugenio Fürstenau. [200524] £450

The first German edition of John Davy’s 1821 *Account of the Interior of Ceylon*. The original text was the result of Davy’s service as a military doctor on Ceylon from 1816 to 1820, and describes the island’s physical characteristics and natural history, its political history, particularly of Kandy, and its inhabitants, with notes on their religions, beliefs, literature, and arts.

[COPAC records no copies.]

1924, [London], issued under the authority of the Ceylon Committee for the British Empire Exhibition.
First edition. 8vo (21.5 x 13.5 cm), pp.60, illustrations, 1 map. With printed map of the exhibition on lower wrapper. A very good copy stapled in original printed wrappers. [207749] £185

A promotional pamphlet aimed at prospective investors and tourists visiting the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, sketching Ceylon’s history, climate, people, industry, culture, and principal products. The final six pages list the professional and commercial associations of Ceylon and their members. The map depicts average annual rainfall across the island.

The compiler was the editor of the *Ceylon Observer*. 
After drawings by Hippolyte Silvaf


First edition. Oblong 8vo (16 x 26 cm), pp.269, [3], chromolithographic frontispiece, with 120 engraved illustrations to text, including 6 double-page folding panoramas on pp.9-10, 15-16, 17-18, and 31-32. Bound in original embossed cloth, gilt title on upper board. Spine faded and a little worn, some discolouration on boards. All edges gilt. Faint marginal damp stains, but text and illustration unaffected and in very good condition. Ownership inscription of C.H.B. Reynolds on front pastedown. [201189]

SOLD

A very rare illustrated guide to Ceylon, produced “to describe to a traveller landing at Galle, and having only a week or a fortnight to spare, the routes he should take in order to see main objects interest in the island...” Mackenzie compiled these illustrations for a history of the Ceylon Railway, and his selections trace a traveller’s course from Galle to Colombo.

The engravings include nineteen illustrations after Hippolyte Silvaf’s drawings of local costumes, and twenty-five after John Vandort’s sketches of people seen in and around the courts, ranging from market sellers to jury members and interpreters. The colour frontispiece is after a botanical drawing by Andrew Nicholl. The remaining engravings are after photographs by A.W. Andree, Barton, Slinn & Co., Juan de Silva, R.W. Stewart, J. Lawton, Herbert, H. Humphreys, F. Eayley, and W.T. Morris.

The six panoramas depict views of Galle and Colombo from land and sea.

Alastair Mackenzie Ferguson (1816-1892) was proprietor and editor of the Ceylon Observer from 1846 until his death.

[We locate copies the British Library, Cambridge, King's College London, Oxford, and National Library of Scotland only.]

4to (27 x 22.5 cm), pp.[iv], 121-164, [iv], 165-208, [iv], 209-252, 693-716, [ii], 341-380, [ii], 381-420, [ii], 421-460, [ii], 461-502, 1-36, [ii], 535-564, 4 photographic plates. Sinhalese text with some English translations. Bound in worn contemporary half calf by B.S. Karunaratne. Original printed red wrappers bound in. Some staining on endpapers, but contents in very good condition. Contemporary bookseller's stamps of B.S. Karunaratne, Kurunegala, on a few pages. [201271] £950

A substantial group of nine issues of this rare Sinhalese monthly magazine founded by the planter W. Daniel Fernando in 1919, with articles ranging from dream interpretation and horse racing to classical Sinhalese literature, many printed with English translation. Fernando established his monthly during a recession on the island. Prices for cash crops like rubber and coffee had collapsed in the aftermath of the First World War, damaging Ceylon's economy. Food imports remained restricted, and unemployment continued to rise. Almost every issue includes at least one article on the food crisis, praising or criticising policy decisions by the colonial government. There are numerous articles on local politics, including a scathing attack on the organisers of an annual elephant kraal, who had failed to remunerate the poverty-stricken farmers who they employed for several weeks in 1920.

The four photographic plates are by W.E. Bastian & Co. of Colombo. They depict E.B. Denham, Director of Education; Sir Graeme Thomson, Colonial Secretary; Walter Dias Bandaranayake, acting Maha Mudaliyar; and the Honourable J. H. Meedeniya, Adigar. Our set of *Satyartha Sangraha* was bound by the bookseller B.S. Kanunaratne in Kurunegala together with a single part from another monthly magazine, *The “Siri Sara”,* published in 1920.

[We locate a single set of this magazine at SOAS, catalogued as “completely irregular”.]
Poems by the Irish Chief Justice of Ceylon


[1822]. [Colombo], printed at the Wesleyan Mission Press.

First edition. 8vo (19 x 12 cm), pp.[ii, half-title], [2, manuscript presentation inscription], pp.62. A very good copy bound in contemporary morocco, neatly rebacked retaining original spine. Boards slightly bowed. Inscribed by the author: To Mrs William Pennell Junior from her affectionate friend ….Giffard, Colombo, July 23 1822. [80649]

SOLD

A rare collection of poetry written by Sir Ambrose Hardinge Giffard (1771-1827), an Irish lawyer who served as Chief Justice of Ceylon from 1819 until his death in 1827. And the only known secular text privately printed at the Wesleyan Mission Press.

Giffard wrote these poems between 1792 and 1821. He served in Ceylon from 1814 until the year of his death, and two poems in this collection relate to the island. *Kandi,* written in 1820, contrasts the jungle interior with the pleasant sound of the ocean on the coast. *The Andaman Boy* relates the story of a boy from the Andaman Islands, swept to sea and rescued by a passing ship, who pines for his home. Many of the poems remember Ireland, including one devoted to Giffard’s birthplace of Dundrum near Dublin, while another describes the abortive French invasion of Ireland in 1796. *Bawl blockheads bawl* is a parody of English radicalism, written in 1820. Two emotionally intimate poems are addressed to Giffard’s wife, Harriet Pennell, whom he had married in 1808. Our copy is inscribed to her cousin’s wife.

This collection was printed for private circulation amongst family and close friends, with its half-title followed by a blank intended for the author’s presentation inscription. The British Library copy, the only other we have traced, has an identical collation, with half-title followed by a blank with the author’s presentation inscription.

[We locate a copy at the British Library only.]
John Randall
johnrandall@bookofasia.com

A monumental survey of the soft scale insects of Sri Lanka, with numerous illustrations.
Edward Ernest Green (1861–1949) was born in Colombo and managed his family’s tea and coffee estates from 1880. He was also a distinguished entomologist who wrote numerous scholarly papers. His interest in Coccidae may have stemmed from their frequent occurrence as a pest on cultivated plants.
28 English translation of the chronicle of Sinhalese Kings

Gunasekara, B., *editor.* The *Rajavaliya:* or, A Historical Narrative of Sinhalese Kings from Vijaya to Vimala Dharma Surya II. *1900.* Colombo, George J.A. Skeen, Government Printer. First edition. 8vo (22 x 14 cm), pp.xi, [1, blank], 103, printed errata slip. A very good copy in original printed boards, but lacking spine. The copy of C.H.B. Reynolds, with his ownership signature and occasional pencil notes. [206952] £185

An English translation of this chronicle of Sinhalese kings from antiquity to the early 17th century, edited by the chief Sinhalese translator to the Government of Ceylon.
The Wesleyan Methodist Mission to Ceylon


First edition. 8vo (23 x 13.5 cm), pp.vi, [vi], lxxii, 404, hand-coloured frontispiece and map of Ceylon. A very good copy bound in modern half morocco. Gilt title on spine mis-ttooled. All edges untrimmed. [80482]

£850

An account of the Wesleyan Methodist Mission on Ceylon from 1814 to 1822. William Martin Harvard (1790-1857) and his wife accompanied Thomas Coke on his final mission to the island. Coke died at sea in 1813, but the rest of the party reached India safely. Harvard describes the mission’s activities across Ceylon, from establishing their own printing press and schools, improving on the appallingly mismanaged Government Press, and successfully establishing missions across the island. Harvard and his group reached Ceylon shortly before the British overthrew the Kingdom of Kandy, and his text includes notes on the newly accessible interior. He wrote his account after his return to Britain in 1822.

The coloured map shows the nine stations of the Wesleyan Methodist Mission on Ceylon in 1822.
Hindu astronomy in Tamil, with English translation


First edition. Two parts in one volume. 8vo (22 x 14 cm) pp.[iv], 177, [1]; [2], 2, 145, [1, blank], [1, corrigenda], [1, blank]. In English and Tamil. Bound in contemporary half roan by M. Winslow, binder to the American Mission his ticket to front pastedown, morocco lettering-piece to spine. Somewhat rubbed, short split to bottom of spine, but binding sound. Contents in very good, clean condition. Presentation inscription to Professor A. Hopkins from the author on front free endpaper. [200830] £1,250

This text was published to combat popular Hindu astrology and assist Christian proselytizing: “Hindu astronomy is made the foundation of a vast system of astrology … There is probably no part of heathenism which has a more constant and operative influence on all classes of society than astrology in its popular developments. Here you may learn much of the bondage of this people.” Henry Richard Hoisington, a missionary, provided the English translation; the Tamil text is ostensibly the translation of “Illamudeian” from an unspecified and unidentified Sanskrit source.

Henry Hoisington (1801-58) arrived in Ceylon in 1833 and served repeatedly as Principal of the Batticotta Seminary between 1836 and 1849. Wesleyan missionaries reached Jaffna in 1814, establishing their press in 1825 – the present work is a rare example of a secular text from their press.
Brokers’ investment guide to Ceylon companies

[Investment guide]. **Handbook of rupee companies.** Issued by the Colombo Brokers’ Association. With Gow, Somerville & Co.’s compliments.

*1919. Colombo, printed by the Times of Ceylon Company, Ltd.*

8vo (20 x 13 cm), pp.[xiv], [2, contents], [186]. A very good copy in original blue cloth, title to upper board, advertisement to lower board. Two small marks to cloth. Pastedowns with printed advertisements. With Gow, Somerville & Co.’s stamp on title-page. [205933] £450

An investor’s guide to listed companies in Ceylon, published by the Colombo Brokers’ Association. The majority of companies listed are tea or rubber producers, but this guide includes a mineral water company, several hotel firms, a property investment group, and a pharmacist. Each entry lists company directors and secretaries, share capital, recent dividends, planted acreage, annual crops, and forward contracts where applicable.

A rare early example of this investment guide, which went on to be issued annually well into the second half of the 20th century.

[We locate a single copy of this edition, at the British Library.]
The American Ceylon Mission, founded by chance

Brief Sketch of the American Ceylon Mission, with an appendix.

1849 Jaffna, American Mission Press.
First edition pp.56, 2 folding tables, disbound. [120150] £385

This pamphlet provides an overview of the American mission’s activities, especially its educational initiatives, and of its operating principles, including its Articles of Belief and Rules of Life. It also contains brief biographies of the missionaries connected with the American Ceylon Mission, and short obituaries of Tamil converts. The tables show the annual expenditure of the Mission from 1816 to 1848, and record the Tamil, and English-and-Tamil schools connected with the different mission stations over the same period. The American Ceylon Mission was founded by chance. The American Board of Foreign Missions had sent its first missionaries to India in 1812, but with the Anglo-American War underway they were ordered by the Governor-General to leave Calcutta by the same vessel on which they had arrived.

On the return voyage, one of them, Samuel Newell, happened to land in Ceylon. He saw the potential for a mission and, although he himself moved on to Bombay, three missionaries were sent to the island in 1816, where they made their base in Jaffna.
33 Classical Sinhalese for Sri Lankan students


Third edition. 8vo (22 x 14.5 cm), pp.[2], 2, 120, 7, [1, blank]. Sinhalese text. A very good interleaved copy bound in contemporary half calf at the Ceylon Examiner Press. Spine a little rubbed, one short worm track on lower board. Original front wrapper bound in. Ownership inscription of C.H.B. Reynolds. [201273] £250

A classical Sinhalese glossary produced by the Sri Lankan scholar, Hendrick Jayatilaka, who edited several classical Sinhalese texts for publication, including Siyabas Lakara (1862) and Amavature (1884-6).

[We locate copies at Berlin and SOAS only. We locate no copies of earlier editions.]

34 Rare orphanage imprint

Kadramer, D.W.N. Miscellaneous papers in prose and verse. Composed, translated and culled from various sources.

First edition. 8vo (21.5 x 14.5 cm), pp.[vi], 75, [1, blank], [1, errata], [1, blank]. A very good copy in original cloth-backed boards. Presentation inscription from author to the Society of Antiquaries on upper board, with their cancelled bookplate. Ownership inscription of C.H.B. Reynolds. [201363] £250

A commonplace book printed for the author blending nuggets of historical information, an English translation of the French prose poem by his contemporary, Father Duchaussois, Tota Pulchra Lanka (Ceylon All Beautiful), and Catholic devotional texts, including the Litany of the Departed, Mater Dei, and an allegory about St Anthony. A rare example of a Batticaloa imprint from the Catholic Orphanage Press. We trace but a handful of other titles from this press, including the same author’s Landmarks of Ancient Batticaloa (1934), all printed between 1934 and 1937.

[We locate a single copy at Virginia.]
35 Only known copies of scarce Kandy missionary periodical, recording a scandal in the Catholic establishment in Ceylon

[Kandy imprint]. The Ceylon Catholic Sower. Volume 1, No.1, January 1847 and Volume 1, No.2, February 1847.

1847. Kandy, printed by S. Fonseka at his Press.

First edition, first two issues, pp.[2], 12, [2]; [2], (13)-36, [2]. Stitched in original wrappers. Rear wrapper of first issue detached, but present. In very good condition. The editor’s set, inscribed in the second issue: “L’Abbé André Reinaud, Miss. Apostolique, Kandy.” [118503]

£850

Andre Jean Valentin Reinaud, b.1813, entered the church on his sixteenth birthday. He appears to have had a history of creating division between clergy and congregation, and was sent to Ceylon in the mid 1840’s where he seems again to have fallen into dispute. He returned to Europe in 1849, after one of his superiors was quoted as saying: “It is clear that that poor child, who left here in a mad desire to become a bishop, would gladly have made use of us as a step-ladder to reach his goal.”

An article in the second issue of this journal refers to “scandalous proceedings” in the Catholic printing establishment in Colombo and requests the whole printing establishment to be placed under the exclusive direction of Abbé Reinaud. This scarce periodical, of which we can trace no other copies, appears to have been privately published by the Abbé in furtherance of his ambition to become Bishop of Kandy.

Unlike The Colombo Catholic Magazine which was printed in both English and Sinhalese, The Ceylon Catholic Sower was in English only, perhaps reflecting the editor’s lack of Sinhalese.

The first press to be set up in Kandy was at the Baptist Mission in 1841.

([see http://www.omiworld.org/en/dictionary/historical-dictionary_vol-1_r/931/reinaud-andre-jean-valentin/])

johnrandall@booksofasia.com
Sir James Peiris (1856-1930), lawyer and legislator, was the first Sri Lankan acting Governor of Ceylon and a prominent member of the independence movement.

Survey of Sri Lankan fauna

Kelaart, Edward Frederick. *Prodromus Faunae Zeylanicae*; being contributions to the zoology of Ceylon.


First edition. 8vo (21 x 14 cm), pp.[ii], viii, [vi], (ix)-xxxiii, [3], 197, [3], 54, [4, index].

Separately published folding map of Ceylon tipped in. A very good copy in the original quarter cloth, boards. Map torn at fold, not affecting printed surface. [200731] £850

A survey of the mammals, birds, and reptiles of Ceylon, describing approximately 200 species, all observed by the military surgeon Edward Frederick Kelaart (1819-1860) between 1849 and 1852. Kelaart’s interest in Ceylon’s wildlife was sparked by his childhood on the island.

The 1857 reprint of Arrowsmith’s 1856 edition of Fraser’s map of Ceylon, one of the most detailed maps published in the 19th century, is tipped into our copy. It was issued in Barrow’s *Ceylon: past and present* of the same year.

Kelaart went on to publish a second volume of papers in 1853 (not present here) and later published several works on the pearl oyster of Ceylon.
Knighton, William. **The History of Ceylon** from the earliest period to the present time; with an appendix, containing an account of its present condition.  


First edition. 8vo (20.5 x 12.5 cm), pp.xii, 399, [1, blank]. A very good copy in original green cloth, paper label on spine. Head of spine bruised. Contents fresh and partially unopened. [200522] £850  

A narrative of two thousand years of Ceylon’s history, from the sixth century BCE to the British capture of Kandy in 1815, by the British colonial official William Knighton (1823-1889). Knighton based his history on the pioneering translations of early Sinhalese chronicles by George Turnour and his circle in the 1830s, and Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonial records.  

Knighton wrote in the wake of the Colebrooke-Cameron reforms, laissez-faire and liberal, which dramatically altered the administration of Ceylon. A legislative council with local members was created, and the judicial administration of Kandy was brought into line with the rest of the island.  

This history is at pains to emphasise how advanced the island’s ancient kingdoms were, noting that “the manner in which the princes of the tropical and luxuriant Ceylon were educated was precisely similar to that by which a modern English nobleman is fitted for his duties.” Knighton saw British colonial administration as the path to restoring these ancient glories, comparing ancient Ceylon to Greece and writing admiringly of Buddhism.  

*Graecitie III, 1440*
Knox, Robert. *An Historical relation of the island Ceylon, in the East-Indies*: together with an account of the detaining in captivity the author and divers other Englishmen now living there, and of the author's miraculous escape.

*1995, Austin, Texas*.

Reprint. Folio (32.5 x 20.5 cm), pp.[iv], [xxii], 189, [ii], portrait frontispiece, 15 plates, folding map. No.46 of 150 copies only. A fine copy bound in original imitation leather, gilt. [58224]

£125

A handsome reprint of the first description of Ceylon in English, first published in 1681.

Robert Knox, a Scottish commander in the service of the East India Company, was forced by a storm to land on Ceylon. He was imprisoned and remained a prisoner at large for twenty years, travelling the island as a hawker.

[Cox i, 276]
Photographs of a fine artist’s missing drawings

Königsbrunn, Hermann von. **Ceylon.** [An album of 13 mounted photographs of drawings by Hermann von Königsbrunn.]  
[**Circa 1900**], Graz, Franz Pirnat, Schonaugasse 7A.  
Large folio, 13 photographs mounted on 11 sheets of card measuring 44 x 55 cm, each numbered and captioned in pencil, with 4 duplicate images mounted on smaller sheets. In contemporary cloth portfolio, title gilt on upper board, with thread ties. Mounts slightly warped, with some foxing, but images clean. Studio stamps of Franz Pirnat on back of duplicate images. [73141]  
£3,500

A unique portfolio of photographs of Hermann von Königsbrunn’s fine drawings of Ceylon based on his tour of the island with Franz Ritter von Friedau and Ludwig Karl Schmarda in 1852. Schmarda described their trip in his 1861 *Reise um die Erde*. The drawings are landscapes, mostly of jungle, rivers, and beaches, with one depicting a stupa surrounded by columns at Anuradhapura. Von Königsbrunn’s widely praised drawings remain unpublished. They were intended to illustrate the works of Schmarda and von Friedau, but von Friedau failed to publish his book on Ceylon, and Schmarda’s 1861 book was published without illustration. The artist enjoyed a successful career as a landscape artist and drawing master after his return to Austria, finally retiring in the 1890’s to Graz, where he died in 1907. He enjoyed showing his portfolio of Ceylon drawings to visitors and students. This portfolio of photographic reproductions was probably produced for the artist in the final years of his life at Graz. Franz Pirnat’s photography studio was active in the late 19th and early 20th century. The 13 photographs are numbered and captioned in pencil; the 4 duplicate images with Pirnat’s stamp appear to be proofs. The majority of the drawings reproduced bear von Königsbrunn’s initials and a number, while no.9 has his full signature. The detailed pencil captions may be by von Königsbrunn himself.  
[We have traced no other sets of these photographs.]
An early Sinhalese grammar printed at Cotta


First edition. 8vo (21 x 14 cm), pp.[iv], 134. With printed Sinhalese text. A very good copy bound in modern half red morocco over cloth boards; original paper wrapper pasted to rear free endpaper. Bookplate of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, London. [118565] £850

The second part of this early grammar of Sinhalese, covering syntax. The first part of this grammar (not present here), Part I: “The Accidence” (on declension and conjugation), had been printed in 1825.

Samuel Lambrick was one of four missionaries sent by the Church Missionary Society to Ceylon in 1818. He selected Cotta for the site of the Mission’s church, school, and press, and from 1832 edited the first monthly periodical issued in Ceylon, *The Tyro’s repository of useful knowledge*. Lambrick, with James Selkirk, also produced a new Sinhalese translation of the Bible, feeling that Tolfrey’s version was too elaborate and suffered from an excess of Sanskrit and Pali words. Lambrick appears to have compiled this grammar from the spoken language as he heard it, and without reference to Chater’s earlier work. He modestly states in his advertisement: “The compiler of this little work, having had to trace out his way through a pathless wild, is prepared to expect that many errors will be found to have been committed.” Despite his misgivings this grammar proved very popular and was frequently reprinted, with a second edition in 1834 and a fourth in 1840.

[COPAC gives Cambridge, Oxford, and Queen’s University (Belfast); there is a copy at the Royal Asiatic Society.]
First editions. Folio, pp.[52], [iv], 37, [1, blank], [14], [iv], 40 [mispaginated 39], 30-31, [4], [iv], 16, [4], [iv], 19, [3], [10], [6], [16], [30], [26], [34], [34], [4], [18], 4, [5], [6], 11, [1, blank], 4, 4, [20], 7, [7], 13, [1, blank], [32], [40], [84], 14, [70], 11, [1, blank], 6, [150]. Bound in contemporary half calf over marbled boards. Joints split but holding, spine partially detached. Contents in very good condition. Blindstamp of the House of Lords on upper board, with their disposal stamp on rear pastedown. [118509] £2,500

An early collection of twenty years’ legislation passed by the British administration in Ceylon. Following the pattern established for the three presidencies of British India, this annual compilation of regulations was first printed in Ceylon in 1826. The regulations cover areas ranging from establishing a registry of slaves to the administration of church funds, control of rum, toddy, and arrack production on the island, and official restrictions on the publication of unauthorised newspapers. Despite the wording of the spine label this collection contains no regulations passed in 1847, only “Estimate of the probable expenses for the undermentioned services, forming a charge on the Treasury of Ceylon, for the year 1847”.
Separate title-pages were issued for years 1827-30, but from 1831 onwards no separate title-page was printed. Our volume is interleaved with blanks which have manuscript titles for the years 1831-1845.
"a store-house of information on every aspect of life in early times"

Lewis, John Penry. **List of inscriptions on tombstones and monuments in Ceylon**, of historical or local interest, with an obituary of persons uncommemorated.


John Penry Lewis (1854-1923) entered the Ceylon Civil Service in 1877 and rose to become a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils.

He compiled this comprehensive collection of 1,485 inscriptions from cemeteries in Sri Lanka, with biographical details of deceased culled from extensive research in other sources. The earliest English inscription dates from 1748, but the great majority are from the nineteenth century.

The cemeteries covered include those at Colombo, Kalutara, Negombo, Galle, Matara, Tangulla, Hambantota, Jaffna (where a cousin of William Makepeace Thackeray was buried), Mannar, Batticaloa, Trincomalee (where Jane Austen’s brother was buried), Badulla, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Matale, Anuradhapura and other smaller sites.


The frontispiece is of Sir John D’Oyly’s tomb at Kandy.
Poetry by a 13th-century king


1899, Colombo, published under the patronage of T.B Panabokke, printed by G.J.A. Skeen, Government Printer.


£350


Madugalle Diddhattha Stavira compiled this critical text from thirteen different manuscripts, and attracted the support of Tikiri Bandara Panabokke, a member of the Legislative Council. Panabokke in turn solicited the support of Sir Arthur Elibank Havelock, Governor of Ceylon from 1891 to 1895, to whom this book is dedicated.

[We locate copies at Southern Illinois University and SOAS only.]
First Freemasons in Sri Lanka

Malden, Charles Herbert. *A history of freemasonry (under the English Constitution) on the coast of Coromandel* together with histories of the old Madras lodges which were founded before the Union, together with appendices and a map … Reprinted and rewritten from the “Indian Masonic Review”.


First edition in book form. 8vo (23 x 14.5 cm), pp.8, [1, contents], [1, blank], 294, folding map. A fine copy in original blind-stamped publisher’s cloth. A few light spots to contents. Discreet blindstamp of the Madras booksellers Higginbotham & Co. on title-page. [69456] SOLD

This account traces the history of freemasonry in south India and Ceylon from the first ‘unauthorised’ lodge established at Madras in 1752, the second in the whole of India after that at Fort William in Bengal, up to the 1890s. It includes individual histories of lodges at Ootacamund, Calicut, Trichinopoly, Waltair, Madurai, Secunderabad, Colombo, Kandy, etc.

The detailed chronological appendices identify the lodges established in Ceylon, the first, St Andrew’s Union at Galle in 1801, whose members were serving in the 19th Regiment of Foot. The lodge met at Trincomalee in 1804 and 1817 and Colombo in 1808, 1811, and 1819. The folding map shows locations of past and present lodges. The author was the Canon of Madras Cathedral as well as Local Secretary for the “Quatuor Coronati” Masonic Lodge of South India.

[*COPAC records a single copy at the British Library.*]
Marshall, Henry. **Ceylon**: a general description of the island and its inhabitants; with an historical sketch of the conquest of the colony by the English.  

First edition. 8vo (20.5 x 13 cm), pp.xvi, 287, [1, blank], 2 maps, 1 coloured in outline. A very good copy in contemporary embossed cloth. A few marks to cloth. Presentation inscription from the author to James Gay. [200525]  
*SOLD*  

An account of the British in Ceylon by the military surgeon, Henry Marshall, who served there from 1808 to 1820. He was attached to the British military expedition to Kandy in 1814, and the senior medical officer in the Kandyan provinces from 1816 to 1821. Marshall describes the British occupation of Ceylon from 1796, and the subsequent campaigns to consolidate control over the entire island.  
He supplemented his own firsthand knowledge with information supplied by the senior British administrator, Simon Sawer, who served on the island from 1805 to 1827.  
An appendix recounts the author’s ascent of Adams Peak in 1819.  
James Gay was Deputy Secretary to the British Government of Ceylon during Henry Marshall’s time on the island.
A dictionary of Sinhalese synonyms in verse composed in 1421 and one of the classic texts of the Sri Lankan tradition of philology: “a work of great authority … constantly referred to by Singhalese authors. It holds the same position in Singhalese literature, as the Amarakosa vocabulary in the Sanskrit, and Abbidanappadipika in the Pali.” (from editor’s preface).

This work was composed by one the ministers of Parakrama Bahu VI, king of the Sinhalese kingdom of Kotte, in the 15th century. He was a great patron of the arts and his reign is regarded as the golden era of classical Sinhalese literature. Entries are arranged by broad themes: words relating to Heaven; beneath the Earth; the Earth; town; vegetables; the lion; man; the castes: Brahmans, kings, merchants, and mechanics; miscellanea; and “various significations”. Manuscripts of Namavaliya abound, but no critical edition had appeared in print: “There is hardly a Singhalese scholar, who is not in possession of a manuscript copy, or to whom its contents are not familiar. Being a work much used, and for the most part transcribed by laymen uninstructed in the Pali and Sanskrit languages, and, consequently, ignorant of the etymology of the greater part of the Singhalese words, these manuscripts abound with clerical errors. The present edition was prepared for the press by comparing and collecting manuscripts, collected from temples the most famous for Singalese and Pali literature.”

The editor, Cornelis Alwis, who also compiled *The Romanized handbook of Singhalese conversation*, added two appendices useful for the learner of Sinhalese: “The first will serve the purposes of a Singhalese and English dictionary, and the second, as an English and Singhalese, as far as the words of the Namavaliya are concerned.”
A complete set of this fascinating bi-monthly journal from the first issue of October 1885, to June 1888. The Taprobanian was founded by Hugh Nevill (1847-1897), who travelled to Ceylon at the age of seventeen, and worked in the Ceylon Civil Service until his death. He was a pioneering scholar of Sinhalese and other languages, a founding member of the Kandyan Society of Arts, and an inveterate collector of artefacts from Sri Lanka, including manuscripts, bronzes, and wood-carvings. His collection is now spread amongst the British Library, British Museum, and Victoria & Albert Museum.

The variety of papers published reflect Nevill’s wide-ranging interests in anthropology, archaeology, botany, ethnology, folklore and medicine, geography, geology, history, mythology, palaeography and philology. From popular recipes for aloes to fishing with poisons and the finer points of Sri Lankan metalwork, this journal is a rich resource. The plates were separately printed at the Surveyor General’s Office in Colombo.

Nevill appears not to have published issues for October or December 1886, which are not present in any run of this journal we have examined.
Andrew Nicholl’s earliest drawings of Ceylon

Nicholl, Andrew. [Album of drawings.]

1846. Ceylon, Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, and at sea.

Oblong 4to (17 x 24 cm), ff.47, with 51 sketches in ink and pencil, 28 double-page, a few heightened with water-colour. Twenty-three of the sketches are of Ceylon. Final folio with pencil notes on Egyptian history by Nicholl. Bound in contemporary roan over embossed cloth, with gilt-stamped roan label on upper board. One folio detached. Contemporary inscription dated 1847 on front free endpaper: 45 Sketches. Andrew Nicholl Esq. Royal Hibernian Academician. [200520]

SOLD

An album of drawings made by the Irish artist Andrew Nicholl during his voyage to Ceylon and the first few months of his residence on the island in 1846. Nicholl was a drawing teacher at Colombo Academy from 1846 to 1849, appointed with the strong support of Sir James Emerson Tennent, who acted as patron for much of his career. His drawings of Ceylon provided many of the illustrations for Tennent’s Ceylon (1859).

Our album contains some of the Nicholl’s earliest dated drawings of Ceylon. The first two depict the port of Galle, and are dated 27 September 1846. Nicholl drew Galle Fort and the jetty, both with the same church visible in the background. His drawings of Colombo from October 1846 include the Queen’s House, the residence of the British Governor-General, the lighthouse, views of Galle Face from the sea, and the Bridge of Boats. Nicholl also drew several street scenes, including market traders sitting with their wares beneath sun shades, local boats in the harbour, dancing women, and two groups of musicians. Two coloured sketches show an enormous ancient vase, four foot in diameter, with an Arabic inscription around its neck.

Earlier drawings in the album illustrate the artist’s voyage out from Britain in August and September 1846, with views of Gibraltar, Malta, Algiers, Alexandria, Cairo, Suez, the Red Sea coast, and Aden. Andrew Nicholl (1804-1886) was born in Belfast. He first worked as an apprentice compositor for the Belfast printer Francis Finlay who founded the Northern Whig newspaper in 1824 and, recognising
Nicholl’s artistic talent, employed him as an illustrator. Sir James Emerson Tennent (1804-1869), born in the same year, wrote for the same paper and they first met during this period. Nicholl soon found an increasing number of commissions as a landscape artist and moved to London in 1830, where he exhibited, taught, and undertook further commissions. He was elected an associate of the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1837.

In 1845, Sir James Emerson Tennent was appointed colonial secretary of Ceylon, and he swiftly sought to find a post for Andrew Nicholl, who was duly appointed the first drawing master of Colombo Academy, now Royal College, a job which required him to study map-making and technical drawing. In August, 1846, Nicholl sailed for Ceylon to stay for three years. He accompanied Tennent on his 1848 expedition to Kandy which was cut abruptly short by a local uprising.

Tennent asked Nicholl to provide illustrations for his book, *Ceylon*, and Nicholl was happy to oblige his patron. In 1870, Nicholl sold Queen Victoria two watercolours of Colombo which remain in the Royal Collection.
Fine photographs by Scowen

[Photographs. Sri Lanka]. An album with 20 full plate and 8 smaller photographs of Ceylon.

Folio album, with twenty full plate albumen prints, each approximately 21.5 x 28 cm, and eight smaller images, approximately 9 x 14 cm, mounted on card. Approximately 50 albumen prints of other countries in first half of album. Albumen prints in excellent condition with deep rich tones. Some spotting on card mounts, prints unaffected. Bound in contemporary half morocco over cloth, spine lacking, edges worn. [206645] £3,500

Seven of the full plate and two of the smaller images are signed by Scowen, and most if not all of the others can be attributed to him.

Charles Thomas Scowen (fl.1870-1896) set up a studio in Kandy in 1874 after working in the coffee industry. He opened a second studio in Colombo in 1883. In 1896 he sold his business to Colombo Apothecaries and returned to coffee planting.

“The best of Scowen’s work, particularly his tropical foliage and leafy landscapes, was hardly matched by the best of his contemporaries. Scowen’s photographic studies were elegantly composed, beautifully lit and finely finished” – Raheem & Thomé, Images of British Ceylon, p.147.

1. [Fishing boats on beach.] Scowen.
2. [Terraced fields in the mountains.]
3. [The lake at Kandy.] Scowen.
4. Ficus Elastica (India Rubber) 1094. Scowen.
5. Dendrocalamus Giganteus (Giant Bamboo) 1108. Scowen.
6. [Tree-lined avenue.]
7. [Coconut tree.] Scowen.
8. [Palm tree.]
9. [Street scene.] Scowen.
10. [Small portrait of a Buddhist monk.]
11. [Carved archway.]
12. [Bullock carts on the road.] Scowen
13. [Forest.]
14. [View of a stream.]
15. [Mountain railway.]
16. [Waterfall.] Scowen
17. [Country scene.]
18. [4 small portraits, one, Mudaliyar, by Scowen.]
20. [Coffee flowers and berries.]
21. [[The Grange, Agra (or Aqua) Patnas].
22. [Estate.]
23. [Estate workers.]

johnrandall@booksofasia.com
Sixteen full plate albumen prints, each approximately 20.5 x 27 cm, mounted on eight card sheets. Five prints signed by Scowen, six either signed by Colombo Apothecaries or with their blindstamp, and three signed by Scowen with the Colombo Apothecaries blindstamp. Contained within a rather worn Japanese lacquer album. The prints are in very good condition with slight marginal fading, but retaining strong, dark tones. [208072]

£2,400

2. [Roots of banyan tree]. Apothecaries Co.
9. [The Lake, Kandy. Queen’s bathing house]. Apothecaries Co.
10. [Satin wood bridge over the Maha-willigunga, Peradeniya].
12. [Ploughing rice field with buffalo].
13. [Labourers with houseboats on jungle river]. Apothecaries Co.
15. [Canal scene].
[Photographs. Stereoscopic views]. **Ceylon through the Stereoscope. 1901-1903. New York, Underwood & Underwood.**

Thirty stereographic photographs, original card mounts, 9 x 18 cm, with printed captions in English, French, German, Spanish, Swedish, and Russian. In original book-form cloth box, gilt title on spine, in fine condition. Cards fine, curved as issued. [200515]

£500

A fine set of stereographs of Ceylon, showing tame and wild elephants, the method of their capture, the tea industry, including picking, sorting, the bungalow on Sir Thomas Lipton’s Estate, and the Talawakele estate. There are several views of Kandy, including the lake, and a startling view of Lady De Soysa’s “Hall of Tusks” in her mansion at Bambalapitiya.

The use of curved card mounts to accentuate the three-dimensional view began in 1879, and swiftly became the standard format.

[We locate a single set of these views with 29 stereographs at New York University.]
53  Pielat, Jacob Christiaan. Memoir left by Jacob Christiaan Pielat to his successor, Diederik van Domburg, 1734. Translated by Sophia Pieters, Dutch translator. With an introduction and notes by the Government Archivist.  
1905, Colombo, G.J.A. Skeen, Government Printer.  
First edition. 8vo (21 x 14 cm), pp.61, [3]. Memoirs and Instructions of Dutch Governors, Commandeurs, &c. A very good copy in original printed wrappers, spine torn. [206959] £120  

Jacob Christian Pielat (1692-1740) was the Dutch governor of Ceylon from 1732 until 1734.

54  From the Captain-Major to village tithes  
Pieris, P.E. The Kingdom of Jafanapatam, 1645, being an account of its administrative organisation as derived from the Portuguese archives.  
First edition. 8vo (21 x 14 cm), pp.[iv], iv, 67, [1]. In original lightly faded wrappers. Spine torn, front wrapper partially detached, but otherwise a very good copy. Ownership signature of C.H. Reynolds. Bookseller’s ticket of Luzac & Co. pasted onto title-page. [207673] £250  

A detailed account of the Portuguese colonial administration of Ceylon in 1645, compiled from original Portuguese sources, describing the various Portuguese officers and officials, revenues and duties, and with tables showing the rents paid by villages under Portuguese administration.
Comprehensive account of Sri Lanka


First edition. Two volumes, 8vo (23 x 15.5 cm), pp.8 [advertisements], xv, [1, blank], 484; 12 [advertisements], [iv], 485-887, [1, errata], large folding map, coloured in outline. A very good unopened set in original cloth, spines faded; first volume with Ceylon inked on spine. Some spotting on map. Contemporary circular armorial bookplates on front pastedown. [200528] £1,800

A comprehensive account of Ceylon compiled by the journalist and writer Charles Pridham, combining his own experience of the island with that of British authorities, including Jonathan Forbes, Robert Templeton, and George Turnour. Pridham also received assistance from Simon Casie Chetty, member of the Legislative Council, and later the first local officer of the Ceylon Civil Service.

The first two hundred pages span the history of Ceylon from antiquity to 1847. Pridham had access to the Sinhalese annals in English translation, and called for them to be afforded the same sceptical respect due to Christian scripture. The early portion of his history is a gloss of the annals. Subsequent chapters deal with the Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonial periods, concluding in 1847. The author treats local law and customs, including oath-taking and insolvency, slavery, castes, diet and cuisine, Sinhalese cosmology, local gods, and Buddhism, with notes on the priesthood and the relic of the Buddha’s tooth held at Kandy. Cinnamon cultivation, the customary division of land, and local metal and gold work are also addressed.

The second volume begins with a long geographical chapter covering each of the five provinces in detail, followed by a note on the island’s climate, and a long section on natural history, with accounts of elephant capture, training, and hunting, and lists of plants, birds, animals, insects, and fish.

The substantial appendices include an account of the Singha dynasty, a description of the press in Ceylon, and a long note on taxes and duties. The large folding *Map of the island of Ceylon* published by T. & W. Boone is dated 1848.
First edition. 8vo (22 x 14 cm), pp.xxxvii, [1, blank], [2], 180, [2]. Pali text, preface in English. A very good copy in original cloth-backed boards. Spine and boards a little worn. A few pencil notes. [201413] 
SOLD

Critical edition of this important 15th-century treatise on Pali grammar. 
[We locate a single copy at the University of Tasmania.]

57 With an account of the elephant trade

Rhee, Thomas van; Anthonisz, Sophia, translator. Memoir of Thomas van Rhee, Governor and Director of Ceylon, for his successor, Gerrit de Heere, 1697. Translated by Sophia Anthonisz. With an introduction and notes by the Government Archivist. 
First edition. 8vo (21.5 x 14 cm), pp.v, [1, blank], 61, [1]. Memoirs and Instructions of Dutch Governors, Commandeurs, &c. Stapled in original printed wrappers, spine torn. [206960] 
£150

A memoir by Thomas van Rhee, the eleventh Dutch governor of Ceylon from 1693 until 1697, compiled for the guidance of his successor. Van Rhee took a particular interest in Jaffna, and provided a detailed account of its inhabitants and their castes, together with descriptions of the Dutch forts, factories and stations on the island, the cinnamon monopoly, and the elephant trade which greatly profited the Dutch East India Company. 
[COPAC records copies at Oxford, Royal Asiatic Society, and SOAS.]
Eyewitness account of Portuguese wars against the Sinhalese


1701, Paris, Jean Boudot.

First edition. 12mo, pp.[xxxvi], 190, 187-352, 7 folding plates. Without the folding map. Bound in rather worn contemporary calf, part of spine lacking. Text and plates in very good condition. A 4 cm tear to pages 177-8, without loss of text. The folding map of Ceylon by Guillaume de L’Isle appears never to have been bound in. All other plates present. [67490] £575

First published edition of this important eyewitness account of Ceylon at the height of the Portuguese-Sinhalese wars of the 17th century, written by João Ribeiro (1622-1693), who served with the Portuguese forces on the island from 1640 until 1658. Ribeiro’s Portuguese manuscript was presented to King Pedro II in 1685, but remained unpublished in Portuguese until 1836. The first part offers a general account of Ceylon and the second part recounts the war between the Portuguese, Dutch, and the local states of Ceylon.
First English translation of Ribeiro

Ribeiro, João; George Lee, editor & translator. History of Ceylon presented by Captain John Ribeyro to the King of Portugal, in 1685, translated from the Portuguese, by the Abbe le Grand. Re-translated from the French edition, with an appendix, containing chapters illustrative of the past and present condition of the island, by George Lee.

1847, Colombo, printed at the Government Press.

First edition in English. 8vo (22 x 14 cm), pp.[iv], 278, 4 maps & plans printed on tissue, folding table. A very good used copy in contemporary boards, later calf spine. Boards a little rubbed. One map torn without loss. [79618]

£850

First edition in English of this eyewitness account of Ceylon at the height of the Portuguese-Sinhalese wars of the 17th century by João Ribeiro (1622-1693), who served with the Portuguese forces on the island from 1640 until 1658. Ribeiro’s Portuguese manuscript was presented to King Pedro II in 1685, but was only published in Portuguese in 1836. The first 144 pages comprise Ribeiro’s account translated from the French edition of 1701, its first part a contemporary account of Ceylon, and the second on the war between the Portuguese, Dutch, and the Sinhalese. Lee distinguishes between Ribeiro’s original text and the additions of the French editor. The extended appendix has sections on Ceylon’s early history, the colonial powers who had occupied the island, its state in 1740 and 1762, notes on revenue and expenditure from 1739 to 1751, and notes on geology, flora, coffee planting, cinnamon and pearl trading, customs returns, and two essays on Buddhism.

[COPAC records copies at Oxford and the National Library of Scotland.]
Comprehensive history of Portuguese Ceylon


Peiris supplemented Riberio’s chronicle with translated extracts from the works of João de Barros and Diogo de Couto dealing with the 16th-century history of the Portuguese in Ceylon, and extracts from Bocarro, De Sa e Menezes, and Faria de Souza. This second edition has two new chapters based on the Documentos Remettidos da India ou Livros da Monções, which bridge the gaps between other Portuguese histories and Ribeiro’s account. [COPAC records copies at the British Library, Leeds, and London Library.]
Eyewitness account of the 1630 rebellion

Rodriguez de Saa y Menezes, Juan. Rebelion de Ceylan y los Progressos de su Conquista en el gobierno de Constantino de Saa y Noronho.

**1681, Lisbon, Antonio Craesbeeck de Mello.** First edition. Small 4to (21 x 15.5 cm), pp.[xx], 243, [1, blank], large woodcut device to p.243. A very good copy bound in contemporary speckled sheep, spine gilt in compartments, with raised bands; all edges speckled red; a few scuffs to boards, joints a little rubbed, small wormholes to top and bottom of spine, a few worm tracks to pastedowns, text entirely unaffected. Final blank with a Portuguese inscription recording the purchase of this copy from Pedro Roiz on the 20th of July, 1743, by Antonio Rovi “da Ascensas”. [64545]

£6,000

A firsthand account of the Sinhalese rebellion against the Portuguese written by the son of the Governor, Constantino de Sá y Noronha, who was killed in the humiliating defeat of Portuguese forces by Kandyan troops in 1630. De Sá y Menezes completed his account by 1640, though it remained unpublished for forty years. It is one of few contemporary Portuguese accounts of this period in Ceylon, and succeeded, on publication, in restoring his father’s reputation, casting him as a tragic hero. That Portugal had lost her possessions on the island by the time of publication may have added an additional bittersweet lustre to his posthumous reputation.

[Ldib III.2, p.951-2; Palau 274944]
62 Schroeder, Ulrich von. **Buddhist Sculptures of Sri Lanka.** With the collaboration of The Archaeological Department of Sri Lanka.  
1990, Hong Kong, Visual Dharma Publications.  
First edition. Folio (35 x 24 cm), pp.752, 1589 illustrations, 26 in colour. Slip case. No.202 of 999 copies only. A fine copy bound in original leatherette, with slipcase. [63358]  
SOLD

A monumental study of the Buddhist sculptures of Sri Lanka and their stylistic evolution.
pearls, cinnamon, & palms
[Suckling, Horatio John, Captain]. Ceylon. A general description of the Island, historical, physical, statistical. Containing the most recent information. 1876, London, Chapman & Hall. First edition. Two volumes, 8vo (23 x 15.5 cm), pp.xvi, 424, errata slip; viii, 432, folding map. A fine bright set in the original publisher’s cloth, with decoratively stamped boards, titles gilt on spines. A little light spotting. [80637]
£1,350

A detailed study of Ceylon, mixing historical research with the author’s firsthand experience of the island. Suckling notes that the only other comprehensive work to date was Tennent’s 1858 account. He aimed to supplement Tennent and correct his errors. It draws on sources ranging from medieval travellers’ accounts, including those of Arab and Chinese traders, Sinhalese histories, and Portuguese, Dutch, and English colonial records.

The first volume contains four chapters on the island’s physical geography, with ancient descriptions of the island, notes on coral reefs, and soil and agriculture. Suckling devotes a short chapter to climate, disease, and weather, and another to Ceylon’s ancient history. Four further chapters span early trade to east and west and foreign accounts of the island from this period. Five chapters cover modern history, from the arrival of the Portuguese to the war of 1848, when Suckling was first stationed on the island. The last two chapters describe Colombo and the diverse population.

The second volume has chapters on travel within Ceylon, the long history of Buddhism on the island, and arts and literature, with notes on languages, weaving, and pottery. Suckling devotes almost three hundred pages to the flora and fauna of the island, with detailed chapters on cinnamon, pearls, and palm trees, including the coconut. Captain Horatio John Suckling (1822-1905) was a career officer who served in the Ceylon Rifles for several decades.

[Another copy.] A very good set in slightly dull original publisher’s cloth. Spines lightly rubbed, some wear to corners. Bookplates and inscriptions of Signet Library on front pastedowns. Pencilled initials of C.H.B. Reynolds. [201234]
£850
The classic 19th-century account of Ceylon

Tennent, James Emerson, *Sir Ceylon*. An account of the island, physical, historical, and topographical with notices of its natural history, antiquities and productions.

1859. London, Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts. Third edition, revised and expanded. Two volumes, 8vo (23 x 15 cm), xxxix, [1], 643, [1], 24 [advertisements]; xvi, 663, [1]; with 2 frontispiece plates, 89 illustrations, and 9 maps, 2 folding and coloured in outline. An exceptionally clean and bright set in original cloth, gilt. Lower edge of spine of volume one chipped. With the contemporary printed library labels of Midgard House, Hawick. [207994] £650

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