

## Recent Books from Sri Lanka – July 2023

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Blk 231, Bain Street  
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex  
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[info@marymartin.com](mailto:info@marymartin.com)  
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### Art

Visual Poetry of Bellanwila / Wijayabandara, Charulatha  
Nugegoda, Sri Lanka: Bellanwilla Rajamaha Vihara in Association with Sarasavi Publishers,  
2023  
123p.  
9789553127686  
\$ 90.00 / HB  
1094gm.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851805>

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### Architecture

Geoffrey Bawa: Drawing from the Archives / Geoffrey Bawa Trust (Ed) Shayari de Silva  
Zurich: Lars Muller Publishers, 2023  
248p.  
9783037787052  
\$ 100.00 / HB  
1030gm.

The Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa (1919-2003) fused sensitivity for local context with the technological discoveries and design principles of modernism in his work. Gathering essays by scholars and writers across a multitude of disciplines - including architecture, photography, geography, urban design and art history - this volume spotlights the beautiful architectural drawings of Bawa's practice. Illustrated with more than 200 drawings and photographs, many of which have never been published, the book delves into the central, multipronged role of the medium in Bawa's work, from ideation to instruction to postconstruction review. Through the context of the archive, the anthology also explores the identity of postindependence Sri Lanka, looking at the interplay between ideas and images, drawings and buildings and, above all, a sense of place.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851806>

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### Biography/Memoirs

The Lasantha Wickrematunge Biography: Unbowed & Unafraid / Raine Wickrematunge  
Sri Lanka: Raine Wickrematunge (self publish), 2013  
viii, 396p.  
9786249454705  
\$ 30.00 / PB

670gm.

A few weeks before he was murdered Editor of The Sunday Leader Lasantha Wickrematunge wrote a chillingly prophetic editorial in which he addressed his would-be killers. In the editorial titled And Then They Came for Me published in The Sunday Leader three days after he was killed, he wrote, " hope my assassination will not be seen as a defeat of freedom but an inspiration to those who survive to step up their efforts. Indeed I hope it will galvanise forces that will usher in era of human liberty in our beloved motherland."

Only one among dozens of journalists who have disappeared, been killed, abducted, red or harassed in Sri Lanka, Wickrematunge stands out not only as one of Sri an journalism's icons but as a universally inspiring hero of our times. This book, written by his ex-wife and comrade in journalism for many years Raine Wickrematunge, captures the remarkable events in the life of this trail-blazing journalist who strove to lay bare the canker of corruption in those who are elected to and change for the better the society he lived in. It is the story of a man who lived, breathed and finally died in the pursuit of the truth.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851807>

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Merrill J. Fernando: The Story Of Ceylon Teamaker: (Disruptor. Teamaker. Servant) / Merrill J. Fernando

Sri Lanka: Dilmah Ceylon Tea Co . Plc, 2023

414p.

9789550081325

\$ 95.00 / PB

1150gm.

The autobiography of Merril J. Fernando, founder of Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company is a classic tale of a young man with ambition beyond what convention dictated and offers an inspirational guide to ordinary women and men who have big dreams. The book is also a story of extraordinary human kindness with a man whose determination, resilience and passion for tea have produced a business grounded genuinely in a commitment to the purpose beyond profit.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851808>

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### **Economics**

Central Bank Independence And Other Orations / W. A. Wijewardena

Sri Lanka: W. A. Wijewardena (self publish), 2023

180p.

9786249950221

\$ 20.00 / PB

218gm.

This volume contains 5 memorial orations delivered by Dr W.A. Wijewardena within the last two decades. The first oration was delivered in the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to commemorate its 68th Anniversary in 2018. It was on an apt theme of current importance, namely, the issue of the central bank independence. While there are many who believe that the central bank independence is advocated by political leaders, Dr Wijewardena argues that it is for the benefit of ordinary Sri Lankans. Oration two was delivered to pay respect to the late Professor Sirisena Tilakaratna on the issue of the growth of the services sector as a source of sustainable economy prosperity. In this oration, it has been presented that the services sector development is a sine qua non for the development of the two main real sectors, namely, agriculture and industry. The third oration, delivered in 2021,

commemorates the services rendered by the veteran banker, the late K. Sivagananathan, to the banking industry, in particular, and to the financial services sector in general. The fourth oration, delivered in 2019, is in respect of the first death anniversary of the Sri Jayewardenepura University's public policy Guru, the late Professor H.M.A Herath. It deals with the present socio-economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The last oration was delivered in 2018 to commemorate the services of the late Professor H.A.de S Gunasekara on the theme of the Sri Lanka's present economic crisis and the way forward strategy the ailing economy.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851809>

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What Went Wrong / Chandrasena Maliyadde  
Sri Lanka: Chandrasena Maliyadde (self publish), 2023  
264p.  
9789551563417  
\$ 20.00 / PB  
312gm.

During the past decade or so, the country has been witnessing a spectacle of contrasts in the public policy domain. We have seen an abundance of analysis being confronted by a paucity of solutions, consensual ones in particular. Chandrasena Maliyadde, a senior stalwart of the executive branch of successive Governments, had sought to reflect on the causes and effects of this phenomenon in a series of articles he had contributed to the Sri Lankan media for over seven years. His work touches upon a broad range of matters including, but not limited to, governance, politics, economy, national planning, public administration, policy formulation and implementation and so on. This work has now become a treatise in the form of a book titled 'The way we govern – some reflections.' Maliyadde's hands-on knowledge and experience as a senior planner and an implementer together with his perceptive work as a hard-nosed analyst with a retiree's equanimity seem to find their unmistakable imprints throughout the volume. The depth and breath of the coverage of topics make this compilation rather substantive while language sans jargon makes it quite user-friendly. Incisive comment and strident critique are laced with healthy doses of wit and humour as appropriate. Consequently, the volume brings into sharp relief a stark reality in contemporary Sri Lanka, viz. the debilitating absence of political will all round to develop consensual approaches to public policymaking in areas affecting our vital national interests. While this work may not and certainly cannot be expected to, cure all ills of the rather excruciating enterprise of public policymaking in this country, it will certainly help illuminate some choices in that regard.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851810>

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## History

Mahavamsa: How A Nation Was Misled / Parakrama Karunaratne  
Sri Lanka: Parakrama Karunaratne (self publish), 2023  
415p.  
9786249970502  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
464gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851811>

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Essays On Sri Lanka's Cultural Heritage: Volume 1 (September 2020 – May 2022) / Ama H. Vanniarachchy  
Ceylon: Professor F. R. Jayasuriya Memorial Foundation, 2023

406p.  
9786245401024  
\$ 30.00 / PB  
472gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851812>

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The Community: A Historical Account of the Mudaliyar Class Goyigama Family Combine / Mevan Pieris

Sri Lanka: Mevan Pieris (self publish), 2023

xvi, 565p.

9786249966703

\$ 100.00/ HB

2100gm.

The book is a historical account of the Mudaliyar class Goyigama Family Combine, which several previous writers have written to say were a powerful Community that wielded much power and influence during Dutch and British times. The book traces its evolution from Portuguese times and covers a period of 500 years. 'The Community' comprises 580 pages and carries 159 photographs in colour and black and white. The thrust of the book is to bring to light who the Master Spirits of the Community were and the enormous contribution to the good of society done by the Community.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851813>

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The Dutch Hospital Colombo: Biography Of A Heritage Building / Gamini Wijesuriya, G. C.

Uragoda & K. D. Paranavitana

Kalutara: The Institute of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, 2023

xiv, 78p.

9786245521012

\$ 35.00 / HB

426gm.

The book traces the three-decade-long journey of the Dutch Hospital, a historic landmark in Colombo, Sri Lanka, which was eventually converted into a high-end shopping center and restaurant complex in 2012. The book includes over 50 colorful illustrations of the rescue efforts over the three decades.

Dr. Wijesuriya, a former Director of Conservation of the Department of Archaeology and a staff member at the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, has written the book to highlight the complicated heritage journey of the Dutch Hospital, which is full of twists and turns and has many lessons for the sector.

The book also contains the life story of the hospital, which was started nearly 300 years ago and has been comprehensively researched by the late Dr. G. C. Uragoda, a renowned physician, and Prof. K.D. Paranavitana, a well-known specialist in the Dutch period archival records. This research was first published in the UK journal of Medical History in 1985.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851814>

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## Politics

Sri Lanka: Tears And Dreams Of A Fragile Democracy / Shanthi Mendis

Geneva, Switzerland: Geneva Learning Foundation, 2022

xii, 146p.

9789559551942

\$ 50.00 / PB

424gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851815>

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