

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF COFFEE PLANTERS' FOUNTAIN IN KANDY

Ayeshi Biyanwila*

PGIHS, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

*ayeshibyanwila@gmail.com

The Sun foundry in Glasgow was a producer of steel ornamental fountains in Victorian Britain. Many of those fountains still exist throughout the European world. Excitingly, a fine example of the Victorian Ornamental Fountains exists in Kandy near *Dalada Maligawa*, and it is known as the Coffee Planters Fountain. According to an inscription on the fountain, it had been built in 1875 by the Coffee planters of Ceylon to commemorate the arrival of the Prince of Wales in Kandy. The primary objective of this research is to describe the archaeological and artistic importance of the Coffee Planters' Fountain. The paper presents an analysis of the artistic motifs of the fountain. There is a dearth of literature on the art, archaeology and history of the fountain. The only secondary source of information that was available was the website www.GlasgowSculpture.com hosted by Gary Nisbet. The research study analyzes the architectural plan, ornamentation, technology and utility of the fountain. The architectural plan of the fountain presents the general structure of the fountain. The presence of western features, such as the Doric column, the Acanthus leaf and Honeysuckle, is noted in the discussion of the ornamentation of the fountain. The technology of water supply is discussed under the technology of the fountain. The utility and the present condition of the fountain is discussed so as to show the precarious present condition of the fountain. This research identifies the aforesaid fountain as the only Victorian fountain in Sri Lanka. And also, this could be the only one in Asia. This paper highlights the uniqueness and the need to preserve the Coffee Planters' Fountain.

Keywords: Coffee Planters' Fountain, Art and Archaeology, Kandy