

## Recent Books from Sri Lanka – March 2021

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### **Anthropology/Archaeology**

Tamil Inscriptions in Sri Lanka, Volume I / S. Pathmanathan  
Colombo: Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs,  
2019

xx, 738p.

Includes Index

9786245015078

\$ 55.00 / HB

1150gm.

Study on Tamil inscriptions from Sri Lanka covering 250 B.C.-  
1300 A.D.; includes inscriptions.

**<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750296>**

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### **Biography**

Luminous Lives : 20<sup>th</sup> Century Sri Lankan Society and Politics  
Illustrated / Rajiva Wijesinha

Colombo: S. Godage & Brothers (Pvt) Ltd., 2020

272p.

9786240010023

\$ 25.00 / HB

480gm.

Given his highly educated and widely travelled background it seems fitting that Dr. Rajiva Wijesinha should write a book on the lives of Sri Lankan 'Luminaries' who have touched his life socially, politically and professionally. They are not in any way biographical records. They are intensely personal stories and have been based on the author's intimate knowledge of his subjects.

The book can be read on many levels. Just reading for pleasure of course. But one realises that there is a sharply observant eye on the life of the 'luminaries' he has chosen to honour. In many cases the reader might wonder if Rajiva has been a little too candid but herein lies its interest. Intimate tales that have never been heard before abound. One is fascinated to the end and hopes, of course, that no offence is taken. It is certainly not meant.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750297>

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Exploring with Ena / Rajiva Wijesinha  
Colombo: S. Godage & Brothers (Pvt) Ltd., 2020  
208p.  
9786240010016  
\$ 25.00 / HB  
398gm.

This is a very unusual book, hard to characterize as to genre but encompassing a sweeping and illuminating description of Sri Lanka: its outstanding physical beauty, social change over the years, political history (and declining standards) and a range of fascinating personal relationships. These involve a host of exciting individuals though easily the most enthralling is the bond between Ena de Silva and her not so closely related grand nephew, the author.

The narrative itself proceeds like a journey, albeit not an onerous one and one that moves with ease. Its characters breeze in and breeze out, with the author and the Ena character staying fixed and giving what would otherwise seem

mere entertaining fluidity much required shape. So they remain its anchors, as it seeks to explain the ease of life and pace of a country blessed with natural beauty, history and culture.

It is a deeply personal tale of a developing relationship between a great aunt and a grandnephew. At the conclusion this has seasoned into a bond of friendship that has transcended the generation gap. It is perhaps the maverick in the Ena make-up so clearly illustrated by the author that allows her to flow through the generational divide, touching and influencing the like-minded no matter whatever their ages were. The author's flirtation with politics and his losing battle to short-sighted politicians when aiming for educational reform, and the sense of frustration arising there from, highlight the degenerating standards and outlook of a changing society.

It is also semi-biographical of the life and times of Ena De Silva, although it is not written in the form of a biography but as a series of amusing trips, journeys, visits, escapades or call them what you may which the author delighted in with the iconic Ena De Silva as a more than willing accomplice. Her character, traits, humour, wit and accomplishments all get conveyed in the various episodes from an early account of her eloping with her future husband even as a minor to her deeply evolved creative commitment and her colourful sense of fashion.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750298>

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Sri La Sri Arumuga Navalar : The Champion Reformer of the Hindus : A Biographical Study, 1822-1879 / V.

Muttucumaraswamy

Colombo: Department of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Hindu Religious Affairs, 2017

104p.

\$ 20.00 / PB

140gm.

### Book Details:

Sri La Sri Arumuga Navalar is the most dynamic figure not only in the History of Hinduism in Ceylon but also in Tamilakam. He was truly a Champion Reformer of Hinduism.

His Biography should be read by everyone interested in the development of the Hindu religion and Tamil.

Scholars claim that Navalar is the father of modern Tamil prose. His entire life was dedicated to the promotion of Hinduism and Tamil. The renaissance of Hinduism which we see in our land today is due to Navalar's yeoman service in this direction.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750299>

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### **History**

Sri Lanka : Island of Islands / Shereen Amendra (et al.)

(Photographers) Stefan D' Silva (et al.)

Colombo: National Trust of Sri Lanka, 2020

200p.

9789550093250

\$ 90.00 / HB

1350gm.

***"Sri Lanka: Island of Islands"*** adds to the existing knowledge on the over 100 offshore small islands around the mainland of Sri Lanka, varying in size from the largest Mannar Island to the smallest Sinigama and Werallaiya. The articles raise many questions of legal, historical, geographical and environmental import especially in the contemporary era of rising concerns over global climate change which will have direct impact on small islands through the warming of oceans and sea level rise affecting coastlines. The book also looks at inland islands teeming with biodiversity, found in lagoons and rivers.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750300>

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The Establishment of the Jaffna Vicariate – Its Regression and Progress : 1796-1857 / Gnanamuthu Pilendran

Colombo: S. Godage & Brothers (Pvt) Ltd., 2020  
308p.  
9786240010221  
\$ 15.00 / PB  
428gm.

Convincingly argued with concrete facts, this book candidly presents a compelling account of the devious intricacies and dreadful maneuverings in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when efforts were made by Propaganda Fide in Rome, to create a Northern Vicariate in the island of Ceylon. The subtle battles fought in Jaffna among three groups of “missionaries”, viz. the Italian Msgr. Bettacchini, the Goan Oratorians and the newly arrived Oblate missionaries from Europe, undoubtedly offers very useful historical lessons for our own age.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750301>

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## **Literature**

The Shower : A Collection of Translated Short Stories / K. Saddanathan

Jaffna: Jeevanathy, 2020

vi, 84p.

9789550958436

\$ 15.00 / PB

120gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750302>

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## **Official Publications**

Statistical Abstract 2019 [Sri Lanka]

Colombo : Department of Census & Statistics, 2020

xxxiii, 447p.

9789557021546

\$ 120.00 / PB

700gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750198>

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Acts of Sri Lanka 2020  
Colombo : Govt. of Sri Lanka, 2020

1v.

\$ 50.00 / HB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750197>

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## **Politics**

Executive President Vs. Parliamentary Premier : The Dilemma  
Continues ... / Vijaya Niranjan Perera  
Badulla: Vijaya Niranjan Perera, 2020

xi, 208p.

9789559690955

\$ 20.00 / PB

252gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750303>

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