



Deraniyagala the Thoughtful Colleague

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I met Dr. Siran Deraniyagala on a bright February morning in 1997, when I first came to Sri Lanka to work on my doctoral dissertation on dental anthropology of South Asian populations. My mentor, Dr. Kenneth A. R. Kennedy (a good friend and colleague of Siran's) had warmly sung his praises and readily encouraged me to meet with him. I had read many research articles by Siran as well as his seminal book on the archaeology of Sri Lanka. I knew what a keen mind he had, and I admit to being nervous to meet this great man. When I walked into his office in Colombo for the first time, his warm and charming manner immediately put me at ease.

Over the 25 years I knew him, Siran was a tremendous influence and was instrumental in encouraging me to publish my research in *Spolia Zeylanica*. A thoughtful colleague, he was always generous with his time whenever I visited Colombo, and when we corresponded or talked on the telephone. I learned so much about Sri Lanka from him! When I heard of his passing, I thought of how his immense knowledge and influence was a part of a legacy he gave to everyone who knew him. I miss Dr. Siran Deraniyagala greatly but feel so very fortunate to have inherited even a small part of the legacy he left us.

Reference

Hawkey, D.E., (2002). The peopling of South Asia: Evidence for affinities and microevolution of prehistoric populations of India and Sri Lanka. *Spolia Zeylanica*, 39, 1–300.



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