

A Note from the Guest Editors

Professor Sudharshan (1949-2024), a pioneering scholar in Sri Lankan history, archaeology, and heritage research, firmly believed in questioning history, positioning historical materials within a problem-oriented and issue-related framework, and disseminating his knowledge at diverse venues. Upon his demise, we considered that recollecting his memories and convening his close network of colleagues and friends for an academic retrospective would be the most appropriate way to express our gratitude to the archaeology legend who advocated for a paradigm shift. He embodied and emphasized an attitude of service to the next generation. Following his vision and guidance, this volume is offered as a tribute to his great humane personality.

This commemoration volume was conceived by Dr. Samanti Kulatilake, dedicating a Volume in the *Ancient Lanka* open access journal. As his daughter (Shavera) and one of his students (Dulma), it is both bittersweet and a privilege for us to be involved with the conceptualisation, organisation and execution of this volume as guest editors, to celebrate the enduring legacy of Professor Seneviratne's voluminous career and pay tribute to the scholar, teacher, friend and colleague he was. From the initial planning stages of the "Sudharshan Seneviratne Commemoration Volume", our collective goal was to infuse it with the values and philosophies central to his work as a historian and archaeologist. We wished to provide a space for new and cutting-edge research that sheds light on Sri Lanka's ancient history, investigates new inquiries in ways that celebrate the multifaceted and diverse history of the island, and honours the lasting work of Professor Seneviratne's varied career and the indelible impact he had on his students and colleagues.

We reached out to various scholars, former students, professionals and close friends who worked with him, learned from him and knew him over the years, and solicited works of new scholarship or appreciations, receiving a robust selection of submissions. We were also honoured to include some of Professor Seneviratne's writings in this volume: a scholarly article, a co-authored interdisciplinary article and a Sinhala translation of one of his lectures. It seemed fitting that these pieces were also included in this commemoration.

We sincerely thank Samanti for proposing and initiating this project of gratitude, Mrs. Harsha Seneviratne for being the foundation of Professor Seneviratne's academic, social, and humanitarian efforts, and all contributors who shared their appreciation and academic articles amid their busy schedules. We also thank those who encouraged the publication of this volume, as well as the proofreaders, copyeditors, reviewers, technical support team, funders, and Mount Royal University.

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