

International Conference

on

**The Kitchen**  
Culinary Ethnology in Sri Lanka

**August 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Organized

by

**Lanka Decorative Arts**

Sponsored

by

**The American Center, Colombo**

and

**The Mount Lavinia Hotel**

**Day 1 Thursday August 4<sup>th</sup>**

Auditorium, US-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission, Colombo  
55 Abdul Cafoor Mawatha, Colombo 3

**8.30am-9.00am Registration**

**9.00am-10.30am CONFERENCE INAUGURATION**

**Welcome & Introduction to the Conference**

Dr. Ayesha Abdur-Rahman, Founder Director, Lanka Decorative Arts

**Welcome II:**

Mr. Joseph R. Schaller, Cultural Affairs Officer, American Center, Colombo

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS I**

**FOOD, KITCHENS & BANQUETING IN ANTIQUITY**

Prof. Elizabeth Simpson, Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts,  
New York

**Chair:** Dr. Ayesha Abdur-Rahman, Founder Director, Lanka Decorative Arts

**10.30am-11.30am TEA with 'RHYTHMS OF THE KITCHEN'**

**Introductions:** Dr. Manoj Alawathukotuwa & Dr. T. Sanathanan

**Performances:** Dept. of Fine Arts, University of Peradeniya &  
Ms. Kumutha Umakanthan, University of Jaffna

**11.30am-1.00pm PANEL I: Colonial Culinary Influences**

**SOME CULINARY HABITS ACQUIRED DURING THE 16<sup>TH</sup> & 17<sup>TH</sup>  
CENTURY**

Prof. K.D. Paranavitana, Rajarata University & Consultant to the National Archives,  
Colombo

**VEGETARIANISM & VEGETABLE DYES: THE CEYLON SOCIAL REFORM  
SOCIETY & COOMARASWAMYS' RECIPES FOR HUMANE LIVING**

Ms. Antonia Behan, PhD candidate, Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative  
Arts, New York

**Chair:** Prof. Asoka de Zoysa, Department of Modern Languages, University of Kelaniya

**1.00pm-2.00pm LUNCH**

**2.00pm-4.00pm PANEL II: Objects, Materials, Techniques**

**AN INVENTORY OF EPHEMERA: KITCHEN UTENSILS FROM WOOD  
& PALMYRAH**

Dr. T. Sanathanan, Department of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna

**TRADITIONAL KITCHEN ACCESSORIES: DESIGN EVOLUTION TO SAVE  
TIME & SPACE**

Ms. Ninel Fernando, Department of Integrated Design, University of Moratuwa

USE OF CLAY UTENSILS IN TRADITIONAL KITCHENS

Ms. Dilshani Ranasinghe, Department of Integrated Design, University of Moratuwa

KITCHEN OBJECTS USED BY THE MUSLIMS COMMUNITIES OF THE EAST  
FROM THE HERITAGE MUSEUM KATTANKUDY

Mr. Jesmil Raheem, Curator, Heritage Museum, Kathankudy

JARDI & ITS JARS

Ms. Deshika Van Haght, Board Member, Lanka Decorative Arts

**Chair:** Dr. Malathi de Alwis, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo

**4.00pm: TEA**

**Day II Friday August 5<sup>th</sup>**

Auditorium, US-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission, Colombo

**9.00am-10.30am PANEL I: Kitchens Across the Island**

SAIVA REFORMATION OF 19TH CENTURY JAFFNA & THE DOUBLE  
KITCHEN TRADITION

Mr. P. Ahilan, Department of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna

FOOD & FOOD PRACTICES AMONG EAST COAST MUSLIMS

Ms. A.W. N. Naleefa, Department of Sociology, South-Eastern University

**Chair:** Ms. Kamini de Soysa, Board Member, Lanka Decorative Arts

**10.30am-11.00am TEA**

**11.00am-12.30pm PANEL II: The Illustrated Kitchen**

WAS THE KITCHEN SOLELY A WOMAN'S DOMAIN IN PRE-MODERN  
SRI LANKA? A SOCIO-ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF BUDDHIST  
TEMPLE MURALS

Dr. Dulma Karunarathna, Department of Archaeology, University of Peradeniya

COOKING FOR THE PIOUS: FROM *MULUTANGE* TO *KUSSIYA*

Prof. Asoka de Zoysa, Department of Modern Languages, University of Kelaniya

**Chair:** Dr. Manoj Alawathukotuwa, Department of Fine Arts, University of Peradeniya

**12.30pm-1.30pm LUNCH**

**1.30pm-3.30pm PANEL III: Ritualized Repasts & Food Offerings**

RITUAL COOKING & FOOD OFFERINGS IN *AGAMIC* & *NON-AGAMIC*  
TEMPLES IN JAFFNA

Ms. Sudarsini Vignamohan & Ms. Kumutha Umakanthan, Department of Fine Arts,  
University of Jaffna

*KIRI AMMAWARUNGE DANE: THE FEEDING OF SEVEN MILK MOTHERS*  
Dr. Malathi de Alwis, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo

*BATH MALAVA: THANKSGIVING AFTER THE HARVEST &  
ALIMENTATION FOR DEITIES*  
Ms. Ganga Rajinee Dissanayake, Samkathana Project, University of Kelaniya

**Chair:** Ms. Deshika Van Haght, Board Member, Lanka Decorative Arts

**3.30pm-4.00pm**      **TEA with *BATH MALAVA***  
Performance by Mr Sarath Bandara, Anuradhapura

**Day III Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Mount Lavinia Hotel, Sponsored by MLH

**9.00am-10.30am**      **KEYNOTE ADDRESS II**  
**KUSSIYA: THE SOCIAL MELTING POT OF TECHNO-CULTURAL  
CONVERGENCE**  
Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne, Former Professor of Archaeology, University  
of Peradeniya, Former Director-General of Central Cultural Fund (CCF) &  
High Commissioner to India

**Chair:** Prof. K.D. Paranavitana, Rajarata University & Consultant to the National  
Archives, Colombo

**10.30am-11.00am**      **TEA**

**11.00am-12.30pm**  
**RECENT RESEARCH ON SRI LANKAN GASTRONOMY: FOOD AS  
MEDICINE**  
Chef Publis Silva, Director, Culinary Affairs, Mount Lavinia Hotel

**12.30pm-2.00pm**  
**INTERACTIVE COOKERY DEMONSTRATION**  
Led by Chef Publis Silva, Director, Culinary Affairs, Mount Lavinia Hotel

**2.00pm-3.00pm**      **LUNCH**

**3.00pm-5.00pm**      **PANEL Trade Routes & Spice Routes**  
**PORTS ALONG THE ANCIENT TRADE ROUTES**  
Mr. Ashley de Vos, Chartered Architect & Trustee, National Trust of Sri Lanka

**THE MOVEMENT OF SPICES ALONG THE ANCIENT SILK ROUTE OF  
THE SEA**  
Ms. Ramla Wahab Salman, Historian

JUXTAPOSING THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT: THE GROWTH OF  
GASTRODIPLOMACY

Ms. Adilah Ismail, Arts & Culture Writer

**Chair:** Emeritus Prof. Nimal de Silva, Department of Architecture, University  
of Moratuwa & Director, National Trust Sri Lanka

**5.00pm-5.30pm**      **TEA**

**5.30pm-7.00pm**

FROM BOLO D'AMOR TO BREUDHER: A CONVERSATION ON  
PORTUGUESE & DUTCH BURGHER CUISINE IN SRI LANKA

**Moderator:** Ms. Deborah Philip, Department of History, University of Colombo

**Day IV Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup>**

- 7.00am**                      SET OFF ON STUDY TOUR OF GALLE  
Stop at Martin Wickremasinghe Folk Museum *en route*  
Breudher Breakfast on the bus
- 1.00pm-2.00pm**              Galle Fort Muslim Lunch at Maritime Museum
- 2.00pm**                      *Kettu Choru* Discussion and demonstration by Fort Muslim ladies  
**Moderator:** Ms. Ramla Wahab, Historian
- 4.00pm**                      Tour of 200-year old Heritage Bakery
- 5.30pm**                      Closing Ceremony on Galle Fort Ramparts
- 6.00pm**                      Return to Colombo