



St. Thomas' Preparatory School 1974 Magazine

The Ruined Cities of Sri Lanka

From the immemorial Ceylon has been world known for her beautiful scenery. She also has been famous for her ruined cities. Some of the famous of these are to be seen in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Dambulla and Mihintale.

Anuradhapura is the most ancient of the famous cities. Some of the familiar sights to be seen here are the tanks, dagabays and bathing pools which was built by king Dutugamunu. The others are Jethewanarama Dagaba, Abayagirida Dagaba, Thuparama dagaba, Lohamapaya dagaba and the Isurumioini dagaba.

Polonnaruwa the second of the ruined cities of Lanka is as ancient as Anuradhapura. King Parakkramabahu adorned the city with grand palace, bathing places, shrines and temples. The longest shrine in Lanka, the Lankathilaka, is at Polonnaruwa. The famous ruins in the island the lotus bath is also found here. Today Polonnaruwa is a health resort than a ruined city because the area has been colonized.

Sigiriya is another famous ruined city in Ceylon. It has been one of Ceylon's greatest tourist's attractions. Sigiriya is famous for its 600ft: rock fortress. The main attraction in Sigiriya is the frescoes. The Sigiriya frescoes were painted during the Gupta period of North Indian arts. The frescoes are the only ancient paintings in Ceylon that do not have a religious significance.

A few miles away from Sigiriya is the ruined city of Dambulla, which is famous for its rock temples. Dambulla is of a historic importance to the Buddhists and is even today visited by many pilgrims.

There are just a few cities of Lanka which are of historic importance for us. All our ruins have become a tourist attraction and the Sri Lankan Government is making much money by of foreign exchange.

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