



Founded 1845

**ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY
OF
SRI LANKA**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
of 2019
175th Year**

Please have this Report at the Annual General Meeting.
Ordinary Members who are in arrears of annual subscriptions up to and including 2020 are kindly reminded to update payments. Failure will debar them from participation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society gratefully acknowledges the support and patronage extended by the Presidents of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena and His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, patrons of the Society. Grateful thanks are owed to the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs for the Annual Grant for 2019 and we look forward to receiving the generous grant in the future too.

Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha

Joint Secretaries

11. 03. 2020

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Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara
Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha
Joint Secretaries

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the 175th year of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka will be held on **Saturday, 28th March, 2020 at 3.00 p.m.** at the Auditorium of the Mahaweli Centre, 96, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 07.

AGENDA

1. Notice of the Meeting
2. Excuses
3. Condolences
4. Welcome address by the President of the RASSL
5. Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM of the 174th year, 30th March 2019
6. Matters arising out of the minutes
7. Annual Report of the Council for 2019
8. Audited Statement of Accounts for 2019
9. Appointment of Auditor
10. Resolutions

Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara

Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha

Joint Secretaries

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE SOCIETY
175th YEAR - 2019/2020

Patron

His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena
His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa
Presidents of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

President

Arch. Ashley de Vos., RIBA l (ITPK)., D.Arch (Plym), Arch Cons & Heritage Management (ICCROM & Uni D' Roma)., SLIA, RIBA., Desamanya, Vidya Jyothi, Jathika Uruma Prasada Praname.

Vice Presidents

Prof. (Emeritus.) Kusuma Karunaratne, BA, (Hons) (Ceylon), MA (Essex), PhD (Colombo), D.Litt. (Honoris Causa)
Dr. Malini Dias, BA (Peradeniya), MA (Kelaniya), PhD (London)

Joint Secretaries

Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara MSc (Rom), PGDip. (ICA Cey) PGDip. (BPU), MA (BPU)
Ms. Sandalekha. Lawanya, Ranasingha, BSc (Hons) (Peradeniya), PGDE (Colombo)

Treasurer

Dr. Mallika Karunaratne, BA (Hons.) (Peradeniya), PhD (Kelaniya),
MTCP (Aus) (from January 2019)

Editor

Dr. Wijerathne Bohingamuwa, BA (Banaras), MA (Deccan), MPhil (Cambridge) PhD (Oxon)

Librarian

Mr. Muditha Karunamuni

Asst. Secretary, External Affairs

Dr. Virajini Karunaratne , BA (Hons) (Peradeniya), PG Cert. (UK), PhD, (Moratuwa)

Asst. Editor

Ms Hasula Wickremasinghe BSc (OUSL) MSc (Colombo) PGD in Archaeology (Kelaniya)

Immediate Past President

Dr. Hema Goonatilake (Past President) BA (Hons), PhD (Lond)

Members of the Council

- Eng. Dr. Chandana Jayawardena, BSc Eng (Hons) (Moratuwa), MTech (OUSL), MA (BPU), PhD (Kelaniya) MIET (UK), MIE (SL), CEng.
- Mr. Senaka Weeraratna, LLB (Ceylon), LLM (Monash), Diploma in Buddhist Studies (Kelaniya), MA in Buddhist Studies (Kelaniya), Attorney at Law (Sri Lanka), Barrister and Solicitor (Victoria), Barrister and Solicitor (Northern Territory)
- Ms. Shereen Amendra, FIA, FILA, RIBA, MSc in Architecture (Moratuwa), MSc in Land scape design (Moratuwa)
- Dr. P. G. Punchihewa, BA (Hons) (Ceylon), Dip (Reading), PhD (Sri Jayawardenapura)
- Dr. Seetha I. Wickremasinghe, BSc Sp. (Hons) (Peradeniya), MSc Agric. (Peradeniya), PhD (JNU, New Delhi)
- Mr. W.A. D. I. Wisumperuma, BSc (Colombo), PGD in Archaeology (Kelaniya), MA (Kelaniya)
- Ven. Opanayake Upeksha Dhammadeera Theri, BA (Hons) (Ruh), Royal Pandith (OSS), PGDip (Colombo)
- Mrs. M. K. G. I. Dharmasena BA (Hons) (Colombo), MSSc (Kelaniya), PGDip (Sri Jayewardenepura)
- Mr. Sinha Basnayake, BA, BCL (Ox)
- Mr. Kumara Semage, B.Com (Kolkata) (from July, 2019)
- Ms. Ranjani Malawi Pathirana, BA (Hons) (Ruh), MA (BPU), MPhil (Ruh) (from August 2019)
- Mr. J.D. Anuradha Indika Piyadasa, BSc Eng (Moratwa), MSc (Moratuwa), MSc (PGIAR) (from January 2020)
- Mr. Dineth Mallikarachchy, BSc (Peradeniya), PGDip (PGIAR), MA (PGIAR) (from January 2020)
- Prof. Jayantha Amerasinghe, BA (Peradeniya), MA (Peradeniya), PhD (Rhu) (up to June 2019)
- Com. N. G. A. Fernando (up to January 2020)
- Mr. G. L. Anandalal Nanayakkara, Attorney-at-Law (up to September 2019)
- Ms. N. H. T. Anuruddha, BA (Rhu.) (up to July 2019)
- Mr. Kande Kapuge Ganushka Randula, BA (Hons) (Kelaniya) (up to December 2019)

RESUME

1. **Period:** The report on activities presented here, covers the period April 2019 to March 2020.
2. **Council Meetings:** During the period under review, 12 meetings were held.
3. **Public Lectures:** 7 public lectures were conducted.
4. **Membership:** 11 Life Members, 20 Ordinary Members, 01 Associate Member, No Institutional Members and 02 Student Members were enrolled.
5. **Journal/Newsletters:** Journal Vol. 63, Issue 1 was published and one Newsletter was issued.
6. **Library:** 7 books were purchased, except 83 Hansard reports during the year. 7 Journals were received in exchange. 92 books, and 130 copies of journals were received from 26 donors.

NOTICE OF THE AGM, 2020 OF RASSL

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

NOTICE OF THE AGM, 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka will be held on **Saturday 28th March, 2020 at 3.00 p.m.** at the Auditorium of the Mahaweli Centre, 96, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 07.

RESOLUTIONS

Members who wish to move any Resolutions at the Annual General Meeting should send their Resolutions duly proposed and seconded by two members to reach the Joint Secretaries on or before **12 p.m. on 24th February (Monday) 2020.**

SUBSCRIPTION

In the case of Ordinary Members, ensure that any arrears of subscriptions are paid up to and inclusive of 2020. Only members who are not in arrears will be entitled to Propose, Second and Vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Ms. S. Lawanya Ranasingha
Joint Secretaries
07.02.2020

Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara
Joint Secretary

COUNCIL MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

Council Meetings

12 meetings of the Council were held during the period April 2019 to March 2020. Attendance of Members at these meetings is given below.

Council Members	Present
Archt. Ashley de Vos (President)	11
Prof. Kusuma Karunaratne (Vice President)	11
Dr Malini Dias (Vice President)	12
Dr Hema Goonetilake (Past President)	08
Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara (Joint Secretary)	12
Mrs S. Lawanya Ranasingha ((Joint Secretary)	12
Dr Mallika Karunaratne (Treasurer)	09
Dr Wijerathne Bohingamuwa (Editor)	09
Ms Hasula Wickremasinghe (Asst. Editor)	11
Mr Muditha Karunamuni (Librarian)	09
Dr Virajini Karunaratne (Asst. Sec. Ex. Affairs)	08
Prof. Jayantha Amerasinghe	00
Mr. Senaka Weeraratne	09
Ms. Shereen Amendra	09
Dr. P. G. Punchihewa	07
Com. N. G. A. Fernando	08
Mr. G. L. A. Nanayakkara	01
Eng. Dr. Chandana Jayawardana	09
Dr. Seetha I. Wickremasinghe	11
Mr. W. A. D. I. Wisumperum	09
Mr. Sinha Basnayake	07
Mr. N. H. T. Anuruddha	01
Ven. Opanayake Upeksha Dhammadheera Theri	06
Mrs. M. K. G. I. Dharmasena	09
Mr. Kande Kapuge Ganushka Randula	06
Mr. Kumara Semage	07
Ms. Ranjani Malawi Patirana	02
Mr. J.D. Anuradha Indika Piyadasa	02
Mr. Dineth Mallikarachchy	02

Membership

During the period under review, 11 Resident Life Members, 20 Resident Ordinary Members, 01 Associate Member, 02 Student Member were enrolled.

Condolences

It is with deep regret that we report the passing away of the following Members of the Society during the period under review.

Mrs. Ishvari Corea

Mr. D. G. B. de Silva
Mr. H. Kalubanda
Dr. Roland Silva
Prof. Vini Vitharana
Prof P. L. Premathilake

New Members - approved up to February 2020

(A) Resident Life

Ms. L. G. R. Y. Perera	L/1397
Mr. T. G. K. Wijayawardhana	L/1398
Ms. W. B. Senaratne	L/1399
Ms. S. H. J. C. Amarasinghe	L/1400
Ms. M. P. Ranjani	L/1401
Dr. W. N. J. Senaratne	L/1402
Mr. T.G.K. Wijayawardhana	L/1403
Ms. W. B. Senaratne	L/1404
Ms. U.G.W. Atapattu	L/1405
Ms. S. H. J. C. Amarasinghe	L/1406
Ms. E. H. Kaluarachchi	L/1407

Non Resident Members

None

(B) Ordinary Members

Dr. P. S. Perera	O/416
Dr. K. A. D. Hemasiri Kuruppu	O/417
Mr. U. D. R. S. Thilakarathna	O/418
Mr. S. Z. Razeek	O/419
Mr. Dineth Mallikarachchy	O/420
Mr. N. P. Subasinghe	O/421
Mr. H. W. R. Kumara	O/422
Dr. S. Kaluthotage	O/423
Dr. Darini Rajasingham	O/424
Mr. S.H.U. de Silva	O/425
Mr. R.G.R.P. Malinda	O/426
Mr. C.W. Gunawardane	O/427
Dr. M.A. Dassanayake	O/428
Dr. B.K.M.P. Rodrigo	O/429
Ms. C.B.M.P.D. Weerasekera	O/430
Mr. D.D. Dulshan	O/431
Mr. W.M.C.L. Madushanka	O/432
Dr. H.J.M.B.R. Jayaratne	O/433
Dr. Chandini Perera	O/434
Ms. P.A.Samaratunga	O/435

(C) Institutional Members

None

(D) Associate Members

Mr. B. G. C. B. Gamini Chandrakumar Fernando A/12

(E) Student Members

Ms. A. I. Sathara S/45

Mr. A. M. G. S. Aththanayaka S/46

As at 24th February, 2020, the Society had 1160 Members on roll consisting of a Patron, no Honorary Members, 1085 Resident Life Members, 39 Non-Resident Life Members, 20 Resident Ordinary Members, 11 Associate Members, 02 Student Members and 03 Institutional Members.

Reports of the Standing Committees

Report of the Finance and Administration Committee 2019/2020

From May 2019 to February 19, 2020

10 monthly meetings were held during the period from May 2019 to February 19, 2020.

Attendance of the Finance Committee meeting

1. Archt. Ashley de Vos (President)	10
2. Dr. Mallika Karunaratne (Treasurer)	10
3. Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara (Joint Secretary)	10
4. Ms. S. Lawanya Ranasingha (Joint Secretary)	09
5. Mr. Anandalal Nanayakkara (Up to 19-08-2019)	05
6. Mr. Sinha Basnayaka (From July, 2019)	06
7. Dr. P.G. Punchihewa	03
8. Mr. Kumara Semage	05

- 1. Receipt of the Annual Grant:** LKR One Million
- 2. Enrolment of New Members:** RASSL enrolled. 11 Resident Life Members, 20 Resident Ordinary Members, 01 Associate Member, 02 Student Members
- 3. Requests for information under Right to Information Act:** In response to a request made through the Right to Information Commission for RASSL information, all possible information was made available.
- 4. Court Case:** DSP 55/19, Mr. Prasanna de Zoysa (former RASSL member) Vs. RASSL, Mr. Ashley de Vos, Dr. Chandana Jayawardena, Mr. H. Mahinda Goonesekera, Ms. S. Lawanya Ranasingha, Dr. Hema Goonethilake, Dr. Mallika Karunaratne, Dr. W. Bohingamuwa, Ms. Hasula Wickremasinghe, Dr. Seetha Wickremasinghe, Mr. Sinha Basnayake, Mr. Muditha Karunamuni, Mr. Danesh Wisumperuma, Ms. Dilini Walisundara, Mr. Harsha Soysa, Dr. T.D.N. Perera, Dr. Manathunga Jayawardena. The case is ongoing.
- 5. Request to Increase the Annual Grant:** A request was tabled through the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to the Ministry of Finance to increase the Annual Grant in view of the 175th year Celebrations.
- 6. Website:** The RASSL website was updated and launched on the 7th of February 2020.

Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara
Joint Secretaries
02.03. 2020

Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha

Report of the Library Committee (April 2019 – March 2020)

This report covers the period from April 2019 to March 2020. Seven (7) meetings were held during this period and the attendance of the committee members is as follows:

Prof. Kusuma Karunaratne (Chairperson)	3
Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara (Joint Secretary)	6
Ms Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha (Joint Secretary)	4
Mr Muditha Karunamuni (Librarian)	7
Mr Dhanesh Wisumperuma	6
Mr Senaka Weeraratne	4
Dr Virajini Karunarathna	1
Mr K. K. Ganushka Randula	1

1. RASSL library was recognized as a **member of the Sri Lanka Scientific and Technical Information Network (SLSTINET)** at the SLSTINET Conference 2019 and Annual General Meeting of SLSTINET held on 09.08.2019. Mr. Muditha Karunamuni, the Librarian of RASSL, participated in that event.

2. Collection Development

- The total number of volumes in the Accession register as at 29.02.2020 is 12,776.
- New Acquisitions:
 - Purchased 7 Books for LKR7,635/=.
 - LKR 14,800/= was paid as the subscription of Hansards for the year 2019 and 83 reports were received. (Vol. 267, No. 05, (22-01-2019) to Vol. 275, No. 02, (07-01-2020))
- Journal Collection: Total number of journals received is 7 and the number of active exchange partners is 13 (9 foreign and 4 local)
- Donations: RASSL Library received 92 Books and 130 Journals from 26 Donors (individuals and institutions).

3. Collection Management

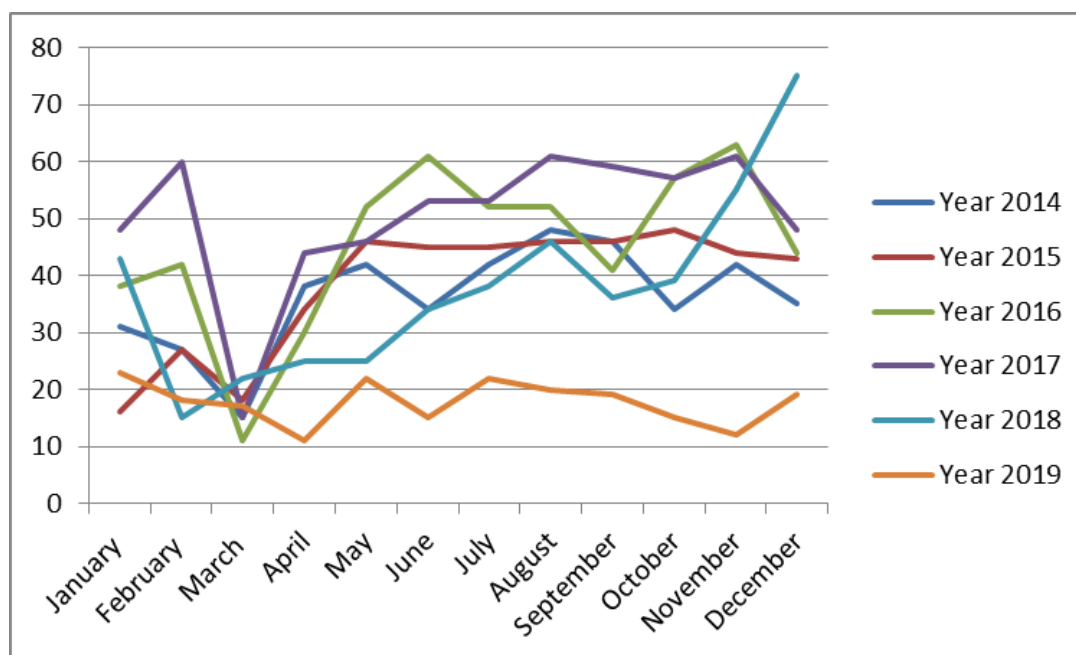
- Special Collections: The Library maintains the collections of R.C. de S. Manukulasuriya, Dr. Lorna Devaraja, Sinha Basnayaka, Bandu de Silva, Kamalika Pieris, Dr. Hema Goonatillake and Ready Reference Collection separated from the main collection. Lorenz collection, Dr. Anthonis collection, McAlpine collection, Buddha Jayanthi Tripitaka collection, Attakatha collection are kept in main library collection. Two loan collections (Dr. Susantha Goonatillake collection and Young Biologists Association collection) are maintained.
- Digital Collection: A collection of ebooks is maintained by the library and it can be accessed by members.

4. Library Income

A total of LKR 15,012 (excluding JSTOR income) has been earned by the services provided by the library, which includes issuing temporary reader passes, photocopying, photographing, scanning, providing printouts and levying library fines.

5. Library Usage

Year	No. of visitors for the year	Average No. of visitors per month
2014	434	36
2015	458	38
2016	543	45
2017	605	50
2018	453	38
2019	213	18



6. List of donors

Mr. Jayantha Aravinda, Mr. Sampath Bandara, Mr. Niranjana Dias Bandaranayake, Mr. SinhaBasnayake, Mr. Deva Michael de Silva, Dr. Raja de Silva, Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara, Dr. Hema Goonatilake, Mr. Eugenia W. Herbert, Mr. Muditha Karunamuni, Dr. Mallika Karunaratne, Ven. Dr. M.S. Kitsudo, Mr. Mahinda de Lanerolle, Mr. Piyasiri Matharage, Mr. Das Miriyagalle, Mr. Mahinda Ralapanawe, Mr. K.K.G.Randula, Mr. Hemantha Situge, Mr. A. Skandaraj, Ms. Dilini C Walisundara, Mr. Susunaga Weeraperuma, Mr. S.K. Weeraratna, Ms. Hasula Wickremasinghe, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, National Science Foundation (NSF), University of Jaffna.

Muditha Karunamuni
 Librarian
 10.03.2020

Report of the Publications Committee April 2019 – March 2020

The Publications Committee held 11 meetings during the period from April 2019 to February 2020, and its composition is given below with the attendance of members.

Attendance

Dr Malini Dias (Chairperson)	11
Dr Wijerathne Bohingamuwa (Editor)	08
Ms Hasula Wickremasinghe (Asst. Editor)	11
Dr Seetha I. Wickremasinghe	11
Archt Shereen Amendra	06
Eng. Dr Chandana Jayawardena	07
Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara (Joint Secretary)	11
Ms S. Lawanya Ranasingha (Joint Secretary)	09
Mr Sinha Basnayake	00
Dr Hema Goonatilake (from October 2019)	04

Publication of the Journal

The following articles will be published in the Journal Vol.63 Issue 2 by March 2020 and made available by the AGM.

- Mechanics and machines in early Sri Lanka: A survey based on the Pali commentaries by Dr Chandana Jayawardena
- Identification of Tombs of Thera Mahinda and Therani Sanghamitta and Location of Padalasa Cetiya by Prof. T. G. Kulatunga.
- Sri Lankan Garnet and Garnet Beads in the Indian Ocean Maritime Trade by Dr Wijerathne Bohingamuwa and Dr Kaushalya Gunasena
- Lightning conductors in ancient Asia: the case of Sri Lankan Stupas by Dr Susantha Goonatilake
- Keynote Text: Archaeology in Sri Lanka: The future by Dr S. U. Deraniyagala

It is hoped to publish Vol. 64 Issue 1 (2019) of the RASSL Journal before the AGM as well. This time too, unavoidable circumstances compelled us to postpone the publication to 2020. The main reason for the delay was the high rate of rejection of articles by reviewers and the difficulty of obtaining fresh articles to fill the gap.

Journal author guidelines, author declaration form and reviewer guidelines were finalized and published in the website.

Journal Fund

The RASSL established the 'Journal Fund' with money received from JSTOR and sale of publications. The purpose of the fund is for the publication of the journal and for purchase of books for the Library.

RASSL Newsletter

The RASSL Newsletter Vol. 19, No. 1 will be published in March 2020 and copies will be circulated among the members.

Public Lectures

Public lectures are organized by the Publications Committee. The Committee was able to conduct eight lectures during the period between April 2019 and February 2020.

The following lectures were arranged by the Publications Committee for 2019/2020.

2019

June	Mr Senaka Weeraratne: Did Japan contribute to Sri Lanka and India gaining independence from British colonial rule?
July	Ven. Maho Gnanaloko Thero: Usefulness of the commentarial tradition of the <i>Tripitaka</i> (in Pali)
August	Dr Priyanka Virajini Medagedara Karunaratne: Power, Politics and Dress Fashion
September	Archd. Shereen Amendra: The Marvellous Mahatupa
October	Dr M. U. A. Tennakoon: Ellangava based tank irrigation for climate resilience
November	Dr Malini Dias: The Emergence of <i>Bhikkhuni Sasana</i> (Order) and its Vicissitudes in Ancient Sri Lanka

2020

January	Ven. Miriswaththe Wimalagnana Thero: The <i>Mahāyāna</i> influence on the Magul Mahā Vihāra
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Public lectures were replaced by a series of commemorative lectures as part of the 175th Anniversary Celebrations. The first commemorative lecture was held in February 2020 on Prof. D. E. Hettiarachchi by Prof. Ratnasiri Arangala

Dr Wijerathne Bohingamuwa

Editor

10.03.2020

Annual Research Conference

2019 Annual Research Conference

Annual Research Conference for the year 2019 was held from 28th to 30th March. Extended abstracts have been called under the main theme of ‘Heritage, Culture and Sri Lankan Society’ with the closing date of 31st December 2018. The inaugural session started at 9.30am, on 28th March at the Auditorium of the Mahaweli Centre. Keynote address was by Mr. Nihal Rodrigo, on the theme ‘Sino-Lanka relations in the context of the Indian Ocean geopolitics and changing pattern of world economy’. This was followed by the guest lecture by Mr. Somasiri Devendra on ‘Sri Lankan Ships in China: What do we know of them?’ The presentations started after inaugural session and continued for seven sessions at three venues.

With the view of enhancing quality of the presentations, extended abstracts have been called for the conference. After the reviews, total of 78 abstracts were selected with the breakdown as History and Archaeology (15), Language and Education (11), Communication and Media (5), Health and Nutrition (13), Science, Technology and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (5), Aesthetics and Social Values (16), Religion and Philosophy (11) and Challenges of Sustainable Development (2).

2020 Annual Research Conference

Annual Research Conference for the year 2020 is now scheduled to be held from 26th to 28th March, 2020. Extended abstracts have been called under the main theme of “Heritage, Culture and Sri Lankan Society”, with the submission closing date of 15th December 2019. Due to the demand, the closing date was further extended up to 15th January 2020. 170 extended abstracts have now been received under the sub themes History and Archaeology, Language and Culture, Communication and Media, Indigenous approach to Health and Well-being, Science, Technology and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Aesthetics and Social Values, Religion and Philosophy, Environment and Biodiversity and RASSL Contributions to Heritage Studies. These are now under the review process for the final acceptance.

Eng. Dr. Chandana Jayawardana
Convener

Constitution Revision Committee (2018-19)

The Council appointed following nine members to the Constitution Revision Committee at the Special Council Meeting held on 7th April 2019. The objective of this Committee was to further revise the draft resolutions to amend RASSL Constitution, prepared by the previous Committee. Mr. Sinha Basnayake was appointed the Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Sinha Basnayake (Chairman of the Committee)

Arch. Ashley de Vos

Eng. H. Mahinda Goonesekara

Ms. S. Lawanya Ranasingha

Dr. Mallika Karunarathna

Mr. Dhanesh Wisumperuma

Mr. Muditha Karunamuni

Mr. Anandalal Nanayakkara

Mr. Senaka Weeraratne

The Committee held 7 meetings between September 2019 and February 2020 and the draft Constitution is under review.

Sinha Basnayake
Chairman

The RASSL 175th Anniversary Celebrations

According to resolution number 3 passed at the 2019 AGM held on 30th March 2019, the 175th Anniversary Committee was appointed by the Council to recommend and plan the anniversary activities. The Committee met three times during the period of this report.

A simple ceremony was held on the 7th of February 2020 in the Council Room of the RASSL to mark the beginning of the 175th year of the RASSL. It commenced with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp and the presentation of commemorative medals to the past Presidents. The medals to Dr Susantha Goonatilake and Dr Hema Goonatilake were presented at this ceremony. The members celebrated the event by partaking a meal of traditional sweetmeats.

Commemorative Medals to Dr C. G. Urugoda and Mr G. P. S. Harish de Silva were presented at their residences by the President.

Under the 175th anniversary activities, the first lecture of the Memorial Lecture Series was held on 24th February 2020. The title was "Professor D.E. Hettiarachchi: National and Academic Contribution" and was delivered by Prof Ratnasiri Arangala.

Study Groups

History of Science and Technology Study Group

Today, the History of Science and Technology (HST) is becoming recognized as an integral part of the whole history of the human civilization; an essential ingredient in development of human culture. The formal study of HST in Sri Lankan context began in the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (RASSL) in the 19th century and continued into the 20th century. These covered some selected themes but were individual efforts and nowhere near the systematic studies in HST done in other Asian countries like India or China. RASSL has taken the initiative in 2012 to form a HST Study Group, with the expectation of fulfilling this gap.

The source materials for all discussions were basically the Buddhist commentaries supplemented by sub commentaries and other literary works compiled in Sri Lanka. There were 37 discussion sessions conducted up to now, covering various aspects of the science and technology and spanning over three and a half years. These sessions were attended by the parties with academic and professional training in science, engineering, humanities and Pāli studies. Discussions in these sessions exposed many hitherto unknown areas in HST in Sri Lankan context. Now, an initiative has started to record the findings of these discussions and publish a series of volumes based on different subjects. Three volumes with the titles “Pāli Commentaries and Sri Lankan Society: An Introductory Note”, “History of Mathematics in Sri Lanka” and “History of Machines and Manufacturing in Sri Lanka” has now been compiled and undergoing the peer reviewing.

Symposium on Common Heritage

The symposium on Common Heritage was held on 30th of November 2019, at the Mahaweli Centre Auditorium with the purpose of raising awareness on the importance of cultural knowledge as a binding factor in fostering national unity among the Sri Lankan people. Four thematic areas were selected focusing on indigenous knowledge and value systems that are effectively representative of the shared heritage of the Sri Lankan people

Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (RASSL)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Year 174

1. **Date and Time :** 30th March 2019 3:00 pm
2. **Attendance:** (Obtained from attendance register)

Dr. T. D. N Perera L/858, Mr. G. L. A. Nanayakkara L/731, Mr. F. Medis L/414, Prof. Mrs. K. E. Karunaratne L/196, Prof. Oliver Abeynayake L/665, Mendis, Dr. D. S. K. L/1096, Dr. Wijaya Samarasinghe L/1396, Mr. S. S. Basnayake L/1259, Mr. N. H. T. Anuruddha L/1386, Mr. H. M. C. Mendis L/1391, , Ms. R. W. Salman L/1303, , Mr. S. T. P. Samarasooriya L/1198, Dr. R. H. De Silva L/603, Mr. M. K. G. I. Dharmasena L/1377, Cdr. N. G. A. Fernando L/804, Lt. Com. S. Devendra L/107, Mr. A. M. P. Amarakoon L/991, Dr. Mrs. S. I. Wickremasinghe L/872, Dr. Susantha Goonatilake L/194, Col. B. Munasinghe L/279, Mrs. R. L. H. R. Wickramasinghe L/973, Prof. J. B. Dissanayake L/208, Prof. Uda Hettige L/635, Mr. K. K. G. Randula L/1368, Mr. W. L. N. Dias L/224, Dr. S. M. Karunaratne L/1110, Mr. H. M. Goonasekara L/1225, Mr. C. A. De Vos L/162, Dr. W. Bohingamuwa L/529, Semage, Mr. S. D. K. L/895, Mr. G. M. C. P. Jayawardana L/1069, Rev. Fr. Dr. X. N. Kurukulasuriya L/460, Mr. S. Lakdusinge L/484, Dr. Mrs. Malini Dias L/626, Mrs. P. V. M. Karunaratne L/920, Prof. A. W. D. Ratnasiri L/456, Ven. Olganwatte Chandasiri Thero L/868, Mr. Jayantha Amarasinghe L/752, Mr. H. V. Situge L/561, Ven. O. U. Dhammadheera L/1387, Ms. S. U. Widyaratne L/939, Ven. Akuratiye Nanda L/834, Ms. P. M. Embuldeniya L/1338, Mr. Sunil Sarath Perera L/852, Mrs. H. K. C. K. Ranaweera L/1049, Ms. Ayesha Abdur Rahman L/999, Dr. P. N. Dasanayake L/1061, Ms. B. J. N. Seneviratne L/1339, Prof. Mrs. R. Paranavitana L/334, Prof. K. D. Paranavitana L/255, Ms. N. S. D. Paranavitana L/543, Dr. I. G. P. R. Kulanatha L/1060, Mr. S. M. Kariyakarawana L/706, Mr. D. G. P. Seneviratne L/576, Ms. W. R. S. Silva L/1256, Mr. W. A. S. P. Wijesinghe L/749, Dr. J. Uyangoda L/338, Amendra, Ms. D. S. T. L/1214, Mr. G. D. Abhayaratna L/473, Mr. S. K. Weeraratne L/1078, Mrs. R. P. D. M. Seneviratne L/1165, Dr. K. Locana Gunaratna L/636, Ms. I. D. Wattuhewa L/1362, Miss. D. C. Walisundara L/1064, Miss. T. Urugodawatta L/519, Karunaratna, Mrs. L. S. L/1287, Mr. G. W. Jayantha Aravinda L/440, Mr. A. M. G. Adikari L/520, Mr. J. Marambe L/415, Mr. E. Ahangama L/1274, Piyadasa, Mr. J. D. A. Indika L/824, Dr. Arjuna Thantilage, L/903, Ven. Ambalantota Chandima Thera L/992, Kulatileka, Mr. S. P. B. L/475, Dr. Ms. A. I. Fernando L/411, Mr. H. F. Rupasinghe L/633, Mr. M. M. Jayawardana L/661, Mrs. Thilaka Randeni Wickramaratne L/827, Dr. Hema Goonatilake L/193, Mr. Deva Michael de Silva L/1393, Eng. Ms. G. B. V. Kamaladasa L/1266, Ms. S. S. M. R. Samarawickrama L/1073, Ms. S. L. Ranasingha L/1278, Mr. W. A. D. I. Wisumperuma L/666, Ven. O. Yasassi Thera L/1295, Dr. A. C. Premaratne L/740, Ven. Kudakathnoruwe Vineetha L/1160, Prof. T. R. G. Dela Bandara L/644, Ven. Nelliwala Meththananda Thero, L/1192, Mr. S. A. Jayampath L/917, Prof. Malani Endagama L/949, Mr. K. N. Manamendra Arachchi L/982, Mr. Muditha Karunamuni L/768, Dr. P. G. Punchihewa L/611, Mr. Tissa Devendra L/547, Mr. N. G. Harendralal Namalgamuwa L/814, Mr. K. A. Mahesh Priyantha L/831, Ms. A. A. Watagedara L/1382, Mr. Sugath Watagedera L/478, Ms. C. M. Dilini A. Liyanage L/1349, Mr. H. A. H. Fonseka L/1374, Mr. H. D. Garusinghe L/1199, Mr. R. P. Ranaweera L/1195, Mr. N. R. Dewasiri L/685, Dr. D. T. R. Gunawardana L/807, Dr. Nadeera Rupasinghe L/792, Ms. Kamalika Pieris L/573

3. President, Arct. Mr. Ashley de Vos, called the meeting to order and requested Jt. Secretary, Mr. H Mahinda Goonesekara to read the notice convening the AGM, and to present the Agenda of the AGM.

4. Excuses

Mr. Harsha Soysa

5. Condolences

The passing away of the following members of the RASSL were mentioned with regret and the meeting observed two-minute silence in their memory,

Mrs. Padma Edirisinghe L/483

Dr. K. D. G. Wimalaratne L/711

Mr. Chris de Saram L/245

Mr. D. G. A. Perera L/213
Mr. Lenin Amarawickrama A/09.

6. Welcome address by the President

Arct. Mr. Ashley de Vos welcomed the meeting and gave the following welcome address.

“Venerable Sirs, Members of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka. There seems to be so many new faces, some I have never seen before, may be you are here for the first time. You are most welcome. It is unfortunate that many of you were not at the research conference, as we had some excellent presentations. As the current President, I would like to recommend that we follow normal procedure and stay with the business as stipulated in the Agenda before you and conclude this meeting in an orderly manner. Thank you.

The RASSL traditionally has contributed to the academic debate in this country and has sponsored and nurtured a great library and an exceptional Journal. The library saw a renewed interest last year. The library was used by 453 researchers with 16 being repeats. The important books that were donated to the library by generous members were hardly used. The RASSL journal has been published regularly a couple of years as twin volumes.

Thank you, Muditha Karunamuni, our energetic Honorary Librarian for reorganizing and rationalizing the library cupboards. Some of the books that had been for decades recorded as missing, have re-surfaced. They had been stored wrongly. However, there are still books missing, some from inception and it is hoped, the good work started will eventually bear fruit and we will be able to close that recurring chapter. The RASSL addressed a couple of manufacturers of glass fronted cupboards to ascertain if it was possible to get cupboards at a concessionary rate. This did not materialize. We still need six glass fronted cupboards.

There has been criticism that no new books have been purchased for the library, even though the council had approved the purchase. That is true, unfortunately, when the little money we had is allocated and distributed over the year, ensuring that staff salaries and statutory payments are met, there is little left to do anything else. This decision to withhold the purchase was approved by council. The annual subscription to the Hansard for the year 2018 was paid and 82 reports received.

You may be aware, that of the 1140 members, only 22 members are required to pay annual subscriptions, of which only one has taken out a subscription for 2019, the rest of the membership consists of 1082 resident life members, who don't pay any subscriptions today.

On the assumption that the membership would be interested in the furtherance of the RASSL and its ideals and they would be willing to contribute towards its wellbeing, armed with this confidence, way back in July 2017, the Council took a policy decision to sell the Journal, instead of giving it free.

It was subsequently decided that, each volume of the 2017 journal should be sold at Rs. 250.00 per copy, this sum would include the cost of postage. Those who collected the journal from the office would contribute the cost of the postage to the RASSL. The selling price of the older copies of the Journal, the special volumes and the price of journals to members residing overseas was also revised.

For example if 1000 life members purchased the journal at Rs. 250.00 a copy, the sale cost of the 2 volumes of the 2017 journal would have generated Rs. 500,000.00, making the RASSL journal as a publication, more viable and sustainable. Eventually it would be supportive of its future publications, with a clear ability to be more generous in the purchase of books.

Traditionally, the journal has been distributed free and as is typical in Sri Lanka, we want everything free to continue forever. While some continued to demand that the journal should be given free forgetting that we are living in a changed world.

However, 58 members purchased Volumes 1 & 2, 3 others purchased Vol 1 and 11 purchased Vol 2. These members who have a genuine interest in the furtherance of the ideals of RASSL, paid for and purchased their copies. The RASSL appreciates and thanks these 72 very special members who supported the ideals of the RASSL.

Danesh Wisumperuma has suggested the establishment of a journal fund. This is an excellent idea and should be pursued. All journal sales and any monetary contributions towards the journal to be deposited with the fund. In fact the Rs. 500,000.00 collection envisaged by sale of the twin issues of the 2017 journal could become the backbone of the journal fund and all future publications of the journal assured and made totally viable. Unfortunately, this was not to be and many copies remain unsold.

Today, Vol 1 of the 2018 journal has been published and is for sale at a nominal price of Rs. 100.00 less than the cost of a standard packet of lunch. As the Council decided to keep the print run low, if all are sold, it would only generate Rs. 40,000.00, totally insufficient to publish Vol 2 of the 2018 journal which is being readied. Please ensure that the RASSL journal stands out as being special and does not become a cheap run of the mill advertising gimmick you see on the news-stands today.

We wrote to numerous Private sector organizations for funds, we had little response, they prefer to pay millions for a one day cricket match than support academia. We wrote to all known book publishers requesting that they donate copies of some of the books they publish to the RASSL library but, we did not even have a reply. They don't want to share their profits with anyone.

The RASSL had a reduced government grant in 2018 and we have requested an enhanced amount for 2019. It is my opinion that the RASSL should generate funds through its own expertise which it has so much of. For example the translation of the *Attakata* series for the Ministry of *Buddhasasana* is a case in point. Our members and the Ministry benefitted. This should be the future and the RASSL should not have to go round begging for funds.

While some would prefer the RASSL to beg for funds, going down to the level of some Charity NGO, to run its day to day affairs, and to even publish the journal. The method envisaged by the sale of the 2 Volumes of the 2018 journal would permit the RASSL to stand tall and publish at will and continue to deliver the journal to its membership at a nominal cost. The life members of the RASSL need to take a greater interest and support the activities of the RASSL, even attend the monthly lecture meetings, in fact very few do, and not just sit back and demand the journal free of cost.

From 2000 to 2018 numerous books have been published internationally completely turning the history of this island upside down. They have all been published in English, mostly diaspora funded and deposited in every library in Europe, America, Canada and Australia. As no one has read or refuted those publications, they will soon form the corpus for all future International research on Sri Lanka. I have been informed that some welcome the distortion as it fits into their concepts and theories of the history of this island.

There is a need for Sri Lankans to start publishing in the English language, so that the correct concepts and historicity of the island are re-established with the international reading world. This is essential especially as, the original works are all being refuted and distorted. The world has to read the new material coming out of the excavations and evolving out of the important fundamental research being conducted and acquire a clear picture of the fantastic history of this small island. A history that is not that of a small island but one that encompasses the whole region. There is a need to refute the spurious publications already in circulation. This is a task of utmost importance.

No one other than a limited number of Sri Lankans read the articles when published in Sinhala. Therefore, as a matter of urgency, all good and valid articles already published in Sinhala should be translated and put out as

books or into international peer reviewed journals. This is an important task that has to be accomplished at your earliest. It is a task the universities should undertake. The RASSL could and should help.

If you don't aggressively publish in an international language, you will not have access to international citations and recognition and your important primary research will remain unknown to the world, buried in the well of incredulity and skepticism that we are creating for ourselves.

The Royal Asiatic Society has snail paced through another year. Meetings that should have taken less than an hour have gone on for hours, without achieving anything. We do not have very much to show for it. This is most unfortunate for, instead of working as a team to carry the Society on its journey, as requested at my first meeting, a few wanted their voices heard and this took too much time and destroyed the momentum of the meetings.

I sat in amazement as I always imagined that the RASSL Council consisted of mature adults, not immature individuals who wanted to have the last word in all affairs.

We wasted a lot of time opening old wounds, battling old issues and personal disagreement. Instead of shedding it all and starting a fresh, we seem to have enjoyed, carrying this garbage from the past with us. We hung on to it in a defeatist display of our own make. A private anger with a few from the past affected and wasted all the time available in the present. It also affected the future. It is easy to criticize but more difficult to achieve.

We see the whole enacted in the Parliament as well. The anger and disappointment with one group by another as inefficient group has held the whole country to ransom at a level of nil achievement for its people.

Instead, we have to work as a team for the institution, please do not destroy it, to desperately satisfy your personal agenda. In the historic past even the Sangha, though totally unproductive in the agricultural field, came together as a team to stand up and fight for the country. Even though there were personal disagreements, it was all put aside and it was always country first. It should be the same for an institution or Society. If one is not interested in the future of the Society then for the sake of the Society, hold back, don't take office and spoil it for those who are interested in upholding its values.

I wish to thank the general council, the joint secretaries and the office staff, Sajeewa, Wijewardena, Lahiruni and more recently Manike for their dedicated service. In fact, we need more staff to run this organization efficiently.

I would be ungrateful if I did not thank Chandana Jayawardana, our vice president who carried the burden of organizing the 12th Annual Research Session for 2019 and for the great work initiated and accomplished in the Science and Technology series that will soon see the light, in three definitive volumes. These volumes that have arisen out of research never done before into primary source material. It will completely change and bring greater respect to this important material hidden in the Ola manuscripts now collecting dust in many of our temples. Thank you Chandana.

As there was an interest, in an attempt to bring scholars closer to primary source material, we had hoped to commence Pali classes but, it did not materialize. It is hoped that the new council will consider this aspect seriously and inaugurate these important classes to help breed a new generation of young Pali scholars who will be able to access hitherto undiscovered primary material for research purposes.

WijeratHna Bohingamuwa took over as Editor and has amid his very busy schedule with the help of Hema Goonatilleke, Seetha Wickremasingha and Hasula Wickremasinghe brought out Vol 1 of the RASSL journal for 2018. They have also collected the necessary articles for Vol 2. in the 2018 series. Thank you for your hard work.

I recently had the good fortune to visit the Kolkata Asiatic Society. The first Asiatic Society to be established anywhere in the world. It is a 100% government funded agency, today, receiving a monthly grant of 3 Million Indian rupees. It has 49 permanent staff members, a collection of over a million manuscripts and books. With in-house experts able to read and decipher all the languages they are written in.

In addition, a conservation lab, a museum, the Society started collecting artefacts very early and a major part from their original collection forms the Kolkata National Museum today. All permanent staff has PhD's in their field of expertise and are specially chosen after a very strict evaluation process, to ensure that they are the best in the field.

The Society owns three buildings of their own. The original headquarters is today a declared national monument and is under the protection of the Department of Archeology. I also met the Secretary of Culture from the Central Government, who informed the Society that he would be willing to allocate any amount of funds that is required, to further enhance the work of the Society. This is the new respect that India is channeling into a cultural renaissance.

Instead, the cultural resources of Sri Lanka get step-motherly treatment. With minuscule budget allocations that are totally inadequate to maintain the cultural heritage of this country. On the other hand, every Ministry sells the culture of this country for its benefit, with no contribution towards its upkeep. If you look around you, everything is to do with culture, what you are, is also part of that culture, and should have the biggest funding; instead, it is being purposely degraded, to keep in line with some of the warped ideas being generated in the west.

In fact, every Ministry should be duty bound to contribute 10% of its annual budget to protect this unique cultural resource of island Sri Lanka. The fickle Tourism enterprise is the worst culprit and with its over the counter free six month visas for foreigners now in force, very soon, many of the important cultural sites will be destroyed due to over visitation and total disrespect. It will also erode primary social values, today deposited and protected in the remote village. Tourists are given free access to imbibe in it as well. If we are not alert, soon, there will be little heritage left to protect.

I am therefore recommending to the next Council, that they should not work for the RASSL alone, but instead for the protection of the total corpus of the cultural resources of this country. It is a unique cultural and ecological experiment and we should protect, preserve and conserve not on the misconception that we are doing it for the world at large, forget the world, but instead because it is ours, and it is the duty of every citizen to stand up and demand the total preservation of this unique cultural heritage. For if we don't, if we don't care for it, no-one else will protect and preserve it for us.

Thank you."

7. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous AGM of the 173rd year, 24th March 2018

Corrections: Dr. Hema Goonetilleke was added to the attendance, repeating Dr. Locana Gunerathne's name in attendance was corrected and excuses were corrected by adding Dr. Susantha Goonetilleke. Correction was done by adding the heading Journal fund on page 26 of the annual report.

After the meeting went through the minutes, the adoption of the Minutes of the Year 173rd was proposed by Dr. T. D. N. Perera and seconded by Ms. Kamalika Peiris

8. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

9. Annual Report of the Council

The president tabled the Annual Report of the council.

10. Matters arising from the annual report

- Mr. H. V. Situge asked who chaired the Publication committee in the absence of the Chairperson the Vice President Prof. Oliver Abeynayake. Dr. Bohingamuwa said the most senior Member in the Publications committee chaired the meeting in the absence of the Vice President Prof. Oliver Abeynayake until the Vice President Mr. Chandana Jaywardena was appointed as the Chairperson.
- Archt. Mr. Ashley de. Vos mentioned that there was no need to advertise for the Journal fund and Dr. Susantha Goonetilake said that the RASSL should find ways of funding for the journal fund other than the donations by members.
- Archt. Mr. Ashley De. Vos said that the attendance for the 2019 Annual Conference was good and many young academics had presented research papers. Dr. Susantha Goonetilake said that he started having an Annual conference 12 years ago to promote the research culture through RASSL.
- Dr. Hema Goonetilake said that giving a training on research in Sri Lankan Universities has to be improved. Ven. Panahaduwe Yasassi Thero said that the research training given by Sri Lankan Universities is quite good but some academics are doing much less research work.

11. Resolutions for the Annual General Meeting

Resolution 1: Code of Conduct

Article 16 (d) of the Constitution to be amended as follows by adding the following as 16 (d) f

“Members shall maintain the decorum of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (RASSL) at all times and shall behave in a professional manner respectful to others in terms of communication and refrain from behaving in a disruptive manner or disturbing the proceedings of the RASSL.”

Proposed: Ashley de Vos (L/162)

Seconded: Dr. S. M. Karunarathne (L/1110)

Rationale: Although occasionally issues may arise before the Council or a Standing Committee on which views of members are divided, it is essential that the language used by members in regard to other members or their proposals should be courteous and respectful, and in keeping with the dignity of the RASSL. Nor should they behave in a manner that obstructs the regular proceedings of those bodies.

Resolution 01 was discussed and Mr. H. V. Situge objected to the resolution 1 and Mr. Somasiri Devendra said there is no reason to object to.

The amendment was adopted.

Resolution 2: Life Membership

Article 11 of the Constitution to be amended as follows, by adding “of good standing” and by replacing “twenty five (25) years” with “five (5) years”.

11. An Ordinary Member of good standing, whether Resident or Non Resident, shall be eligible to be elected a Life Member on the payment of the Annual subscriptions for a continuous period of five (5) years.

The Article 18 and 20 of the Constitution relating to the subscriptions of members to be amended as follows, with effect from 1st April 2019, by replacing “Rs.3000/-” with “Rs.5000/-” and by adding the section “eligible to be elected as a Life Member under Article 11”

18. Every applicant for membership shall pay in advance an entrance fee of Rs.250/-, together with Rs.1000/- as subscription in advance for the year of his/her enrolment; and the Life Members eligible to be elected as a Life Member under Article 11, shall pay in advance the full life membership fee of Rs.5,000/- along with the entrance fee Rs.250/-. Ordinary Members on being elected shall pay an annual subscription of Rs.1000/- for every subsequent year or part thereof during which he/she remains a member.

20. The entrance fees and subscriptions applicable to the different categories of Members shall be as follows:

Category	Entrance Fee	Life Subscription
Life (Resident)	Rs.250/-	Rs.5000/-
Life (Non-Resident)	\$ 10/- *	\$ 200/-*
Associate	Rs.250/-	Rs.3000/-

	Entrance Fee	Annual Subscription
Ordinary (Resident)	Rs.250/-	Rs.1000/-
Ordinary (Non-Resident)	\$ 10/-*	\$ 50/-*
Institutional (Sri Lankan)	Rs.250/-	Rs.5000/-
Institutional (Foreign)	\$ 10/-*	\$ 50/-*
Student	n/a	Rs.100/-

(* payable in US Dollars or its equivalent in Sri Lanka Rupees)

Proposed by: Arct.Ashley de Vos (L/162)

Seconded by: H. Mahinda Goonsekera (L/1225)

Rationale: It is generally accepted that the fee of Rs.3000/- now charged by the RASSL for Life Membership is too low, and not in accord with the charges of peer organizations for Life Membership

Resolution 02 was discussed. Mr. de Vos briefly described the need of the amendment, as the current life membership fee being low.

Mr. Anandalal Nanayakkara pointed out those problems of provisions in the RASSL constitution regarding the admission of Life members directly, could be cleared by this amendment. He also proposed to correct the wording of the amendment by removing the word “life” and “along with entrance fee Rs. 250/-” from the Article 18.

Mr. Somasiri Devendra queried whether the new amendment is applicable to the current Life Members and the floor agreed that that this new amendment is in force for members applying for membership after 1st April 2019. It was also pointed out that the ordinary members who had already completed 5 years as an ordinary member can apply for the Life membership.

Dr. Susantha Goonetilleke objected to increasing the life membership fees.

The amended resolution with the above suggested corrections was proposed by Mr. Anandalal Nanayakkara and seconded by Mr. Somasiri Devendra was adopted.

“11. An Ordinary Member of good standing, whether Resident or Non Resident, shall be eligible to be elected a Life Member on the payment of the Annual subscriptions for a continuous period of five (5) years.”

18. Every applicant for membership shall pay in advance an entrance fee of Rs.250/-, together with Rs.1000/- as subscription in advance for the year of his enrolment; and the Members eligible to be elected as a Life Member under Article 11, shall pay in advance the full life membership fee of Rs.5,000/-. Ordinary Members on being elected shall pay an annual subscription of Rs.1000/- for every subsequent year or part thereof during which he remains a member.

20. The entrance fees and subscriptions applicable to the different categories of Members shall be as follows:

Category	Entrance Fee	Life Subscription
Life (Resident)	n/a	Rs.5000/-
Life (Non-Resident)	\$ 10/- *	\$ 200/-*
Associate	Rs.250/-	Rs.3000/-

	Entrance Fee	Annual Subscription
Ordinary (Resident)	Rs.250/-	Rs.1000/-
Ordinary (Non-Resident)	\$ 10/-*	\$ 50/-*
Institutional (Sri Lankan)	Rs.250/-	Rs.5000/-
Institutional (Foreign)	\$ 10/-*	\$ 50/-*
Student	n/a	Rs.100/-

(* payable in US Dollars or its equivalent in Sri Lanka Rupees)”

Resolution 3: Celebrating 175th Anniversary of RASSL

Established in 1845, the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka completes its 175th year in 2020. It is proposed to delegate power to the Council elected in this Annual General Meeting to take appropriate action to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka including the following activities;

- 1). Conducting an appropriate celebration for the 175th year anniversary
- 2). Compilation of a book on the 175 year history of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka
- 3). Appointing a special editorial board for the compilation of the history book, as mentioned above
- 4). Conducting a memorial lecture series and printing a special issue of the journal containing those lectures
- 5). Issuing a special number of the Journal of the Society based on a selected theme
- 6). Taking steps to issue a commemorative stamp by the Department of Posts
- 7). Taking steps to issue a commemorative coin or token by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka
- 8). Reprinting of important journal articles and other publications published by the Society

Proposed by: Muditha Karunamuni (L/768)
Seconded by: W.A.D.I. Wisumperuma (L/666)

Resolution 03 was discussed and Mr. H A.H. Fonseka proposed to appoint a committee to celebrate the 175th Anniversary.

Mr. Senaka Weeraratne proposed to add selected articles of the past RASSL journal volumes.

Ms. T. Urugodawatta proposed to publish the special journal in all three languages used in Sri Lanka.

The resolution 03 was adopted unanimously

12. Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018.

The audited statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018 as annexed to the Annual Report was presented by the Treasurer, Dr. Mallika Karunaratne. The Audit statements were approved by the committee.

13. Election of Auditors

Messrs JAYASINGHA & COMPANY was reappointed as auditors to audit the accounts as proposed by Dr. Susantha Goonetilleke and seconded by Dr. Locana Guneratne

14. Election of office bearers and council members for 174th and 175th Council

The President read the list of nominations recommended valid by the council for the 174th and 175th Councils. Dr. Locana Guneratne was appointed by the house to chair the election of office bearers and Council members.

The ballot papers were given to the members separately for each post and the election was carried out and the results were counted.

Election of President

Valid nominations for the post of president

Post Applied For	Name/s of Nominee/s
President	Ashley de Vos L/162 (57 votes)
	Prof. Ratnasiri Arangala L/456 (44 votes)

Mr. Ashley De Vos was elected as the President receiving the highest number of votes.

Election of two Vice Presidents

Valid nominations for the two posts of Vice presidents

Post Applied For	Name/s of Nominee/s
Vice Presidents (Two Vacancies)	Frederick Medis L/414 (36 votes)
	Prof. Kusuma Karunaratne L/196 (66 votes)
	Dr. Malini Dias (64 votes) L/626

Prof. Kusuma Karunaratne, and Dr. Malini Dias were elected as Vice Presidents receiving the highest number of votes.

Election of two Jt. Secretaries

Valid nominations for the posts of two Jt. Secretaries.

Post Applied For	Name/s of Nominee/s
Joint Secretaries (Two Vacancies)	Dilini Chamali. Walisundera L/1064 (43 votes)
	H. Mahinda Goonasekera L/1225 (52 votes)
	Ven. Dr. Panahaduwe Yasassi Thera L/1065 (27 votes)
	S. Lawanya Ranasingha L/1278 (62 votes)

H. Mahinda Goonasekera and S. Lawanya Ranasingha were elected as Jt Secretaries receiving the highest number of votes.

Election of Assistant. Secretary. External. Affairs.

Since no nominations had been received the post the House was asked to propose suitable members. Ms. Lokeshwari S. Karunaratne proposed Dr. Virajini Karunanayake for the post of Secretary, External Affairs and it was seconded by Mr. H.V. Situge. Ms. Ramla Wahab Salman was proposed for the post by Ms. Ayesha Abdur Rahman and seconded by Dr. Susantha Goonetilleke. An election was held. Dr. Virajini Karunanayake who obtained 57 votes was elected while Ms. Ramla Wahab received 24 votes.

Election of Treasurer

Valid nominations for the posts of Treasurer.

Post Applied For	Name/s of Nominee/s
Treasurer (One Vacancy)	Dr. Mallika Karunaratne L/1110
	Ven. Prof. M. Wijithadhamma Thera L/1008 (absent)

Since Ven. Prof. M. Wijithadhamma Thera was absent for the AGM Dr. Mallika Karunaratne was elected as the Treasurer.

Election of Librarian

Valid nominations for the post of Librarian

Post Applied For	Name/s of Nominee/s
Librarian (One Vacancy)	Hemantha Vibushana Situge L/561 (31 votes)
	Muditha Karunamuni L/768 (67 votes)

Muditha Karunamuni was elected as the Librarian receiving the highest number of votes.

Election of Editor

Valid nominations for the post of Editor.

Post Applied For	Name/s of Nominee/s
Editor (One Vacancy)	Dr. S. S. M. R. Samarawickrama L/1073 (30 votes)
	Dr. Wijerathne Bohingamuwa L/529 (68 votes)

Dr. Wijerathne Bohingamuwa was elected as the Editor receiving highest number of votes.

Election of Assistant Editor

Valid nominations for the post of Assistant Editor.

Post Applied For	Name/s of Nominee/s
Asst. Editor (One Vacancy)	Hasula Wickramasinghe L/973 (57 votes)
	Dr. I. G. P. R. Kulanatha L/1060 (35 votes)

At the election time when the name of Dr. I. G. P. R. Kulanatha came up with the prefix "Dr" .Dr Susantha Goonatilake asked whether the title was a medical degree or an academic title. At this stage Mr. Somasiri Devendra intervened and wanted the question not answered. Dr. Goonetilake said since RASSL is an academic organization it is required to know the qualifications of proposed names for the Assistant Editor"

Ms. Hasula Wickremasinghe was elected as the Asst. Editor receiving the highest number of votes

Election of Council Members (Category of above two years of membership in the society)

The chairperson of the elections read out the letter sent by Mr. Harsha Soysa that he was withdrawing his nominations. It was reported that Dr. A. M. N. W. Mendis, S. D. N. Dharmaratne, Dr. Gamini Ranasinghe, Dr. Subangi M. K. Herath, Ve n. Dhambara Amila Thera, Dr. M. U. A. Tennakoon, Pro. P. Mandawala, Ven. Hegoda Vipassi Thera, Dr. G. S. Wijesooriya, Prof. K. N. O. Dharmadasa and U. N. K. Ratnayake were absent and therefore it was announced that their nominations were invalid for the election.

Valid nominations for the posts of Council members (Category of above two years of membership in the society).

Post Applied For	Name/s of Nominee/s
Council Members (Category of above 2 years of Membership in the Society) (Ten Vacancies)	Prof. Jayantha Amerasinghe L/752 (47 votes)
	Senaka Weeraratna L/1078 (37 votes)
	Shereen Amendra L/1214 (33 votes)
	Jimmy Marabe L/415 (29 votes)
	Dr. P. G. Punchihewa L/611(45 votes)
	Com. N. G. A. Fernando L/804 (35 votes)
	Prof. Anoja Fernando L/411 (31 votes)
	G. L. Anandalal Nanayakkara L/731(34 votes)

	G. W. Jayantha Aravinda L/440 (28 votes)
	Chandana Jayawardena L/1069 (55 votes)
	Dr. D. S. K. Mendis L/1096 (15 votes)
	Dr. Seetha I. Wickremasinghe L/872 (42 votes)
	W. A. Dhanesh I. Wisumperuma L/666 (59 votes)
	Srinath Sinha Basnayake L/1259 (41 votes)
	Lokeshwari S. Karunaratne L/1287 (33 votes)

Prof. Jayantha Amerasinghe, Senaka Weeraratna, Dr. P. G. Punchihewa, Com. N. G. A. Fernando, G. L. Anandalal Nanayakkara, Chandana Jayawardena, Dr. Seetha I. Wickremasinghe, W. A. Dhanesh I. Wisumperuma, Srinath Sinha Basnayake were elected as Council members under the category of above two years of Society membership receiving the highest number of votes.

Since Ms Shereen Amendra (33 votes) and Lokeshwari S. Karunaratne (33 votes) received same number of votes another election was held. Ms. Shereen Amendra was elected as a Council member under the category of above two years of Society membership receiving the highest number of votes at the second election.

Following nominees who were absent and excused also had received the votes mentioned within brackets: Dr. A. M. N. W. Mendis L/1075 (16 votes), W. H. W. Soysa L/1156 (excused) (7 votes), S. D. N. Dharmaratne L/656 (8 votes), Dr. Gamini Ranasinghe L/1103 (23 votes), Dr. Subangi M. K. Herath L/678 (20 votes), Ven. Dhambara Amila Thera L/690 (7 votes), Dr. M. U. A. Tennakoon L/1093 (15 votes), Prof. Prashantha Bandula Mandawala L/1301 (14 votes), Ven. Hegoda Vipassi Thera L/1044 (18 votes), Dr. G. S. Wijesooriya L/288 (21 votes), Prof. K. N. O. Dharmadasa L/1117 (35 votes) and U. N. K. Ratnayake L/873 (05 votes)

Election of Council Members (Category of less than two years of membership in the society)

It was reported that Vishakha Sooriyabandara and M. S. Samarasekera were absent and therefore it was announced that their nominations were invalid for the election

Valid nominations for the posts of Council Members (Category of less than two years of membership in the society).

Post Applied For	Name/s of Nominee/s
Council Members (Category of below 2 years of Membership in the Society) (Four Vacancies)	N. H. T. Anuruddha L/1386 (48 votes)
	Ven. Opanayake Upeksha Dhammadeera Theri L/1387 (52 votes)
	M. K. G. I. Dharmasena L/1377 (37 votes)
	I. D. Wathuhewa L/1362 (34 votes)
	Kanda. Kapuge. Ganushka Randula L/1368 (57 votes)

N. H. T. Anuruddha, M. K. G. I. Dharmasena, Ven. Opanayake Upeksha Dhammadeera Kanda. Kapuge. Ganushka Randula were elected as Council Members (Category of less than two years of membership in the society) receiving the highest number of votes.

Following nominees who were absent and excused also had received the votes mentioned within brackets: Vishakha Sooriyabandara L/1316 (25 votes) and M. S. Samarasekera L/1371 (15 votes).

The president thanked the members for their presence and invited the members for refreshments
The meeting concluded at 6:05 pm.

Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha
Jt. Secretaries
24th April 2019

Eng. H. Mahinda Goonesekera

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 01

The subscription fee payable by Associate Members is amended in Article 20 as follows, changing the Associate membership to a type of membership paying an annual subscription. This amendment is applicable to those who obtain Associate Membership after 29.03.2020.

20. The entrance fees and subscriptions applicable to the different categories of Members shall be as follows:

Membership Category	Entrance Fee	Life Subscription
Life (Resident)	-	Rs. 5000/-
Life (Non-Resident)	\$ 10/- *	\$ 200/-*
	Entrance Fee	Annual Subscription
Ordinary (Resident)	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 1000/-
Ordinary (Non-Resident)	\$ 10/-*	\$ 50/-*
Associate	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 500/-
Institutional (Sri Lankan)	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 5000/-
Institutional (Foreign)	\$ 10/-*	\$ 50/-*
Student	n/a	Rs. 100/-

(*payable in US Dollars or its equivalent in Sri Lanka Rupees)

Rationale: With the resolution passed at the AGM 2019, persons with relevant educational qualifications and seeking the Membership of the Society can now obtain Life Membership only after being an Ordinary Member for 5 years. However, Associate members, who, to become Members, and do not have higher education qualifications such as for the Ordinary Members, are able to obtain a life membership for a fee of Rs. 3,000/=.

To solve this anomaly, Associate Membership is made a type of Membership paying an Annual Subscription, without the privilege of becoming Life Members. It is hoped that the lower Annual Subscription of Rs. 500/- (as compared to the annual subscription of Rs. 1000/- for Ordinary Members) will encourage more persons who do not qualify for Ordinary Membership but have an interest in the Objects of the Society to obtain Associate Membership.

Proposed by Mr. Dhanesh Wisumperuma and Seconded by Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara at the Council meeting held on 24th February 2020.