



Founded 1845

**ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY
OF
SRI LANKA**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL
for 2021/2022
177th Year**

Please have this Report at the Annual General Meeting.
Ordinary Members who are in arrears of annual subscriptions up
to and including 2022 are kindly reminded to update payments.
Failure will debar them from participation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the support extended to the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (RASSL) by the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Patron of the Society.

We also offer our sincere thanks to the State Ministry of National Heritage, Performing Arts and Rural Arts Promotion for its contribution by way of an Annual Grant for 2021, and look forward to its continued co-operation and support in the future.

Dr. Mallika Karunaratne
Joint Secretaries
20.03.2022

Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha

CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgements	01
Contents	02
Agenda	03
Office Bearers, 2021/2022, 177 th year	04
Resume	06
Notice of the AGM, 2022	07
Council Meetings and Membership	08
Standing Committee and other Reports	10
i. Finance and Administration Committee	10
ii. Library Committee	11
iii. Publications Committee	14
iv. 14 th Annual Research Conference – 2022	16
v. Constitution Revision Committee	16
vi. Study Groups	16
vii. RASSL 175 th Anniversary Celebrations-Memorial Lectures	16
viii. Programmes to Outreach General Public	17
Minutes of the AGM of 176 th year, 28 th March 2021	18
Resolutions	28

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka will be held on **Sunday, 27th March 2022 commencing at 10.00 a.m. online**

AGENDA

1. Notice of the Meeting
2. Excuses
3. Condolences
4. Welcome Address by the President of the RASSL
5. Reading and Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM held on 28th March 2021
6. Matters arising out of the Minutes
7. Reading and Adoption of the Annual Report of the Council for the previous year 2021
8. Reading and Adoption of the Audited Statement of Accounts of the Society for the year 2021
9. Election of the Auditor
10. Resolutions
11. Unauthorized occupancy of RASSL premises by the Mahaweli Centre

Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha
Dr. Mallika Karunaratne
Hony. Joint Secretaries

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE SOCIETY 177th YEAR - 2021/2022

Patron

His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa
President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

President

Dr. Malini Dias, BA (Peradeniya), MA (Kelaniya), PhD (London)

Vice Presidents

Eng. Dr. Chandana Jayawardena, BSc Eng (Hons) (Moratuwa), MTech (OUSL), MA (BPU), PhD (BPU) MIET (UK), MIE (SL), CEng.

Dr. Seetha I. Wickremasinghe, BSc Sp. (Hons) (Peradeniya), MSc Agric. (Peradeniya), PhD (JNU, New Delhi)

Immediate Past President

Archt. Ashley de Vos, RIBA.1 (IPTK), DArch (Ply), Con. & Herit. Man (ICCROM, UniD'Roma), FSIA, RIBA (Deshamanya, Vidya Jyothi, Jathika Uruma Prasada Pranama)

Joint Secretaries

Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha, BSc (Hons) (Peradeniya), PGDE (Colombo)

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

Treasurer

Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara, MSc (Rom), PGDip. (ICA Cey) PGDip. (BPU), MA (BPU)

Librarian

Vidya Jyothi Prof. Nimal De Silva, BSc (BE.), MSc (Archt.), DSc, RIBA, FDLIA, SLILA, SLIID, FSLCA, PGD ARTCON (ICCROM)

Editor

Dr. Wijerathne Bohingamuwa, BA (Banaras), MA (Deccan), MPhil (Cambridge) PhD (Oxford), FSLCA, FCCS

Asst. Editor

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

Asst. Secretary, External Affairs

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

Members of the Council

Dr. Susantha Goonatilake, BSc (Eng.) (Cey.), AMIEE (Lond), BA (Soc.) (Cey.), MA, PhD (Exeter), Fellow, World Academy of Arts and Sciences

Mr. W.A. D. I. Wisumperuma, BSc (Colombo), PGD in Archaeology (Kelaniya), MA (Kelaniya)

Senior Prof. Anura Manatunga, BA (Kelaniya), MA (Poona), MSc (Kelaniya), FSLCA

Mr. Muditha Karunamuni

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)

Eng. J. D. Anuradha Indika Piyadasa, BSc Eng (Moratuwa), MSc (Moratuwa), MSc (PGIAR)

Mr. Kumara Semage, BCom (Kolkata)

Prof. Prashantha B. Mandawala, BSc (Moratuwa), MSc (Moratuwa), MA (York,), PGDip (IHS), ARC98 (ICCRUM), AIA (SL), FSLCA, MICOMOS (SL), MSLAAS

Archit./L.Arct. Ms. Shereen Amendra, FIA, FILA, RIBA, MSc in Archt. (Moratuwa), MSc in L.Arct. (Moratuwa)

Mrs. M. K. G. I. Dharmasena BA (Hons) (Colombo), MSSc (Kelaniya), PGDip (Sri Jayawardenapura)

Ms. Priyani Balasooriya, BA (Kelaniya), Dip in Management (OUSL), DLIS (SLLA), PGDE (Peradeniya), MA (Kelaniya), FSLLA

Ms. Ranjani Malawi Pathirana, BA (Hons) (Ruhuna), MA (BPU), MPhil (Ruhuna)

Mr. Dineth Mallikarachchy, BSc (Peradeniya), PGD in Archaeology (PGIAR), MA (PGIAR)

RESUME

1. **Period:** The report on activities presented here, covers the period April 2021 to March 2022.
2. **Council Meetings:** During the period under review, 8 meetings were held.
3. **Public Lectures:** 4 Memorial lectures and 3 public lectures were held.
4. **Membership:** 30 Ordinary Members and 01 Student Member were enrolled.
5. **Journal/Newsletters:** Journal Vol. 64, Issue II is in print and one Newsletter Vol. 20, No. 1 (Dec. 2021) is ready for circulation.
6. **Library:** 1 book was purchased. 21 Journals were received in exchange. 22 books, and 41 copies of journals were received from 9 donors. The Library Newsletter No. 8 is ready for circulation.

NOTICE OF THE 177th AGM OF RASSL, 2022

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka will be held on Sunday 27th March 2022 at 10.00 a.m. virtually. The link for the virtual meeting will be available on the RASSL website and also be emailed to the members in due course.

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 (Thursday) 2022.

SUBSCRIPTION

In the case of Ordinary Members, ensure that any arrears of subscriptions are paid up to and inclusive of 2022. Members who are not in arrears will only be entitled to Propose, Second and Vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Those who do not receive RASSL emails please send us your email addresses to rassrilanka@gmail.com with your name and membership number.

Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha

Dr. Mallika Karunaratne

Hony. Joint Secretaries

06.02.2022

COUNCIL MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

Council Meetings

Eight (8) meetings (both virtual and physical) of the Council were held during the period April 2021 to March 2022. Attendance of Members at these meetings is given below.

Council Members	Present
Dr. Malini Dias (President)	8
Eng. Dr. Chandana Jayawardena (Vice President)	8
Dr. Seetha I. Wickremasinghe (Vice President)	7
Arch. Ashley De Vos (Immediate Past President)	6
Ms. S. Lawanya Ranasingha (Joint Sec.)	8
Dr. Mallika Karunaratne (Joint Sec.)	8
Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara (Treasurer)	8
Prof. T.K. Nimal P. de Silva (Librarian)	6
Dr. Wijerathne Bohingamuwa (Editor)	6
Ms. Hasula Wickremasinghe (Asst. Editor)	8
Prof. Virajini Karunaratna (Asst. Sec. Ex. Affairs)	6
Dr. Susantha Goonatilake	7
Mr. W. A. Dhanesh I. Wisumperuma	8
Senior Prof. Anura Manatunga	5
Mr. Muditha Karunamuni	8
Mr. Senaka Weeraratna	8
Mr. Anuradha I. Piyadasa	5
Mr. Sri Deva Kumara Semage	6
Prof. Prashantha B. Mandawala	7
Arch./ L.Arct. Shereen Amendra	8
Ms. M. K. G. I. Dharmasena	7
Ms. Priyani Balasooriya	5
Ms. Ranjani Malawi Pathirana	6
Mr. Dineth Mallikarachchy	7

Membership

During the period under review, 30 Resident Ordinary Members and 01 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.

Dr. S. U. Deraniyagala
Mr. Asoka Gunasekera

New Members - approved up to March 2022

(A) Ordinary Members

Mr. S. S. Kuruwita	O/441
Mr. W. M. M. G. D. Wijekoon	O/442
Ms. A. K. Sithani Jayatissa	O/443

Ms. D. M. K. G. K. Dissanayake	O/444
Ms. B. K. D. Madubhashini	O/445
Mr. K. M. B. N. Konara	O/446
Mr. W. K. M. Wijayarathna	O/447
Mr. W. D. D. K. Wanasinghe	O/448
Mr. G. A. M. S. B. Gangodattenne	O/449
Mr. K. G. Wickrema	O/450
Mr. Sujan Nanayakkara	O/451
Mr. G. A. A. N. Srishan	O/452
Dr. S. R. Hulathduwa	O/453
Ms. M. A. M. Damayanthi	O/454
Ms. S. D. Y. Jayarathne	O/455
Dr. K. L. Fernando	O/456
Mr. G. M. S. V. Aponsu	O/457
Ven. G. Nanda	O/458
Ms. C. M. S. Jayamanna	O/459
Mr. Ruwan Jayasinghe	O/460
Mr. W. T. D. Wijethunga	O/461
Dr. J. B. Pathirage	O/462
Prof. W. D. Chandima Wijebandara	O/463
Ms. A. M. Ondaatjie	O/464
Dr. P. Udagedara	O/465
Ms. Ruchira Wickramasinghe	O/466
Ms. N. T. Wijegoonewardene	O/467
Mr. W.D.T. Tilakaratne	O/468
Ms. S.C. Munasinghe	O/469
Mr. D.D. Mahesh	O/470

(B) Student Members

Ms. K. A. I. Weerasinghe	S/47
--------------------------	------

As at 20th March, 2022, the Society has 1185 Members on roll consisting of Honorary Members - none, 1081 Resident Life Members, 39 Non-Resident Life Members, 51 Resident Ordinary Members, 12 Associate Members, 1 Student Member and 3 Institutional Members.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Report of the Finance and Administration Committee (April 2021 to March 2022)

Four (4) monthly meetings were held during the period from April 2021 to March 2022. Attendance of the Finance Committee meeting:

Dr. Malini Dias (Hony. President)	04
Archd. Ashley de Vos (Hony. Immediate Past President)	03
Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara (Hony. Treasurer)	04
Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha (Hony. Joint Secretary)	04
Dr. Mallika Karunaratne (Hony. Joint Secretary)	04
Mr. Muditha Karunamuni	04
Mr. Kumara Semage	03
Ms. M. K. G. I. Dharmasena	04
Mr. Dineth Mallikarachchy	04

- 1. Annual Grant:** LKR One Million has been received for the year 2021. An enhanced allocation for the year 2022 has been requested from the State Ministry of National Heritage, Performing Arts and Rural Arts Promotion
- 2. Enrolment of New Members:** RASSL enrolled- Resident Life Members -none, Non-Resident Life Members -none, Resident Ordinary Members-30, Associate Member- none, Institutional Member- none, Student Members-01
- 2. Encroachment by the Mahaweli Centre:** The Mahaweli Centre has set up a store room on the premises of RASSL, i.e. lobby area, disregarding the objections made by the RASSL. The RASSL conveyed its opposition to the store room to the Mahaweli Authority and the Ministry of Irrigation. Consequently, a meeting was held with the Mahaweli Authority and it was decided that both RASSL and Mahaweli Authority enter in to a Memorandum of Understanding in respect to on how the building and the land should be utilized.
- 3. Court Case:** DSP 55/19, Mr. Prasanna de Zoysa (former RASSL member) Vs. RASSL, Mr. Ashley de Vos, Dr. Chandana Jayawardana, Mr H. Mahinda Goonasekara, Ms. S. Lawanya Ranasingha, Dr. Hema Goonethilake Dr. Mallika Karunaratne, Dr. W. Bohingamuwa, Ms Hasula Wickramasinghe, Dr. Seetha Wickremasinghe, Mr Sinha Basnayake, Mr. Muditha Karunamuni, Mr. Dhanesh Wisumperuma, Ms. Dilini Walisundara, Mr. Harsha Soysa, Dr. T. D. N. Perera, Dr. Manathunga Jayawardana is ongoing.

Dr. Mallika Karunaratne
Ranasingha
Joint Secretaries
20.03.2022

Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya

Report of the Library Committee (April 2021 to March 2022)

This report covers the period from April 2021 to March 2022.

RASSL Library Committee meetings were not held physically during this period, due to the pandemic of COVID-19. Four online meetings were held.

Library committee is as follow.

Member	Attendance
Prof. Nimal de Silva (Hony. Librarian – Convener)	4
Dr. Chandana Jayawardana (Hony. Vice President-Chairperson)	4
Dr. Mallika Karunaratne (Hony. Jt. Secretary)	2
Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekara (Hony. Treasurer)	4
Ms. Sandhalekha Lawanya Ranasingha (Hony. Jt. Secretary)	4
Dr. Virajini Karunaratne (Hony. Asst. Sec. Ex. Affairs)	4
Mr. Muditha Karunamuni (Hony. Council Member)	2
Mr. Dhanesh I. Wisumperuma (Hony. Council Member)	4
Mr. Anuradha I. Piyadasa (Hony. Council Member)	2
Ms. Priyani Balasooriya (Hony. Council Member)	4

1. Collection Development

- The total number of volumes in the accession register as at 10.03.2022 is 12,933. This includes books purchased, donated and books in collections. Although Rs. 30,000/= is allocated for purchasing books during the year, it was not fully used due to the difficult financial situation of the Society.
- New Acquisitions:
 - 1 book was purchased worth Rs. 720/= during the reporting period.
 - Journal Collection: Total number of journals received in exchange is 21 and the number of active exchange partners is 10 (9 foreign and 1 local). The pandemic situation has caused a delay in publishing and delivering journals of some of the partners as reported by some of the partners.
 - Donations: RASSL Library received 22 Books and 41 journals from 9 donors (Individuals and Institutions).

2. Collection Management

- Special Collections: Following collections are maintained as Special Collections.
 - Collections separated from the main collection
 1. RASSL Publications Collection
 2. R.C. de.S. Manukulasuriya Collection
 3. Dr. Lorna Devaraja Collection
 4. Sinha Basnayaka Collection
 5. Bandu de Silva Collection
 6. Kamalika Pieris Collection
 7. Dr. Hema Goonatilake Collection
 8. D.T. Devendra Archival Collection
 9. Ready Reference Collection
 - Collections kept in the main library
 1. Dr. Anthonis Collection
 2. McAlpine Collection

3. Buddha Jayanthi Tripitaka Collection
 4. Attakatha Collection
- Loan collections
 1. Dr. Susantha Goonathilake Collection
 2. Young Biologist Association Collection
- Accession Registers updated: 23 books were entered in the Accession Register and 62 journals were entered in the Journal Register.
 - Catalogues: During the period the Library was closed, the Assistant Librarian converted the catalogue to a format (Excel) that could be used to add it to the Society website. The aim of this was to facilitate the readers to access the catalogue remotely. The catalogue will be available in two separate online catalogues, one of which is already available on website.
 1. JRASSL Article Index (1845-2019) – The journal article index that was available on Purna Catalogue contained details of 1119 JRASSL articles published up to 2007. The new article index contains articles up to 2019 and the number of articles has increased up to 1258 with the addition of 139 articles. The articles were checked with the two printed indexes (M.B. Ariyapala Index covering 1845-1989 and G.P.S.H. de Silva index covering 1989-1999), for missing articles. The JRASSL Article Catalogue was uploaded to the Society website in January 2022 and available from the Library dropdown menu on the Society website.

Direct link - <https://www.royalasiaticsociety.lk/raslib/RasjournalarticlesList>

2. Book Catalogue – Converting this catalogue was commenced in July 2021. Mr. Anusha Yapa, service provider for Purna Cataloguing software, volunteered to convert details of the total 12,000 volumes in Excel format suitable for the website and also to upgrade the PURNA Catalogue. The book catalogue was uploaded to the Society website in March 2022 and available from the Library dropdown menu on the Society website.
- The Journal Inventory: This was computerized and it is being updated with details of the existing volumes. The existing card catalogue of Journals will be updated using this information.
 - Digital Collection: A Collection of e books is maintained by the library and members can access those at the Library.
 - The RASSL Library Newsletter: Volume No. 8 (February 2022) of the e-newsletter was ready to issue.

3. Library Usage

- **Physical use**

The Library, which was closed for members due to the second wave of the pandemic for members since October 2020, remained closed for most of the 2021 due to the restrictions.

It was re-opened from 6th December, 2021. The members were informed of this via email with a request to make an appointment by telephoning or emailing and to ensure to follow all health guidelines issued by the government. 73 readers have used the library since then and up to 10.03.2022. Some of the members placed appointments by telephoning. 26 readers used the library with special permission during the period it was closed in 2021.

Following table show that the average number of readers using the library per month has exceeded the 2019 level, during the first 2 months of 2022.

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
2020	67 (Open for 5 months)	-
2021	40 (Opened in December)	-
2022	43 (January and February)	22 (for two months)

- **Online Limited Service**

A new reader service was commenced from 01.11.2021 to provide Online Limited Services for members via email/ telephone and without visiting the library, to facilitate the members during the travel restrictions and the closure of the library as a result of the pandemic. Under this, members are enabled to request journal articles and book extracts (subject to copyright restrictions) by sending an email or telephoning. The scan copy or photocopy of the document is sent to the members by email, post or make available at office for collection after the due cost is paid. 4 members and 2 non-members have requested 8 articles and one E- Book between 01.11.2021 and 10.03.2022. Their requests were addressed successfully and the total income from this service is Rs. 1452/=.

The Council decided to provide PDF copies of JRASSL articles from the existing PDF Collections (RASSL collection and JSTOR collection) to members free of charge. However, both members and non-members will be charged for articles of other journals and book extracts. 7 requests from members were received and a total of 19 JRASSL articles (as PDF files) were issued free of charge during this period.

The Online Limited Service will be continued even the Library is currently kept open.

4. Library Income

A total of Rs. 4,762/= (excluding JSTOR income) has been earned by the services provided by the library during the period from 05-04-2021 to 10.03.2022.

This includes the photocopying, photographing, scanning, printouts, temporary reader passes and library fines. This includes Rs. 1452/= Online service income, which is mentioned above.

5. List of Donors

Ven. Vajiraramaye Nanasiha Thero, Ms. Kamalika Pieris, Mr. Eshan Imalka Wijayarathna, Dr. Hema Goonatilake, Dr. Susantha Goonatilake, Mr. Dhanesh Wisumperuma, Dr. P.G. Punchihewa, Prof. Chandima Wijeybandara and Prof. T.K. Nimal P. de Silva.

Prof. Nimal de Silva

Hony. Librarian

10.03.2022

Report of the Publications Committee (April 2021 - March 2022)

The composition of the Publications Committee and the attendance of the members in the meetings held during the past year is given below.

Members	Attendance
Dr. Seetha I. Wickremasinghe (Chairperson)	03
Dr. Wijerathne Bohingamuwa (Editor)	03
Ms. Hasula Wickremasinghe (Asst. Editor)	03
Senior Prof. Anura Manathunga	00
Prof. P.B. Mandawala	02
Archd. Shereen Amendra	03
Dr. Susantha Goonatilake	01
Eng. Dr Chandana Jayawardana (Ex-Officio-Vice President)	03
Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha (Ex-Officio Jt. Sec.)	02
Dr. Mallika Karunaratne (Ex-Officio-Jt. Secretary)	01
Eng. H. Mahinda Goonasekera (Ex-Officio-Treasurer)	02

The Publications Committee was not able to hold physical meetings due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The activities and discussions related to the committee were, however, held virtually. Four meetings were held during April 2021- March 2022.

Publication of the Journal

Articles of JRASSL Vol. 64 Issue II to be made available by the AGM;

- The Design of the Stupa Pinnacle and origin of Plaster *Bo* Leaves on *Stupas* by Archd. Shereen Amendra.
- *Jantaghara* within Ancient Buddhist Monasteries by Prof. T.G. Kulatunga
- ‘Sacrifice’ in Theravada Buddhist Ethics and Consequentialism by Dr. Reved Wadinagala Pannaloka
- The Intervention of the Early Leftist Movement in the Culture of Sri Lanka by Dr S.S.A. Seneviratne and S.M. Kariyakarawana

RASSL Newsletter

The RASSL Newsletter Vol. 20, No. 1 was finalized in December 2021 and will be published electronically.

Public Lectures & 175th Anniversary Memorial Lecture Series

Both the Public Lectures and the 175th Anniversary Memorial Lectures were held online due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Public Lecture Series – 2021 March -2022 March

Following lectures were held under this lecture series.

2021

11th August Dr Malini Dias: The citadel of *Mahāgāma* (Tissamahārāma) of the ancient

Kingdom of Ruhuna in the south of Sri Lanka

- 22nd November Hasula Wickremasinghe: The ecology of *Pethia bandula* and formulation of a recovery plan
- 06th December Tharaka Muthunayake: The use of community-based conservation as a strategy to conserve *Pethia bandula* in the type locality and establishment of a second population

175th Anniversary Memorial Lecture Series

List of lectures held under this lecture series is given below.

2021

- 4th October Prof. Praneeth Abhayasundara: Pundit Dr. Nandadeva Wijesekera
- 8th November Prof. C.M. Madduma Bandara: R. L. Brohier: Life and times of an indefatigable intellectual of the last century
- 29th November Dr. Senarath Dissanayake: The life & works of Dr. Charles Edmund Godakumbure

2022

- 03rd January Prof. Kusuma Karunaratne: Prof. M.B. Ariyapala memorial lecture

Quartoseptcentennial Commemorative Volumes (QCV) to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka

Under this publication series, the three volumes listed below were published.

- Vol. I: Pali Commentaries and Sri Lanka Society: An introductory note by Dr Chandana Jayawardana and Dr Wijerathne Bohingamuwa
- Vol. II: History of Mathematics in Sri Lanka by Dr Chandana Jayawardana
- Vol. III: History of Machines and Manufacturing in Sri Lanka by Dr Chandana Jayawardana

Dr Wijerathne Bohingamuwa

Hony. Editor

17.02.2022

14th Annual Research Conference - 2022

Annual Research Conference for the year 2022 to be conducted in July 2022. The Research Conference Committee has been appointed and the preliminary arrangements are now underway. The general membership will be informed the developments in due course.

Constitution Revision Committee

The Constitution Review Committee was appointed by the Council in April 2021 to continue the revision process of the Constitution.

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 discussions continued for a period of five years and an initiative was taken to record the findings and publish a series of volumes based on different subjects. This was aligned with the 175th anniversary publications and under the project titled Science and Technology in Ancient Sri Lanka (STASL) three volumes under the below themes have now been published on the below themes.

- i. Volume 1 – Pāli Commentaries and Sri Lankan Society: An Introductory Note
- ii. Volume 2 – History of Mathematics in Sri Lanka
- iii. Volume 3 – History of Machines and Manufacture in Sri Lanka

The 175th Anniversary Celebrations of RASSL - Memorial Lectures

175th celebration activities were planned according to the Resolution number 3 passed at the 2019 AGM held on 30th March 2019. The Memorial Lecture Series was organized by a committee comprised Mr. Muditha Karunamuni, Dr. Wijerathne Bohingamuwa and Mr. Dhanesh Wisumperuma.

Total of 8 lectures were conducted and following four Memorial lectures were held between April 2021 and January 2022.

Lecture No. 5 on 04.10.2021

‘Pandit Dr. Nandadeva Wijesekera’ by Prof. Praneeth Abhayasundara

Lecture No. 6 on 08.11.2021

‘Life and Times of an Indefatigable Intellectual of the Last Century: Dr R.L. Brohier Memorial Lecture’ by Prof. C.M. Madduma Bandara

Lecture No. 7 on 29.11.2021

‘The Life and Works of Dr. Charles Edmund Godakumbure’ by Dr. Senerath Dissanayake

Lecture No. 8 on 03.01.2022

‘Prof. M.B. Ariyapala Memorial Lecture’ by Prof. Kusuma Karunaratne

Programmes to Outreach General Public

Series of articles on RASSL written by members of the Council and by some Society members were published in newspapers and press briefings were done in order to raise the awareness of the general public on RASSL with the objectives of increasing the membership and fundraising. The programme was implemented to celebrate the 177th year of RASSL.

Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (RASSL)
Minutes of the 176th Annual General Meeting

- 1. Date and Time:** 28th March 2021 10:00 am
- 2. Attendance:** (Obtained from attendance register and screenshots of the online meeting)

Members who joined physically for the meeting:

Goonasekara Mr. H. M. (L/1225), Ranasinghe, Ms. S. L. (L/1278), Wisumperuma, Mr. W. A. D. I.(L/666), Piyadasa, Mr. J. D. A. Indika (L/824), Goonatilake, Dr. Susantha (L/194), Wickramasinghe, Mrs. R. L. H. R. (L/973), Goonatilake, Dr. Hema (L/193), Karunarathne, Dr. S. M. (L/1110), Wickremasinghe, Dr. Mrs. S. I. (L/872), Dias, Dr. Mrs. Malini (L/626), Bohingamuwa, Dr. Wijerathne (L/ 529), Abeysundera, Dr. Praneeth(L/691), Semage, Mr. S. D. K. (L/895), Jayawardene, Dr. I. S. Pillai (L/879), Hettige, Mr. S.W.(L/967), De Silva, Prof. Nimal (L/423), Mendis, Dr. D. S. K. (L/1096), Marambe, Mr. J. (L/415),Urugodawatta, Ms. C.T. (L/519), Karunamuni, Mr. Muditha (L/768), Rupasinghe, Dr. Nadeera (L/792), Rupasinghe, Mr. H. F. (L/633), Weeraratne, Mr. S. K. (L/1078), Amendra, Ms. D. S. T. (L/1214), Balasooriya, Ms. B. A. P. (L/1398), Dharmasena Ms. M. K. G. I. (L/1377), Deepani, Miss. H. M.(L/910), De Vos, Mr. C. A. (L/162), Jayawardena, Mr. M. M. (L/661), Karunaratne, Dr. P. V. M. (L/920), Mallikarachchy, Mr. Dineth (O/420) and Razeek, Mr. S. Z. (O/419).

Members who joined online for the meeting:

Miriyaigalla, Mr. Piyadasa (L/524), Basnayake, Mr. S. S. (L/1259), Perera, Mr. Siri (1379), Senaratne, Dr. W. N. I. (L/1402),Perera, Dr. T. D. N. (L/858),Ratnatunge, Dr. Kavan (L/750), Karunaratne, Prof. Mrs. K. E. (L/196), Jayawardana, Dr. G. M. C. P. (L/1069), Gunasena, Ms. K. G.(L/965), Soysa, Mr. W. H. W. (L/1156), Namalgamuwa, Mr. N. G. Harendralal (L/814), Ranathunga, Mrs. G. M. (L/931), Ms. W. B. Senaratne (L/1404), Mr. Y. C. D. Ferreira (A/07), Manatunga, Mr. A. K. (L/349), Prof. P. B. Mandawala (L/1301), Gunaruwan, Dr. T. L. (L/668) and Dewasiri, Mr. N. R. (L/685)

The meeting was held both online and physically to make it convenient for members to participate during the prevailing COVID19 pandemic.

- 3.** The President, Archt. Ashley de Vos called the meeting to order and requested the Jt. Secretary, Mr. H Mahinda Goonesekara to read the notice convening the AGM, and to present the Agenda of the AGM. The President requested the Jt. Secretary Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha to present the Annual Report and the Audit Report online.
- 4. Excuses – No Excuses**
- 5. Condolences**

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

Mrs. Ishvari Corea
Mr. D. G. B. de Silva
Mr. H. Kalubanda
Dr. Roland Silva
Prof. Vini Vitharana
Prof P. L. Premathilake
Dr. C.G. Urugoda

6. Welcome address by the President

Arch. Mr. Ashley de Vos welcomed all members to the meeting. The following was the full address delivered by him.

“The Royal Asiatic Society should have been celebrating the end of the 175th Anniversary with the International Conference that had been planned as the culmination event. But this Conference was held due to the Covid 19 pandemic, which dampened most of the activities.

The Sesquicentennial Commemorative Volume of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka published in 1995 incorporates an excellent article on the history of the RASSL by Mr. R. G. G. Olcott Gunasekera, which is recommended for reading. Hence, in this presentation, we will be freely quoting from his writings.

Mr. Olcott Gunasekera states that the actual events that led to the formation of RAS (Ceylon Branch) in 1845 are unclear, but mentions that the initial preparations were started early in 1814 and the first General Meeting was held in May 1845. The scope of the Society was to include every aspect of the life of the people of the island. The intention was to get the corporation of everyone - the man of science, the man of business, the statistician, the antiquarian, and the philanthropist, etc. Among the societies at the time, the Royal Asiatic Society (RAS) held a commanding position because of the composition of its membership. Later, the Patron was always the Governor.

The vast majority of the members were foreigners and were all Christian. But there was a spirit of inquiry that spurned research. One of the main areas of inquiry was Buddhism, which was the faith of the majority of the people. The Christian missionaries and the British rulers observed the close links, the people of the country, had with the village temple and vice versa, and the vast influence the Buddhist monks had on the people. To them, it was a strange religion combined with practices that were beyond comprehension when seen from a Christian point of view. Hence Buddhism became a major area of inquiry.

The very first article of the Journal of the Society was on Buddhism, delivered by Rev. D. J. Gogerly. Many important discourses of the Buddha were translated for the first time into English and presented with lucid explanations. Similarly, the rules of conduct of the Buddhist monks, and the birth stories of the Buddha were subjects that created much interest. This interest, to know Buddhism, continued during the pioneering phase of the Society from 1845 to 1895.

Rhys Davids learned his Pali in Sri Lanka and, along with his wife, he was attracted to Buddhism. He became an ordinary member of the RAS in 1867 and a life member in 1868. In 1881, he formed the Pali Text Society in England, to promote the study of Pali and to render accessible to students the hitherto unedited stories of early Buddhist literature. Another oriental scholar R.C. Childers, a member of the RAS, but a resident in England, was also engaged in translating Pali texts into English. Accordingly, the RAS has contributed vastly to the study of Buddhism during the 19th century and played a pioneering role in the translation of Buddhist texts from Pali into English.

An attempt was made two years back to revive the importance of Pali studies with the eventual objective of bringing the Pali Text Society to its original home in Sri Lanka, but very little was achieved. This is an area that needs serious attention and hopefully, the new Council will address this issue with the seriousness that it deserves.

The beginnings of the Colombo Museum were commenced with the Society as early as 1854. The Society's collection of the historic material needed a display. In this context, a deputation met Sir William Gregory in 1872 and he expressed his interest in the museum project, in which provision may be made for the Society's library and the rooms for the Committee, as well as free access to the Museum by members. The Colombo Museum was officially opened on the 1st January 1877 and the entire collection of the Society was offered, accepted, and taken over by the government, to be

displayed in the Museum. This would remain a monument forever to record the energy and public spirit of the Society.

Around 1885 there were only two public libraries in Colombo. One was that of the Royal Asiatic Society and the other was that of the Oriental Society. With the location of the two libraries on the same premises, the Museum nevertheless became the most prestigious seat of learning at the time. The request for a complete merger of the library of the Society with that of the Museum was turned down, as it was important to maintain the identity of the Society.

The Society was very active and many sub-committees were established. It included one on the Meteorology of Ceylon, which led to the creation of the Observatory in Colombo. The creation of the “Excavation Fund” together with the scholarly papers on excavations carried out by the Society, and collected in the Journals further led to the formation of the Archaeological Survey of Ceylon. The papers published in the journals on statistics in 1867, led to the creation of the Registrar General’s Department. The Society also played an important role as a watchdog. The Society made direct representations to the government on issues that needed attention, which led to the creation of new legislative enactments and administrative orders. In 1885, the Society moved legislation to secure the registration of publications and the presses in Ceylon.

From 1874 to 1879, there was a lull in the activities of the Society. However, with the formation of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in 1895, for the first time with the Governor as the Patron of the Society, the Society received a much-needed boost. In 1881, the Seligmans were invited to undertake the final scientific investigation of the Veddahs.

The Right Rev. Copleston, Bishop of Colombo, in his Jubilee Commemoration address, made an important observation regarding a change in the composition of the membership. He stated that the natives of this country, the Sinhalese and the Tamils were treated as the objects of Inquiry, not as being themselves among the Inquirers. So many members are now of the Sinhalese and Tamil race, that it can no longer be mistaken for a Society exclusively European.

The period from 1896 to 1945 saw the two World Wars from 1914 to 1918, and from 1939 to 1945 respectively. During this period, the undercurrents of nationalism and indigenization were visible. Many of those who were at the forefront of political reforms were members of the Society. The Society made its contribution to the growth of nationalism in the country. A love for one’s own country, interest in one’s own history, and the desire to elucidate what is obscured in it were important. In 1916, Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam was elected the first Sri Lankan President of the Society, a post he held for 10 years.

There was a great interest in the Mahāvamsa at that time. It was first translated to English by George Turnour in 1837. There was a revision of the translation by Mudaliyar L. C. Wijesinghe, which was printed in 1889. The Society prepared a comprehensive Index to the Mahāvamsa and requested the Government to arrange for the publication of the Mahāvamsa Tīkā in Pali. This was accomplished by the Society later. An interest was also shown in the translation and in the publication of the Cūlavamsa, which was pending since 1906.

Sir Robert Chalmers, an eminent Pali scholar, who was responsible for creating the ‘The Chalmers Oriental Text Fund’, meant to be used to publish examples of the critical scholarship. At the request of Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, the Society decided to print in both Sinhala and English, the Mahāvamsa Tīkā, which was also known as the Cambodian. The Mahāvamsa Tīkā in the Roman script was issued in 1938 and due to the lack of funds, the version in the Sinhala script was suspended.

In 2021, Muditha Karunamuni and Danesh Wisumperuma recommended that the RASSL should undertake a study of the Mahāvamsa from the primary material. Hopefully, this task will be undertaken by the new Council. It is important, that the members who are Pali scholars should get involved in this project.

The study of the Sinhala Language took a prominent place in the activities of the Society during the period from 1896 to 1945, with James de Alwis, Ven Siddhartha, Mudaliyar Rasanayagam, Rev Father Gnana Prakasar, and even Professor Wilhelm Geiger entering the fray on who came first.

The need for a good Sinhala-English Dictionary was mentioned for the first time in the Presidential Address of 1881 by C. Bruce. A Committee was formed and the initial name of the Committee was changed from Sinhalese Dictionary Committee to the Sinhalese Glossary Committee. This became a major activity of the Society from 1927 onwards. There was steady progress and by 1941, 6 parts of the Sinhalese-English Dictionary and 5 parts of the Sinhalese – Sinhalese Dictionary had been published and the 6th and the 7th parts of Sinhalese-Sinhalese were awaiting publication.

The Society also had a great concern for the loss and neglect of important Ola manuscripts. For example, the Parker collection was being sold through the London booksellers, but it was saved. The Ola manuscripts were of great value and the culture in them was so great, yet they were being exported by the gunny bags. The *Puskola poth* (ola leaf manuscripts) had been brought to Colombo and a great proportion found their way across the sea. There was a steady stream from Kandy, obviously collected from the temples that ended up in Colombo. This situation led to the formation of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. There is a need to re-activate the Commission and the RASSL should build its own collection of the Ola manuscripts before they are destroyed by the tourist trade, where the manuscripts are broken up and sold by the leaf as the Buddha's writing.

The Society's interest in the Colonial archives led to the creation of the Government Department of Archives. An unfortunate incident may be recorded when a powerful government Minister instead of forwarding the archives collected in the different Ministries ordered that it be burnt and as a result, hundreds of important documents were lost. These documents should have been sent to the Department of National Archives instead of being burnt. Many drawings from the Public Works Department suffered a similar fate.

The finding of the tri-lingual inscription in Galle in 1911 and two Chinese coins at Yapahuwa was of great interest to the Members of the Society. This generated an interest in the Chinese records on Ceylon. Some work in this direction was commenced, but there was not much interest to proceed. Hence, there is a great need for the Society to create a special Chinese Study Cell to examine the Sinhalese and Pali Buddhist material in China and if possible, acquire copies and create a fruitful interchange between the Chinese and the Sri Lankan scholars to further this important piece of research.

Some of the manuscripts lost to Sri Lanka may have found their way to China via the Buddhist monks who visited the island during the historic period. There is also a need to connect with the Persian scholars as the Persians were some of the earliest mariners in the ocean in the BC period. There may be a material reference to Sri Lanka, which they know of and we do not know about. We had hoped to commence both programmes as part of the 175th Anniversary celebration but it had to be put off. I am recommending that the Society takes on this important investigation.

Sir P. Arunachalam, concluding his Presidential Address in 1918, championed the cause for a University of Ceylon. In 1921, the Ceylon University College saw the light of the day. This was the initial step before setting up a full-fledged University. It became a reality with the passing of the Ceylon University Ordinance No 20 of 1942, which became the law with effect from July 1, 1942.

The Special Committee on Antiquities (Sessional Paper VII of 1949) to which the Society had submitted a memorandum, has stressed in its final report the need for a National Library for Ceylon.

During its years of existence, the Society's contribution to the welfare and development of the country is unparalleled. This was because of the unique position it held in the social fabric of the country before the Independence. The Society was founded for this class of people, thus the only body, which encouraged the antiquarian research, was highly exclusive. No one had tried to educate the masses on its usefulness and value. Only Dr. C.E Godakumbure as the President made a plea for a change. It is

hoped that the new Committee will address this need for change and ensure that the Society's roots are brought closer home. Further, there is a need to revive the Toponymic Committee, for the continued study of the place names in Sri Lanka.

As a consequence of the provision in the new Museums Ordinance, the connection of the Society with the Museum, which had existed since 1873 was severed and the Society had to face the question of a future home. Because of the Second World War, the Museum was evacuated in March 1942. Consequently, the Society's library and the office were removed to the 5th Lane, Kollupitiya, where temporary accommodation was provided by the Home Minister, and then to Visakha Vidyalaya, Vajira Road through the good offices of the Land Commissioner and the Minister of Agriculture. The rare books were sent to Nuwara Eliya. The Department of National Archives was originally located at Nuwara Eliya and this initiative was ideal as there was no cost involved for the facility of air conditioning.

The Library was shifted from place to place and in 1946, brought back again to a temporary wooden building at the Museum. However, due to constant danger from the termite attack, there was a need to leave the place and then shift to the Training College buildings at Thurstan Road, presently known as Thurstan College. In 1956, the Library was given a portion of the old SSC Pavilion. In 1958, the Library shifted to the first floor of the grandstand of the racecourse. The real turning point happened in 1979 and how the Royal Asiatic Society ended up at the premises of 86, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 07 is another story.

I wish to thank our Librarian Muditha Karunamuni for helping to shed some light on the number of missing books. The inventory conducted between the 28th of December 2015 and the 25th of February 2016 recorded 687 books missing from its inception, which is over 171 years and with seven physical shiftings. The inventory of July 2020 indicates that 196 books have been found that needed relocation.

Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha, our efficient Jt. Secretary, Mahinda Goonasekera the other Jt. Secretary, Dr, Mallika Karunaratne, the Treasurer for being most conscious of the economic status of the RASSL, and kept us reminded of the same throughout. Thank you. You have all worked very hard. Dr Bohingamuwa, the editor who used to be airborne between Matara and Colombo in his special machine, meeting deadlines between Journal and the lecturers and Hasula Wickremasinghe, Asst. Editor. you have not let the RASSL down. All the journal issues have been published on time and thank you . I thank Dr Hema Goonetilake for being a permanent member of the editing team and Dr Seetha I. Wickremasinghe for your editing of other documents as well. Dr Malini Dias and Prof Kusuma Karunaratne for being there as towers of strength. Thank you. Dr Chandana Jayawardena, for your devotion to the Annual Conference and the Commemorative Volumes published recently, thank you. Also, to Muditha Karunamuni the Librarian, and Dhanesh Wisumperuma, you make a good team. Mr. Semage, for your deep pockets and a constant smile. Mr. Sinha Basnayake and Senaka Weeraratna for your advice. Thank you all. Anuradha Piyadasa for facilitating the zoom meetings and lectures and other expertise related to IT, and together with Dr. Virajini Karunaratne for hosting the Web Page, a big thank you. To the members of the different Committees and all Members of Council, thank you all for making my life easy. To the office staff Sajeewa, Lahiruni, Chandra Menike and Wijewardena, we have expected a lot from you and you have delivered them. Please forgive me for any *Adu Paadu*. Thank you.

As part of good housekeeping, it was noticed that in the honor rolls at the Entrance, the plywood panels (instead solid timber planks should be used) are now peeling and untidy and the lettering type follows different fonts and styles. The naming has no uniformity. While some have qualifications added that take up considerable space, others don't have any shown. If we go on like this, there will be no end to a requirement for a never-ending supply of boards. The question I wish to ask this House is, would only the name be sufficient to have some uniformity, in the stylization of the Name Boards? After all, the entry requirement tests the suitability of the individuals for the membership. Is that not sufficient?

Today you are electing a new President, Office Bearers, and the Council. Please work with them, help them to uphold the objects of this Society. That is the only way forward. Thank you”

Discussion

Dr. Susantha Goonetilake made some comments explaining the role of the Pali Text Society saying that the staff there had been trained in the Sri Lankan temples and the Pali scholarships were started in Sri Lanka. Further, he wanted to start a Pali Text Society in Sri Lanka. He also explained his efforts in getting the ola leaves scanned and how other countries have scanned the ola leaves.

Mr. Senaka Weeraratna also commented on the facts discussed in the speech. He said although George Turnour had been credited concerning Mahāvamsa, his other work needs to be investigated. Mr. Weeraratna said that he would be writing on the conduct and activities of George Turnour in respect to drafting and implementation of the Waste Lands Ordinance (1841), apart from translation of. He further Mahāvamsa said that as it was mentioned in the speech about Trilingual inscriptions, those can be found in India as well. Dr. Bohingamuwa said that these points could be taken into account when starting the proposed Mahāvamsa study.

Dr. Kavan Ratnatunga said that the Parliament is thinking of passing an Act, which says that any Buddhist study has to be censored before it can be published and it is violating the academic freedom on research giving space for politicians who know nothing about the academic research to control over academic publications. He said that the RASSL should object to it.

Mr. Senaka Weeraratna said this Act was brought to protect Buddhism from deliberate attempts to defame Buddhism. Dr. Susantha Goonetilake also gave his views in this regard.

7. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous AGM of the 175th year, and the SGM

AGM - 27th December 2020 4:00 pm

Corrections to the AGM Minutes: Dr. Susantha Goonetilake wanted to add as a correction of what he has mentioned that there had been a complaint of a plagiarism issue by a foreign professor regarding an article published by Prof. Vijithadhamma Thero and no action had been taken.

After the House went through the minutes of the AGM, the adoption of the Minutes of the Year 175th year December 2020 was proposed subjected to corrections by Mr. Siri Perera and seconded by Dr. T. D. N. Perera

SGM-13th February 2021, 4:30 pm

After the House went through the minutes of the SGM held on the 13th February 2021 the adoption of the minutes was done as proposed by Dr. T. D. N. Perera and seconded by Dr. Hema Goonetilake.

8. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

9. Annual Report of the Council

The President tabled the Annual Report 2020 of the Council.

10. Matters arising from the Annual Report

Mr. Ashley de Vos said that many Library books would have been lost when the RASSL was shifted from place to place in the past. It was also mentioned that, at the moment, only the reference facility is given for the library books due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

It was reported that due to the closure of the RASSL and the closure of the Printers, the printing of Journal issues got delayed.

Mr Senaka Weeraratna said that it was a need and duty of the RASSL to address reparations of colonialism and suggested having a seminar. Dr. Susantha Goonetilake also added his views.

Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha said that the Annual Conference of 2020 was held in 2021 March due to the closure of the Country during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Mr. Siri Perera said that he had received the ballot papers a little delayed and he also suggested that when registering the ballot papers to send through the post as the name is written, the secrecy of the ballot is not protected and he suggested that next time to adopt measures to protect the secrecy. He also suggested that a lot of time was wasted on reading minutes, the members could be asked to go through the reports before the AGM and propose any amendments so desired.

Joint Secretary Ms. Ranasingha explained that the RASSL wanted to list out the people who voted and to cross-check with the attendance and therefore, the name written on the envelope was necessary. She also stated that the envelopes with ballot papers were put into the box without opening to ensure protecting the secrecy. Dr. Kavan Ratnatunga also gave his views in this regard.

The Annual report 2020 was accepted by the House

11. Resolutions for the Annual General Meeting

Resolution-1

All Office Bearers of the RASSL shall be Life Members of good standing.

Proposed by: Ashley de Vos L/162

Seconded by: Dr. S. Mallika Karunaratne L/1110

The rationale for the amendment was discussed. Archt. Ashley de Vos said that there had been experiences in the past members disrupting meetings, which was very unfortunate. Dr. Susantha Goonetilake said it was not necessary to amend the rule as it was already included in the code of conduct. Mr. Senaka Weeraratna said the term 'good standing' was very vague and ambiguous. Archt. Shereen Amendra said that with the mention of only 'life member', it is not clear of their character, and the term 'good standing' was regarded as having complied with their explicit obligations while not being subjected to any form of sanctions, suspension or disciplinary censor. Therefore, the term 'good standing' indicates the character and reputation of the member. Ms. C. T. Urugodawatta suggested using the term 'ethical standing' or 'good repute' instead of 'good standing'. Both Archt. Amendra and Ms. Urugodawata accepted that this amendment should be done.

Mr. Muditha Karunamuni said that since the ordinary members also can apply for the posts of office-bearers, the original resolution should be corrected as "All Office bearers of the RASSL shall be Members of good standing."

Mr. Dhanesh Wisumperuma said that it was necessary to decide under which article this amendment should come.

The house accepted the amended resolution as follows: "All Office Bearers of the RASSL shall be Members of good standing".

Resolution -2

In the 170th AGM, it was resolved to remove the prefix title 'Honorary' from some posts of the office-bearers listed in Article 25 of the Constitution. However, since then the use of the post names without the prefix has caused some confusion. Hence it is resolved to amend Article 25 of the RASSL Constitution by reintroducing the prefix 'Honorary' to all posts of the Office Bearers mentioned in that article, as all Office Bearers of the RASSL offer their services voluntarily. Also to use the prefix title 'Honorary' for the posts of President and the Vice Presidents.

Proposed by: Muditha Karunamuni L/768

Seconded by: Hasula Wickremasinghe L/973

The amendment was discussed at length and debated.

Dr. Susantha Goonetilake objected to the resolution saying that since it is obvious that members are doing an honorary duty as they were not paid and therefore, no need to highlight it using the prefix. He further said that other similar organizations do not follow such rules. Mr. Senaka Weeraratna also objected to the resolution saying it is obnoxious and needs to continue the existing practice. He further said that since the RASSL is a voluntary organization, all members are doing an honorary job and therefore, it was not necessary to indicate it in the names of the posts.

Mr. Muditha Karunamuni said that the prefix should be added not only to office-bearers but also to the Council members.

It was decided to take a vote and the resolution was passed receiving the highest number of votes and the House decided to add the prefix 'Honorary' for all Office Bearers and the Council members.

12. Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020.

It was reported that the Audited Statement of Accounts as annexed to the Annual Report was presented by the Treasurer, Dr. Mallika Karunaratne. The Audited Statement of Accounts was approved by the House.

13. Election of Auditors

Messrs. Jayasingha & Company was reappointed as the auditors to audit the accounts as proposed and seconded by Mr. Harsha Rupasingha and Dr. Susantha Goonetilake respectively.

14. Election of the Office Bearers and the Council Members for the years 2021-2023

The President read the list of nominations recommended as valid by the Council for the years 2021-2023.

The following Office Bearers were elected uncontested.

Dr. Malini Dias (Hony. President)
Eng. Dr. Chandana Jayawardana (Hony. Vice President)
Dr. Seetha I. Wickremasinghe (Hony. Vice President)
Mrs. S. Lawanya Ranasingha (Hony Joint Secretary)
Dr. Mallika Karunaratne (Hony Joint Secretary)
Eng. H Mahinda Goonasekara (Hony Joint Secretary)
Dr. Wijerathne Bohingamuwa (Hony. Editor)
Mrs. Hasula Wickremasinghe (Hony. Asst. Editor)
Dr. Virajini Karunaratne (Hony. Asst. Secretary, External Affairs)

Since one nomination was received for the four posts of Council members under the category of less than two years of Society membership, B.A. Priyani Balasooriya (L/1398) was elected for one post. The House was asked to propose and second three other names for Council members under this category.

Mr. Dineth Mallikarachchy, was proposed by Dr. Nadeera Rupasinghe and seconded by Mr. Harsha Rupasinghe and Ms. Ranjani Malawi Pathirana, was proposed by Dr. Bohingamuwa and seconded by Dr. Mallika Karunaratne were elected to the House.

The remaining vacancy under this category was to be filled by the Council.

The election was held for the post of Librarian and the 10 Council Members in the category of not less than two years of the Society membership.

Election of Librarian

Valid nominations received for the post of Librarian

Post Applied For	Name/s of Nominee/s	Proposed by	Seconded by
Librarian (One Vacancy)	C.T. Urugodawatta (Bindu) L/519	G.M.C.P. Jayawardana L/1069	H.M. Deepani L/910
	Prof. T. K. Nimal P. de Silva L/423	Dr. Soma Mallika Karunaratna L/1110	B.A. Priyani Balasooriya L/1398

Prof. T. K. Nimal P. de Silva was elected as the Librarian receiving the highest number of votes

Election of Council Members (Category of not less than two years of membership in the Society)

Valid nominations for the posts of Council members (Category of not less than two years of membership in the Society)

Post Applied For	Name/s of Nominee/s	Proposed by	Seconded by
Council Members (Category of not less than 2 years of Membership in the Society) (Ten Vacancies)	Deanna Shereen T. Amendra L/1214	Senaka Weeraratna L/1078	Dr. Seetha I. Wickremasinghe L/872
	Sri Deva Kumara Semage L/895	Dr. Hema Goonatilake L/193	S.S. Basnayake L/1259
	Dr. Susantha Goonatilake L/194	Sri Deva Kumara Semage L/895	S.S. Basnayake L/1259
	Senaka Kumara Weeraratna L/1078	Deanna Shereen T. Amendra L/1214	M.K.G.I. Dharmasena L/1377
	W.A. Dhanesh I. Wisumperuma L/666	Muditha Karunamuni L/768	S.D. Anuradha I. Piyadasa L/824
	Muditha Karunamuni L/768	C.M.D.A. Liyanage L/1349	H.M. Deepani L/910
	S.D. Anuradha I. Piyadasa L/824	W.A.D.I. Wisumperuma L/666	Dr. G.M. Chandana P. Jayawardana L/1069
	Prof. Anura Manatunga L/349	Dr.W. Bohingamuwa L/529	R.L.H.R. Wickremasinghe L/973
	Prof. Prashantha B. Mandawala L/1301	U.N.K Ratnayake L/875	Prof. Gamini Ranasinghe L1103
	Dr. D.S. Kalana Mendis L/1096	Prof. Gamini Ranasinghe L/1103	Ven. Dambara Amila Thero L/690
M.K. Gayadini I. Dharmasena L/1377	Prof. Kusuma Karunaratne L/196	Senaka Weeraratna L/1078	

Deanna Shereen T. Amendra (L/1214), Sri Deva Kumara Semage (L/895), Dr. Susantha Goonatilake (L/194), Senaka Kumara Weeraratna (L/1078), W.A. Dhanesh I. Wisumperuma (L/666), Muditha Karunamuni (L/768), S.D. Anuradha I. Piyadasa (L/824), Prof. Anura Manatunga (L/349), Prof. Prashantha B. Mandawala (L/1301), M.K. Gayadini I. Dharmasena (L/1377) were elected as Council members in the category of not less than two years of Society membership receiving the highest number of votes.

The newly elected President, Dr. Malini Dias, addressed the house.

The Joint Secretary, Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha delivered the vote of thanks.

The outgoing President Archt Ashley de Vos thanked the members for their presence and invited them for refreshments.

The meeting was declared closed at 1:00 pm.

Ms. Sandalekha Lawanya Ranasingha
Jt. Secretaries
21-09-2021

Eng. H. Mahinda Goonesekera

RESOLUTIONS

No resolutions were received.