FIRST REPORT

ON THE

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ANURÁDHAPURA.

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Archæological Commissioner.

Ordered by His Excellency the Governor to be Printed.

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1890.
GROUND PLAN

or

Newly discovered brick building
E.N.E. of the Thuparama Dagoba
ANURADHAPURA.

Excavated June 1886

Signed S. M. Burrows

A. A. A. Granite sills of doorways
B. B. B. Narrow windows lighting passage E
C. C. C. Perfect fragments of external wall, rising to a height of 29 feet above ground level of central cell F
D. Flight of granite steps, leading to raised terrace.
E. Interior passage between brick walls, its ground level is 26 feet below the summit of CCC.
F. Square central cell. Its ground level is 4 feet below the sill of its doorway A, and there are traces of steps from A leading down into it.
GROUND PLAN

of

BUDDHIST TEMPLE PREMISES

NEAR

TOLU VEL VILLAGE.

A. Triplestepped shrine with image of Buddha.
B. Vihāre.
C. Dāgoba.
D. Wata.đa.đe
  a.a. Stone spouts.
  b.b. Steps into premises
MAP OF ANURADHAPURA

Scale of 24 Chains to an Inch
In accordance with directions received from Sir A. H. Gordon, I proceeded to Anurādhapura on July 7, 1890.

2. An interview with His Excellency the Governor was followed by my letter of July 12, detailing the plan I proposed to pursue in carrying out the survey.

Extract from Letter dated July 12, 1890.

The following plan of operations has been decided on, after consultation with local authorities and a rough inspection of the ground round the ruins.

It is proposed for the present to employ the labour-force (twenty coolies) on a thorough and systematic exploration of the jungle between certain defined areas (e.g., the Inner and Outer Circular roads), with the preliminary object of ascertaining definitely what ruins still exist above, or partially above, ground. The excavation of desirable or likely ruins, or of any fairly large number of smaller remains, or of any material number of times, is likely to call for a far greater expenditure of labour, and expense than was possible under the haphazard efforts hitherto employed, perhaps necessarily, in view of limited funds, and spasmodic attention to the subject.

Such methodical exploration, if slow and barren of important discoveries within a limited period, appears to me the only sure means of carrying out to a satisfactory issue of Sir A. H. Gordon's instructions for "a complete survey and excavation of Anurādhapura."

3. Exploration actually commenced on July 15 with a gang of twenty coolies in charge of a kangani, who had gained some experience in such work under Mr. S. M. Burrows.

Briefly, the plan decided on was to work outwards from ground already cleared, partially excavated, and possibly surveyed. This area, marked X on the accompanying plan, covers the bazaar, the public offices, and residences, with "the park" stretching north from the Ruwanweli dagaba to the Thupārāma, and is bounded east by Basawakkûlam tank and Mirisweytiya dagaba and west by the portion of the Outer Circular road between Abhayagiri dagaba and its junction with the base road—in other words, the space within the Inner Circular road and beyond eastwards as far as the Abhayagiri.

4. It was hardly to be expected that ruins of much importance remained undiscovered in the forest and jungle between the Inner and Outer Circular roads. Nevertheless it appeared desirable, even with the prospect of results on the whole negative, to commence a systematic exploration of the two-mile radius of country within the Outer Circular.

Of this radius the "defined areas," which have been explored in the course of the six weeks between the middle of July and the end of August, are shown on the plan as A, B, C, D.

5. Obviously it would have been undesirable, with the limited labour force at my command, to attempt to "park" the forest examined, however advantageous from the point of view of expanding "the lungs of Anurādhapura." Parallel lines were therefore run through each area from 40 to 60 ft. apart, and on any ruins being met with, the forest undergrowth felled, stacked, and burnt so as to open them out and admit of closer examination, measurement, and, if desirable, of their being photographed and excavated.

In the absence of a surveyor to aid in fixing the exact position of each ruin discovered, it has been possible only to insert them approximately on the plan.

6. Areas A, B, lie east and west of the path which continues the Sacred Road to the "Kuttampokuna," and touch, on the right and left, the Outer Circular and the east branch of the Y road, covering about one and a half square mile.

Area A.

(a) A slice bordering the Outer Circular, and immediately north of the patch shaded, has been somewhat recently cleared and converted into a plantain garden by the Kachcheri Munandiram. If any ruins ever existed here, they have disappeared, with the exception of a fine monolith, 18 ft. in length, now prone.

Within a distance of a few hundred yards directly west of this plantation are situated the "brick building" and "stone canoe" found by Mr. Burrows in April, 1886.

As the sites had not been kept clear since, a day was spent in hunting for these ruins before they were rediscovered. They are best reached by a timber track which strikes off the "Kuttampokuna" path 300 yards from its junction with the Sacred Road. Broad strips of the jungle have now been cleared so as to show up these ruins distinctly.

Within the last fortnight I have found two curious remains in the jungle northeast of Thupārāma, and not far from the old track of the Sacred Road. One of these is a large "stone canoe" (properly speaking, a food vessel for priests), making the fourth of these curious receptacles at present discovered. This one, however, though inferior in length to others, is superior in breadth, and is unique in one respect: its sides are monolithic, instead of being composed of several slabs. Its dimensions are 27 ft. 5 in. in length by 5 ft. 2 in. in width by 3 ft. 3 in. in depth, from which some idea of the size of the side slabs can be gathered. It is in excellent preservation, and has been thoroughly cleared.

(b) The "stone canoe," or elephant trough (for such, I venture to think, was the purpose these immense stone boats were mainly put to), lies about 200 yards down the track and 50 yards to the right. It is put together with four upright slabs, pitched slightly outwards, the sides, huge, single stones, 23 ft. 10 in. in length, the ends 5 ft. 3 in., the bottom being formed of four slabs, of which the centre two are half the width of the others. Unlike the larger canoe" on the Outer Circular and the smaller broken one near the Abhayagiri, which are slightly concave, this has straight sides. The entire canoe" gives an outside measurement of 27 ft. 6 in. by 5 ft. 3 in., and inside of 23 ft. 10 in. by 3 ft. 6 in. by 5 ft. 3 in. in depth. It lies lengthways, N. and S. Two broken pillar stumps flank the north-west and south-east corners, and others may be seen a few yards south.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ANURADHAPURA.
Mr. Burrows apparently did not further press exploration here.

(c) Fifty yards east of the canoe must have stood an imposing oblong building, 76 ft. 6 in. by

36 ft., resting on forty grand monolithic pillars, 15 ft. 6 in. in height by 10 in. square. Five pillars

alone remain upright, a few lie about, but most have long since gone to provide "raw material" for

the modern roadmaker and builder.

Parenthetically it may be remarked that, despite all orders to the contrary, so long as culverts,

sluices, &c., have to be in the neighbourhood of ruins, it seems hopeless to make overseers and

contractors go far afield for stone when the jungles abound with ashlar ready at hand. The destruc-

tion that has been wrought round Anuradhapura is simply incalculable, and renders the identification of the greater part of the ruins impossible.

(d) A few fathoms north of the large pillars is a small circular pokuna, unfaced. On its brink

a fine inscribed slab with moulded framing (7 ft. 4 in. by 3 ft.) was found almost completely buried.*

The inscription of the exact age of the famous Mihintalé slab near Ambasthalé Viharé, being

dated in the same year, the sixteenth of "Siri Sang Bo Abahay," identified by Dr. Goldschmidt with

Mihinde III (997-1013 or 974-990 A.D.). In appearance, character, and general style of contents,

the inscriptions are very similar. The whole of the forty-six lines are quite legible, with the exception of a word or two lost down the centre of the slab—a curious oblivion, due perhaps to the slab having fallen and been worn by the feet of persons passing over it.

(e) A hundred yards due east, near a stone door lintel, protrudes a carved capital somewhat

resembling those at Lankárâma and Thuparáma, with pearl-necklace ornamentation and upper fillet

of flowers. Other pillars would probably be revealed by excavation.

(f) At the same distance west of the "stone canoe" stood a building, almost square, on twenty

short pillars, 3 ft. 6 in. by 10 in. by 10 in. As usual, some pillars have been dug out and removed,

whilst most are broken off close to the ground. The site is strewed with bricks.

(g) Eighty yards north is the "brick building" alluded to above. A little to the north of it the "stone canoe"* came across the remnant of a very large and lofty brick building, which looks almost like a bit of Polonaruwa suddenly transplanted to this capital. Three large fragments of the external walls are still in position. The tallest of these is at present 25 ft. high, and the building must originally have

been of great height above ground-level. It was evidently a simple structure of plain walls or arched windows, and was oblong in shape, with its main entrance facing the east. It is placed on an artificial mound, and the outer face of its walls is profusely moulded. It is the only specimen of brickwork of such dimen-

sions, and much of it being still standing, it is a most interesting fragment of so much brickwork similarity in design and detail to the buildings of King Nissankamalla at Polonaruwa, I am inclined to think it was very possibly erected by that monarch during his visit to Anuradhapura at the end of the twelfth century.†

The only record of its excavation appears to be the notes of measurement on a ground plan appended to Mr. Burrows' report. From an inspection it would appear that the basement elevation

was laid bare along two of the four sides, and the inner room dug out to a considerable depth. The building is doubtless of the Polonaruwa age, but its object is difficult to determine. The upper and lower verandahs were seemingly supported on groined arches, and access to the upper storey gained by steps on the west side. The inner chamber had a single doorway facing south. Externally the building is recessed. On the outer walls the mouldings are repeated from basement to coping, and show signs here and there of the chunam facing. This exterior brickwork depends for support on the grasp of sinuous roots striking down from trees growing on the top, which thus make tardy amends for the destruction they helped to hasten; but even so the walls must, ere long, totter to their fall. Careful drawings will be made and a fuller description furnished. It is strange that a building of such dimensions, lying within a hundred yards of the "Kuttam-pokuna" path, and less than half a mile from the Thuparáma, should have escaped notice so long.

Proceeding along the path towards the "Kuttam-pokuna" for a quarter of a mile, and turning to the right for some 200 yards down one of the lines cut by the coolies, a brick and pillared building is met with. The premises were once enclosed by a brick wall with pillars at intervals, but "the destroyer" has been here and left broken shafts and juts to mark his havoc. The line of enclosing wall, now despooled of its stones, was about 81 ft. by 30 ft. In the centre of the pillared vihäré upon a stone-cotted platform elevation (now only half above ground), moulded after the usual Anu-

râdhâ pura type. From the stylobate rose a building on 36 pillars, united, partially at least, by walls of brick, which lie thick inside and out. The entrance faced east, and along this front ran an inner verandah or portico. A single guard-stone, 1 ft. 5 in. in width, proved that a flight of steps is hidden beneath the débris. On either side of the steps are still standing two graceful pillars, 8 ft. 10 in.

in height, with rectangular base, 3 ft. 6 in. from the ground, changing to an eight-sided shaft until within 4 in. of the top. The lintel and jambs of the doorway remain where they fell. There would seem to have been a spacious hall or porch in front supported on four rows of pillars. Here are a second guard-stone (evidently out of place of the "dwarf" type; a stone bowl, 2 ft. in diameter and 8 in. deep inside, curved exteriorly to represent a lotus bud opening; and a Śrī-patulā stone with the chakra carved in the centre of each foot.

About a hundred yards to the north is an old well, oblong in shape (5 ft. 8 in. by 2 ft. 7 in.), with courses of single stones below and smaller stones above.

(i) In the extreme southern portion of A (shaded), where a path from the Inner to the Outer Circular is shown crossing the Halpan-ča, are the sorry remnants of an ancient ruined stone bridge. Its present condition and that of the smaller bridge over the Basawakkulam-oya forcibly illustrate the reckless manner in which all erections, even in recent times, lie in ruins everywhere with which the stone monuments of the past disappear when left unprotected against modern vandalism. Both bridges are marked as then existing on the survey map of Anuradhapura made in 1874. To-day the Basawakkulam-oya bridge is but a shapeless mass of stepping stones, not a single pier standing. Hardly less incomparable is that over the Halpan-ča. The original bridge was of the "dwarf" type, 15 ft. in length, consisted originally of nine spans (seven north, two south, of the ča), 6 ft. apart. Each span was found of uprights united transversely by stone beams 15 ft. in length, upon which six or seven shorter beams were laid side by side lengthways. A photograph taken some twenty years back (Lawton, vol. II, pl. 20) shows at least three of the cross beams in position. At the present time not only these, but nearly all the uprights have gone. Six complete piers with broken fragments of cross

* Mr. H. Parker informs me that he first found this stone a few years ago.
† Report, Sessional Papers, 1836, No. X., p. 6.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Area B.

7. (a) The strip abutting on the Inner Circular road was already cleared as far as the Basawakkulam main channel. It contains a few unimportant ruins, probably surveyed, and the well-known stone cistern (“Dutugemunu’s elephant trough”) close to the road.

(b) North, the forest for two hundred yards has been chenaéd and partly parcelled. A Dharmasala built here near the path to the “Kuttam-pokuna” by the Theosophical Society. In this lot are to be found only a figure of a goddess (similar to that in the Government Agent’s compound) broken into three pieces, a large lingam and a jōni stone, and a square mound of brick, 72 ft. by 64 ft., with two “dwarf” guard-stones in excellent preservation facing east. A few of these stones might be removed to the local museum.

(c) With the exception of a circular well near the gateway to the Mohnandiram’s chena (really just inside A); a small trough, broken (3 ft. 9 in. by 3 ft. 3 in. by 5 in. thick, with an inside depth of 1 ft. 2 in.); an oblong well (7 ft. 4 in. by 6 in.) of horizontal stone courses in the jungle about 200 yards north of the brick mound; and an unexplainable line of short 3-ft. piers in three rows, 9 ft. 6 in. wide, running due east and west for 220 yards across the “Kuttam-pokuna” path.—the whole of B would seem to be barren of ruins up to a quarter of a mile radius of the Jėtawandärāma.

8. Insasna as the portions of Y cleared by Mr. Burrows teem with ruins, it was natural to expect that the triangular piece of B, formed by a line drawn from near the “Kuttam-pokuna” to the fork of the Y road, would yield similar interesting finds. This hope has not been realised. Until the jungle (part of which was formerly chenaéd, but has been abandoned) is thoroughly cleared, it is impossible to specify all existing ruins. But it may be safely asserted that the areas on this side do not approach in extent or importance those laid bare in Y during 1885–86.

9. Fifty yards south of the large sedent Buddha on the Outer Circular is a monastery within spacious premises, which extend east some distance.* From the west boundary wall a straight street, 22 ft. wide, runs for 94 yards due east between a low wall of double-stones, scattered on the outer surface. About 70 yards down, standing back on either side some twenty yards, are two pillared buildings.

(i) That to the north comprises an array of eighty pillars, smoothly squared to 10 in. and flattened at top, 6 ft. in present height forming an oblong 39 ft. by 12 ft. 2 distanes, yet systematically, giving the idea of two buildings of double rooms with a central passage east and west. There is no sign above ground of any entrance. Adjoining on the west are ten short piers, roughly wedged, probably an out-house.

(ii) The twenty-four pillars to the south (8 ft. 3 in. by 10 in. by 10 in.) are arranged almost quadrilaterally so as to admit of a free passage, 2 ft. 8 in. wide, down the centre, north, and south, as well as east and west.

(iii) The street terminates at the remains of a diminutive lithic shrine (13 ft. by 9 ft. 6 in.) with mounted basement. On this rests a heap of displaced pillars, door frame, and slabs recessed and elegantly moulded. These slabs may well have been the architrave of the building, as they have mortice holes and the pillar tenons. Further examination of this little building will be made when the work of excavation commences.

(v) Either through, or at each side of it, access was gained into a square enclosure with stone walls—the precincts of a vihāra, resembling in its surroundings the so-called “Pavilion of Mahasen,” on the Outer Circular (Lawton 197, Hogg 144). This type of vihara is invariably flanked by four “chapels” built close to its corners, but detached. In this instance the building was supported on twenty-four pillars rising from a platform now beneath the level of the surrounding west. The stone slabs, five in number and 6 ft. wide, have on their perpendicular face the familiar carving of three squatting dwarfs, and are balsamated by fine nukara rises. The guard-stones are of the general designation—doratupālas holding punkalas. Each off-set bears a kneeling bull neatly carved, but the “moonstone” at the bottom of the sixteen-pilledar with plain steps (4 ft. 6 in. wide), simpler rises, and smaller janitor terminals, the off-sets of which have lions. The steps of the chapels on the north-west and north-east of the vihara face south, and vice versa.

Westwards, about half-way between these ruins and the so-called “Pėya-gē” (surveyed) on the Y road, five other series of pillars were discovered, mostly mere stumps. Of two some notice is deserving.

(a) The first was probably a vihara (34 ft. by 22 ft.), but apparently without side chapels, supported on sixteen square pillars, 7 ft. in height, of which the four at the corners (10 in. by 10 in.) are stouter than the rest (8½ in. by 8½ in.). The plain steps, 5 ft. 4 in. in width, face east. They have ordinary rises and janitor guard-stones, but the off-sets of the latter are surmounted by kneeling elephants.

(b) The other building may have been a wooden bana-gē on short stone piers. These are twelve in number, in two parallel rows of six, round headed, and from 1½ to 2 ft. in height, forming an oblong 39 ft. 6 in. by 14 ft. Off the four corners are four flat-topped taller piers, 4 to 5 ft. high and 1 ft. 2 in. square.

(c) From the road skirting the south-east face of the Jėtawandärāma enclosure runs a solidly built stone wall finished by a 2 ft. 6 in. moulded coping. This wall—perhaps the east boundary of the ground appurtenant to the “Pėya-gē”—joins at right angles two square small mounds of bricks, 66 ft. apart. The ruined brickwork points to their having been walled buildings, possibly myra-geval, at the eastern entrance to the premises. At each is a large plain guard-stone (4 ft. by 2 ft. 9 in. by 10 thick) like those found at Tōļawela.

(d) South of all these ruins, at a distance of some two or three hundred yards, is to be seen an almost perfect specimen of the ancient stone wells coeval with the ruins in the neighbourhood of the Jėtawandā. It has a shallow catchment basin, 7 ft. square, and is built of monolith courses (eight still visible), so closely set and evenly adjusted as to present a smooth-faced shaft 3 ft. square.

* See plan annexed.
absolutely plumb. These ancient wells are of all sizes, from the giant well at the back of “Mahasen’s pavilion,” excavated to a depth of 30 ft., to the modest, though far better preserved, linda just described.

The extreme tops of four sets of plain rises and terminals peeping from the ground slightly east show that a building of some sort, 25 ft. square, stood near the well.

8. The area marked Y between the fork of the Y road and the small shaded patches across the road west and north, were cleared with prison labour by Mr. Burrows when Office Assistant to the Government Agent. The ruins immediately adjoining the Outer Circular (e.g., the misnamed “elephant stables,” “Mahasen’s pavilion,” and the large “stone canoe”) had been divested of jungle some years previously. A description of the “streets” in the upper part of Y, with a ground plan, is given in Mr. Burrows’ report, with some notice of other neighbouring ruins (e.g., the “stone canopy” and gal-gé) lying within the shaded portions. Mr. Snowden is believed to have completed the survey of nearly all these ruins; but his field sheets have not been sufficiently examined in the Survey Office for the work to be plotted. Until this is done, and a reliable plan on a sufficiently large scale furnished, showing the true situation of each ruin, it would be waste of time to attempt to deal further with this area. For the present, therefore, it may be treated like X, as surveyed and examined.

A strip of forest, about a hundred yards wide, dividing the upper from the lower portions of Y, remains to be filled. This will be undertaken by the Government Agent shortly. By thinning out the round, the number of stru and other useless trees, it will then be possible to command an unobstructed view of the ruins lying within the fork of the Y road and the Outer Circular.

9. Latterly I have been able to engage a few Sinhalese villagers from Karambwa, under their Vel-Vidanné, who is well acquainted with the country round. This small gang has been employed in examining the jungle west of the Inner Circular and Y roads—the areas marked on the plan D, E, F. As the large tract is covered by lics, the stumps of these and other fields and low jungle; and the southern portion of F, near the Miriawetiya Dágaba, is to some extent cleared. It is generally known that there are not many ruins on this, the west side of the old city. It is hoped that the exploration of this wide tract may be completed by the end of September, as may exist in October, as such ruins are not likely to be discovered.

10. The suggestion of the Government Agent (Mr. R. W. Iovers), that search might be made northwards for “the old palace,” has not been lost sight of. The Vel-Vidanné and his men spent a week exploring the forest around their village and Galadawala, but without success. A structure, almost necessarily of considerable importance, if it lay in this direction, unless completely buried, can scarcely fail to be discovered as exploration proceeds north of the Jétawandara.

Area C.

11. Rumours had reached me of ruins, and specially of a large image of Buddha, said to exist in the jungle near Nuwaráweya tank. Accordingly, when areas A, B, had been worked through, the Tamil gang was transferred to the area marked C, a square mile in extent, lying between the Mihintale and Ayton roads, the Malawat-oya and the bund of Nuwaráweya.

The result justified the experiment. The ruins of a very complete and apparently ancient Buddhist monastic establishment were soon struck. They lie about half a mile north of Ayton road, the same distance from Nuwaráweya, and not more than two miles south-east of the town. The small hamlet of Tójuwela nests below the Nuwaráweya bund at no great distance.

When the site had been thoroughly cleared of all savannah trees, the regular plan and details of the temple premises became strikingly apparent.

A rough ground plan is appended. Excavation may render necessary some modification of the ensuing description of the ruins in their present condition above ground.

The courtyard covered an oblong space (whether walled in or not remains to be ascertained), 296 ft. north and south by 270 ft. east and west, raised 8 ft. to 10 ft. above the surrounding ground level. The required drainage was effected by two stone pili, or spouts, 7 ft. 9 in. in length, on each face. A flight of stone steps, 12 ft. wide, in the centre of each side directly fronting the central pointa flanked by large plain guard-stones, led into the premises through a porch of eight pillars, now all stumps.

(a) Entering from the south the eye is at once attracted by the burly back and shoulders of a sedent stone Buddha. The image faces north, and is placed on a mound approached from that direction by two, if not three, tiers of steps, 7 ft. 3 in. wide, with plain guard-stones. From the second tier ran on either side two or three rows of pillars, which probably sustained a brick building enshrining the Buddha. Most of these pillars are fallen, or have been broken off short. Two, more shapely than the rest, have shafts changing from rectangular base to octagonal, and finally into the round.

This Buddha is admittedly the finest yet brought to light at Anurádhapura. In mere size it yields to the seated Buddha of the Outer Circular, which measures 7 ft. 6 in. in height by 7 ft. across the knees. But in other respects it surpasses all three statues near the Jétawandara. The wonderful sharpness and depth of the features, the softness of expression, the symmetry and repose of the body, give the image a tout ensemble, which contrasts markedly with the stolid “figure-head” appearance so characteristic of these Buddhas in stone. The eye-lids, under-lips, and ears are carved with a life-like reality not reached in the case of the other Buddhas already known. The nose is chipped, but so slightly as to be practically unnoticeable from the front; the fingers are somewhat worn, and there are a few cracks. With these slight blemishes the Sage sits as serenely contemplative as when votaries flocked to worship and make their offerings upon his altar. Modern “wreckers,” with different intent, have sought beneath his very feet for buried treasure, and gutted the dagaba before his eyes. A peculiarity of the head is a rectangular block, 10 in. by 43 in., at the back,六合 a thumb or, hair-knot, just as usual. Possibly it may have connected the statue with the back wall. The sircospots, not improbably of gold, is, as might be expected, missing. Dimensions of the Buddha: height 5 ft. 9 in., across knees 5 ft. 2 in., across shoulders 3 ft. 5 in., head 2 ft., round neck 3 ft. 5 in., round head (above ears) 4 ft. 4 in. 3 ft. 11 in., arm (seated) 4 ft. 7 in., elbow to hand 1 ft. 7 in., circumference of arm at shoulder 2 ft. 6 in., leg to knee 3 ft. 4 in., knee to ankle 3 ft., right sole 1 ft. 6 in., nose 6 in., mouth 6 in., eye 4 in., ear 8 in. The figure is rather flat-chested.

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The removal of this unique Buddha to the Colombo Museum will be recommended to Government.

The space within the stone walls may well have been the yansala, or residence of the particular fraternity attached to this Buddhist temple establishment across the Malwatu-oya.

The entire site offers so promising a field for further investigation that excavations will be started here as soon as the rains set in.

12. As opportunity offered, I have examined and taken copies of most of the inscriptions discovered of late years at Anurâdâhapura, and not yet published. These will be dealt with more fully in a subsequent report. For the present a list giving brief particulars (age, &c.) may suffice.

1.—Inscriptions now lying at the Kachchéri:—

(i.) Slab, in plain framing, smoothed, 4 ft. 7 in. by 1 ft. 11 in.; 26 lines: letters small and neatly cut. Inscription of King “Buddas Siri Sang Bo Abahay.”

(ii.) Slab, plain, 4 ft. 9 in. by 2 ft. 7 in.; 37 lines: letters larger and less regular. Inscription of King “Siri Sang Bo Abd.”

(iii.) Slab, smoothed, but worn in parts, 5 ft. 7 in. by 2 ft. 3 in.; 28 lines Tamil—Grantha inscription; age doubtful.

(iv.) Slab, plain, 4 ft. 4 in. by 2 ft. 3 in.; twenty-nine lines in bold letters. Inscription of Queen “Abhasalamevan Lilavati” (1202-5 A.D.).

2.—Inscriptions at the “stone canopy” :—

(iv.) Slab, moulded framing, smoothed, 6 ft. 3 in. by 4 ft. 3 in.; fifty-six lines: letters small and neatly cut. Inscription of King “Buddas Siri Sang Boy Abahay.”

(v.) Slab, considerably worn, 6 ft. 3 in. by 4 ft. 3 in.; fifty-five lines: letters as on (i.) and (iv.). Inscription of King “Siri Sang Bo Abah.”

(vi.) Slab, plain, much worn, 8 ft. 9 in. by 3 ft. 6 in.; sixty lines: letters larger. Inscription of King “Abay.”

3.—Inscription near the “stone canoe” in A:—

(vii.) Slab, smoothed, in deeply moulded framing, 7 ft. 4 in. by 4 ft. 3 in.; forty-nine lines: letters as in (i.), (iv.), and (v.). Inscription of King “Siri Sang Bo Abah.”

All the above, except (ii.) and (iv.), are of the tenth and eleventh centuries.

13. Between August 25 and 28 I visited the Eppâwela and Nuwârangam Korâlés, halting at Eppâwela, Turawala, and the Takâ-bendâ-âla and amuna on the Kâli-oya, where there were stated to be inscriptions not copied hitherto.

(a) At Eppâwela, on the site of an ancient vihârâ overgrown with jungle, was found a guard-stone broken into two with a portion of a worn inscription of the tenth to eleventh century. This stone has the appearance of having been roughly cut down and shaped from a longer slab—a surprise borne out by the sense of the words legible. The stone has been brought in to Anurâdâhapura.

* Sessional Papers, 1886, No. X., p. 3.
On a fragment of square pillar head at Turuwila are a few letters. The name “Abhásala-meve kan Mahā Rāja” can be made out with difficulty. Upon the bund of the fine tank is a ruined “Patiripuwa” connected traditionally with Mahānaga. A bold flight of steps still leads to the water’s edge.

Contrary to expectation, no inscription was found upon the Yakabendi amuna, but on other grounds this gigantic work well repaid inspection. It was seen by Major Forbes in 1828, and his description applies equally at this day—*

The streams we crossed on our way from Kurunagalla were the Dederoo-oya, Kimboola-oya, Mee-oya, and Kala-wi-oya. Near the place where we crossed the latter river we discovered and examined the remains of an ancient stone bridge, consisting of a pier of considerable length projecting into and contracting the stream, which was both broad and rapid. The stones used in constructing this pier vary from eight to fourteen feet in length; they are laid in regular lines, and some are jointed into one another; each course also recedes a few inches from the edge of the one underneath; and this form, while it offers less direct resistance to the current, gives additional strength to the building. In the rocks which form the bed of the river we could distinguish square holes, in which stone pillars had been placed; and the bridge had been completed by laying long stones or beams of wood on these so as to connect the different parts of the structure, which, there is reason to believe, was built by the King Mahasen, and that the rapid river has fretted and plunged against this artificial barrier for full fifteen hundred years. At a short distance farther down the stream, the site of another bridge can be traced, which appears to have been constructed on the same plan, but either at an earlier period, or of less durable materials. At these ruins I first remarked that the large stone had been driven from the adjacent rocks by means of wedges, and that any further shaping or ornament had been done by circuses. On my arrival at Anuradhapura this manner of working quarries and splitting stones was everywhere observable, and satisfied me that the natives of Ceylon, two thousand years ago, used those expedients for procuring large granite pillars, and shaping their ornaments, which have only been introduced into Britain in the nineteenth century. In conformity with the wild tradition of the natives, that the King Mahasen could compel even the demons to work for him, and that this bridge is a specimen of their masonry, the ruins here are known by the name of Yakka-Bendi-palam (bridge built by devils). A stone was pointed out to us (in the upper row) on the under side of which it is said the figure of the architect is cut.

From the deep square socket holes in the rocky bed of the river there would seem to have been a bridge or causeway on both sides of the dam uniting it to either bank. The piers and cross-beams of these bridges and the stones of an abutment of the amuna have been washed away by floods and carried some way down stream. Among the stones of the upper courses of the amuna are two or three slabs of a frieze. They are laid face downwards and, as far as can be judged, bear figures of animals. A large cornice stone carved with a fillet of hansas was also noticed. It can hardly be doubted that a stone-built temple, adorned with fine carvings, must have at one time stood near, and its ruins been despoiled for the building or repair of the Yakabendi amuna.

An effort will be made to remove the carved stones to Anuradhapura.

H. C. P. BELL,
Archeological Commissioner.

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