

# LIBRARY NEWS

CEYLON NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

VOLUME ONE, NUMBER ONE, JANUARY - MARCH 1973

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CEYLON NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP - 1973

HEADQUARTERS

Address : 10, Chelsea Gardens, Colombo 3 (off Ananda Coomarasamy Mawatha and Col. T.G.Jayawardena Mawatha ). Phone : Chairman - 24908, Director - 24909.

Chairman : Mr. W.M.A.Warnasuriya (Principal Executive Officer) ; Director, Ceylon National Library Services : Mr. K.D.Somadasa (Secretary to the Board ; Assistant Director ( Library Services ) : Mr. S.M.Kamaldeen ; Assistant Director (Administration) :

REGIONAL CENTRE (Central Region)

Address : Ceylon Insurance Building (1st Floor), 23-1/5, Dalada Veediya Kandy. Phone : 7582 (Kandy) .

Assistant Director (Library Services) Mrs. K.L.Panditaratne (Presently in charge of Regional Centre ).

POWERS OF THE BOARD

The powers of the Board are set out in Section 14 of CNLSB Act, No.17 of 1970. Among them the most important functions are those of policy making in respect of responsibilities vested in it, and their financial control .

LIBRARY BOARD

The Board consists of the following members : Mr.W.M.A.Warnasuriya - Chairman (Retired Deputy Director General of Education & Director Educational Planning) ; Mr. W.E.V.S.de Alwis (Commissioner of Local Government ) ; Mr. Duncan W.de Alwis (Government Agent, Colombo District) ; Mr. J.W.Subasinghe (Advocate, Crown Counsel & Retired Registrar of Supreme Court of Ceylon) ; Dr. R.A.H.Werrakoon (Director, Ceylon Institute of Scientific & Industrial Research); Mr. M.M.Bahaudeen ( Businessman & Social Worker) ; Mr. S.U.Somasekeram (Retired Assistant Director of Education & Social Worker ; Mr. U.D.I.Sirisena\* (Deputy Director General of Education ) ; Mr. H.A.I.Goonetilleke ( Librarian, University of Ceylon, Peradeniya Campus ) .

Mr. K.D.Somadasa - Director, Ceylon National Library Services & Secretary to the Board (Ex - Librarian, University of Ceylon, Peradeniya) .

( \* In place of Mr. R.Paskaralingam from 28.12.71.)

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

AL-HAJ DR. BADIUDIN MAHMUD

I am glad that the Ceylon National Library Services Board has commenced the publication of a Newsletter - LIBRARY NEWS - to publicise its own activities, and to provide information relating to libraries and librarianship both in Sri Lanka and abroad.

A well informed public is an asset for any successful implementation of national plans for development. The mass media, supported by a national network of library and Documentation services covering all branches of knowledge could contribute significantly to the creation particularly of that well informed public, and thus strengthen the contribution of education.

The publication of this 'Library News' is one way in which the National Library Services Board of Sri Lanka attempts to discharge this service.

I wish it all success.

16.3.1973.

(Sgd.) Badiudin Mahmud  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

AREAS OF ACTION

The Ceylon National Library Services Board has been empowered to function in the following areas :-

- (a) to plan and assist in the organisation and development of library services in general;
- (b) to establish and maintain the Ceylon National Library;
- (c) to advise and assist in the promotion and development of public library services;
- (d) to advise and assist in the promotion and development of school libraries;
- (e) to advise and assist in the publication of reading materials and the production of audio-visual aids;
- (f) to advise and assist in the co-ordination and development of university libraries, junior university libraries, technical college libraries, teachers' college libraries, library services of local authorities, Government departmental libraries, and other special libraries;
- (g) to advise and assist the Government in fixing the minimum academic and professional qualifications for persons employed in library services;
- (h) to promote the development of library education and training; and
- (i) to carry out such other functions as may be necessary for the general promotion of library services.

(From section 14 of the Ceylon National Library Services Board Act, No. 17 of 1970 )

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In December 1967 under the authority of the Director General of UNESCO, a Meeting of Experts on the national planning of library services in Asia was held in Colombo - "to study the present situation of library and documentation services in South-East Asia, and their role in Education, Social and Economic Development, and to establish a framework of principles on planning libraries and documentation services, and to study the possibility of the application of these principles in Asian countries, both individually and collectively." The meeting was organised with the co-operation of the Government of Ceylon.

On the basis of the principles of planning adopted by the meeting, a plan for the development of library and documentation services in Ceylon was discussed by the participants and presented to the Government of Ceylon for its consideration (COM/CS/190/6 Paris, 1968). The plan was considered to serve as a model for Asian Countries desiring to improve their own library and documentation services. The Government of Ceylon accepted the plans so presented and in May 1970 enacted legislation with a view to establishing the infrastructure needed for the implementation of the libraries development plan.

A Nine-Member Board, representing various interest, directly concerned with library activities, was appointed with a full time Chairman and a Director of Library Services. The headquarters of the Board was located in Colombo, while regional centres were to be established as the services and duties extended. The first such regional office was established in Kandy in January 1972.

By this operation the Government of Ceylon took the initiative to plan library services of the Island on a national basis. Really, it was "one specific aspect of educational planning within the social and economic planning of the country". Planning library services implies - "a continuous systematised process of studying educational problems at all levels, including adult education, and the problems of scientific research from the standpoint of library needs, and to determine aims of library services, and to set targets for their attainment by reasonable use of resources available within the country." The task of the Library Services Board will essentially be this.

Libraries of one sort or other were found within the Island, owned and managed by educational institutions, Government Departments, Corporations and Local Government authorities. Taken individually, except for a few, their resources were poor and inadequate for the increasing population that was becoming literate in Ceylon, particularly that class that had acquired a scientific literacy. The task of the National Library Services Board was to enrich the content of these libraries in terms of modern needs, and to extend their services to an ever-widening circle of readers, by means of a collective effort under a dynamic professional leadership. In other words, the library service, which had hitherto remained to be 'limited', 'static', and 'elitist' in form, was to be broadened and made dynamic and popular. Such are the objectives of the Ceylon National Library Services Board, that was established in May 1970.

The LIBRARY NEWS it now releases is the information medium by which it seeks to bring before the general reading public in Ceylon and elsewhere, its activities, and how it proposes to reach its objectives. It will bring, wherever possible, news from the outside world that may have a direct bearing on local problems. The Board believes that this would be a valuable forum for the librarians of Ceylon particularly, to come to know each other regularly.

As Chairman of the Board it is my happy privilege to introduce this Newsletter to the reading public, and to invite the librarians of Sri Lanka to make full use of it.

Before concluding I wish to draw the attention of our readers to the following words of Mr. C.V.Panna Ex. Director, Libraries, Archives, and Documentation Services UNESCO, which are so pregnant with meaning and which states in quite explicit terms the reasons why a national library service should be accepted as a pre-requisite for Social and Economic Development, particularly by a developing Country -

" If national and university libraries are the barometer of a country's erudition, public libraries are the barometer of its general culture. Erudition and culture are valuable sources of national wealth. For that reason the education and training of the individual is considered in every development plan and every educational plan as being one of the essential means of stimulating economic and social development. For a people to be erudite and cultivated, one of the things required in an effective educational system; an effective educational system requires the systematic use of reading: reading requires books, and if they are to be at the disposal of the whole population, libraries are needed. Without libraries there can be no good primary school, no effective secondary school, no efficient university, nor can the 'life-long integrated education' of adults be encouraged.

A well planned library system, integrated in the national educational plans and, hence, in the economic and social development plans, is a guarantee that the money invested in education and research will pay reasonable dividends. Accordingly, expenditure on library services should be regarded, like those on education, as a capital investment rather than a mere item of consumption expenditure. " (1)

(Sgd.) W.M.A. Warnasuriya

Chairman  
CNLSB.

(1) C.V.Panna, Planning Library Services.  
Paris, UNESCO, 1967.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 1973

The objectives of the Library Board to assist in the establishment of a national network of libraries consisting of Public Libraries, School Libraries and Mobile Library schemes which commenced with the Pilot Project in the Kandy, Matale and Kegalle districts in 1972 will be extended to other parts of the Island during the course of the next five years. The second step of this expansion scheme will cover essentially the areas of Galle District, Anuradhapura District and Amparai-Kalmunai Districts. Libraries in other areas which have begun their own development scheme will also be given assistance by the Board as and when they are deemed necessary.

The three districts selected for 1973 are essentially districts where, in spite of their thick population and extensive agricultural development, library facilities are inadequate for their needs. Joint consultations have been had with the Department of Local Government to decide on the best manner in which the Public Libraries in these areas could be extended. On this basis a model public library per electorate has been considered the best manner of operation. These libraries of each electorate will be selected by the A.C.L.G. in consultation with the Members of Parliament, and will be finally decided by the Commissioner of Local Government, who would then refer them to the Library Board for its attention and assistance.

The Department of Local Government is proposing to spend a sum of nearly Rs.200,000 in making grants for Capital Expenditure for these selected libraries. The Library Board would concentrate on supply of books and training of library staff employed in them. Each Assistant Commissioner of Local Government would co-ordinate the libraries selected for development into a regional unit and will at the same time extend the services of these libraries by means of Book-Box schemes operated with the assistance of Community Centres in the electorates. The Local Authorities will be responsible for the maintenance of the services.

On 31st January 1973 the Government Agent, Amparai, established a new Public Library which was declared open by the Deputy Minister of Local Government. The Library Board donated a set of books worth Rs.3,000 to it, and also assisted in getting its Librarian trained. The Gal-oya Valley still not being an area covered by Local Government institutions the Government Agent will be in overall charge of the extension and development programmes.

In the Anuradhapura district two new libraries have been built at Madawachchiya and Kahatagasdiliya respectively. The neighbouring district of Vavuniya which will be linked with this district for library development has built one of the finest public library buildings in the Island at the cost of over Rs.1 lakh. Rs.25,000 of the Council's funds were voted last year for the purchase of books for its library. In Anuradhapura the Board has urged on the Anuradhapura Preservation Board to get the Public Library Building costing over Rs.4 lakhs completed before the

end of this year. The balance work is being given on contract. Once the building is completed the Anuradhapura Preservation Board Public Library which is now housed in very congested buildings in the Old Town will be shifted here. The Library Board in co-operation with the Anuradhapura Preservation Board intends to develop this Library as the District Central Library from which a loan book scheme could be put into operation to cover the entire North-Central province.

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THE INLAND REVENUE ACT, NO. 4 OF 1963

Notice under Section 16A

By virtue of the powers vested in me by section 16A of the Inland Revenue Act, No. 4 of 1963, as amended by Act No. 6 of 1969, I Nanayakkarapathirage Martin Perera, Minister of Finance, do by this notice, declare "CEYLON NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD" to be an approved charity for the purpose of that section.

N.M.PERERA,  
Minister of Finance.

Colombo, 17th December, 1971.

12-1092.

GAZETTE No. 14991 of 30th December, 1971.



CEYLON NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

N O T I C E

The Hon. Minister of Finance by his notice No.12-1092 of 17th December 1971, published in the Ceylon Government Gazette No. 14991 of 30th December 1971, has informed the general public that he has declared the CEYLON NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD an approved charity under Section 16 (a) of the Inland Revenue Act.

Any person making a gift or a donation in cash or from his property to such an approved charity is entitled to the following tax benefits under the Inland Revenue Act :

- (I) In case where a donor makes a gift over Rs 500/= in value, one half of the amount deducted or an amount representing 1/20th of his assessable income or Rs. 25,000/= whichever is less, will be deducted from his assessable income in arriving at his taxable income.
- (II) In case where a donor's gift to the Board is in excess of Rs. 1000/=, the amount gifted would be exempted from the Gift Tax Section 41(1) of the Inland Revenue Act.

(The amount given to an approved charity is however subject to a maximum of Rs. 300,000/= in value to the lifetime of the individual. )

Anyone desirous of making a gift or a donation to the Ceylon National Library Services Board should send such gift or donation in the form of cash or by cheque or gift deed to the Chairman, Ceylon National Library Services Board. All correspondence on such matters should be addressed to the Chairman, Ceylon National Library Services Board, No.10, Chelsea Gardens, Colombo 3.

A certificate of acceptance of such gift or donation will be issued by the Chairman, Ceylon National Library Services Board. The donor would be entitled to receive the tax benefits indicated above when this certificate is submitted to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue along with his annual return of income.

W.M.A.WARNASURIYA,

Chairman.

No.10, Chelsea Gardens,  
Colombo 3.

PROSPECTS OF LIBRARY EDUCATION IN CEYLON - 1973

The promotion and development of Library Education and training is one of the powers and duties of the Library Board. It has devoted considerable attention to this sphere of activity in order to establish the basic, mid-level and advanced training in Librarianship and Documentation services.

\* \* \* \*

In 1961 the Ceylon Library Association (CyLA) began its training programme for its members. Two annual examinations are held by this Association : CyLA First Examination (since 1961), and the CyLA Intermediate Examination (since 1966). Classes for the Final Examination have commenced this year. Further particulars could be obtained from : the Education Officer, Sri Lanka Library Association, C/o University of Ceylon Library ; P.O. Box:1698, Colombo-7.

\* \* \* \*

The University of Ceylon conducted a Post Graduate course in Librarianship in 1961. It was abandoned in 1965 due to staffing difficulties. In 1972, at the request of the Library Board and the CyLA, the University of Ceylon has taken steps to restore the course at under-graduate and post-graduate level, taking into consideration the emerging manpower needs for library services in Ceylon. It is anticipated that the Department of the Librarianship at the University would begin as soon as the necessary staff is recruited.

\* \* \* \*

The two year mid-level Diploma Course in Librarianship held at the former Junior University Colleges will be restored in the government Polytechnics when funds and staff are available. However, action is being taken to introduce ' Management of School Libraries ' as a course in Education I or II in Teacher Training Colleges, so that the trained teacher will be in a better position to use the School Library in education and if required be the Teacher-Librarian of the Elementary Schools (Kanistha Vidyalayas).

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The Trade Unions of Government Librarians and Local Government librarians have been agitating for some time that authorities concerned should pay due attention to the provision of facilities to sit professional examinations, as their promotional prospects have been arrested under existing regulations.

\* \* \* \*

Several Embassies in Ceylon have contributed significantly to the Library Board, the Ministry of Education and the University of Ceylon to promote library education. The British Council and the USIS in particular have offered the University and the Board the assistance of lecturers in Library Science to undertake training programmes locally. The libraries, Documentation and Archives Division of UNESCO has always expressed its readiness to support library training programmes both by providing personnel and library materials required for such programmes. The Overseas Development Administration on the advice of the British Council has made a valuable gift of 200 titles on Librarianship and Documentation Service to the Ceylon National Library Services Board.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN SRI LANKA

by W.E.V.S.de Alwis

( Commissioner of Local Government )

Public Libraries, often housed in temples are referred to in numerous places in history books depicting the ancient period of Sri Lanka. In more modern times the earliest Public Library was the 'United Services Library' founded in 1813. The 'Colombo Pettah Library' was founded a few years later. These two libraries were amalgamated in 1925 to form the present Colombo Public Library.

Today the organization and maintenance of Public Libraries is a permissive function of Local Government Authorities. Out of 674 Local Government Authorities in the Island 496 maintain libraries. Not all of them can be described as substantial Public Libraries organized on modern lines. There are yet 178 Local Government areas where the nucleus of a public library does not exist.

The Ministry of Local Government is contemplating the amendment of the law whereby the provision of Public Libraries will be made an obligatory duty cast on Municipal and Urban Councils. Similar provision will be extended to Town and Village Council areas gradually.

The Department of Local Government's Five Year Development Plan envisages the construction of buildings in the 178 deficient areas. It also provides for the improvement of existing library buildings, substantial additions to book stock and the training of library staff. The investment on the plan, which commences in 1973, will be Rs.500,000/= per annum.

It is hoped to establish Documentation Centres at certain Public Libraries providing information both to Government officials and to the people on a variety of subjects, particularly Agriculture and Industry. Special mention must also be made of the Pilot Project which was inaugurated in the Kandy Region with the assistance of UNESCO. The project will establish an integrated Public Library Service including a book-box service in fifteen Local Authority areas in the Kandy region. It is hoped to inaugurate such Pilot Projects in two regions each year.

One of the functions of the National Library Services Board set up in 1970, is to "advise and assist in the promotion and development of Public Library Services". Another function of the Board is "to promote the development of library education and training". The Board has already associated itself in a large way with the Kandy Pilot Project. Local Authorities will extend every co-operation to the Board to fulfil the two functions which have been vested in the Board in relation to Public Libraries .

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES - SUMMARY**

**Local Authorities Maintaining Public Libraries :**

	<u>Total No, of L.AA.</u>	<u>Total No, Maintaining Libraries</u>	<u>Backlog</u>
Municipal Councils	12	12	0
Urban Councils	36	34	2
Town Councils	86	75	11
Village Committees	540	375	165
	<u>674</u>	<u>496</u>	<u>178</u>

**1971-72 Estimates : Department of Local Government :**

**Grants to Local Authorities for Capital Works -**

Public Libraries	...	...	...	Rs. 300,000
(1) Library Buildings	...	Rs. 180,000	...	
(2) Books & Periodicals	...	Rs. 120,000	...	

**Allocation made to each Local Authority  
for Books & Periodicals :**

Urban Council	Rs. 700/=
Town Council	Rs. 500/=
Village Council	Rs. 170/=

**1973 Estimates : Department of Local Government :**

**Grants to Local Authorities for Capital Works -**

Public Libraries	...	...	...	Rs. 500,000
(1) Library Buildings	...	Rs. 200,000	...	
(2) Books & Periodicals	...	Rs. 110,000	...	
(3) Anuradhapura, Galle, and Amparai/Kalmunai, District Projects - Special Allocation..	...	Rs. 190,000	...	

## THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

by Dr. P. Udagama

( Secretary, Ministry of Education )

If the modern aim of education is 'to learn to learn' our instruction programmes and the materials available for this purpose must be considered anew. In any education system, more so in a developing country like ours, one restrictive factor is educational financing; even with the high expenditure in terms of the G.N.P. that Sri Lanka spends on education. Our problems are many and our resources are so restrictive.

With many of our educational reforms, the school library has not been forgotten. But our attitudes to school libraries must change, if we are going to make education more meaningful to the child and relevant to the society in which he lives.

Our school libraries cannot remain 'poth gulas' of the old type, where books were protected and used by a specific group of individuals. The school library must be a centre of learning. It should also be a centre of service to our students. If learning is to be individualised as it properly should be, the library has a bigger role to play in our curriculum. This is certainly more so in a nation like ours, where books are not very numerous for the school child in Sinhala and Tamil.

The teacher and the school librarians have to guide our children to appreciate new books, new knowledge and the sources to this knowledge. It should not be a place where children are sent to do 'silent reading' when a teacher is tired of a normal lesson. The library should attract the students as a centre of learning, of books and a place where help could be obtained.

A survey in U.S. some years back showed that three-fourths of high school students preferred the public library to the school library. Perhaps, it had more resources, was more attractive and help was forth-coming.

The teacher should also find the school library as a centre of curriculum material for the organization of his instruction plans. Making the library a centre of curriculum material needs constant care and the help and co-operation of many agencies.

The services that a well organised school library under the care of a professionally qualified librarian, that may be made available are many. It should be a perennial source of interest to a child, passing new ideas to him, exposing him to good books and periodicals, creating a love for reading and for books and making his educational process a challenging task. The creation of such a centre, however meagrely provided, depends on the enthusiasm of the Principal and the staff and also the leadership of the students. The school library that serves its student readers well is a centre of learning.

A UNIFIED LIBRARIANS SERVICE

Considering the growing importance of Library Services in Sri Lanka in the Government Departments, Corporations, Local Government, and Academic Institutions, and in view of the existence of a significant disparity in the conditions of recruitment of librarians and in the payment of salaries to them, the National Library Services Board has taken preliminary steps to survey the existing situation with a view to placing proposals before the Government for remedial action. The Board considers that the establishment of an efficient and contented body of professional librarians is a sine qua non for the development of a healthy National Library Service.

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In this connection the Board appointed recently a special committee which included representatives of Trade Unions of Librarians. The Committee was required to study the prevailing situation in the services and to formulate proposals for consideration by the Board with a view to their eventual submission to Government.

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This Committee which devoted considerable time on the survey, submitted a Report which was examined by the Board. On examination the Board considered that some of these proposals needed further examination. The Board Chairman was directed to prepare a suitable document incorporating these representations and to get them re-examined by the Committee for final approval of the Board. Thereafter the Board proposes to place them before the Government.

\* \* \* \*

The main objectives of the proposals for the present are:-

- (1) To formulate schemes of recruitment and salary scales common as far as possible to all sectors with a view to create a unified librarians service.
- (2) To grade libraries according to their resources, services etc.
- (3) To provide places and facilities for librarians in service to obtain further training and professional qualifications in local as well as foreign institutions.

KANDY DISTRICT RURAL LIBRARY PILOT PROJECT

The Rural Library Pilot Project was inaugurated by The Ceylon National Library Services Board, in the Kandy District in May 1972 with the collaboration of the Local Government Department and the Education Department.

Forty-five libraries comprising of 21 Public Libraries and 24 School Libraries are participating in this Pilot Project. In selecting these libraries it was decided to include at least one public library and one school library from every electorate in the Kandy District.

The capital expenditure for this project has been provided by the Central Government while the Unesco has given substantial assistance by way of books and library equipment. The Kandyan Peasantry Commission has financed the construction of a number of public library buildings.

Most of the rural libraries of Sri Lanka are today in a very back-ward state. Hence, the Ceylon National Library Services Board having realised the dire need to provide better library services in the rural areas of Sri Lanka considered it timely and proper to start this Pilot Project in the Kandy District.

The libraries selected for development under the Pilot Project are being re-organised in such a way so that the users of these libraries will be able to make maximum use of them. In this task the Library Services Board will be paying special attention to the following aspects.

- (1) To promote the reading habit as a leisure time activity in the rural folk, so that they will become better citizens.
- (2) To enable the rural folk to continue their education after leaving school.
- (3) To provide reading material necessary for the rural folk to develop their professional knowledge.
- (4) To make the library a popular resource centre both in the school as well as in the village.

In order to achieve these objectives the Library Services Board has started a book-box service, so that those living even in the remote areas of the villages, will be able to avail themselves of this library service.

A number of Reader's Clubs in the community centres having enrolled themselves as members of the public library in the Village Council borrow not more than fifty books at a time. These books are transported from the public library to the Community Centres in the book-boxes. The members of these Readers' Clubs borrow these books in turn from the Community Centres. At regular intervals of a fortnight or one month as the case may be these books are returned to the public library and a fresh set of books are borrowed.

In the case of school libraries a number of Feeder School Libraries are attached to the Circuit Central Library from where the books are borrowed and returned at regular intervals. Here, too the books are transported from the Circuit Central Library to the Feeder Library in the book-boxes.

Each of the libraries participating in the Pilot Project receive a set of library books and library equipment from the Library Services Board after these libraries are re-organised by the Board. The personell working in these libraries if they are untrained, receive a short-term in-service training course in library work. This course is conducted by the Ceylon National Library Services Board, Regional Centre Kandy.

The forty-five libraries participating in the Pilot Project have been grouped in the following manner.

21 - PUBLIC LIBRARIES

1 URBAN COUNCIL

2 TOWN COUNCILS

18 VILLAGE COUNCILS

24 - SCHOOL LIBRARIES

4 MADHYA MAHA VIDYALAYAS

16 MAHA VIDYALAYAS

4 JUNIOR SCHOOLS



## SOME SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### UNESCO and the Library Board

Those who are conversant with the UNESCO Final Report of the Meeting of Experts on National Planning of Library Services in Asia held in December, 1967 in Colombo (COM/CS/190/6 of April 1967) will know that it exerted considerable influence in the enactment of legislation leading to the CNLSB Act No. 17 of 1970 and the establishment of the Library Board in May, 1970.

The Library Board since its inception has had close dealings with UNESCO. Miss E.J. Evans, UNESCO Library Adviser in Ceylon, and Mr. D.G. Sugathadasa, Chairman CNLSB, 1970-71, were mainly responsible for drafting the library Act and the spade-work regarding the library Board Pilot Project in Kandy District and the model School Library at the Gampaha Bandaranaike Maha Vidyalaya.

In March 1972, the Director of Archives, Libraries and Documentation Services, UNESCO, Dr. O.A. Mikhailov visited Ceylon and spent two days holding consultations with the Board, the Ministry of Education and other institutions dealing with libraries and archival services in Ceylon. He also had an interview with the Additional Secretary/Ministry of Planning, at which the Chairman and Director/Secretary of the Board were present.

In December 1972, Mr. L.E. Samarasinghe (FR/SP/Consultant) UNESCO, arrived in Ceylon and had discussions with the officials of the Board, Ministry of Scientific Affairs & Industries, the National Science Council and the Ministry of Planning, regarding the establishment of the National Scientific & Technical Documentation Centre, in terms of the UNESCO Report Ceylon : National Scientific & Technical Documentation Centre (Serial No. 1159/BMS/RD/DBA, Paris 1969).

According to the recommendations of the Final Report of the Meeting of Experts of UNESCO (mentioned in paragraph 1) one of the functions of the Ceylon National Library was to act as the National Documentation Centre. Taking note of the urgency of commencing Documentation in Science and Technology, it was agreed that this aspect of Documentation could integrate with the National Library when established. The establishment of the National Library being the responsibility of the Board, an application has already been presented to the government for a site for the National Library Building in the Independence Square in close proximity to the National Archives.

Under the UNESCO Regular Programme for 1971/72, the Board was entrusted with the implementation of the Pilot Project in Rural Library Services in Ceylon. (for a brief report see page 13). Two Fellowships have been offered by UNESCO to two Senior Professional employees of the Board for short term professional training programmes. The Board has secured approval of the government to its nominations and the selectees are scheduled to leave Ceylon this May and August respectively.

" Libraries of Ceylon " - an exhibition organised by the Board from 29th September to 3rd October 1972 climaxed the Board participation in the International Book Year. The Ceylon Publishers Association, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Educational Publications Department, UNESCO National Commission and several other organisations co-operated with the Board in organising a Current Books Exhibition to form a wing of the major exhibition. " 500 Books in English for School Libraries of India & Ceylon " offered by the British Council and the Books on Graphic Arts - the USIS International Book Year Exhibit added to the value of the Exhibition.

In addition the Board co-sponsored with the British Council two Exhibitions : (1) An Exhibition of Books and Periodicals for Schools in India and Ceylon and (2) An Exhibition of Books on Librarianship. These exhibitions were held in Colombo, Kandy, and Jaffna Public Libraries.

#### BOARD PARTICIPATION ABROAD

In April 1972 the Documentation, Research & Training Centre Bangalore (DRTC) extended an invitation to the Chairman of the Board and one of its Members Mr. H.A.I. Goonetilleke, to participate in a Seminar on " THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS IN INDIA " held in Bangalore. The Librarian Public Library Colombo Mrs. Ishvari Corea too was a Member of the Ceylon Group. At this Seminar the Ceylon delegates succeeded in bringing to the notice of the Indian delegates, events in Ceylon since 1969 that led to the enactment of the Library Act and the establishment of the Library Board. Before the Ceylon delegates left Bangalore they had consultations with Prof. S.R. Ranganathan and Dr. A. Neelameghan of the D.R.T.C. in relation to the Library and Documentation needs in Ceylon. A report of the Bangalore Seminar entitled Public Library system: India, Sri Lanka, U.K. USA comparative library legislation has just been issued. Chapter T/ZX contains an account on Ceylon.

In August 1972 the British Council U.K. extended an invitation to the Director of Library Services and Secretary to the Board, Mr. K.D. Somadasa, to participate in a short term workshop on the ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN DEVELOPMENT held in August 1972, at the University of Sheffield, in which several Directors of Library Services in Asia and Africa participated.

THE ASIAN MASS COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION CENTRE of Singapore has extended an invitation to a nominee of the Library Board to participate in a Regional Seminar on " INFORMATION STORAGE, RETRIEVAL AND DISSEMINATION " to be held in Bangkok in March this year. In view of the relevance of the subject of the seminar to the Board's plans for the establishment of a National Library and Documentation Centre it nominated one of its members, Mr. H.A.I. Goonetilleke, Librarian, University of Ceylon, Peradeniya Campus, to participate in this Seminar.

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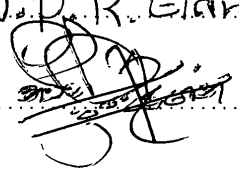
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