

**National  
Library  
Services  
Board  
Sri Lanka**

*The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation was founded to promote peace and spiritual welfare by working through the minds of men and women.*

*This Manifesto proclaims UNESCO's belief in the Public Library as a living force for education, culture and information and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and understanding between people and between nations.*

*UNESCO manifesto on public libraries*

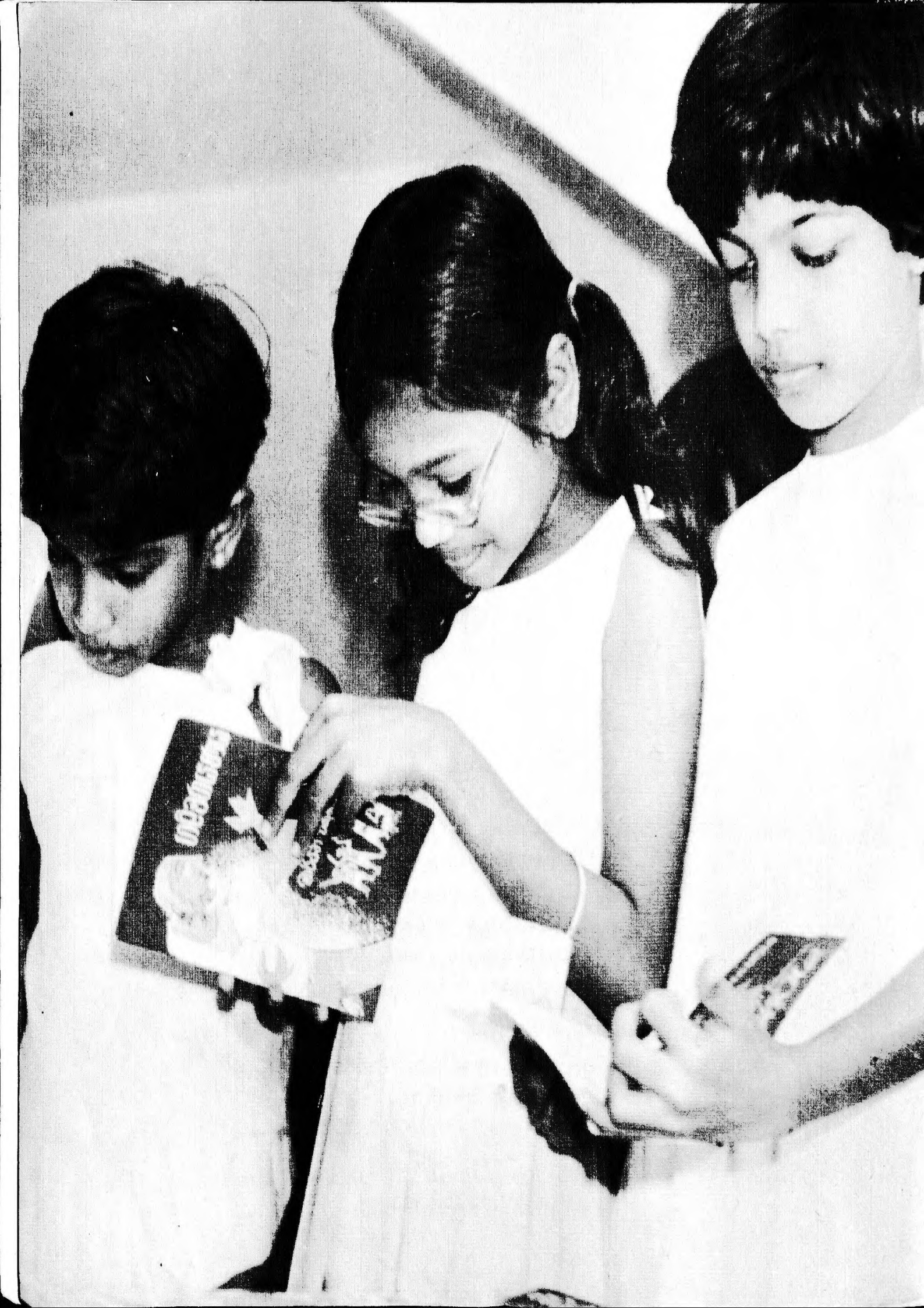
# WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

Library building plans  
Library furniture and equipment  
Library book selection  
Book loan service  
Training of Librarians

This brochure tells you what we can do to set up a library  
service and/or improve what services you are  
already running

and

what services you will have when the National Library of  
Sri Lanka is established.



# **LIBRARY BUILDING PLANS**

**We have the know-how of Library projects,  
if you want to start one, for your constituency,  
town or village.**

**We have type plans for School Libraries, Public Libraries,  
Community Centre Libraries and Children's Libraries  
designed by Library Experts in collaboration  
with architects of the Town and Country  
Planning Department.**

**Perhaps you prefer your own architect to draw a plan for you.  
If so, you will have to provide him with a good library brief;  
if you do not have a well qualified Librarian to  
prepare the brief, we can do that for you.**

**Our service is Free.**



# **FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT**

Designing Library Furniture to suit your taste as well as the functions of your library, be it a Council Library or a School Library, is one of our specialities.

You may require just the Specifications; or the Designs themselves. Or perhaps the information How and Where to get them, locally or overseas.

Do write to us for a copy of the brochure on furniture; it will give you all the information you require.

# BOOKS AND LIBRARY COOPERATION

**'Books' are presumably your biggest problem. More specifically, limitations of funds. We can devise a co-operative book purchasing system which will solve the inadequacy of funds, and with it a system of sharing. Library Co-operation and Resource Sharing are two innovations for solving the problem of inadequate funds practised in Libraries the world over. Try them with our assistance. You will be surprised to find how efficiently they work.**



# BOOK SELECTION

Book selection to suit all readers is a tricky business. Let us assist you in this and advise you on how best you can build up your library collection within the limitations of your financial resources.



# BOOK LOAN SERVICES

We also can advise you as to how books and other reading materials can be borrowed if you like, from other libraries and institutions, or from the Library Board itself. We run a Book Loan Service – Free. Ask for your “book box”; it will be delivered through your local Library.

For more particulars of the Book Loan Service, write to the Assistant Director, Library Services.



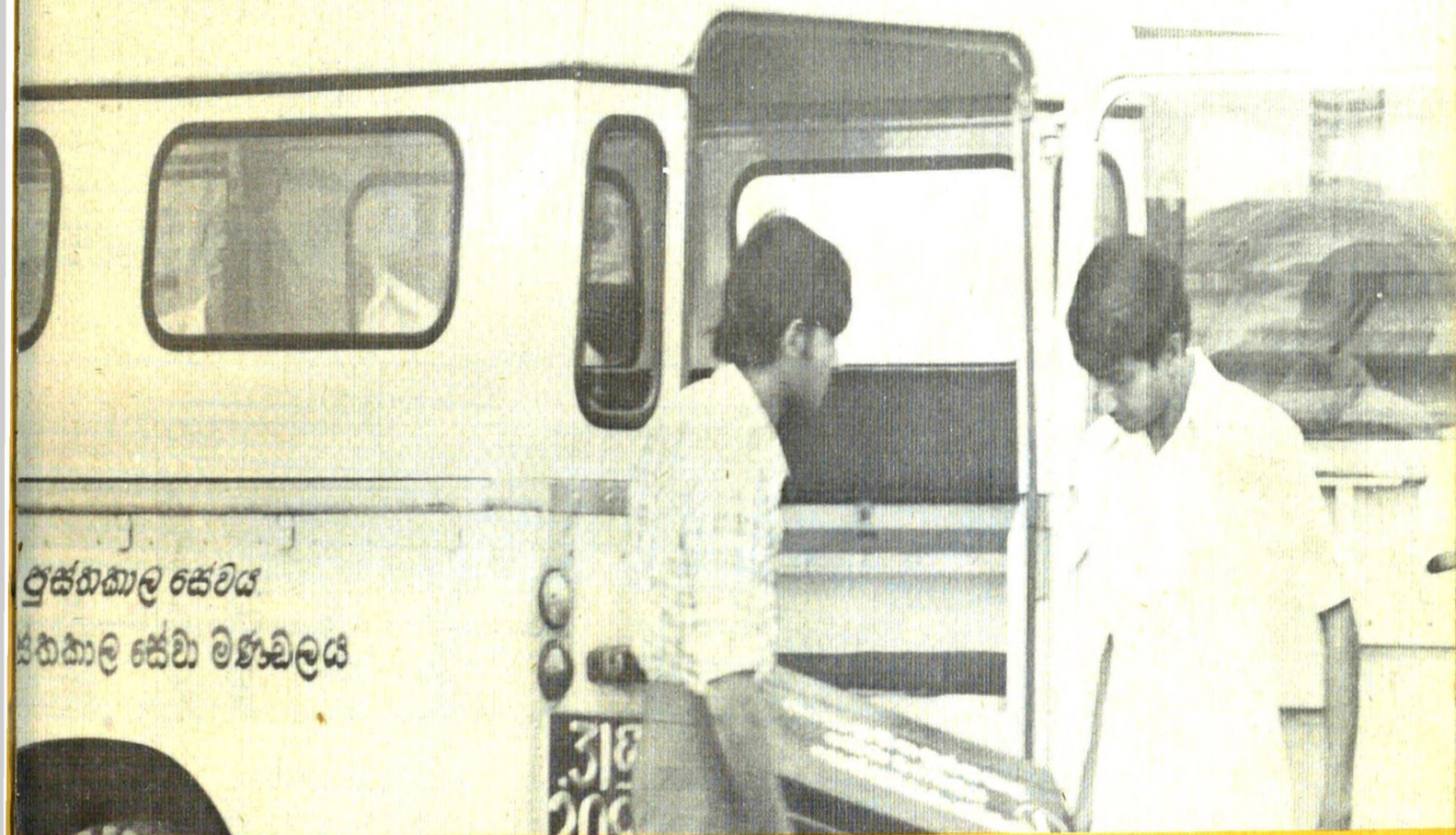
# TRAINING OF LIBRARIANS

Do you have a Trained Librarian capable of running a good Library service for your area?

Trained Librarians are in short supply. They need not be.

We train Librarians for Public and School Library Services of which you may not be aware. If you select a suitable young man or woman to run your library, and entrust him or her to us we will train him or her for you.





# COMMUNITY SERVICES

Your Library, if properly planned and maintained, would be a valuable educational and social institution.

Well-read, well-informed men and women and disciplined children are the most valuable asset of a country.

“Open a library and close a prison”

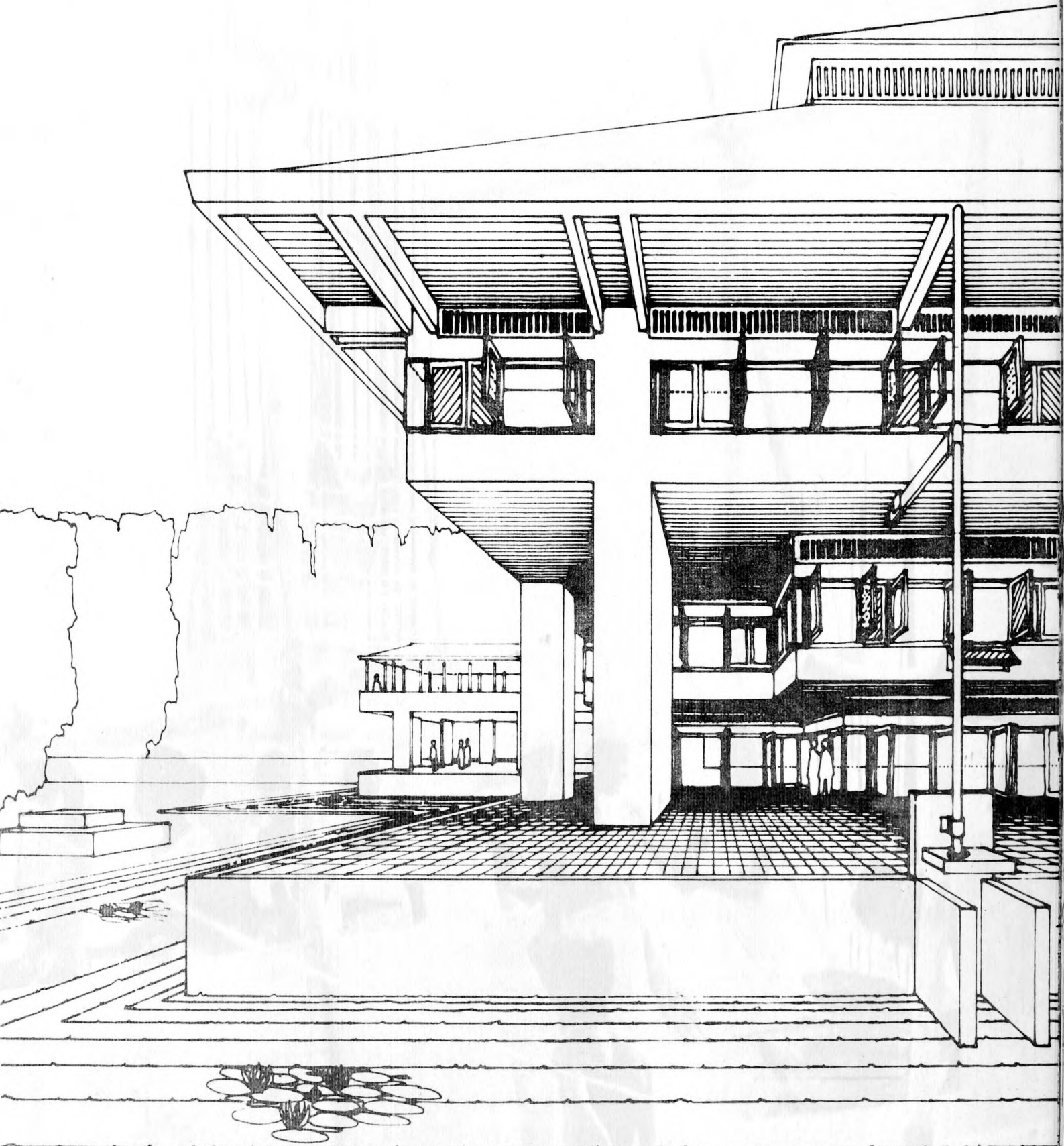
is an old adage, true of all times and ages.

At the moment our financial resources for services are limited—annual grant is rupees six and a half lakhs only.

But when we secure enough funds, we will build, equip and staff your Libraries. That is our ideal and we hope to achieve it soon.

Let us in the meantime assist you in developing a useful library service in your area.

We are at your service.



# **NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA**

**Something exciting is happening on the old Race Course in  
Colombo 7.**

**If you walk along Independence Avenue from the Town Hall end  
towards Independence Hall, on your right beyond  
the line of tall weeping  
willows, you will see a large building speedily coming up.  
This is the building that will house your National Library!**

**Five storeyed when completed,  
it will have space to accommodate:**

**10,000,000 books**

**320 readers**

**The National Documentation Centre**

**A Bibliography Division.**

**It will also have:**

**An auditorium**

**2 Lecture Halls**

**Library School & Training Centre**

**Office for Directing School Library Services**

**Office for Directing Public Library Services.**

**Naturally you are glad that the National Library will be a reality  
soon and you have the opportunity of  
seeing it being built.**

# **FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY**

What are the functions of the National Library? You might like to know. A National Library is multi-functional, and the UNESCO document on National Libraries enumerates the following basic functions:

Possess the outstanding and central collection of the Nation's Literature

Obtain the fullest coverage of foreign literature

Compile and publish the National Bibliography

Compilation and publication of Catalogues of material in the National Library and in the other libraries of the country

- Act as the National Bibliographical Information Centre
  - Act as the Inter-Library Lending Centre
  - Initiate Research on Library Techniques
  - Act as the Centre of the country's International Exchange Service
  - Function as the Centre for the distribution of duplicate material
  - Act as the Centre for Professional Training in Librarianship
  - Act as the Centre for bibliographical and other assistance to libraries of all kinds
  - Take leadership in the planning of country's library services
- Nor is this all.

# cultural heritage

The National Library of a country such as ours with a culture of over 2500 years, has also a very especial task to perform, namely, PRESERVING OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE.

It is well-known that much of our cultural wealth is contained in BOOKS, but it is also there in our folklore, in our 'Kavi', 'Sipada', 'Vannam', 'Silo', 'Häli' and other oral traditions. In visual form it is also found in TEMPLE PAINTINGS, WOOD CARVINGS, MASKS, GOKKOLA ART and hundreds of other arts and crafts.

All this is our cultural wealth. It has to be **searched out, collected and preserved** for our enjoyment and education today and for our children tomorrow.

The National Library will have a team of well trained men who will go from village to village collecting, recording and photographing this unique cultural wealth. Later these will be catalogued, classified and indexed for easy reference.

# documentation information

The National Library will also be the NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION CENTRE.

It will supply information TO the Government, (the Hon. Ministers, Members of Parliament, Secretaries and Heads of Departments) and to the People who seek knowledge and information.

Today, Ministers of State and Parliamentarians depend on themselves or their hard-worked Secretaries to gather vital information both for debates and decision making. It will be the duty of the National Library to provide this service.

With the establishment of the National Information Centre, Parliamentarians will be able to get comprehensive, quick and up-to-date information from a wide range of sources.

# spiritual welfare

You will see, therefore, that your NATIONAL LIBRARY will not be merely a massive storehouse of books and other materials; it will rather be an active organization with a dynamic leadership geared to a TRIPLE PURPOSE:

- PRESERVE THE NATIONAL CULTURE.
- DEVELOP BY ALL APPROPRIATE MEANS, SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURE WHICH WILL MAKE AVAILABLE THE TOTAL LIBRARY RESOURCES OF THE NATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WHOLE NATION.
- ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH LIBRARIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

The National Library will be of practical benefit to the Nation in day to day life.

# universal knowledge

The National Library Services Board thinks in terms of LIBRARY NETWORKS and it is on this principle that future libraries will be planned. National Library Services do not mean Centralized Control, but rather Cooperation and Coordination of resources and services so widely scattered presently, that the strength of the whole system can be mobilised for the benefit of any one unit and the people it serves, national or international. In practical terms what does it mean? Small Village Libraries will be linked to larger Town LIBRARIES, Town Libraries to DISTRICT LIBRARIES and District Libraries to the NATIONAL LIBRARY, and the National Library, itself to NATIONAL LIBRARIES OF OTHER NATIONS, bringing global knowledge to your door step.



# YOU CAN HELP BUILD THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The National Library of Sri Lanka is scheduled to be opened in 1981, and we have been collecting RARE MATERIALS for it.

We depend largely on individual gifts and donations as our financial resources are very meagre. The CEYLON NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD IS AN APPROVED CHARITY and donations of cash and kind are EXEMPTED FROM INCOME TAX.

You may have an OLD BOOK, a NEWSPAPER or an ELECTION PAMPHLET belonging to your father,  
or

The recorded VOICE OF A NATIONAL LEADER or a POET or a MUSICIAN, or a RARE PICTURE or a PAINTING.

**YOU CAN DONATE THEM  
TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY  
OF SRI LANKA AS A GIFT  
TO THE NATION.**

Private libraries of scholars, statesmen and others may be donated in toto to be preserved as special collections.

Your donations and gifts will be duly acknowledged and gratefully recorded on the material so donated.

It has been a delight giving you information of our services **available now**, and the services **planned** when the National Library of Sri Lanka will be open to you in 1981. We are sure you will find this information useful.

**H. P. Siriwardhana**

Chairman

Ceylon National Library Services  
Board.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
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(A. N. P. A. S)

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**Telephone: 36035 or 31332**

National Digitization Project

National Science Foundation

Institute : National Library and Documentation Services Board

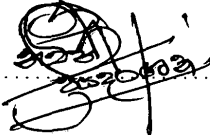
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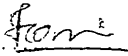
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