

## **A Diplomat's Gift: the Martensz Collection on Sri Lanka at the National Library of Australia**

### **Introduction**

Today the Martensz Collection is little remembered, though it is described briefly in that invaluable source on the National Library of Australia's holdings, the Burmester guide (1). Its donation in 1955 was also covered in some detail in the Canberra Times (2).

### **Presentation of the Collection**

On 2 June 1955 the High Commissioner for Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Mr J. Aubrey Martensz, CBE, presented his personal collection of books about his homeland to the National Library (2). The island nation then called Ceylon is now known as Sri Lanka. For convenience the current name Sri Lanka has been used in this article, except for proper names and in book titles. The gift was formally accepted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Archie Cameron, in his role as Chairman of the Library Committee. Those attending the ceremony in the Speaker's Chambers of Parliament included the Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, the Minister for External Affairs, Richard Casey, and the National Librarian, Harold White. It is hard to imagine a book donation attracting a prime minister and other senior politicians nowadays.

### **Life and career of J. Aubrey Martensz (2)(3)**

James Aubrey Martensz (1885-1963), was born into a Burgher family in Colombo, the island's capital. The Burghers, a minority community of mixed Sri Lankan and Western heritage, generally have Portuguese, Dutch, British or other European surnames, the name Martensz being of Dutch origin. During British rule from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the island's independence in 1948, the Burghers played a prominent role in public life.

Martensz was educated at Royal College, Colombo and then the Ceylon Law College. He practised law as a solicitor for forty years and became the senior partner in a legal firm. In 1947 he was appointed to the island's parliament as a representative of the Burgher community.

In 1949 he became the first High Commissioner in Australia for an independent Sri Lanka, holding the post until 1955. Honoured as a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in 1952, he later became Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Australia. He was described by The Bulletin as "an able representative of his country and a popular member of many Canberra activities, especially the educational." (4) A search on Trove reveals hundreds of newspaper articles about his activities around Australia, for example promoting Ceylon tea in Manjimup, Western Australia (5) or opening a flower show in Collector, New South Wales (6). Martensz donated his books to the National Library at the end of his posting to Australia. Back in Colombo he became head of the Development Corporation and was elected president of the Dutch Burgher Union in 1957.

Martensz returned to Canberra in 1959 and gained Australian citizenship in 1961. He was active in the community, as he had been while High Commissioner, and played prominent roles in the YMCA, St Paul's Anglican Church, and Canberra Girls' Grammar School. He died on 26 March 1963 (7). The distinguished Australian diplomat John Oldham called him "a man of extreme humility [who] possessed great profundity of character, wisdom and learning ... [and] never flagged in his discerning and wide reading." (8) Roy Bullock who served with Martensz in the St Paul's Men's Group praised him

as “gentle, sincere and courteous by nature...a quietly spoken cultured gentleman in the very finest sense. He combined a calm personal serenity with a keenly intelligent and active interest in the welfare of his fellow man.” (8)

### **The gift and its size**

When he donated his personal library, Martensz said that he hoped the gift, modest though it was, would make some contribution to understanding between Australia and Sri Lanka (2). He himself was being exceedingly modest. In a letter to the National Librarian, Harold White, dated 21 April 1955 he wrote, “with regard to my recent conversation with you about my books on Ceylon... they may be of too elementary a character to be of interest to the National Library but one or two may be of interest to you.” (9). While it is not large, his collection contains rare and valuable works, and none could be described as too elementary. Harold White stated that it was an important addition and “part of a wider endeavour to build extensive collections of material relating to all the countries of South and South-East Asia.” (2)

Unfortunately no definitive list of the Martensz Collection appears to be extant. His books were integrated into the Library’s holdings rather than being housed together as a formed collection. According to his letter offering his personal library, he attached a list (9), but neither of the two different but overlapping lists that this author has seen on file appears to be the original one from him. These two surviving lists are discussed in detail below in the appendix to this article. Both omit some books that he donated, and both contain others that are not from him. The titles that were definitely donated by him contain a presentation slip worded “Commonwealth National Library. This book was presented to the Library by Mr J. Aubrey Martensz. C.B.E. High Commissioner of Ceylon (1949-1955).” They are also annotated with the acquisition date 3 June 1955.

All 68 titles appearing in one or both of the two surviving lists have been checked. Several books are currently missing, others are clearly not from Martensz as they were acquired by the National Library earlier than June 1955, while there may also be works he donated that are not in either of the surviving lists. However a check in the Library’s pre-1967 Dictionary Catalogue (also known as the old card catalogue) under subjects beginning with the word Ceylon did not reveal any additional works from Martensz. Given all the above it is not possible to give an exact size for the collection, but at least 44 titles containing presentation slips are definitely from the Martensz Collection. The Library’s online catalogue records for these 44 works have now been augmented to indicate that they belonged to J. Aubrey Martensz (10).

### **Highlights of the Collection**

The Martensz Collection covers many subjects such as the history, archaeology, geography, environment, economy, industries, communications, culture and religions of Sri Lanka. Most books date from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup>, but a few were issued earlier. Half were published in Sri Lanka and most of the others in the United Kingdom. Old, rare and beautiful titles include:

Baldaeus, Philippus. A true and exact description of most celebrated East-India coasts of Malabar and Coromandel, as also of the Isle of Ceylon...vol. 3. Translated from the Dutch edition from Amsterdam, 1672. London : 1703. RBq JAM 915.48 BAL (Bib ID 2508451). Philippus Baldaeus (1632-1672) was a Dutch Reformed Church missionary in Sri Lanka and southern India. In 1658 he was appointed chief church minister in Jaffna in the north of the island and worked among the Tamil people, studying their language. His book is a major source on the beginnings of Dutch power in Sri Lanka and southern India,

the Dutch conquest of the maritime provinces of Sri Lanka from the Portuguese and relations between the Dutch and the independent Sri Lankan Kingdom of Kandy.

Bennett, J.W. Ceylon and its capabilities: an account of its natural resources, indigenous productions and commercial facilities. London: WH. Allen, 1843. RB 915.493 BEN (Bib ID 1030215). John Whitchurch Bennett (1790-1853) was a British soldier, magistrate, naturalist and artist, who served in Sri Lanka from 1816 to 1827. His vast work "Ceylon and its capabilities" covers many fields including geology, climate, agriculture, fisheries, industries, exports, government, education and communications. It contains illustrations by himself and local artists. He gathered information first hand by talking with local chiefs, priests, merchants, farmers and others. His "Selection of the most remarkable and interesting fishes found on the coast of Ceylon" (1828) is also held by the Library.

Coomaraswamy, Ananda Kentish. Mediaeval Sinhalese art: being a monograph on mediaeval Sinhalese arts and crafts, mainly as surviving in the eighteenth century, with an account of the structure of society and the status of the craftsmen. No. 375 of 425 copies. Broad Campden, Gloucestershire: Essex House Press, 1908. Rbf MISC 184 (Bib ID 7123080). Born in Sri Lanka, the author Ananda Coomaraswamy (1877-1947) was a scientist and pioneering art historian, who explained Indian and Sri Lankan art to the West. His ground breaking study of Sri Lanka's arts and crafts was illustrated by his English born wife Ethel, who was an artist and photographer. It is a beautiful limited edition printed by hand.

Davy, John. An account of the interior of Ceylon and its inhabitants with travels in that island. London: Longman..., 1821. RBq MOD 411 (Bib ID 1123235). This is a major work on early 19<sup>th</sup> century Sri Lanka. The author John Davy (1790-1868) was the younger brother of the chemist Sir Humphry Davy. He was an army surgeon and later Fellow of the Royal Society. His detailed study is based on interviews with Sri Lankans and his own observations during his four years on the island.

Knox, Robert. An historical relation of the island Ceylon in the East Indies: together with an account of the detaining in captivity the author and divers other Englishmen now living there: and the author's miraculous escape. London: Printed by Richard Chiswell, 1681. RBq 915.48 KNO (Bib ID 2559755). The oldest book in the Martensz Collection, this is a major source on the geography, economy, society and culture of Sri Lanka in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Knox was a sailor and trader for the English East India Company, who spent 19 years on the island after being taken prisoner by the King of Kandy, Rajasimha II. He escaped in 1679. His vivid account of life on the island and his escape was widely read and is believed to have influenced early British novels including Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe.

Legge, W. Vincent. A history of the birds of Ceylon. 3 vols. London: W.V. Legge, 1880. SRq 35, 36, 37. (Bib ID 1046974). Born in Tasmania, the author Colonel William Vincent Legge (1841-1918) was a distinguished Australian soldier and ornithologist. Stationed in Sri Lanka from 1869 to 1877, he spent his free time studying the birds of the island. His History of the Birds of Ceylon was issued in 3 volumes between 1878 and 1880. It contains over 1200 pages and 34 colour plates. The high quality illustrations were produced by the distinguished Dutch bird illustrator, John Gerrard Keulemans.

## Summary

After a long legal career and parliamentary service in Sri Lanka, J. Aubrey Martensz became a much respected diplomat in Canberra, then came back to live in Australia after retirement. His generous donation of his valuable personal book collection on Sri Lanka formed the foundation for the National Library's holdings on that country. It is hoped that this article will help to make the Martensz Collection better known.

## About the author

Andrew Gosling is former Chief Librarian, Asian Collections at the National Library of Australia. He wishes to thank National Library staff for their assistance with this article, in particular Di Ouyang and Erica Ryan.

## APPENDIX

### Contents of the Martensz Collection

In the absence of a definitive list it has not been a simple task to reconstruct the Martensz Collection. The following has been compiled from two different but overlapping typed lists. It is unclear when, how or by whom they were compiled. The first, providing a detailed description of each publication, is entitled "Principal items in the J.A. Martensz Collection." It is on the Library's Martensz file (9). This file also indicates 18 books on Sri Lanka that were already held by the Library at the time of the Martensz donation, though confusingly these same titles are also contained in the two lists of works supposedly donated by Martensz. The second list is also typed but has a handwritten heading "Martensz Collection." It only provides author and title details for most items. It is on the file relating to the donation in the 1980s by Manfred Claasz of his books on Sri Lanka (11). Like Martensz, Claasz was a member of the Burgher community who migrated to Australia. Titles only appearing on the first list are indicated by a hash (#) and those only on the second list with an asterisk (\*). Missing or problematic titles are discussed in the notes below.

#### A. Titles confirmed as being from Martensz

The following 44 titles contain presentation slips confirming they are from Martensz. They have also been stamped with the acquisition date 3 June 1955. In some cases not all volumes of a particular title are from him and this is indicated below.

Anthonisz, R.G. *The Dutch in Ceylon; an account of their early visits to the island, their conquests, and their rule over the maritime regions during a century and a half.* v. 1. Early visits and settlement in the island. Colombo : C.A.C Press, 1929. 954.8 ANT (Bib ID 161219)

\*Baker, Samuel W. *Eight years in Ceylon.* London : Longmans, 1890. 915.48 BAK. (Bib ID 620356)

Baldaeus, Philippus. *A true and exact description of most celebrated East-India coasts of Malabar and Coromandel, as also of the Isle of Ceylon...Vol. 3.* Translated from the Dutch edition from Amsterdam, 1672. London : 1703. 2 copies. RBq JAM 915.48 BAL is Martensz copy. (Bib ID 2508451)

\*Balding, John William. *One hundred years in Ceylon; or the centenary volume of the Church Missionary Society in Ceylon, 1818-1918.* Madras : Printed at the Diocesan Press, 1922. 275.48 BAL (Bib ID 377582)

Bassett, R.H. *Romantic Ceylon : its history, legend and story.* London : C. Palmer, 1929. 954.8 BAS (Bib ID 121528)

\*Bell, H.C.P. *Report on the Kegalla District of the Province of Sabaragamuwa, 1892.* Colombo : Govt. Pr., 1904. f 913.548 CEY (Bib ID 1969527)

Bennett, J.W. *Ceylon and its capabilities: an account of its natural resources, indigenous productions and commercial facilities.* London : WH. Allen, 1843. RB 915.493 BEN (Bib ID 1030215)

#Beven, F. Lorenz. A history of the diocese of Colombo; a centenary volume. [Colombo] : Printed by The Times of Ceylon Co., [1946]. 283.548 BEV (Bib ID 2184724)

\*Brohier, Richard Leslie. The history of irrigation and agricultural colonization in Ceylon : the Tamankaduwa district and Elahera-Minneriya canal. Colombo : Ceylon Govt. Press, 1941. 631.709548 BRO (Bib ID 2025653)

\*Cave, Henry. The Ceylon government railway : a descriptive and illustrated guide, mainly extracted from the author's larger work "The book of Ceylon." London : Cassel and Company, 1910. 915.48 CAV (Bib ID 80751)

Ceylon. Archaeological Department. Annual report. Colombo : Govt. Printer. Title varies slightly: North-Central, Central and Northern provinces annual report; North-central and Western provinces annual report. Description based on : 1895 (plans and plates). At head of title : Archaeological survey of Ceylon. Separate vols for plans and plates issued for some years. sq 913.548 CEY [Library holds 1895-1912/13 in 5 bound volumes]. The 3 volumes 1909/10/11; Plans and plates 1895-1902 and Plans and plates 1903-12 are from Martensz. The 2 volumes for 1905-08 and 1911/12-1912/13 contain no markings to indicate that they are from Martensz. (Bib ID 1584367)

Coomaraswamy, Ananda Kentish. Mediaeval Sinhalese art : being a monograph on mediaeval Sinhalese arts and crafts, mainly as surviving in the eighteenth century, with an account of the structure of society and the status of the craftsmen. No. 375 of 425 copies. Broad Campden, Gloucestershire : Essex House Press, 1908. RBf MISC 184 (Bib ID 7123080)

Culavamsa : being the more recent part of the Mahavamsa / translated by Wilhelm Geiger, and from the German into English by C. Mabel Rickmers. 2 v. London : H. Milford for the Pali Text Society, 1929-30. s 294.3 PAL (Bib ID 4562009)

\*D'Alwis, James. Memoirs and desultory writings of the late James D'Alwis. Initialled with compliments by ACS, the editor A.C. Seneviratne. Colombo : Ceylon Observer Press, 1939. 920 DAL (Bib ID 431864)

#Davy, John. An account of the interior of Ceylon and its inhabitants with travels in that island. London : Longman..., 1821. 2 copies. RBq MOD 411 (Martensz copy) (Bib ID 1123235)

De Silva, Colvin Reginald. Ceylon under the British occupation 1795-1833. 2 vols. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Colombo : Colombo Apothecaries, 1942. 954.93 D457c (Bib ID 1018259)

\*Devendra, D.T. This other Lanka. Colombo : Ola Book Co., [1941]. 915.48 DEV (Bib ID 620348)

\*Gordon Cumming, C.F. Two happy years in Ceylon. 2 v. Edinburgh : William Blackwood, 1892. 915.48. (Bib ID 883337)

\*A history of the Ceylon police. 2 v. Colombo : Times of Ceylon Co., 1938?. 1969. v.1 1795-1870 by G. K. Pippet (Martensz Collection). v.2 published in 1969 acquired 13 May 1985. 363.2095493 H673 (Bib ID 1134578)

\*Jones-Bateman, Reginald. A refuge from civilisation and other trifles. London : Arnold, 1951. 915.48 BAT (Bib ID 554293)

\*Jones-Bateman, Reginald. An illustrated guide to the buried cities of Ceylon. Kandy [1932]. 913.548 BAT

Knox, Robert. An historical relation of Ceylon : together with somewhat concerning severall remarkeable passages of my life that hath hapned since my deliverance out of my captivity. Glasgow : MacLehose, 1911. 3 copies. q 915.48 KNO (Martensz copy). (Bib ID 999441)

Knox, Robert. An historical relation of the island Ceylon in the East Indies : together with an account of the detaining in captivity the author and divers other Englishmen now living there : and the author's miraculous escape. London : Printed by Richard Chiswell, 1681. 2 copies. RBq 915.48 KNO (Martensz copy). (Bib ID 2559755)

Legge, W. Vincent. A history of the birds of Ceylon. 3 vols. London : W.V. Legge, 1880. 2 copies. SR (red copy) from Martensz. SRq 35, 36, 37. (Bib ID 1046974)

\*Lewis, Frederick. Sixty-four years in Ceylon : reminiscences of life and adventure. [Colombo] : Colombo Apothecaries, [1926]. 915.48 LEW. (Bib ID 375012)

Lewis, J. Penry. List of inscriptions on tombstones and monuments in Ceylon, of historical or local interest : with an obituary of persons uncommemorated. Colombo : Printed by H.C. Cottee, 1913. f 954.8 LEW. Fragile not for public use; use mfm 1919. (Bib ID 1618978)

Muirhead, James Thorburn. Without prejudice. London : Heath Cranton, 1932. Ex Libris Andreas Nell. Signed "To J.A.Martensz. A.N. June [?] 1940". 304 MUI. (Bib ID 2402208)

The Oriental annual, or, Scenes in India; comprising ...engravings from original drawings by William Daniell R.A. and a descriptive account by the Rev. Hobart Caunter, B.D. London : E. Churton [etc.], 1834-40. s 915.4 ORI. 1834 volume is from Martensz, but not 1835-1839 volumes. (Bib ID 1840344)

\*Parker, H. Village folk-tales of Ceylon, collected and translated by H. Parker. 3 v. London : Luzac, 1910-1914. 398.209548 PAR. (Bib ID 2535805)

\*Phillips, W.W.A. Manual of the mammals of Ceylon. Colombo : Colombo Museum, [1935]. 591.9548 PHI (Bib ID 951385)

Pieris, P.E. Ceylon : the Portuguese era; being a history of the island for the period 1505-1658. 2 vols. Colombo : Colombo Apothecaries, 1913-14. 954.8 PIE (Bib ID 151187)

\*Ransonnet, Eugene de, baron. Sketches of the inhabitants, animal life and vegetation in the lowlands and high mountains of Ceylon, as well as of the submarine scenery near the coast, taken in a diving bell. Vienna : Printed for the author by Gerald, 1867. f 915.48 RAN (Bib ID 2106705)

Silva, T.U de. Decorative Sinhalese art. Colombo : Ceylon Daily News, 1940. q 745.4 SIL (Bib ID 253841)

\*Skeen, William. Adam's peak; legendary, traditional, and historic notices of the Samanala and Sri-pada, with a descriptive account of the pilgrim's route from Colombo, to the sacred foot-print. Colombo : W.L.H Skeen and Co., 1870. 915.48 SKE (Bib ID 1695426)

\*Smythe, Paul Rodney. A Ceylon commentary. London : Williams & Norgate, 1932. 915.48 SMY (Bib ID 2076567)

\*Spittel, Richard Lionel. Savage sanctuary. London : Rich & Cowan, [1941]. 823.91 SPI (Bib ID 2235803)

Steuart, James. An account of the pearl fisheries of Ceylon : with an appendix. Cotta : Church Mission Press, 1843. q 639.412 STE. (Bib ID 557448)

Steuart, James. Notes on Ceylon and its affairs, during a period of 38 years, ending in 1855 : to which are appended some observations on the antiquity of Point de Galle, and on the pearl fishery . London : printed for private circulation, 1862. 954.8 STE (Bib ID 2073341)

Trimen, Henry. A hand-book to the flora of Ceylon, containing descriptions of all the species of flowering plants indigenous to the island, and notes on their history, distribution, and uses, with an atlas of plates illustrating some of the more interesting species. 6 parts. Part 1 annotated "To Lady Havelock with the author's complts." London : Dulau and Co, 1893-1931. 581.9548 TRI (Bib ID 997855)

\*Villiers, Thomas, Sir. Mercantile lore. Colombo : Ceylon Observer Press, [1940?]. 338.09548 VIL (Bib ID 147711)

Weerasooriya, Hubert E. This isle o' mine. Colombo : Ola Book Co. [1945]. P 915.48 WEE (Bib ID 584372)

\*Willis, John Christopher. Ceylon : a handbook for the resident and the traveller. Peradeniya : Colombo Apothecaries Co., 1907. 915.48 WIL (Bib ID 953943)

\*Windlesham, David James George, Baron. Green aisles : a story of the jungles of Ceylon, [by] D.J.G. Hennessy. Colombo : Colombo Book Centre, 1949. 915.48 HEN (Bib ID 2342550)

Young Ceylon : a monthly periodical , and magazine of Ceylonese and general information. Colombo : G.F. Nell, 1850-1852. s 055.48 YOU (Bib ID 3292302)

## **B. Missing and problematic titles**

It is possible that some of the missing titles are from Martensz. Without more information it is unclear why the other titles described below were listed on file as being part of the Martensz Collection. One possibility is that they were included in the original and now seemingly lost list of books offered by Martensz, but that as they were already held by the National Library his copies were not acquired. In his letter offering his personal library he indicated that he might give those books not wanted by the National Library to two Canberra schools (9). One further complication is that records in the Library's pre-1967 Dictionary Catalogue include the initials J.A.M. [standing for J. Aubrey Martensz] in catalogue card records for books on Sri Lanka which are definitely from Martensz and for a small number of titles that do not appear to be from him. These initials are not included in the Library's online catalogue. The initials J.A.M are also found above the call number and on the spine of books from Martensz

\*Brohier, Richard Leslie. Ancient irrigation works in Ceylon. Colombo, 1934. f 631.709548 CEY. Acquired 10 March 1955. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 1244859).

\*Burrows, S.M. Report on archaeological work in Anuradhapura and Pollonaruwa, 1885. Colombo : Govt. Pr., 1907. Bound with its Report on the archaeological survey of Anuradhapura, by H.C.P. Bell. 1<sup>st</sup>. 1890- f 913.548 CEY. Item missing. (Bib ID 447106)

\*Cave, Henry. The book of Ceylon : being a guide to its railway system and an account of its varied attractions for the visitor and tourist. London ; Melbourne : Cassell, 1912. 915.48 CAV. Stamped Commonwealth of Australia Library of the Parliament 3 March 1914. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 817640)

Cordiner, James. A description of Ceylon, containing an account of the country, inhabitants and natural productions, with narratives of a tour round the island in 1800, the campaign in Candy in 1803, and a journey to Ramisseram in 1804. London : Longman, 1807. 915.48 COR. Acquired 1950. Item missing. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 2551862)

\*Denham, Edward Brandis. Ceylon at the census of 1911 : being a review of the census of 1911. Colombo : Govt Pr., 1912. 315.48 DEN. According to the Dictionary Catalogue this is from Martensz, but the Library's copy bears the stamp of Commonwealth Statistician 17 September 1912. National Library accession date 11 February 1958. (Bib ID 2395224)

\*Elliott, C. Brooke. The real Ceylon. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Fort of Colombo : H.W. Cave, 1938. 915.48 ELL. Item missing. (Bib ID 1596120)

\*Ferguson, John. Ceylon in 1893 : describing the progress of the island since 1803. London : J. Haddon, 1893. 330.9548 FER. According to the Dictionary Catalogue this is from Martensz but there is no record in the Library's online catalogue.

Forbes, Jonathan. Eleven years in Ceylon : comprising sketches of the field sports and natural history of that colony, and an account of its history and antiquities. 2 vols. London : Bentley, 1840. 915.48 FOR. Acquired 1950. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib 2571928)

\*Holden, Angus Holden, Baron. Ceylon. London : G. Allen and Unwin, 1939. 915.48 HOL . Acquired 26 April 1939. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 2245168)

\*Keble, W.T. Ceylon beaten track. Colombo : The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., 1953. 915.48 KEB. Acquired 3 October 1951. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 1243276)

\*Lewis, Frederick. The vegetable products of Ceylon. : a guide to their identification and economic uses. Colombo : The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon, 1934. 581.9548 LEW. Acquired 15 August 1950. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 169972)

Lewis, J. Mahanama, 5<sup>th</sup> century. The Mahawanso in roman characters, with the translation subjoined, and an introductory essay on Pali Buddhistical literature : in two volumes, vol.1 containing the first thirty eight chapters, by the Hon. George Turnour. Translation reprinted and completed by L.C Wijesinha, 1889. 1 v. Ceylon : Cotta Church Mission Press, 1837. q 294.31 MAH. Acquired 5 August 1957? On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 893650)

\*Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of Ceylon. Colombo : Ceylon Govt., Archaeological Dept., 1924-1969. sq 913.548 CEY. National Library holds v.1 (1924)-v.5 (1947), which were acquired between June 1949 and March 1950. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 55854)

\*Mitton, G.E. The lost cities of Ceylon. London : J. Murray, 1916. 915.48 MIT. Stamped Commonwealth of Australia Library of the Parliament 5 January 1915. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 140531)

\*Narada, Thera. The Buddha Dhamma : or The life and teachings of the Buddha. Palm Grove : Pasdura, Children of C.P. De Fonseka, 1942. 294.3 NAR. Item missing. (Bib ID 2418693)

\*Parker, H. Ancient Ceylon. London : Luzac, 1909. 954.8 PAR. Acquired 9 August 1951. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 2544162)

Percival, Robert. An account of the island of Ceylon, containing its history, geography, natural history, with the manners and customs of its various inhabitants : to which is added, the journal of an embassy to the court of Candy... London : C and R Baldwin, 1803. Bookplate of Lord Lilford's Library. Signed Lilford. RBq 915.48 PER. Acquired 21 May 1951. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 2552188)

\*Pieris, P.E. Tri Simhala : the last phase, 1796-1815. Colombo : Colombo Apothecaries Co., 1945. 954.8 PIE. Acquired 3 October 1951. On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 2135860)

\*Spittel, Richard Lionel. Wild Ceylon describing in particular the lives of the present day Veddas. Colombo : Colombo Book Centre, 1951. CLA 162. On file as already held before Martensz donation, so there should be another copy apart from that in the Claasz Collection, which was acquired in the 1980s. Bib ID 1244615)

Still, John. Index to the Mahawansa together with chronological table of wars and genealogical trees. Colombo : Govt. Printer, 1907. 954.8 IND. Item missing (Bib ID 1939581)

\*Still, John. Jungle tide. Edinburgh; 1930. 915.48 STI. Acquired 12/11/1971? On file as already held before Martensz donation. (Bib ID 457038).

Tennent, James Emerson. Ceylon : an account of the island, physical, historical and topographical, with notices of its natural history, antiquities and productions. 2 copies. London : Longman, 1859 (Bib ID 2072674) and London : Longman, 1860 (Bib ID 728253). 915.48 TEN. 1859 ed acquired 15 October 1948; 1860 ed contains no acquisition date. On file as already held before Martensz donation.

\*Wait, W.E. Manual of the birds of Ceylon. Colombo : Colombo Museum, 1926. 598.29548 WAI. According to the Dictionary Catalogue this is from Martensz, but the Library's copy has an acquisition stamp dated 14 Jan 1953. (Bib ID 1002400)

\*Williams, Harry. Ceylon, pearl of the East. London : R. Hale, [1950?]. 954.8 WIL (Bib ID 2693534). Acquired 9 January 1951. On file as already held before Martensz donation.

## REFERENCES

1. Martensz Collection (Sri Lanka). In Burmester, Clifford Amandus. National Library of Australia: guide to the collections. v.1. Canberra : National Library of Australia, 1974. p. 406.
2. "High Commissioner gives personal book collection to National Library", Canberra Times, 3 June 1955, p. 2. The donation was also mentioned briefly in the Melbourne newspaper The Argus, 3 June 1955, p.5.
3. James Aubrey Martensz. Wikipedia, viewed 22 July 2019.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Aubrey\\_Martensz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Aubrey_Martensz)
4. "In the ACT", The Bulletin, v.76, no.3927, 18 May 1955 p. 10.
5. "Ceylon visitors at Manjimup," Manjimup Mail, 26 January 1949, p.2. Martensz said that his country's prosperity depended on its exports of tea.
6. "Canberra Diary," Canberra Times, 2 March 1955, p.4.

7. "Death of former envoy", Canberra Times, 27 March 1963, p. 3. This article states that Martensz died at the age of 79, though he was actually 77. It also implies that he remained in Canberra after his posting as High Commissioner ended in 1955, whereas he went back to Colombo, returning to live in Australia in 1959.
8. "In Memoriam James Aubrey Martensz 1885-1963," in High Commissioner for Ceylon – Collection of Books on Ceylon. National Library of Australia file 206/09/00033
9. High Commissioner for Ceylon – Collection of Books on Ceylon. National Library of Australia file 206/09/00033. While the letter from Martensz to Harold White dated 21 April 1955 is numbered f.1 most of this file is unnumbered.
10. Erica Ryan of the National Library kindly volunteered to undertake this task.
11. NLA – Presentation to – Manfred Claasz (ACT) – Donation of Material on Sri Lanka. National Library of Australia file 206/04/00029. Part 1, f.13-16.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

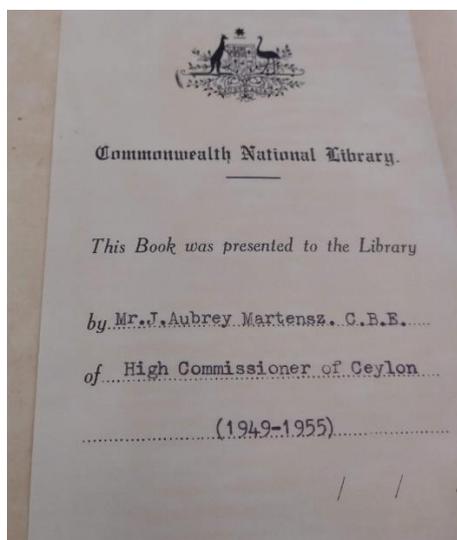
Apart from the first image, which is courtesy of the National Library of Australia, these photographs were taken by the author, Andrew Gosling, from out of copyright material.

### 1. James Aubrey Martensz

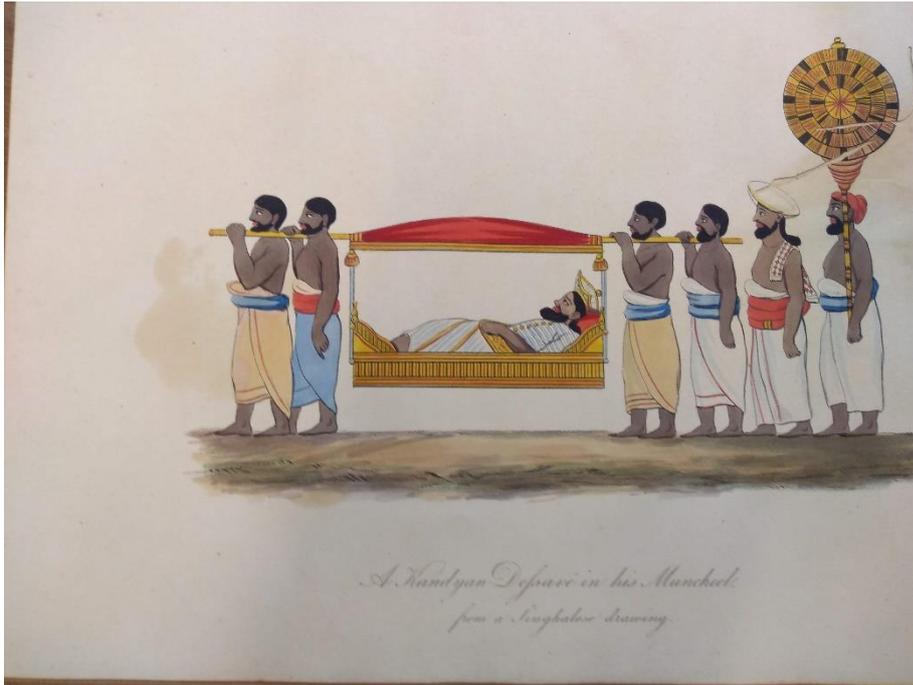


Rendered screenshot, taken from original image at National Library of Australia: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-149939603/view>, showing only Mr J.A. Martensz. Original picture taken between 1947 and 1950.

### 2. Presentation slip for books in the Martensz Collection.



3. A Kandyan high official carried in his litter, in: J.W.Bennett. *Ceylon and its capabilities*. London : W.H.Allen, 1843, p. 416.



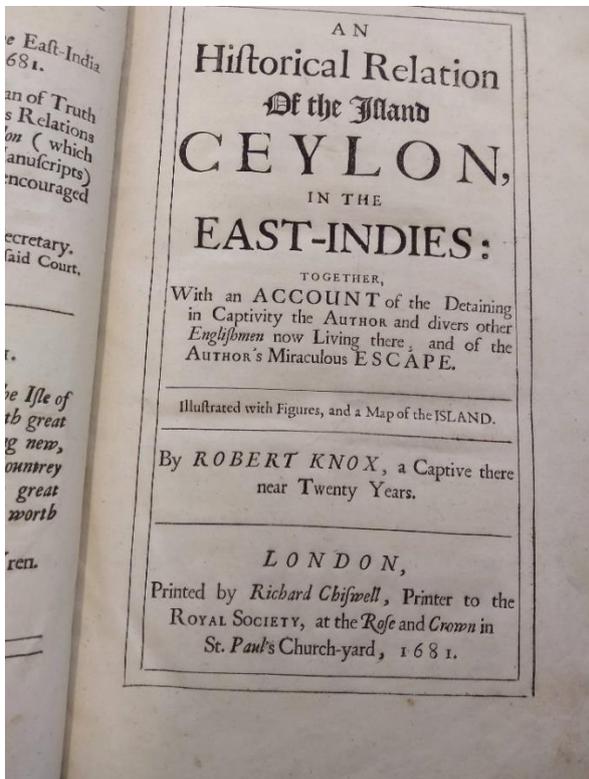
4. Embroidered betel bag, in: Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy. *Mediaeval Sinhalese art*. Broad Campden, Gloucestershire : Essex House Press, 1908, plate XXXI



5. View of royal palace, Kandy [after William Thomas Lyttleton], in: John Davy. *An account of the interior of Ceylon*. London : Longman, 1821, frontispiece.



6 Title page of Robert Knox: *An historical relation of the island Ceylon*. London: Printed by Richard Chiswell, 1681, the oldest book in the Martensz Collection.



7. Sri Lanka blue magpie, in: W.Vincent Legge. *A history of the birds of Ceylon*. 3 vols. London : W.V.Legge, 1880, v.2 p.353.

