



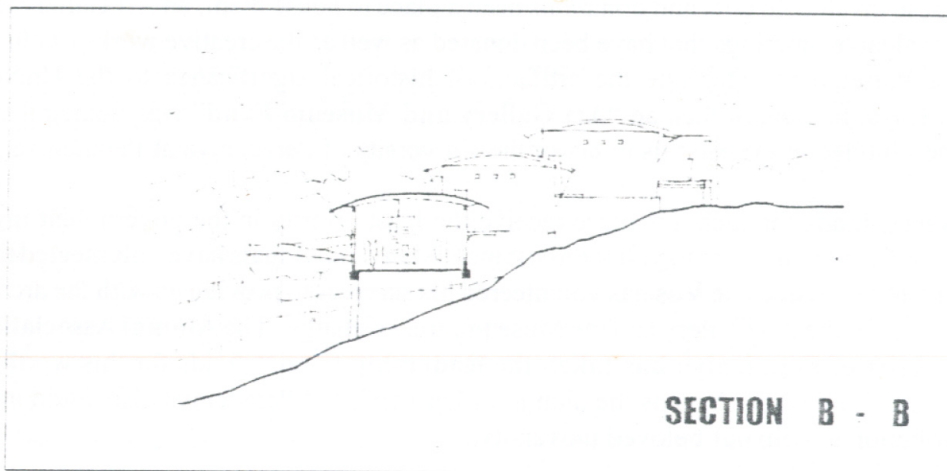
# AAUP NEWSLETTER

Special edition- December 2003

## *The University Art Gallery and Museum Project*

The AAUP has undertaken the project of funding and designing a Gallery and Museum of contemporary Art for the University of Peradeniya. The immediate stimulus was Ian Goonetilleke's magnificent bequest to the University, of a massive collection of paintings, including over 100 George Keyts. Alumni might remember that a Gallery and Museum was part of the original University project of Sir Ivor Jennings. Sadly, this part of the work was never touched.

The Vice-Chancellor, the AAUP executive committee and interested Alumni have undertaken the task of completing the original plans.



Architect's impression  
of the complex

**THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING REALLY BIG FOR YOUR ALMA MATER!!**

### **THE ART COLLECTION**

The Ian Goonetilleke collection is already in storage in the university library. It includes over 100 George Keyts and paintings by all Sri Lanka's well known modern artists, such as Richard Gabriel, Harry Pieris, Ivan Peries and Stanley Kirinde. Further donations have already been promised.

### **SITE**

The art gallery and museum will be located on the strikingly beautiful slope above Jayatilake hall, immediately above the pond. Access will be from both the upper Hantana / Prospect Hill road and the Uda Peradeniya road.

### **THE BUILDING**

The well-known architect Ashley de Vos has proposed a design that is both highly original and also eminently practical. The buildings will be perfectly harmonized with the environment and the contours of the site. They will be mirrored in the pond in front of them.

The special feature of the plan is its modular design. This enables us to build in stages, as the funds come in. The architect assures us that with just Rs. 2 million, we can complete Module I. Thus our immediate target is Rs. 2 million.

**RAISING THE FUNDS IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND YOUR OPPORTUNITY**

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# University of Peradeniya

## Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

From the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

### AN APPEAL TO ALUMNI AND WELL WISHERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

Reflecting on the 50 years of service provided by the University of Peradeniya alumni will realize that they are, in fact, the real beneficiaries of this great seat of learning. We still cherish fond memories of the time we spent as undergraduates of this institution. Is there someway to assist our university so that there is something we can leave for posterity?

Yes! There is. Those who have loved this institution have donated their precious collections to the University. For example, the former Librarian, Mr. Ian Goonetilleke has donated an invaluable collection of Books and George Keyt paintings. Professor D.J. Kalupahana has donated his collection of books on Pali and Buddhist studies to the University Library. There are many others.

All these invaluable gifts and donations need a place to house them; an Art Gallery to display the invaluable paintings that have been donated as well as the creative works of our students and a Museum to catalogue the artifacts of historical significance to the University of Peradeniya. In view of this, an **"Art Gallery and Museum Fund"** was floated to mark the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of the University of Peradeniya at Peradeniya.


However, funds for such a venture receive the least priority in the government investment plan. We could only turn to you for assistance. Many individuals have volunteered their help. Architect Mr. Ashley de Vos has volunteered his services to provide us with the architectural drawings for the Art Gallery and the Museum, free of charge. The **Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya has taken the leadership** to raise funds for this worthy project and make it a reality. You as the alumni of University of Peradeniya also could make your contribution to help our beloved university.

The University has established a fund, **"University Development Fund, of the University of Peradeniya"** at the Peoples Bank Peradeniya with the Account Number 00571620000552. If you are a resident in Sri Lanka you can claim income tax deductions on all your contributions under section 31(2)(a) of the Inland revenue Act No. 38 of 2000 because the University Development Fund has approved charity status.

The Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP) keeps track of all contributions; therefore, please send your contribution in the form of a cheque/bank draft addressed to:

**Ms. Hema Gamage,  
Honorary Treasurer (AAUP),  
Senate Building, University of Peradeniya,  
Peradeniya.**

All contributions will be acknowledged. We look forward to your support in our endeavor to raise funds for the "Art Gallery and Museum." Thank you very much.

  
**Prof. Kapila Goonasekere**  
Vice Chancellor



## **In Memoriam Ian Goonetilleke –Hero of the Academic Vocation**

- Ashley Halpé

Ian Goonetilleke, who presided over the University Library in its heyday and nursed it in its critical years, has bequeathed all his books, papers and paintings to the University of Peradeniya, successor to the University of Ceylon, to which he had given the best part of his life and to which he had lent the lustre of his achievements. When he retired to the "Walden of (his) own choosing" at Oruwela, to quote his address to those gathered at the University Library to honour him on his seventy-fifth birthday, he had completed five volumes of his magnificent Bibliography of Sri Lanka and was working on the sixth - it was part of our duty to carry with us to Peradeniya the little desk-side card index from which he operated.

This bibliographical labour of love was a natural extension of the vocation to which Ian had been called. It is not fanciful to use such language to describe the way in which Ian Goonetilleke embarked on his lifelong adventure with books and the arduous task of sustaining research and teaching in an unfriendly and indeed, I venture to say, cynical environment.

"Words have been a source of joy and sorrow, strength and consolation, learning and knowledge; 'Words are sheer pleasure a cure for anguish' as Osip Mandelstam, the Russian poet summed it up," he said that day in Peradeniya, adding "As an only child, orphaned of both parents at an early age, I grew up with books as my mute, though surprisingly eloquent, companions... I devoured books, magazines and newspapers as soon as I learned to read - the greatest boon to a budding librarian... school possessed a splendid library... and teachers who encouraged the reading habit. My father's small library was a treasure island..."

When he entered the University and went through the portals of "Villa Venezia" where the library was housed he experienced "the cardinal moment of inspiration" to "the serendipitous calling of a book man in a library."

Twenty years later he was appointed to an assistant librarianship and "for the next 27 years, Peradeniya became the inspirational center of (his) professional career" and "the most rewarding, fruitful and enlightening period of (his) life." He "learned ...that work is a sacrament, and its only reward, and librarianship, in its highest forms, an act of social service to the mind of one's fellow man." During that period the University "quickly outgrew its confining colonial mould and became an ever-burgeoning centre of higher education" and Ian Goonetilleke was "particularly happy to have been a participant in University affairs when the winds of change were blowing, and altering the forms, styles and essence of University education for the greater good of the larger community." His premature departure was on a matter of principle, yet he went without any bitterness for the institution itself but rather as a reminder to us all of the nature of academic honour and academic standards.

Ian Goonetilleke was a totally civilized academic professional, whose civilization included an intense human concern for persons as much as for principles. It was fitting that such a man should have been at the centre of the Peradeniya Library, the living heart of the institution, in its greatest days of growth as well as in its darkest days of lean supplies and unintelligent university management. It is in this sense that Ian Goonetilleke has been a Peradeniya man. He has been closely identified with that ideal university on the banks of the Mahaweli envisioned by the founding fathers. He has stepped out of his professional precinct to wage war for the institution when exigency demanded assembly at the barricades, as during the fight against the insane and unprincipled reorganization of university education in 1973.

It was the same man of conscience and humane concern who helped nourish the minds of university students in custody after the insurrection of 1971 with loans of books and who compiled a bibliography of that insurrection with a substantial introduction, thorough but written from the heart.

Thus while we acknowledge and admire the range and depth of the publications he gave the world despite his energetically committed professional life, we also celebrate the many other ways in which Ian has enriched our lives: the innumerable fruitful consultations, conversations and those miracles of micro-calligraphy embodying felicitous *aperçus* and trenchant comment, sometimes excoriation (as I called them in my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday felicitation) which so many of us treasure.

It was entirely characteristic of him, therefore to make this stupendous bequest to the university. The benefaction's munificence stuns. But it is entirely in keeping with the astonishing generosity of his whole life, of which another example already continues to bless Peradeniya: the institution in memory of Professor E.F.C. Ludowyk of the annual Ludowyk Memorial Lecture and Shakespeare Prize.

But Peradeniya was not ready to receive the gift when he died, though over six years had passed since he conveyed his intention to the Council. The university has yet to bring to reality the museum and gallery that was part of the original plan of the founders. The bequest has had to be placed in safe-keeping in the library until a home worthy of it can be built on the campus.

Fortunately the alumni have stepped in and Ashley de Vos has generously lent his talent and taste to the project. He has suggested a gallery/museum which will wind as an extended corridor through the trees behind Jayatilake Hall, part of it reflected in the large pond set in the hillslope facing Wijewardene Hall across the Galaha Road. Exquisitely simple and elegant in form, it will be eminently part of the environment while its modular design will enable a phased and economical building programme.

Ian Goonetilleke is assured of a fitting memorial when a central part of the new gallery is named after him and his wife Roslin in gratitude for his bequest. In honouring him we honour ourselves by proving that we are worthy heirs and our farewells are sanctified by a spirit of filial piety.

### ***Hail and Farewell, Farewell and Hail!***

#### **- An elegy for Ian**

Dead, your benediction laves our spirits  
In the bouquet of your fine cool mind  
And your compassionate heart, passional only  
For justice, angry only  
When truth was crucified or learning mocked,  
Or hypocrisy carried off the palm -

Your benefaction stuns with its munificence:  
Keyts Claessens, Ivan Perieses, Gabriels...to nourish  
Peradeniya's starved thousands;  
Rare editions, papers, letters from the great,  
Princely gift no prince had thought to make

But you, benign *deva* of our realm of gold,  
Drab-clothed, sandalled guide and guardian:  
Your fate not 'gloomy night' but countless lamps  
Lit at your temple of the enquiring mind.



## A Message to all ALUMNI MEMBERS AND WELL-WISHERS FROM THE PRESIDENT/AAUP

Dear members / Well-wishers,

### THE GALLERY AND MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART PROJECT

An Art-Gallery and Museum has been a crying need for our university these many years and I am pleased to say that it is now to become a reality.

The fund raising for this project is entirely a task of the Alumni of the University. We need to collect Rs. 2 million to complete the first phase to house the very generous donation of George Keyt paintings made by Mr. Ian Goonetilleke. This is a desperately urgent need as this invaluable collection of paintings has no proper place and is lost to society.

Since funds are not forth-coming from the government, the Vice-chancellor has made an appeal to the Alumni Association to raise funds for the project. As Alumni of this University, it is our bounden duty to support this project to the utmost.

All contributors can claim income-tax deduction on all the contributions under sections 31(2)(a) of the Inland Revenue Act No 38 of 2000 as the University Development Fund of the University of Peradeniya is an approved charity.

Therefore, all cheques should be drawn in favour of the University Development Fund of the University of Peradeniya, account no 00571620000552, People's Bank Peradeniya, and addressed to,

Ms. Hema Gamage  
Hony Treasurer / AAUP,  
Senate Building, University of Peradeniya,  
Peradeniya.

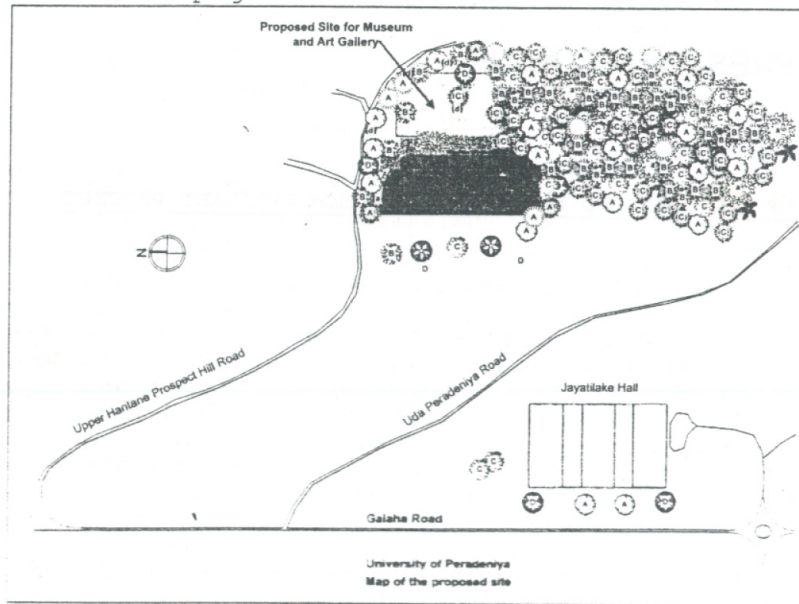
All contributions would be acknowledged. We look forward for an early response.

Thank you,

A.M.P.W. Senanayake  
President/ AAUP

Special committee appointed by the AAUP to coordinate the project	The Steering committee appointed by the Vice-Chancellor to oversee the project
Prof. Ashley Halpé (Chairperson) Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardene (Secretary) Dr. H.M.S.P. Herath Mr. Chaminda Wijesundara Mr. Priyantha Kulasekera Mrs. Ramani Hettiarachchi Dr. Neil Halpe Invited members: Prof. S.B. Dissanayaka Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne Mrs. Bridgette Halpé	Dr. S.D. Pathirana (Dean, Faculty of Engineering) Prof. M.P. Ranaweera (former Dean, Engineering) Prof. S.B.S. Abeykoon (Head, Civil Engineering) Mr. G.S. Gurusinghe (Senior Lecturer in Surveying) Prof. Ashley Halpé (AAUP) Mrs. Lalitha Gunawardene (AAUP) Dr. Neil Halpe (AAUP) Director, EDCC  The University Engineering Design Consultancy Centre (EDCC) has been directed to undertake the technical aspects of the project.

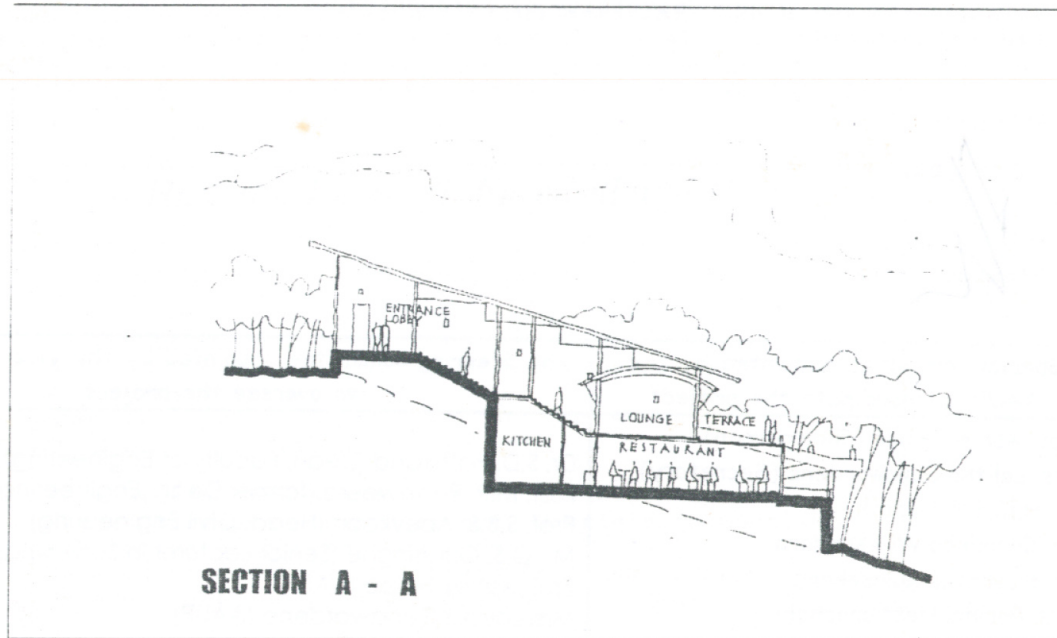
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LOCATION OF SITE

The building will house exhibition areas as well as a souvenir shop, visitors' lounge with a coffee shop and a lecture theatre.

The building will be known as the **Ian & Roslin Goonetilleke Gallery and Museum of Contemporary art of the University of Peradeniya.**



Names of donors/groups of donors will be placed on a plaque in the building. Individuals or groups may donate the funds for segments/modules of the building which will be named according to their wishes.

**ALL DONATIONS ARE EXEMPT FROM TAX AND WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED.**