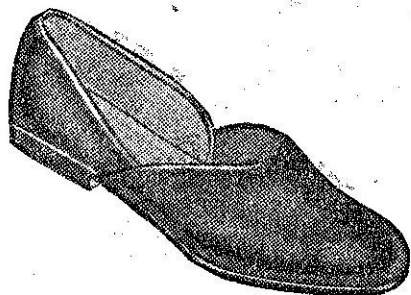


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VOL. XLV]

APRIL — JULY, 1955.

[No. 2 & 3

Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



"Eendracht maakt Macht"

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Contributions are invited from members on subjects calculated to be of interest to the Union. MSS. must be written on one side of the paper only and must reach the Editor at least a fortnight before the date of publication of the Journal.

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The
COLOMBO APOTHECARIES'
COMPANY, ——— LIMITED.

GLENNIE ST, SLAVE ISLAND and
PRINCE ST., FORT, COLOMBO.

Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

VOL. XLV.]

APRIL—JULY, 1955.

[No. 2 & 3

IMPRESSION OF A TRIP TO EUROPE SEVENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

Compiled from a series of notes lent
by Miss Grace Van Dort

(Edited & Arranged for publication by: R. L. Brohier)

Even after the first world-war the Victorian eighties seemed remote enough—except perhaps to an elder generation who harked back affectionately on the “Good Old Days” of that trouble free era. Looking back from the year of our Lord, 1955; the eighteen eighties are a past blurred by a second great curtain of conflict, which only a very few alive today are able to picture.

It was nearly 75 years ago in a world not taxed for income and immune from bombs, that the notes and reminiscences I have set myself to edit, were penned. They were written by a teenage girl, Nellie Siebel, who accompanied her parents on a trip to Europe. It is as well also to remember it as an epoch which knew not the internal-combustion engine or rapid locomotion, when a long journey by land even within the confines of so small a place as Ceylon was an expedition, and a voyage was an adventure.

Many of the notes made by that vanished hand, would seem trite and commonplace detached from the period in which they were written. So, for a matter of that, would any passage from a delightfully written travelogue which stands divided by the same revolutions in social, political and economic conditions between us and that time. But, as one reads on, piecing together the small details, one establishes contact with many new glimpses into old days which help to build a picture of personal and family life, that can easily be as interesting, if not more, than anything contemporary or topical.

The earliest entry is characteristically trite. It reads: “In the beginning of the year 1880, three Dutch Burgher families formed themselves into a party and sailed from Ceylon for Europe by the S. S. Ava. The party consisted of six parents, five teenage girls and boys, a child of

three in the charge of an *ayah*, and a companion friend who was a widow." To get some idea of how thoroughly "period" this commonplace entry is, suppose we begin by getting to know something about the people who composed the party.

The first family consisted of James van Langenberg, an Advocate of Colombo and Papal Knight, who was later a Member of the Legislative Council; accompanied by his wife Maria, nee Toussaint, and two children. The children were, Vincent a lad of 10 years better known to many, who today are not young, but not yet old, as a popular Lieutenant Colonel of the Ceylon Light Infantry and a one time Deputy Director of the Medical and Sanitary Services, the other child was a daughter, Eleanor van Langenberg, 8 years old at the time, who is the one and only surviving member of this party of travellers.

John Boyle Siebel, Crown Proctor, widely known in his day, and a popular resident of Kandy, with his wife Georgiana Margaretta who was the daughter of John van Dort, with three children comprised the second family. The children were Nellie, a young lady of eighteen to whom as stated earlier we are indebted for the notes of the trip, Willie a boy of 15 and a baby brother of three.

The third family consisted of Abraham Orlando Joseph, also a Proctor and Notary, whose wide and lucrative practice was indicated by his spacious residential bungalow "Orlando House" — alas! no more, which stood off Ward Place in Colombo. He was accompanied by Louisa, his wife who was a younger sister of James van Langenberg. They were accompanied by their eldest daughter Edith, who later married Frank Modder of Kurunegala.

The companion friend was widow Mrs Moldrich of Kandy, a devout Catholic, who had gifted the Church several houses bequeathed to her by her late husband, and lived on an allowance she drew from the Parish by right of mortgage from her gift. Her one ambition was to visit Rome and no better opportunity offered itself than to accompany James van Langenberg and his wife, both zealous Catholics. The van Langenbergs anticipating the delight of carrying "Peter's Pence" from Ceylon to the Vatican, were fervently making a collection in Colombo for some months before the contemplated visit to Rome. Nearly every evening husband and wife might have been seen riding in a trap drawn by their horse "Jenny", to collect as much as possible from fellow-catholics and well-wishers in the city. These collecting excursions, also extended to many a prosperous suburban country house and estate, despite the long drives this entailed on brick-red gravel roads, and the hazards of coming back at night with only the candle lights of the trap glimmering along the hedges.

One other personality in this party, but not of it, who possibly can only draw a responsive note of recollection from the stray few left of that generation which has now nearly passed away, was a Roman Catholic priest, Father Cingolani, of the Kandy parish.

It is impossible for me to let imagination build a picture of the bustle and confusion in these three homes when the day for embarkation finally came round. The excitement and preparation which had no doubt been gathering force for some time, must indeed have reached their climax. Piles of boxes and trunks, nailed down corded and suitably labelled — were being loaded into bullock carts. These would be unloaded at the jetty, reloaded into bum-boats, and finally put on board.

The homes are crowded with uncles and aunts, and cousins and near relatives. There were of course also many friends and clients who had dropped in to interchange civilities and to speed the travellers on their journey with good wishes. Those were, apparently, pleasant days — the days of seven decades ago, when an occasion such as this was sufficient to kindle an unostentatious exhibition, of neighbourly regard. The cordial wishes, the ready aid, the wise counsel, the genuine kindness of feeling, were all much in evidence — bestowed in the best of spirits unasked, and bestowed ungrudgingly.

The Siebels who had travelled down earlier from Kandy, were putting up with relations in Colombo. The good lady of this family was singularly superstitious, and had made sure in her unobtrusive simplicity that she and the rest of her family must begin their journey by leaving the house they were sojourning in at the auspicious hour. It would not be rare to find the counterpart of this belief and practice even in tortuous modern times. Acting up to her conviction that disaster would befall one or the other of the family if she failed to closely follow the prediction, they were the last of the three families to arrive at the jetty. We must take it for granted that despite the fact that the others had been kept waiting, this widely esteemed lady derived much consolation from stepping up with right foot foremost into the *phaeton* which took them to the jetty, at the moment which she had been told was propitious. To ensure moreover that the journey would be prosperous, there was Raman, her gardener standing at the gate with a pitcher of water, which he had been expressly bidden to draw from the well in the compound of their house in Kandy and carefully take to Colombo. Ceremoniously, he placed the pitcher on his head at the moment the *phaeton* drove out of the gate.

Here is the relevant passage from Nellie's notes of the final scene before they left Ceylon's shores. "We were only leaving the Island for six months, but to judge from the number of friends and relations who crowded the jetty as well as the steamer, it would have led one to think it was an eternal farewell they were bidding us. I believe it must have taken hours to go through all the "good-byes" and "bon voyages".

"By 7 p.m., all our friends and acquaintances had left — and we veritably collapsed on some seats on deck. I was too bewildered with the novelty of the situation to collect my thoughts, but I will remember seeing my mother, and her great friend Mrs van Langenberg sitting together with hands clasped, and shedding tears profusely. Although we retired to our respective cabins soon after dinner, being very tired, I kept awake till I was able to see the lights of Colombo Fort grow

gradually dim in the distance, and finally disappear at about 11 p.m. With a rush came realization of what perils we were exposed to in our temporary home".

"The ship was full of passengers from various Eastern ports", and writes Nellie, "we were soon entrancingly delighted with our surroundings. Almost every nationality was represented on board, and I made the acquaintance of several interesting people. There was a Dutch family going back to Holland from Batavia. The eldest son was a very clever violinist. His sister Marie and I struck up a friendship which lasted through the voyage and long after. She knew not a word of English, nor I anything of Dutch or German, so we used French as a medium for conversation; a language she could speak and I had acquired through a private tutor, and had practised for two years with a French refugee, who had acted as *chef* in our home for that period". Bracketted as an afterthought, this teenager with a mind of her own, rather egotistically adds: "My smattering knowledge of the language however served our party throughout the European tour".

Dancing in those days, was regulated with a precision that showed there was some science in it. The *Minuets*, for instance, could not have been successfully performed on board ships which were much less limited in space than the floating hotels of our time, although perhaps the reeling and whirling of the dances in vogue today might have been possible if space were the only consideration. But apparently, it was not—if I rightly interpret the withering observation once made to me by an "old stager" well qualified to draw a comparison, who, while we were watching a modern dance remarked: if *Terpsichore*, the goddess of dancing, was not too tired to watch the ball-room performances as practiced in our fashionable day, this modest mother of the muses would have put her daughter under lock and key."

Accordingly, the young men, and the young women who found themselves confined for long periods on board ship, in days of yore, had to find other so-called amusements. Hence we are told how boredom was warded off by: "several fine concerts on board got up by a party of very musical Italians, and by a Dane who being a clever caricaturist missed none of us young ladies in the framed card he hung up for exhibition on deck and renewed every morning to our great delight."

Here is an impression of the first port of call: "When we reached Aden, barren and rocky though it was, we went ashore. Four ladies with me got into a carriage drawn by a lanky horse, and driven by an Arab. He took us up and down some terrible hills which I doubt was absolutely necessary but from which he seemed to get much enjoyment. Often the driver had to get off the driving seat and help the horse down hill, or drag him up hill."

"As we left Aden and got into the Red Sea, we felt the weather change and were glad in the late evenings to get into warm coats and promenade the deck briskly. It was not very pleasant in the Canal as

the sand was being blown over, but I liked the idea of gliding along gently feeling safe and serene, knowing that the worst that could happen would be a slip into the mud."

"The morning before we reached Port Said, Mrs. J of our party got into a violent fit of hysterics and the French ship's doctor was bringing all his skill to bear upon her. We, the girls, were quite used to seeing ladies work themselves into such fits, so we took it coolly and sat outside the cabin door to be at hand in case we were wanted, and to prevent other passengers who had been alarmed by the uproar, from going in. I do not think I shall ever forget the face of one of our fellow-passengers—Lieutenant G....., when he came up to us. He went white to his very lips as fiendish shriek after shriek came from the cabin. With an expression of piteous entreaty he enquired what was the matter, and was appalled when I smiled unsympathetically in his face, and joined the other girls in assuring him that nothing was the matter really—no more than an usual fit of hysterics! He could not be convinced that nothing was the matter so stood in awed posture for a few minutes longer, and then walked away with such a ridiculously frightened face—brave soldier though he was. I suppose he was more used to hear rifle-shots and cannon than to hear the hysterical screams of women."

Concerning this military fellow-voyager Nellie says: "He was a German Lieutenant and Adjutant, who had recently been on active service where he received some wounds, and was ordered to Europe as his recovery was slow. His wife travelling with him, was a sweet-faced blonde to whom he seemed devoted, scarcely ever leaving her side. German though he was, he was nevertheless a rare type—with dark hair and eyes which suited his bronzed complexion."

"Mrs. J..... was sufficiently recovered from her attack to join the party when we set out to see Port Said, which we all found most interesting. We saw, and tasted blood-oranges here for the first time, and returned to the ship, very tired after walking around the place."

"It was after dinner when we left Port Said, and by the next morning, we were in the Mediterranean and fairly on our backs seized by that horrible and unescapable sickness *mal-de-mer*. We were all very bad indeed, and I thought at the time things could not be worse, though I feel amused now when I recall the very comical picture we must have presented. My little brother of three years got over his sick feeling very quickly, as all children do, and wondered why he could not stand steadily. 'Rascal Ship!' he would say stamping his feet, and then turn to mama and ask her who would make the ship right. 'Pray to Jesus', she said, 'ask Jesus to keep the ship quiet.' He stood as well as he was able to, trying to think out this bit of advice and eventually yelled in Sinhalese: *Jesus Mahathmaya, Vigahata ender mamer andagahanava*; whereupon there was a knock on the door and we heard Father Cingolani's voice enquiring after our health. The little fellow opened the door and I suppose he found himself a bit muddled in his ideas. Thinking that Father Cingolani was Jesus, who

had materialised in response to his summons, he addressed him in confident tone asking him to stop the rascal ship throwing him from side to side. I heard mama correcting him as soon as the door was shut. Sick though I was, I felt so amused."

"Presently there were distressing groans heard issuing from the adjoining cabin which certainly frightened me much. 'My Lord! I am dying' said a voice in agonised tones, and there is no one to help me! Then followed groans again. It was the widow, poor Mrs. M..... who was a very slave to Neptune from the moment she came aboard. We gave her all the comfort we could by shouting across the partition separating her cabin from ours, until the stewardess and doctor came to her assistance. She evidently wanted a known face near, and scarcely looked upon the stewardess as a source of comfort, because she was a strange woman."

"It was a great relief to feel the ship gradually getting steadier. Taking advantage of this the next morning we all scrambled on to the deck, as early as we could and felt much better for doing so. There was a Spanish Captain (Cavalry) who was very much in love with my friend Marie, but she wouldn't even deign to look at him. I thought him a nice man and felt sorry for him, but disapproved of his style of courtship, as much as Marie despised it. He would sit still, and gaze and gaze at her like a sentimental bull, twirling his pointed moustachios and heaving tremendous sighs, which I imagined would at any moment end in his falling at her feet."

It had been arranged that the party would disembark at Naples and then go overland to London. "When the ship put in at this port, I was as glad to get on land, as I was sorry to leave my new ship-board friends," writes our diarist. She prosaically adds "all friends must part some time or another," and continued to tell: "We bade each other farewell on shore: they had all been so sociable and nice. The Cavalry Captain, whom we saw for the first time looking very smart in uniform, also disembarked at Naples: it was amusing to see his tearful eyes. Having said his good-bye to Marie he complacently kissed the boys of our party on both cheeks. All foreigners look upon this as a matter of course, but we girls could scarcely keep from laughing."

"Being a Sunday, Naples was very gay and I was quite taken up with the strange sights I saw. We found comfortable accommodation in a nice hotel overlooking the Bay. The next morning we divided ourselves into two carriages, and visited all the principal Roman Catholic Churches there—they all smelt so mouldy and had a dim mediaeval air about them which makes one feel as if one was living hundreds of years ago.

The narrative is full of impressions gathered from the visits to churches. Here is a characteristic description: "In one church we entered there was a life size figure of Christ, representing Him ready to

be buried after the Crucifixion. It was of pure white marble, exquisitely sculptured and exceedingly beautiful. Every feature was perfect and full of expression—the hands and feet were models in themselves. What appealed to me even more was the wonderful artistry of the linen cloth bordered with lace which was underneath. Each fold, although cut out of marble, fell so naturally. To my mind, the pattern of the lace was perfect, and a master-piece of sculpture. I could not bring myself to realize what patience and perseverance the work must have called for."

"We next went to the National Museum after lunch. This time only we three girls, two boys and the widow Mrs Moldrich, went with the men. The party included our old friend Father Cingolani who was on his way to Rome. Somehow, we got separated after entering the museum. Our papas disappeared up one of the stair-cases and we girls were left under the chaperonage of Mrs M, and in charge of Father Cingolani. The two boys rushed on ahead—followed by that tom-boy of a girl Nell. When we neared the door of the room they were in, we heard excited exclamations and suppressed laughter. Evidently this was kindled by the partially draped statues, which in their novelty excited the children. We two girls, Edith and I, were of course anxious to share the fun, but before we could get in, Father C..... rushed forward: begging of us to follow him without stopping to look at anything in that room. Calling Nell and the boys, he hurried us off into the next room. Virtually leading us from the frying-pan into the fire!"

"Here indeed was a dilemma: there stood the priest of a high order of the Romanish Church gazing in consternation at the widow, who was getting more embarrassed, and redder in the face every split-second, as she passed statue after statue in the nude, with lowered eyes. The boys wickedly chuckled, we girls looked about in dismay—should we shut our eyes, or rush out of the room? Father Cingolani getting over his momentary uneasiness took command again and we all followed him until we got to the foot of the principal stair-case, where I flopped down on a step—feeling very vexed, and a little amused too, at the turn our wanderings had taken." How very intimately we get to know the shy and charming personality of our diarist.

"Father Cingolani next suggested our going up-stairs to look at the picture gallery. This was hailed with delight, and there we spent a pleasant hour, despite the fact that some pictures kept reminding us of the undraped statues down stairs. I was very much interested in some odd bits of wonderfully carved old marble and stone, and in models of Pompeii done in clay brought from the site. We were indeed glad to get back to the hotel as we felt quite tired after the excitement and the day's outing, before going to bed, I had a look at Vesuvius through one of the windows of my room. It left me anything but comfortable, as I realized our proximity to that smouldering crater."

What a picture of contrasts the following *melange* presents: "The next morning some of us went shopping. I saw a lady driving in a phaeton, and to my horror the horse slipped and fell. My feelings gradually changed to amazement and admiration to see the lady continue to sit calm and composed, as if she had been used to such occurrences all her life. I did not then dream I would experience the same adventure soon enough. Fortunately we had two horses, and one suddenly slipped and fell. All of us sprang out of the carriage in trepidation and gathered a large crowd round us by the noise and fuss. The coacher assured us it was nothing. I learnt to appreciate this in time for it seemed such an ordinary thing to see a horse slip and fall while being driven on these roads.

The next morning we started for Rome.

(To be Continued in next issue)

The objects of the Union shall be :

To prepare and publish a memorial history of the Dutch in Ceylon, descriptive of their social life and customs, their methods of administration, and the influence of these upon existing institutions in the Island.

THE PORTUGUESE PIONEERS FIND A WAY TO INDIA

A FEATURE FOR RADIO

Script by

DELORAINE FERDINAND

SOUND EFFECTS

CAST

Music

Street Chatter

Low Wind

Stormy Sea thunder and howling
wind

Angry Crowd

African Drums

Excited, happy cheering.

Laughter of men

Creaking of sailing vessel

Waves lapping against side of ship

.....*Music*.....

Narrator: Trade in mediaeval Europe was highly developed. From distant China and Japan, overland across steaming desert and rugged mountain, through seas full of pirates and along roads infested with brigands — the goods of the Orient were brought, by camel, and pack-bearer and frail sailing ship — to the market centres of Europe.

(Background of street chatter)

Venice, Genoa, and Bruges, in the north — here, men bargained, and bought, and sold.

1st voice: (calls out) Come, buy : Dates from the Levant: luscious
dates, figs, apricots.

2nd voice: (calls out) silk from China — soft, rich and lovely.

3rd voice : (calls out) Spices from Asia — cinnamon from Taprobane, pepper from Malabar, cardomoms, cloves, nutmeg — ivory and perfumes — luxuries of the Orient — Come, buy! Come.....buy! Come.....buy! (Fade out)

Narrator : The Crusades had whetted the appetites of the wealthier classes in Europe for these luxuries. They used them to season their winter diet. They carried on their person sweet smelling perfumes, and delicate silks and muslins.

Those goods were carried to Europe along ancient and well established land routes. But by the late 14th century, sea routes, which went, either by way of the Persian Gulf to Basra and Trebizond, or to Arabia, through the Red Sea, Suez and Egypt, became popular. The old land routes fell into disuse and for all practical purposes; by the 15th century the only routes left, if Europe was not to be cut off from Asia, were the sea routes in the south.

A new crisis, however, threatened Europe,

Venetian traders had gained for themselves the sole right to collect the Asian trade coming through this region. At the ports of Jeddha, Alexandria and Cairo, they bought over these goods for distribution in Europe. Now, the Sultan of Egypt through whose lands this traffic went on, raised his taxes and began to levy increasingly heavy duties on the Asian goods passing through. The Venetians were forced to sell at higher rates.....(fade out)

1st Merchant: This is a ridiculous situation. Between the Sultan and the Venetians the prices of these spices we so need for our food, are being raised unnecessarily high.

2nd: You can't help that, friend. The Venetians have captured the monopoly of the southern routes.....

1st: And you, I suppose, are perfectly agreeable to their creating this artificial inflation?

2nd: No, I am not — but I am convinced that this position will cease if there can be competition for the sale of the spices. Let us seek out a new way to the East. We can't go by the old land routes, granted — why not go by sea? The world is round, so scholars tell us. Explore the seas, and find a new way to the spice lands. (fade out)

Narrator: Thus a new incentive was given to those peoples and nations who for years previous, had been quenching their thirst for adventure, by setting out to discover new lands across uncharted seas. And such a nation was Portugal.

It so happened that there lived in Portugal in those days a Prince, named Henry, who dreamed of making his country into a great naval power, with an empire, and possessions, spread all over the world.

Prince Henry: (fade in) Portugal today is one of the smallest kingdoms in Europe — but we will make her great, in wealth and fame. And we can only achieve this by encouraging our men to sail out and beyond — to dare the open seas, to discover new lands.

Chief Minister: There are a few sailors who will venture far out, your Majesty but many are still fearful and superstitious. They dare not put out to sea for fear that terrible monsters will swallow them up, or the devils of the ocean will torment them.....

Prince Henry: They cannot be blamed. They are fearful of the unknown. But we must train them first, we must give our men the best that knowledge and science can provide. We must build marine observatories, dock yards, and perfect our nautical instruments. Then with confidence we can despatch our daring sea captains — and others will gladly follow. (fade out)

Narr: Henry — later called "the Navigator", as a compliment to his life time interest, spent his private fortune in pushing ahead his schemes and projects. Initial progress was however slow, and at his death in 1460, Portuguese maritime expeditions had only turned the bulge of the West African coast. But the gallant sailors trained and encouraged by the Prince, continued to carry on the work he began. Year after year they set forth. Down the coast of Africa they crept (bring up music low— continue increasing to a crescendo.....)

1st Voice: 1431 — The Canary islands and the Azores.

2nd Voice: 1445 — the White Cape, the river Senegal, and Guinea

1st Voice: 1471 — Crossed the equator

2nd Voice: 1484 — reached the Congo and Algoa Bay.

3rd Voice: And then, at last, 1488 — they doubled a cape, which was named "Cape of Storms" Bartholomew Diaz returned proudly to his King with the news of having sailed to the southernmost point of the great and mighty continent of Africa. (music-loud— then gradually fade.....)

Narr: Few men of Portugal realised in full measure the greatness of the contribution made by Diaz. Few realized too, that for the first time the gateway to the east had been penetrated. Those who were to follow and who were to win greater glory, and the prize of discovering the golden East, could not have achieved their goal if not for these early pioneers.

.....music.....

July the 9th, 1497 Anchored in the harbour of Lisbon, are three little ships, gaily decked: the "San Gabriel", the most spectacular looking of the small fleet, commanded by Vasco da Gama; the "San Raphael": commanded by his brother Paulo; and the "Berrio": commanded by Nicolo Coelho.

Ashore a small knot of people stand around the royal representative, and the holy fathers — who chant prayers and burn incense for the safe return of the brave souls on board, and the success of the expedition.

(low wind — keep up —)

A gentle breeze begins to blow — and catches the large white sails. Slowly the little vessels glide away from their homeland ... on to high adventure and success.

(keep up low wind)

Southwards they sail and drift away from all sight of land.

(low wind merges into sound of a howling wind and stormy sea. Keep low at first)

Narr: A few months out from Lisbon, they run into heavy gales.
(Sound of thunder and wind and stormy sea)

Tumultuous waves toss the frail craft, cutting winds tear at the sails, lightning streaks across the skies, and aboard the small ships, the men grow fearful. (Keep up sound of storm in background)

(fade in)

1st Sailor: Captain da Gama — the crew grow mutinous. They say they will all die in these terrible seas. They have heard of sea monsters who rise to the surface in these storms and swallow ships whole.

(Angry murmur of men in background — grow louder)

da Gama: They act like children fearful of a storm, eh Manuel?

1st Sailor: (frightened) But do you hear them Captain, how they murmur amongst themselves. They want you to turn back.....

da Gama: Turn back? Never! Tell them we will sail on — go further yet

(Angry shouts grow louder)

Leader of mutiny: Go further! Do you hear him fellows? Go further! he says, where, who knows, the seas will grow worse. He is mad I tell you. If we let him have his way he will kill us all..... (Drowned in angry shouts)

Voices: { Kill him before he kills us)
 { He is mad.
 { Kill the Captain

da Gama: Stop your prattle — you fools. (shouts die down except for a few mutterings) If any man takes one step forward, I will slit his gullet with this knife.

Leader of Mutiny: (boldly) You cannot frighten us — come on follow me you cowards — Ugh! my god..... mercy,.... (thud of a man falling to ground mortally wounded)

da Gama: Let that be a lesson to you all. Throw this blood sodden dog, overboard, Manuel. Now, you fellows listen to me. Four months ago we set sail from Lisbon with the intention of reaching the rich and sunny land of India. We have come a long way from then — but we have not yet reached our goal. As long as I live, we will get there — do you hear me? I will *never* return to Portugal until I have set foot in India. We will go on through worse dangers than this, if it be so. But I will find the lands of the spices, (fade out)

(fade out sounds of storm and angry crowd)

Narr: So the small fleet plunged through the rough seas of the South Atlantic each day getting nearer to the discovery of the sea route to India.

A week later the storm abated. Birds were seen circling the blue sky above. Excitement caught on amongst the crew they knew land could not be far away.

On November 4th, the lookout at the masthead shouted'...
.....

Lookout: (from a distance) Land! Land! Tell the Captain — land!

da Gama: Ahoy there! Land you say — where?

Lookout: Land to the east, Captain! (Excited chatter)

Voices: Aye! Aye! Look over there.
By the saints we are safe.

da Gama: My telescope. Ah! I can see green hills — a few days and we can put into a quiet bay. We need food and water.....
(fade out chatter and voices)

Narr: Three days later, they moored in a wide bay and went ashore to fill their water casks. They did not remain long.....
(African drums and wild shouts)

Voice: Run for it fellows — the blacks are after us.

2nd Voice: If they catch us we'll be stewed meat for a feast tonight
(fade out)

Narr: So da Gama decided not to risk the lives of his men. But from here they were able to find out their exact position on the chart, and set sail with renewed hope, following the coast line closely.

A few days before Christmas, once again the lookout shouted excitedly.....

Lookout: (calls from afar) Captain! Captain da Gama — no more land — the coastline has ended. (excited chatter — cheers)

da Gama: By gad! At last we have come to the southernmost tip of Africa.

1st Sailor: With no land to bar our way Captain — We can now go on — for, beyond is India. (cheers)

da Gama: What you say is very heartening Manuel. For here, Diaz too came, but his men forced him to turn back. I can go on now — my men with me. Diaz called this point "Cape of Storms" —

I shall name it Cabo de bon Esperanza.

Narr: Which means "Cape of Good Hope" And with that spirit they pushed on, turning eastward into another great sea which was named the Indian Ocean.

But soon spirits flagged, as days dragged by, on to weeks—and still the rich jewel of India was not yet found. Da Gama wrote in the ship's log :-

da Gama: (fade in) The men begin to grumble and murmur again—they are easily dejected by the tedium of the voyage. We dare not put ashore for fear of the blacks. Our food is limited and I have given orders this day to ration the water. Signs of scurvy due to bad food worries me much. We know not what sickness or danger awaits us at each new dawn. But, we must sail on (fade out.....)

Narr: Christmas Day! And da Gama records.....

da Gama: This should be a day of gladness and rejoicing. Manuel, order extra food and wine to all hands on board and send the message to the "Berrio" and "San Raphael"

1st Sailor: Aye! Aye! Captain.

da Gama: What a beautiful shore line we are passing — with wooded hills. I shall call this coast Natal, after the natal day of our Lord, Jesus (Bring up sound of singing and laughter)

Voice: Cheers for the Captain..... (cheering)

da Gama: The men are in better humour, eh Manuel?

1st Sailor: Aye, Aye Captain. A little extra wine to go to their heads and they forget all their fears and disappointments.

da Gama: They will be in better humour yet, when we reach India and they see the jewels and silks and perfumes they can take back to their women.....(fade out.....)

Narr: Early in the New Year, sailing up the African coast, the expedition had to put into Mombasa.
(sound of water lapping and creaking of a sailing vessel)

da Gama: Ah Manuel — just been ashore? What have you seen?

1st Sailor: I don't like it Captain. There are people here who call them — selves Moors — brownish in colour they are — not the blacks we met in every bay we put in along Africa. I hear that these Moors are traders — trading in spices.....

da Gama: What's that you say? In spices? Then they are a danger to us, they will rival our project in the East.

1st Sailor: Aye Captain — that's what I thought. And these people are not too friendly to us, — more — they are rather nasty. They have learnt all they can from some of our foolish drunken men who went ashore last night, — and they are trying to make it hot for us — to force us to give up and go away.

da Gama: By gad! We must spy on them and learn the way to India before they do much damage. If they get at our men and turn nasty — we are finished. The men will want to flee back home. Report to me later Manuel, and for the present summon my brother Paulo and Nicolo Coelho — I must have a conference with them (fade out, (pause — keep up creak of ship)

1st Sailor: (fade in) We have captured a hostage Captain.

da Gama: Good! bring him in — (opening and shutting of heavy door)

Moorish trader: (frightened) I know nothing — I no trader — let me go — let me go.....

da Gama: Silence man and stop your blubbering. If you tell us what we want to know, we won't harm you, If you do not—eh hmm.....

1st Sailor: Captain, this man says if we give him a share of the sale of the spices he will take us to where we can buy them. He also wants as guarantee from us 50 pieces of silver.

da Gama: Good! give it to him (jingle of silver). Give him all he wants. Show him that we are friendly.

1st Sailor: The silver has opened his mouth. He says he'll take us to a place called Calicut where we can meet the King (fade out)

Narr: With their Arab pilot to guide them and show them the way, the expedition made good progress.

da Gama: This is the 18th day of the month of May, in the year 1498. We sighted the coast of India.....(fade out)

Look out: (from a distance) Ahoy! Ahoy! Land ahead.....land.....

Voices: (join in) Land! India!

da Gama: Thank God! The coast of India. What a voyage! 2,220 miles of seemingly unbounded sea, and 316 days of anguished expectancy. But at last we have arrived — (cheers)

This day we have crowned the hopes of a century. This day we have made our little kingdom of Portugal great and our King famous.....(fade out)

Narr: Yes, Portugal was to grow into one of the great nations of the world, and Lisbon one of the richest cities in Europe.

But the name that lives on in History and without whom this enriching discovery could not have been — is Vasco da Gama, whom we leave, proudly standing on the bridge of the "San Gabriel" as it glides into the noisy harbour of Calicut, the cheers of his crew ringing in his ears.....(cheers)

Voices: Land — India — Spices. Cheers for Vasco da Gama.....(fade into music).

The objects of the Union shall be:

To cause to be prepared and.....printed and published, papers, essays, etc: on questions relating to the history and origin of the Dutch Burghers of Ceylon, and to publish the genealogies of the Dutch families now in Ceylon.

GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF SCHUMACHER OF CEYLON

(Compiled by Mr. D. V. Attendorff).

I.

Frederik Willem Schumacher, born at Magdeburg, living in Ceylon 1772—1778. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. I, page 160.) had the following children.

- 1 Eva Rosina married Lambert Martyn Trek.
- 2 Frederik Wilhelm, who follows under II.
- 3 Christian Martyn, who follows under III.
- 4 William Jacob married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 26th October 1818, Maria Magdalena Kesil.

II.

Frederick Wilhelm Schumacher married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 23rd February 1794, Anna Catharina Medens. He had by her —

- 1 Anna Maria, baptised 21st August 1796, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 23rd October 1815, Ernst Leygenes Wille, died 1st February 1829, widower of Johanna Jansz, and son of Daniel Wille of Einbech in Hanover and Mariana Pelpella. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXVII, page 16.)
- 2 Frans Wilhelm, who follows under IV.
- 3 Frederik Lodewyk, baptised 21st March 1802.
- 4 Francina Margarita, born 29th March 1808.

III.

Christian Martyn Schumacher married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 28th December 1806, Johanna Catharina Sprink, daughter of Pieter Sprink of Sluys in Vlanderen and Isabella Augenia Ferdinand. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 75). He had by her.—

- 1 Pieter Ernst who follows under V.

IV.

Frans Wilhelm Schumacher, born 9th June 1799, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 10th June 1822, Adriana Elizabeth Wille, born 6th January 1808 daughter of Johan Christoffel Wille and Johanna Petronella Jansz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXVII, page 16). He had by her.—

- 1 Johannes Gerardus, who follows under VI.
- 2 John Robert, who follows under VII.
- 3 Wilhelmina Emelia married in the Dutch Reformed Church Wolvendaal, 27th May 1844. William Henry Herft, Secretary of the District Court, Kegalle, son of Robert William Herft and Maria Carolina Matthys. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLII, pages 166 and 169).
- 4 Henrietta Petronella born 27th September 1832 married in the Dutch Reformed Church Wolvendaal, 8th February 1849, James Rebeira.
- 5 John Michael born 20th July 1836.
- 6 Dorothea Maria, born 31st July 1841.
- 7 Eliza Matilda born 2nd April 1845, married in the Anglican Church Ratnapura, 7th February 1860, John Mical Wille born 2nd September 1837 son of John Joseph Wille and Dorothea Elizabeth Van Cuylenburg (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VII page 81 and Vol. XXXVII, page 17).
- 8 John Didreck, born 14th August 1847.

V.

Pieter Ernst Schumacher, born 22nd August 1810, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 2nd January 1835, Louisa Carrington, and had by her.—

- 1 John William who follows under VIII

VI.

Johannes Gerardus (John Gerard) Schumacher, born 1st September 1824, married in St. Peter's Church Colombo, 7th June 1852 Arnoldina Amelia Drieberg, born 2nd September, 1838, daughter of Johannes Wilhelmus (John William) Drieberg and Anna Maria, Bronnett. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol XXXIV page II) He had by her.—

- 1 Venetia Margaret married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 8th December 1875, Frederick James Redlich, born 24th May 1849, died 6th February 1911, son of William Francis Redlich, Proctor and Maria Anne Frederica Schultsz (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLIV pages 26 and 28).
- 2 Charles William, who follows under IX.
- 3 James Walter who follows under X.
- 4 Frederick James, who follows under XI.

VII.

John Robert Schumacher born 1825, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 23rd April 1866 Harriet Juliat Pyster, born 1828, widow of Diderick Arnoldus Brewart, and daughter of Harry Pyster and Anolda Frederica Nicolas. He had by her.—

- 1 Maria Eveline, born 22nd January 1869.

VIII.

John William Schumacher, born 28th August 1836, married in, Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 20th June 1861, Caroline Jane Swan born 4th September 1837, daughter of Joseph Swan and Arnoldina Frederica Gertruida Eberhardie, (D. B. U. Journal, Vol XXVI, page 66). He had by her.—

- 1 Ernest William who follows under XII.
- 2 Albert Richard born 9th November 1864.
- 3 Helen Constance, born 17th January 1866 married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 4th August 1892, Andrew James MacDonald.
- 4 Frederick George, born 23rd February 1867.

IX.

Charles William Schumacher, born 27th December 1857, died 30th August 1928, married in the Dutch Reformed Church Wolvendaal, 14th July 1881, Harriet Maria Batta, born 18th June 1856, died 13th October 1903 daughter of John Gray Batta and Johanna Henrietta Elizabeth Ludekens (D. B. U. Journal Vol. XXXVI page 79). He had by her.—

- 1 James Edwin, born 23rd May 1882.
- 2 Hester Mary born 29th November 1883, died 20th September 1938.
- 3 Florence Elaine, born 27th September 1885, died 3rd November 1888.
- 4 Clarice Maud, born 18th April 1887, died 19th October 1889.
- 5 Hubert William, who follows under XIII.
- 6 Hilda Gwendoline, born 28th May 1895.

X.

James Walter Schumacher, Proctor, married in the Methodist Church Pettah, Colombo. 28th December 1887, Edith Maud de Zilva daughter of John Edgar de Zilva and Jane Mary Pereira. He had by her.—

- 1 James Walter, who follows under XIV.
- 2 John Gerald, who follows under XV.
- 3 Edith Verna, born 10th March 1894.
- 4 Stephen Reginald, born 4th January, 1896, died 20th September 1951.
- 5 Robert Bertram, born 1st June 1898.

XI.

Frederick James Schumacher, Station Master, Ceylon Government Railway, born 19th November 1874, died 21st June 1931, married in St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 10th June 1896, Eugenie Clarice de Hoedt, born 16th November 1879, daughter of Ebenezer Frederick Adolphus de Hoedt and Helen Arabella Bulner. He had by her—

- 1 Frederick James, born 26th July 1897.
- 2 Vivienne Merlyn, born 5th November 1899, married in St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 28th March 1921, Aelian Kiltore Chapman, born 6th June 1893, son of John Benjamin Chapman and Agnes Eva Van Buren.
- 3 James Alexander, who follows under XVI.
- 4 Percival, who follows under XVII.
- 5 Ethel Eugenie Gladys, born 6th October 1907.

XII.

Ernest William Schumacher, born 8th February 1863, married in St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 2nd December 1896, Alice Barber, died 30th August 1935, widow of Charles O'Hara and daughter of Charles Arnoldus Barber and Harriet Swan. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVI, page 66). He had by her.

- 1 Hazel Ellenorah, born 17th January 1898, married in the Bethany Mission Hall, Colombo, 9th December 1935, John Ludovici Thuring, born 6th May 1889, widower of Dorothy Shaw and son of Charles Vincent Thuring and Letitia Charlotte Ingram. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, pages 132 and 133).
- 2 Mary Alrine Hester, born 3rd February 1901.
- 3 William Lionel, born 7th September 1904.
- 4 Enlie, married in the Anglican Church, Klang, Federated Malay States. Guy Everard Speldewinde, born 12th August 1885, son of Francis Adolphus Speldewinde and Eliza Alexandra Maartensz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, pages 41 and 75.)

XIII.

Hubert William Schumacher, born 27th December 1889, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 2nd April 1923, Myra Sybil Pearl Corner, born 27th March 1900, daughter of Charles Patrick Murphy Corner and Catherine Letitia Dreckze. He had by her—

- 1 Anton Hubert, who follows under XVIII.
- 2 William Aubrey, who follows under XIX.
- 3 Ivor Charles, born 6th April 1928.
- 4 Alistan James, born 3rd December 1934.
- 5 Lorenz Christopher, born 21st August 1940.

XIV

James Walter Schumacher, born 16th May 1888, died 27th June 1947, married:

- (a) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 22nd August 1910, Freda Hazel Clarice Heyzer, born 3rd July 1889, died 1st January 1911, daughter of Frederick Huxham Cramer Heyzer, Inspector of Police, and Ann Caroline Barber. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVI, pages 29 and 30).
- (b) In the Registrar's Office, Dehiwala, 24th August 1912, Lily Muriel Heyzer, born 25th April 1887, sister of (a) supra.

Of the first marriage, he had.

- 1 Ann Clarice Edith Ruth, born 26th December 1910, married in the Registrar's Office, Dehiwala, 8th April 1935, Cecil Percival Loos, Head Guard, Ceylon Government Railway, born 16th November 1907, son of Frederick Richard Percival Loos and Frances Laura Herft. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIX, pages 118 and 120, and Vol. XLII, page 174).

Of the second marriage, he had

- 2 James Granville Heyzer, who follows under XX.
- 3 Walter Merrill Heyzer, who follows under XXI.
- 4 Lilith Felicia (Paxie), born 7th June 1919, married in the Registrar's Office, Dehiwala, 6th March 1954, Ernest Francis Crozier, born 27th March 1918, son of John Louis Bertram Crozier and Ethel Rose Ferdinands. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 81, and Vol. XXXVII, pages 26 and 28.)
- 5 Daisy Verena Heyzer, born 19th May 1928.

XV

John Gerald Schumacher, born 26th May 1891, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 13th May 1914, Mona Vivienne Pieris, daughter of Francis Osmund Pieris, Inspector of Police, and Lilian Teresa Askey. He had by her—

- 1 Cuthbert Granville, born 5th August 1915.
- 2 Noeline, born 24th December 1916, married in St. Mary's Cathedral, Galle, 6th June 1940, Andrew Samuel VanLangenberg, born 26th May 1915.
- 3 Thelma Edith, born 10th June 1919, married in the Registrar's Office, Galle, 8th May 1939, Joseph Reynier Fryer, born 17th October 1915, son of Henry Mervyn Fryer and Beatrice Frances Anthonisz.
- 4 Mavis Maud, born 20th March 1921, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 13th August 1940, Loyla Elgin Diaz, born 2nd February 1907, son of Bernard Luke Diaz and Alice Fernando.

- 5 Iris Esther, born 3rd March 1923, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 9th February 1943, David John Kennedy.
- 6 Sheila Merle, born 7th November 1925, married Annesley Maxworth.
- 7 Herbert Reginald, born 12th June 1927, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 22nd May 1954, Carmen Esme de Saram, born 19th April 1934, daughter of Eric William de Saram and Mona Rene Altendorff. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 103.)

XVI

James Alexander Schumacher, born 26th March 1902, married in the Registrar General's Office, Colombo, 27th July 1925, Thomasine Blake, and he had by her.

- 1 Dorothy Lysbeth, born 5th November 1925, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 18th September 1947, Hilary Edward Warne.
- 2 James Alexander, born 3rd January 1927, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 28th May 1954, Thelma Todd.
- 3 Norma Phyllis, born 5th February 1929, married in the Church of St. Mary and St. John Nugegoda, 19th April 1954, James Victor Baker.
- 4 Eugenie Inez, born 20th February 1930, married in the Church of St. Mary and St. John, Nugegoda, 29th December 1951, Elmo Tarzan Mayo.
- 5 Doreen Estelle } born 9th October 1931.
- 6 Dagmar Eileen }
- 7 Monica Yvonne, born 12th November 1932.
- 8 Esric Ian, born 6th March 1938.

XVII

Percival Schumacher, driver in the Ceylon Government Railway, born 20th September 1904, died 28th March 1939, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 26th May 1928, Dulcie Claribel Van Twest, born 18th May 1909, daughter of Geoffrey Lyle Van Twest and Emelda Georgeana Rodrigoe. He had by her.—

- 1 Joan Barbara, born 21st September 1928, married in St. Pauls Church, Milagiriya, 14th, May 1949, Shirley Herman Bartholomeusz, born 8th, November 1924, son of Calvely Hugh Stephen Bartholomeusz and Alice Florence Mildred de Hoedt.
- 2 Jean Inez, born 1st November 1929, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 9th, February 1946, Henry Gerald Siegerts born 9th May 1923 son of Henry Clement Siegerts and Neta Edith Reimers, (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 50).

- 3 Percival Eric, born 10th January 1931.
- 4 Percival Frederick Geoffrey, born 25th March 1932, married in St Mary's Church, Blerchley in London, 6th November 1954, Brenda Hampson.
- 5 June Claribel born 11th June 1933.
- 6 Desmond Bryn, born 22nd August 1935.
- 7 Trilby Heather, born 18th August 1938, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wellawatte, 26th February 1955, Llewellyn Ryland de Hoedt born 4th October 1931, son of Andrew St John de Hoedt and Gladys Ivy White.

XVIII

Anton Hubert Schumacher, born 23rd May 1924, married in St Mary's Chthedral Sydney in Australia, 23rd June 1951, Doreen May Corrigan, and he had by her.—

- 1 James Garry, born 1st July 1952.
- 2 Allan William, born 3rd January 1954.

XIX

William Aubrey Schumacher born 11th May 1926, married in St Mary's Church, Dehiwala, 18th September 1948 Roberta Joan Chapman, born 29th October 1928, daughter of Aelian Kiltore Chapman and Vivienne Merlyn Schumacher referred to in Section XI 2 supra. He had by her.—

- 1 Michael Aubrey born 3rd September 1949.
- 2 Robert Steve, born 27th November 1950.
- 3 Vivienne Gail, born 24th October 1953.

XX

James Granville Heyzer Schumacher, born 11th August 1913 married in the Registrars Office, Dehiwala, 2nd June 1938, Esme Lilian Pieris born 18th September 1916 daughter of Bertram Corbet Pieris and Floribel Esme VanGeyzel. He had by her.—

- 1 Glenville Lilian Merlyn, born 29th September 1938.
- 2 James Oswald Edgar, born 15th November 1939.
- 3 Granville Desmond born 11th March 1941.
- 4 Dawn Christine, born 23rd December 1942.
- 5 Fay Veronica, born 28th January 1945.
- 6 June Felicia Rita born 19th June 1946.
- 7 Leslie Corbet Lister Mark, born 19th February 1948.

XXI

Walter Merrill Heyzer Schumacher, born 3rd January 1915, married in St Marys Church Bambalapitiya, 28th June 1952, Rita Marie Cramer, and he had by her.—

- 1 Melville Philip, born 4th May 1954.

- NOTES :—(1) Anna Maria Schumacher, widow of Ernst Legfenés Wille (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXVII, page 16) and Francina Margarita Schumacher, orphan daughter of Frederik Wilhelm Schumacher, both referred to in section II supra, received in 1847 assistance from a remittance forwarded by the Dutch Government in the East Indies for the relief of widows and orphans of servants of the late Dutch Government in Ceylon.
- (2) Dulcie Claribel Van Twest, widow of Percival Schumacher referred to in section XVII married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wellawatte on 4th March 1946 St Elmo Marsh Otto Felsing, born 7th September 1915 son of Jeffery Marcellanus Otto Felsing and Everil Regan Valerie Mills. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII page 130)

HERFT GENEALOGY

D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLII, page 165.

(ADDITIONS)

Delete particulars of the family of William Henry Herft and Anne Harriet Vanderput, mentioned in section XX on page 172, and substitute the following :

- 1 Christopher Justin born 3rd September 1875, died 3rd November 1942
- 2 Amy Mabel, born 29th December 1878, married William Vander Slott.
- 3 Florinda Anesty, born 5th February 1881, died 8th December 1891.
- 4 Gerald Frederick born 21st April 1882, died 19th December 1917, married Millicent Barsenbach.
- 5 Lilian Alice born 16th November 1884, married Richard Peterson.
- 6 William Oswald born 23rd June 1888 died 9th June 1944, married Vanderput,
- 7 Muriel Ruth born 11th August 1891, died 2nd July 1915.
- 8 Eric Godfrey Matthew, born 23rd October 1895 married Erma Maureen Forster, and he had by her William Eric Maurice, born 22nd March 1937.

D. V. A.

JOSEPH GENEALOGY

(D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLIV, page 167)

(AMENDMENTS).

- 1 In section X item 7, line 3, after date of birth, insert "son" of John Lucius Dassenaike and Jane de Livera".
- 2 Amend item 1 in section XXII to read as follows :
Elma Beryl, born 1907 married in the Dutch Reformed Church Matara, 10th March 1928, Bertie William White.
- 3 Harold Cyril Joseph and Dorothea Edna Melita de la Harpe, mentioned in section XLIV, are the parents of
 - (a) Cosme Harold, born 24th August 1928.
 - (b) Royle Cuthbert, born 25th January 1930.
 - (c) Moira Rita, born 27th June 1932, married at Melbourne in Australia, 16th February 1952, Patrick Alexander Toussaint, son of Spencer Hugh Toussaint and Katheleen Elaine Gibson.
 - (d) Bernadette Lourdes, born 7th April 1934, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 8th November 1954, Alec Ryan Austan Ebert, born 24th March 1931, son of Frederick Alexander Ebert and Sheila Joan Lorraine Austin, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLIII, page 22)
- 4 In section XLVII, line 2, for "Dutch Reformed Church" read "Christ Church."

D. V. A.

ON COLLECTING ANTIQUES.

By C. B. E.

(This article appeared in the local papers some years ago. The initials stand for: C. Brooke Elliott.)

The requirements for a successful collector of antiques have been amiably defined thus:—

The eye of a hawk, the nose of a vulture, and the conscience of a non-conscientious objector.

Not many people, perhaps, possess all these pleasant attributes; but most people, given a certain *flair* for the antique can, by reading up the subject and studying, learn a good deal about old china and furniture.

In the Colombo Museum, for example, Dr. Joseph Pearson collected about thirty books dealing with Chinese porcelain, which can be consulted by keen collectors. Similarly, of course, endless books on old furniture have been published in England.

During the monsoon periods in Colombo on wet evenings there are few more pleasant ways of spending two hours (often devoted expensively, to what has been defined as *the period of sip and gos-sip*) than paying a visit to the Colombo Museum and studying the examples there of Chinese and European porcelain and Dutch furniture—the latter made, of course, in the main, by Sinhalese carpenters, inspired by Dutch designers.

One of the things which most amateur collectors yearn to possess is a so-called 'Dutch chest.' The Sinhalese word for this article of domestic furniture is *pettagama*, meaning Village Box. The Dutch probably brought out from Holland much of their personal possessions in coffers or chests, lightly decorated, if at all, by brass handles or lock-piece*. In Ceylon the craftsmen, both then and now, were clever workers in metals, and no doubt they delighted Dutch House Fraus by gaily decorating family chests with brass-work, hinges, handles and lock-pieces, and those familiar brass blobs that conceal projecting bolts and screws. In those days timber in Ceylon was gigantic in size, and consequently the chests were made entirely from single planks of finely-grained wood; whereas the modern counterfeit is made up usually of small pieces skilfully joined together to cover up the seams. Other chests brought by hawkers for sale are made out of old well-seasoned wood with modern brass decoration.

As far as I can see, in Dutch times the decoration in brass was sober and restrained as one would expect. One chest that I possess (bought long ago at Mr. Stephen Brown's sale) is a perfect example of a genuine, unrestored chest. Sometimes by removing the brasswork on a chest, you will discover marks underneath which prove that the original brass has been removed and fresh brass-work, copied from the old, has been substituted. Modern brass has sharp edges, easily detectable if you apply the tip of a finger. Old brass, by much rubbing

* See note by Editor at end of article.

is smooth and oily looking. These chests are very useful, and I believe they would sell readily in England, as "Ceylon chests," for £5 or so each, possibly more

Brass—as the very name applies—can be a dangerous commodity, and can be put to many a nefarious purpose by unscrupulous persons. Many years ago a lawyer friend of mine, who was a keen collector, was offered by an itinerant Vendor what was described as a "*very ancient and valuable brass plate, Master*," which was declared to have been taken from the door of a certain Temple in Ratnapura. By skilful examination my friend elicited facts which threw a good deal of doubt on the pedigree and *provenance* of the article in question. So he decided to retain it for further examination, and bade the vendor go and come in ten days.

With a microscope my friend carefully examined the back of the plate, and found faint traces of three letters in English, which looked like A N Y. Accordingly, he took it to an engineer and asked him whether the brass was ancient as regards manufacture, or modern.

"Distinctly modern," said the expert, grimly.

My friend then mentioned that he had discovered traces of the letters A N Y on the back.

"Quite"! said the expert, "and if you put a *germ* into those letters you will get a very interesting result."

"What kind of a germ?" asked my friend, puzzled.

"An any germ," said the expert.

"I still don't follow," said my friend.

"You are very dull," said the expert, "look at this." And he showed my friend a large sheet of brass, which, on the back, bore the inscription, *Made in Germany*.

A week later, when the itinerant vendor returned for his money, my friend with a few pungent words exposed the fraud, and then purchased the bit of brass for 25 cents, as a curiosity. The original price asked was Rs. 30.

To come back to Dutch furniture, I am told that there is no demand for it at present in England, as modern houses are usually small, and Dutch furniture is usually big, and needs a great deal of polishing. Dutch chairs, however, of the less cumbersome kind have a market; and I feel sure that Dutch chairs, of the eighteenth century kind preserved in Wolvendaal Church would fetch good prices anywhere. Incidentally, might I respectfully point out that several of these charming old chairs urgently need skilful reparation, if their value and beauty is to be preserved? One should be kind to old things—and old people.

If one examines those chairs carefully, they give us, by reason of their varied decoration, a list of the persons who by reason of higher or lower social standing needed varied forms of reposeful furniture, on which to sit while worshipping their Creator.

In another old church in Ceylon, a P. W. D. officer once found three seats of the 18th century ladder-back type, of which one was perfect, one was badly damaged, and the third damaged beyond repair. At the request of the congregation the P. W. D. man presented them with some nice new solid jak-wood benches in place of the old seats. When he retired, I bought the seat that was in perfect order, and treasure it highly, as a good piece of carpentry and restful design. Obviously, however, seats of this somewhat fragile type are unsuitable for hard wear and tear, such as they meet with in daily ecclesiastical use, unless they are well kept and carefully looked after.

In the District Court of Chilaw the former Crown Proctor, Mr. N. J. Martin (who was a very big man) used to sit in Court in a Dutch armchair of ancient and dignified appearance. Such chairs were called by the Dutch "*Burgomaster Chairs*," as presumably they were only used in Dutch times by persons of importance. In the Colombo Museum there are several good examples, and I am happy to say that I picked up two of them, which I still possess. In Southern India such chairs, sometimes richly carved, can still occasionally be found on the Malabar Coast, and are eagerly sought by collectors from Madras. The particular charm of these chairs lies in the graceful grouping of the eight legs upon which they usually rest. This centipedal form of construction gives these chairs great strength and consequent long life. Miss. Armitage sold some very good examples. I had one of them copied in Madras by a local carpenter in rosewood, but somehow the copy, though well-made, falls short in charm of the original.

Of Dutch cabinets I could write much, as many of them are delightful pieces, though somewhat heavy in style. Many years ago at Mr. Vigors' sale I bought a very old cabinet slightly damaged, for thirty rupees. My carpenter repaired it skilfully, and it still is good for another two hundred years at least. One cabinet I saw yesterday is perfect: in it a Lady of Fashion kept her cosmetics in a secret drawer! Not so, today!

So often one hears of people who want to take up some kind of a job in Colombo that I am rather surprised that no successor has followed Miss. Armitage as an Antique Dealer. There is still any amount of old stuff to be had in Ceylon by a wary buyer; such as brass snuff-boxes (here be-ware of modern imitations), old Sinhalese jewellery (for which Miss. Armitage had a steady demand, and which is very charming and delightful for women to wear). Unhappily, the best piece that I possessed of this type was stolen by the famous (and infamous) cat-burglar of Madras, when he made a big haul of jewellery from our bungalow. He was eventually caught, and convicted: and subsequently in jail he expressed to me his deep regret for having stolen my property. He added that he came from Ceylon and would not have burgled my bungalow if he had known that I had come from Ceylon too! The difficulty of opening a Curiosity Shop in Colombo

would be to find suitable premises at a reasonable rent in the Fort, where passengers as well as residents, could go poking round in search of bargains.

What probably deters people from starting such a venture is lack of sufficient knowledge to detect the spurious from the genuine. If such a shop should be opened it would give one person whom I could name, great pleasure to visit it on wet afternoons.

(Note by Editor: It was the custom for all recruits who desired to serve the Honourable Dutch East India Company, to give their names in at The Oost-Indische huis, in Amsterdam, where their dossier was examined, their origin was investigated and the conditions of terms under which they prepared to serve were considered. Those who were selected were given earnest...money, and a wooden box and key in which they could lock anything they wished to carry on the voyage. This is the origin of the Dutch Chest)

The objects of the Union shall be:

To gather by degrees a library for the use of the Union composed of all obtainable books and, papers relating to the Dutch occupation of Ceylon and standard works in Dutch literature.

THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTER I'VE MET — L. E. B.

(Communicated)

He was born, laboured, and died in the Island of Ceylon. "He was not only one of Ceylon's great men, but a man great by any real standard, one of the earth's great men". This was the tribute paid to him by a great educationist, of note, known not only in Ceylon but also in other parts of the world. At his death it was stated that "the fulness of our loss cannot be estimated now but will be felt more and more as the years go by. It is an inestimable privilege to have known him and held converse with him. To his personal friends there remains the fragrant memory of close and intimate association."

Born ninety years ago, he received a good education and qualified in Law; but the Law had no attractions for him. He preferred the teaching profession, and held many appointments in India and Ceylon. He had long cherished a desire to have a school of his own where he could introduce his own ideas. He did not approve the practice then in vogue of judging the merits of a school by examination results and these alone. He was prepared to admit that boys should pass some examination, but there were many boys who could not, and yet might be a real credit to the school. A school had much more to do, whether by books or by its general atmosphere, than to qualify boys for examinations, and the examination list was not the only or the best criterion of the worth of a school. He was well aware that to start a new school on these principles was to begin with the heaviest of handicaps, for the principle gave an impression of weak discipline and created the idea that instructions in the usual subjects was neglected. But he had the courage of his convictions and the experiment proved in the end to be a complete success.

The new school opened with eleven pupils, but the numbers gradually increased, and soon he had to obtain assistance. It is now standing securely on its feet and is one of the best schools in the Island.

He kept in close touch with his old pupils and made their interests his own. He knew the family history of each one of them and they went to him in their sorrows and joys. He delighted in the company of young people and he had always a kindly word for them. Like men of great stature he was able to bring himself down to their own level. No account of him would be complete without reference to his school Prologues written after the style of those recited at the Harrow Speech Day. As explained by him, "the doings of the great world outside are the only topics available for the purpose, and it would be foolish not to make use of phrases and ideas that have caught the public fancy." He used to take great pride in saying that he was the only person to read, in manuscript, the finest book written by the author of "The Jungle Tide". This book has not yet been published.

The charm of his personality lay in his unruffled calm, and this in turn owed its quiet to the spiritual depths in which rested the secure foundations of his being. To him may fitly be applied the words he wrote of another:—

"As through the morning mists we see
The shape of men move silently,
But closer met, are pleased to find
Some boon companion of our mind ;

So in the mists of age and youth,
Where words and customs veil the truth,
We walk unknowing that around
May many a welcome friend be found :

Till sometimes on a sudden brought
To fellowship of place and thought,
We see the mists asunder roll,
And start, to find a kindred soul."

Plant Lore

There is no doubt that greater interest is now being taken in indigenous drug plants, the value of whose medicinal qualities are being more and more recognised. The founding of the Indigenous School of Medicine has helped to draw attention to the virtues of indigenous drugs, which for many years were looked upon with suspicion, owing to the fact that so little was known about them. The same thing cannot be said to-day. The late Dr. Attygalle's book on indigenous drug plants, published a good many years ago, is an interesting volume, but a later and more informative work, also rare to-day, is Dr. Emmanuel Roberts' useful treatise, which is the last word on the subject.

A common garden plant in Nuwara Eliya is erroneously called "Job's Tears," owing probably to its drooping inflorescence. Its proper name is *Ixia pendula*, and it is a member of the Iris family, (Iridaceae); while the genus *Coix* belongs to the grass order, (Gramineae). *Coix Lachryma* (the true "Job's tears" is to be found growing from the Punjab to Burma, and it is largely cultivated for food in the latter country and on the Khasia Hills. In China the seeds are used medicinally. Prof. Church, in his "Food grains of India" gives the composition of the grain, which he considers a useful famine food.

A WOMAN'S THOUGHTS ABOUT WOMEN.

[By Lillith.]

In no respect is that trite saying "times have changed," more strikingly exemplified than in the position of the girl of the present day in the average middle-class Ceylonese home, when contrasted with what it was fifty or even thirty years ago.

★

I am sure many of my readers of the older generation will remember the time when it was considered forward or even immodest for a girl to leave the seclusion of her parents' home, and go out to earn her living, however straitened the circumstances of the family might be, however great the need.

★

In those days the old Dutch Burghers thought the only place for a girl was home, and the only work open for her to do was a little needlework, or to make Dutch sweet-meats and fancy dishes in the house. They had inherited much of the straitlaced and conservative modes of thought of their Dutch forbears, and it has taken nearly three or four decades and the spread of education to enable parents to get out of these narrow grooves, and view the question in a more liberal minded manner.

★

Things are changed indeed now and in nearly every home we see the girls taking their places in the working world. Many have taken to the profession of teaching very successfully, a great proportion are music teachers, which in some cases have turned out to be a most lucrative form of employment, others again leave their homes to take up positions as nurses in hospitals, nursery governesses or even nurse maids, while numbers take up posts as typists, shop girls and telephone operators, receptionists, stenographers and secretaries.

★

It is gratifying to find that the dignity of labour is at last recognized in our Ceylonese homes, which were long in learning this lesson. Girls have now reached the happy position of being able to assist their parents in the,—in many cases,—arduous task of bread-winning. The Burgher community, taken in general, is not a wealthy one, and in many homes it often needs the united efforts of the parents as well as their children to keep the home together.

★

Parents have at last realized that their daughters can lead as self-respecting lives out in the working world as in the seclusion of their homes, and acknowledge with thankfulness that it has eased their burdens in no small measure. We have all now realized that want of occupation, and a blank and aimless existence saps a woman's life and makes it an idle and useless inanity. It is not only noble but obligatory on every woman that she should justify her existence by working for

the well-being and happiness of others, if not for her daily bread. There is no joy like the joy of service, and it would be well if every Ceylonese girl were to realize this. It is certainly a most favourable sign that so many are now earning their livelihood instead of looking to their fathers and brothers to support them in idleness.

★

As our girls have been awakened to the fact that idleness is degrading, as compared with the dignity of labour, it would be well if more doors of opportunity would be flung open to the working girl.

In how many of our big shops we see men in all the vigour of health and strength selling ribbons and laces, &c., over the counter. Surely these are occupations which might well be left to women. But this is opening out a wide subject which I am not prepared to enlarge upon at present.

★

Another walk of life in which sufficient encouragement is not shown to our Ceylonese girls is in the nursing profession. The salary offered is really nominal. I do not think it fair this should be so, as the duties are quite arduous.

In quite another respect, and in a very pleasing manner, we are brought to see the changes that time and education have wrought amongst Ceylonese girls, viz., that of dress.

★

No longer do we see our girls unsuitably and ridiculously attired. It is quite refreshing to see our business girls dressed with a simplicity and taste that compel admiration. Only seldom do we meet with the solitary exception that proves the rule, of a working girl wearing silk stockings, velvet shoes, muslin dresses bedecked with laces and ribbons, and long ear-drops, and it only serves as an object lesson of what to avoid in a working girl's dress. The general tendency is to dress quite plainly yet with all the evidences of good taste, and that reminds me of somebody's definition of a well-dressed woman, "one who is always suitably dressed."

★

The subject of dress tempts me to dilate upon some of the extravagances of fashion, in the eager pursuit of which many a girl is likely to err as regards good taste and decency. The skin-tight, slashed skirt is now happily a thing of the past, but the pendulum seems to have swung to the other extreme, and the devotees of fashion seem determined to nullify the graceful lines of our ampler skirts by wearing them so absurdly short that it makes the wearer look absolutely coarse and vulgar,—in short like a ballet dancer off the stage.

★

Some girls seem to imagine that the greater the amount of calf and ankle displayed the greater the effect in style. The short skirt is certainly to be commended from a hygienic point of view, but it should be taken, as most things should be,—in moderation.

Girls should aim at individuality in their dress, and not blindly follow every vagary of fashion. Fashion should be followed just so far as to avoid looking singular, and we must make Dame Fashion a hand-maid in dress instead of a most autocratic mistress.

★

Our real needs are the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. We need home, simple companionship, and all that is implied by the word religion,—all the old-fashioned things of life,—just as badly as they were needed a hundred years ago, but it is amongst the embroideries of life we can practise retrenchment.

★

It is a part of wisdom to consider not only the things which might prove enjoyable if they were but attainable, but also what things we can do without. How many people we meet in comfortable circumstances, with all their legitimate needs supplied, who yet chafe and fret because others around them luxuriate in things they cannot boast of.

★

How foolish all this is if we have food enough and to spare, if our reputation is good with those who know us best, and if our home relations are sweet, peaceful and unsullied. Many things we covet in life are merely impedimenta; only burdens and cares not things to rejoice in at all. 'He that needs the fewest things', says a great thinker, is the richest man, and comes nearest to the fullness of God Himself, who wants nothing.

Now while it is mere folly and affectation to pretend to despise money, with the comforts and influence it commands it is needful to remember that because money is mighty it is not therefore almighty.

The best wealth. "said St. Clement" is the poverty of desire." St. Paul exhorts us, having food and raiment therewith to be content. If we followed his advice we would extinguish nearly every fever which consumes the human heart.

★

The longing for social success is another craze which causes perpetual unrest. There are few things more hollow than the pleasures of society. The bane of what is called society is the lack of sincerity, and the love of scandal. It is indeed a dangerous thing when people meet together who have little or nothing to say. That a woman should leave her children or a man the repose of his home to listen to the inane trivialities spoken in so called society is a never ceasing wonder to the thoughtful. 'Why should we open our hearts to the world' asks Chateaubriand. It laughs at our weaknesses, does not believe in our virtues, and does not pity our sorrows.'

★

Society so-called is a sphere in which envy gnaws like a canker and fair reputations are sullied by the foul breath of slander.

Such is the perversity of the human mind that we are absurdly apt to sigh for the things that we cannot have, and we depreciate the things within our grasp—until we lose them. Contentment is great gain! Can we not try to be content with what we possess, and try to give up all those superfluous, useless things we can do without.

★

It seems to me a fine thing to get up in the morning and begin the day's work in a spirit of determination to make that day nearly as right as you possibly can. Many of those who have gone before us made a fine thing out of life with little of the material that we allow ourselves to imagine we need. At the present day people seem to set more value on 'things' than on human beings. Men and women concentrate all their energies on 'things', and strive for them, while they forget the human beings around them; and personality is forgotten while they degenerate into colourless mechanical people. How thankful we ought to be for those who retain their individuality in spite of this modern trend.

Thoughts on Business.

Jenkinson, in "The Vicar of Wakefield," remarks about his simple, kind-hearted neighbour, Flamborough, whom he had contrived to cheat in one way or another, once a year. "Flamborough has been regularly growing in riches, while I have come to poverty and a jail."

WILLIAM MATTHEWS.

The objects of the Union shall be :

To promote the moral, intellectual, and social well-being of the Dutch descendants in Ceylon.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 47th Annual General Meeting of the Dutch Burgher Union was held in the Union Hall, on Saturday the 26th March, 1955. The President, Mr. R. L. Brohier, O. B. E., presided, and a large number of members were present.

After the Notice convening the Meeting had been read, and the Minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed, the President addressed the meeting.

President's Address: This is the last occasion I shall address you as President, therefore before proceeding to the report and accounts, I shall claim the privilege to speak to you on some general matters. Almost unconsciously, I find myself being led to take up an admonitory attitude, being obsessed with the feeling that a time of great danger is before us. None will deny that vast changes have taken place amongst us in Ceylon during the past few decades. Old ideas are passing away gradually, and new ones are taking their place. Disintegrating forces beyond our control, are threatening a complete disruption of the distinctive community to which we belong. Never was there occasion which has called on us more urgently to exercise sober judgement in regard to our future. The preservation of our entity, and our prestige as a community, depend largely on how we face up to the changes by planning our future course.

I propose however, just now to consider only those changed conditions in so far as they concern our Institution in the future. Mr E. H. Vanderwall, speaking from this chair at the Annual General Meeting in 1930, described those times as the Golden Age of the Burghers. You must be aware how distinguished a roll of our community fostered and financed this Institution at that time. But since then, dwindling assets, and rising costs of maintenance, continue year after year to render our financial position difficult.

The Union today is virtually composed of a Club and an Association of members. They are mutually dependent on each other. It is becoming increasingly evident that the membership subscription, which remains the same per head whether a member avails himself of the Club amenities or not, is insufficient to support the Institution as a whole. But whereas the inducements offered to the *club-man* member fully justifies an increase in the membership fee, those offered to the *association* member definitely do not. The fees in the case of the member who wishes to merely associate himself with the movement to safeguard and ameliorate the community, are over-rated as they stand at present, and I conclude without hesitation, that it is one of the causes why we have 449 members in the Union, where on a conservative basis we should have at least 2000

Ladies and Gentlemen, many of you will recall that there once was a Club affiliated to the Union which was administered and financed on a subscription which was independent of the Union fee. I cannot just now go into the reasons why it was later amalgamated with the Union. Many factors point to the advisability of reverting to the former arrangement. Leaving it at that for the present, I shall proceed to my second point. Very recently, in declaring the new Sinhalese Sports Club pavilion open, the Prime Minister stressed that the Club was communal in so far as it represented cricket, but that it was in other respects social and open to all other communities. This pronouncement merits your careful consideration. It is closely inter-linked with the opinion I earlier expressed, regarding Union and Club. I say it with boldness and full assurance, that if 47 years of effort to preserve our national characteristics, to give us confidence and pride in ourselves as a distinct class with origin, history and character of our own, and to preserve good feelings with all other communities in this land of our birth, are not analytically examined in the light of present-day disruptions and thought; we shall fail in serving the interests of our children and upholding the essential objects which the promoters of the Dutch Burgher Union sought to do. This bit of plain speaking may savour a little of egotism and conceit, but it has to be said if I am to place the Union above personal considerations.

Nearly all communal Clubs which serve the interests of Ceylonese have extended social rights to members of other communities. I say social, in the rational interpretation of the term. I feel sure that if all members of our community with divergent views, could be made to realise the respective orbits of Union and Club; we shall be in a better position to remove the many mutual suspicions and misunderstandings which jeopardise us today. The Union to be maintained in all its integrity and all the strength it can exercise guided by good judgement through the adverse currents and quick-sands of the present age; and the Club to be a medium for closer intercourse with our neighbours of other communities.

I shall not take up your time by setting out these objects in detail or by suggesting means by which we may hope to compass them. I however urge you to give the matter serious thought, and I hope that the points I have raised will be eventually brought to a head in some form. At no time perhaps has the Union needed greater support from each individual member, and from the united body of its members, than it has now.

Passing to the Report and Accounts: in a broad sense my introductory remarks to use a quotation "paints the moral and adorns the tale!" I shall confine myself therefore to just a few points. Criticism is fully justified on the failure of the Ethical and Literary Standing Committee to function during the year. In all other respect, the Executive of the Union, the General Committee and the Standing Committees have been unsparing in their efforts to carry out their honorary duties, and I take this opportunity to thank them collectively for their zeal and co-operation. You will notice that a statement of

the Dr. De Hoedt Medical Scholarship Trust is also published with the Report. The need to release such a statement has given rise to controversy in the past. Knowing this, members will all the more appreciate the decision of the Trustees of the Fund to lift the *Iron Curtain*!

In conclusion, I should like to touch on this building, the accredited Home of the Union. Most of you are aware that this site and building are vested in the Dutch Burgher Union Buildings Co., Ltd. Incidentally, I shall be wanting if I do not remind younger members that we owe this heritage to the generous manner in which the promoters of the Union subscribed towards the shares, and most of them without expectation of gain or profit. We must also remember in this connection, since we live in a land of short memories, Mr. W. E. V. de Rooy who was solely responsible for initiating and seeing the project accomplished.

This building has weathered the monsoons of 43 years. None will deny that it is badly in need of extension and repair. Last year when your Committee contemplated entertaining the Governor General, the proposal was initially frowned on as this Hall was in such bad repair and bedraggled in interior decoration. A compromise was effected at the time, but much yet remains to be done. We must win respect for the Union by ensuring that this building is a home which befits it. I trust therefore that the Union and the Buildings Co. will take counsel together how best to improve our position and use our resources to the best advantage of Union and Company.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts are now open to any remarks and comments you may have to offer.

Mr. D. V. Altendorf and Dr R. L. Spittel offered comments on the Report and Accounts which were subsequently adopted on the proposal of Mr. Rosslyn Koch, seconded by Mr. F. E. Loos.

Election of Office Bearers: Dr. R. L. Spittel, proposed, and Mr. A. E. Christoffels, seconded, that Mr. R. S. V. Poulier be elected President for the ensuing year. Mr. Poulier being unanimously elected took the Chair. He thanked the members of the Union for the confidence they had placed in him, and paid a tribute to the work done by the out-going President, Mr. R. L. Brohier.

Mr. C. A. Speldewinde proposed, and Mr. J. C. E. Ferdinands seconded, that Mr. W. G. Wouters be elected Hony. Secretary, for the ensuing year. Mr. Wouters was elected unanimously.

The re-election of Mr. Ivor Wendt to be Treasurer of the Union, was proposed by Mr. Altendorf who paid a tribute to the work done by Mr. Wendt as Treasurer for the past five years. The proposal was seconded by Mr. C. N. Ferdinands, and unanimously carried.

Election of General Committee: Mr. A. L. Fretsz proposed, and Mr. C. A. Ferdinands seconded the election of the following gentlemen to serve on the General Committee:

Colombo Members: Mr. D. V. Altendorff, Dr. J. R. Blaze, Dr. E. S. Brohier, Mr. C. P. Brohier, Mr. R. L. Brohier, Dr. E. L. Christoffels, Mr. A. E. Christoffels, Dr. H. S. Christoffels, Mr. T. B. Collette, Dr. H. A. Direkze, Mr. H. K. de Kretser, Mr. A. B. Demmer, Mr. C. N. Ferdinands, Mr. G. V. Grenier, Mr. A. E. Keuneman (Snr.), Mr. F. M. Keegel, Mr. W. A. R. Leembruggen, Mr. A. L. Loos, Mr. Frank E. Loos, Mr. J. A. Leembruggen, Mr. H. M. R. Poulier, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Dr. H. E. Schokman, Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, Mr. E. P. Swan, Mr. D. W. Schokman, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Mr. H. vanden Driesen, Mr. E. N. Wambeek, Dr. L. O. Weinman.

Outstation Members: Mr. H. S. Austin, Dr. V. H. L. Anthonisz, Mr. C. R. Arndt, Mr. A. E. Buultjens, Mr. T. P. C. Carron, Mr. O. L. de Kretser (Snr.), Mr. E. S. de Kretser, Mr. F. W. E. de Vas, Mr. G. F. Ernst, Mr. H. R. Kriekenbeek, Mr. Fred Poulier, Dr. G. F. Smith, Mr. F. L. C. Vander Straaten, Mr. W. J. A. Van Langenberg, Mr C. P. Wambeek.

Auditors: Messrs. Sachitananda, Schokman and Wijeratne, were appointed Auditors for the current year, on the proposal of Mr. Alex vander Straaten, seconded by Mr. C. P. Brohier.

The Meeting then terminated, with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Smile A'while

An outstation Magistrate refused to hear a complainant who had omitted to wear a tie.

We wonder whether the poor man was only going to complain that he had lost his collar-stud.

A lady politician confesses that books are her best friends because they never "cut" her.

An unkind visitor who examined some of the volumes in her library remarked that she didn't seem to cut them either.

Why was April the First like a tired soldier?

Because it came just after a March of 31 days, says a Bright Young Thing.

FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT (1954) OF THE DUTCH BURGHER UNION.

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting the following report for the year 1954.

1. **Membership:**—The number of members on the Roll at the end of 1954 was 449, as compared with 445 on the 31st of December 1953.

As at 1st January 1954	...	445	
No of Members re-elected.	...	5	
No of Members joined	...	24	474
Less:— Resigned.	...	17	
Died.	...	5	
Struck off under rule 6 (f)	...	3	25

These are distributed as follows:—

Colombo Members:—

Paying Rs. 3/- per month	...	201	
" Rs. 1/- per month	...	50	
" Rs. -/50 per month	...	27	278

Outstation Members:—

Paying Rs. 1/- per month	...	106	
" Rs. -/50 per month	...	53	159
Out of the Island	...	12	12
			449

2. **Obituary:**—The following is the roll of Members who died during the year:—

Mr. T. W. Collette, Mr. B. Grenier, Mr. A. C. Buultjens, Mr. G. E. Brohier, and Mrs. H. K. de Kretser.

3. **General Committee**—Twelve Meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of twenty two. Various activities of the Union were dealt with, and discussions, reflecting many different points of view, often took place before considered decisions were reached.

THE DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON

To Balance on 1-1-54	...	1,097 66	...	2,530 09
" Contributions	...	1,296 10	...	429 88
" Proceeds of Students Concert	...	109 96	...	367 19
" Proceeds of Film Show	...	146 60		
" Share of Proceeds-State Drive	...	504 47		
" Transfer from Sam De Rooy Social Service and	...			

THE DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON

ST. NIKOLAAS' HOME.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER. 1954.

LIABILITIES	Rs.	cts.	ASSETS	Rs.	cts.
Capital Account:			Land and Buildings—		
As per last Balance Sheet			Land	90,346	06
Sam De Rooy Endowment Fund:			Value of land donated by Dr. R. L. Spittel,		
As per last Balance Sheet			as per last Balance Sheet	10,000	00
Sundry Endowments.			Amount expended during 1953	1,000	00
			" " 1954	940	00

WORK OF STANDING COMMITTEES

(a) **Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes** :—It is much to be regretted that this Standing Committee failed to carry out its duties during the year. Of its two special tasks, namely that of arranging lectures or discussions, and of publishing a Quarterly Journal, only the latter was accomplished. But entirely by individual and independent enterprise at that. Your Committee earnestly hope that members will rally in the New Year and resuscitate the cultural objects which this Standing Committee is pledged to foster and promote.

The valuable Reference Library instituted with the object of promoting facilities for study and research, is used very little by members.

Since many a rare volume in the Library is a legacy handed down by members in the past for the benefit of posterity; it is to be hoped that the Library will in future receive the interest and wider attention of the younger members in special. It is to them that the Union must look for the men who would continue to cherish those cultural virtues which have done credit to the Community in the past.

The Journal has appeared regularly, and the Monthly Bulletin has continued to keep members informed of the Union's activities.

(b) **Committee for Social Service** :—This Committee continued to do good work spurred on by its enthusiastic Convener and Secretary, Mrs. Ruth Kelaart.

It met on ten occasions, besides which teams of members paid visits to the homes of the families in indigent circumstances who were being assisted.

The Annual Christmas Treat and distribution of hampers, organised by this Committee and held in December, was a great success. It is earnestly hoped that members of the Union will accord this Standing Committee greater encouragement by making regular contributions in cash or kind, to further their useful work.

Two Functions were organised during the year to raise funds for Social Service. One was a Children's Concert, and the other, a Film Show by Mr. W. G. Brohier, from which a part of the proceeds were donated.

Mr. C. A. Speldewinde directed activities during the year as Chairman of this Committee.

(c) **Committee for Recreation, Entertainment and Sport** :—Members were afforded several opportunities to foregather at Socials, Dances, and other functions, all of which proved very popular.

One function out of the ordinary was a farewell to the departing Governor General. His Excellency, the Rt. Honourable Viscount Soulbury. It was well attended and proved a great success.

A very necessary and widely supported innovation introduced during the year, was a party held quarterly for Teen-agers. These social evenings have proved a great draw, and helped to knit together a coming generation, besides kindling in them an interest in the activities of the Union.

By far the most popular indoor pastime provided for members was Square Dancing, organised by Mr. and Mrs. Terrence Scharenguivel and held weekly in the Union Hall. It has introduced a happy atmosphere, with smiling faces, good humour and kindness. Much is due to the organisers for providing the music and helping beginners to join in the dancing.

The Annual Fete held on St. Nikolaas' Day was organised by Mr. Bruce Collette, and supported by a willing band of helpers, who spared no pains in making the function a success. The evening hours were devoted entirely to the entertainment of the children of members, and was followed by a dance for the grownups.

Mr. W. A. R. Leembruggen, officiated as Chairman of this Standing Committee. Mr. Sandy Toussaint, did duty as Hony. Secretary, with a short break.

(d) Committee for Genealogical Research. This Committee with Mr. H. K. de Kretser as Chairman, and Mr. C. P. Brohier, as Secretary and Convener, held eleven meetings during the year. In addition to examining the genealogies of several applicants in order to ensure eligibility under the rule governing admission to membership, this Committee went further in other ways, to make the Union truly representative of the Community by helping those who could not supply full information owing to gaps in the genealogical chain to obtain the necessary particulars.

Several applications for genealogical information in order to obtain domicile in Australia, were dealt with by the Secretary. In many instances certified extracts were issued under the seal of the Union for the same purpose. A sum of Rs. 225/- was credited to the Union funds, being donations for genealogical information supplied by Mr. D. V. Altendorff, or by the Union.

This standing Committee undoubtedly performs a vital role. Its decisions in these circumstances, merit the full confidence of members.

(e) Committee for Increasing Membership. A good deal of work has been done by this Committee under the guidance of Mr. V. Grenier the Chairman, assisted by Mr. F. R. L. Ferdinands, Secretary and Convener. In view of the fact that in many instances it was difficult to invite persons to join without information as to their eligibility, it was suggested that this Standing Committee should work in close liaison with the Genealogical Committee. The General Committee have favoured this proposal and arranged that both Standing Committees should meet on the same day and hour for mutual consultation.

(f) Historical Manuscripts and Monuments. Steps were taken under the aegis of this Standing Committee to bring to the notice of the authorities concerned, that a recorded broadcast in the National Service programme of Radio Ceylon, was derogatory to the racial distinctiveness, manners and customs of the Dutch Burgher Community of Ceylon. It was disclosed that the broadcast was a B.B.C. feature. "This Is Ceylon". The Director General of Broadcasts, Radio Ceylon, undertook not to have the item re-broadcast, as scheduled, and to bring the historical inaccuracies to which attention was drawn, to the notice of the Producer and Script Writer of the programme.

Through the researches of Dr. J. R. Blaze, who officiated during the year as Chairman of this Standing Committee, and the intricate colour-designing by Mrs. Blaze, a collection of twenty Coats-of-Arms of Ceylon Dutch Burgher families have been retrieved and brought to public notice. They have been on display for some time, as loan exhibits, in the up-stairs lounge of the Union Building. Particular interest attaches to the fact that they have been drawn and coloured on tamarind wood rescued from the famous Baldeaus' Tree blown down by a cyclone in 1952.

(g) Education Committee. Mr. A. E. Keuneman devoted much time and interest to the functions of this Standing Committee in his capacity as Chairman. Mr. R. D. P. Paulusz, officiated as Secretary and Convener, until July. He was relieved of his duty thereafter at his request and Mr. Ivor Ferdinands consented to take over the office. The latter has officiated since with great acceptance.

A good deal of attention was given to a matter of vital interest to the Community which the Union stands for namely, the introduction of the National Languages as the media of the instruction in the upper classes of Colleges, Schools and the University. A deputation from the Union led by your President, and supported by Messrs A. E. Keuneman, L. L. Hunter, C. J. Oorloff, and R. S. D. Jansz, gave oral evidence in this connection before the Commission on Higher Education in the National Languages. They received a careful and patient hearing, and answered many questions.

Three loans totaling Rs. 3500/- were granted on guarantee bonds with surety and with interest payable thereon, from the Educational Vocation Fund for persons training abroad. One student was helped at the University from the Higher Education Fund. Financial assistance was granted for the schooling of several children from the General Education Fund.

Schneider Scholarships were made available to children of members of the Union. The Committee have arranged to hold the usual Sinhalese Prize Examination early in 1955.

(h) St. Nickolaas' Home :- This Committee was constituted a Standing Committee at the last General Meeting of the Union. It has met regularly, and transacted much business. Mr. A. E. Christoffelsz,

officiated as Chairman throughout, and Mr. W. G. Woutersz as Secretary and Convener. The number of inmates on the 1st. of January 1954, was 15, and at the close of the year 14. There was accommodation available for 6 more. The loss of potential income resulting from this shortfall in the number of inmates has been a matter of concern to this Committee. Your General Committee has accordingly accepted their recommendation that the minimum age for admission be reduced from 60 to 50 years. Special mention must be made of the work done by the panel of Lady Visitors to this Institution, and of the services rendered to the sick by Drs. H. E. Schokman, and E. S. Brohier. The brunt of the duties necessarily developed on the Matron., Mrs. Modder, She had faced these with commendable zeal.

It is necessarily a difficult problem to ensure overall satisfaction and harmony in an Institution where veneration must often be paid to the frailty of an aged mind accentuated by physical disability and complexes. In these circumstances it cannot be counted exceptional that this Committee has had to deal with some unpleasant incidents. These, however, have always been firmly but sympathetically and tactfully settled.

This Home cannot but commend itself to the members of the Union and the wider Community since it has been designed to succour the aged. If it is to continue to maintain its influence in fuller degree, it must lean on the generosity, and the self-denying labours, of well-wishers.

(i) **Committee for purpose of Finance:-** Mr. Rosslyn Koch was Chairman of this Standing Committee, and Mr. H. C. I. Wendt officiated as Secretary and Convener. Ten meetings were held during the year.

A sum of Rs. 873/05 was expended in re-decorating the hall and vestibule of the Union Building which were in a shabby condition. The D. B. U. Buildings Co. Ltd. was approached with a view to reimbursement of this expenditure. The Company notified willingness to pay half the cost. Your Committee, has on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, urged that as the Union and the Building Company stand for one common purpose, namely, to promote the welfare of the Community they represent in a manner worthy of the standard set by its sponsors, that the Buildings Company would re-consider meeting the full expenditure incurred. Your Committee has also brought to the notice of the Buildings Company that the building, which was put up 42 years ago, is today in great need of substantial repair, and that some action is deemed necessary in regard to its general condition.

The Balance Sheet, and the Income and Expenditure Account as at 31st, December, 1954, are appended to this report.

(5) **Conclusion:-** An unique event in the year under review was the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Ceylon. An expression of dutiful and Loyal Greetings from the Union, was transmitted to Her Majesty through the Governor General. A large gathering of members and their friends viewed the State Drive from the Union's premises. Your Committee decided in the course of the year to hire the Union Hall for private functions provided the application is sponsored by a member. This arrangement is commended to your notice., and it is hoped that the privilege will be availed of by Members.

T. B. Collette,
Hony. Secretary,

STATEMENT OF THE DR. DE HOEDT MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

1. This Scholarship Trust Fund was established in 1920. The Endowment is exclusively devoted to the purpose of assisting children of members of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon, in prosecuting studies in the profession of medicine and surgery.
2. Sixteen beneficiaires, inclusive of four ladies, have been assisted since the inception of the fund. The total amount paid on their behalf up to the end of 1954, amounts to Rs. 18,066/-. The two largest amounts so far paid individually are Rs. 3390/- and Rs. 3200/- respectively. One of the other beneficiaires was paid Rs. 2940/-, and three others drew amounts a little over Rs. 1000/- each. There are three students, one of them a lady who sits for her final examination next year, helped at present. All payments have been met exclusively from the interest earned.
3. The financial position of the Fund as on 31st December, 1954, is as follows:

	Rs.	c.
Cash in the Imperial Bank of India, as on 31-12-1954	13,171	47
Invested in Ceylon Government 3% Loan	1,000	00
Invested in Ceylon Government National Development Loan 2½%	1,000	00
Total Rs.	15,171	47

The Trustees have decided to invest Rs. 12,000/- of the cash in bank, as soon as a satisfactory investment presents itself.

4. The fund is under the absolute control of three trustees. One of the trustees, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, resigned in 1953. Dr. E. S. Brohier was nominated and was appointed by Indenture on the 12th October, 1953 to fill the vacancy created.
5. Members are reminded that the De Hoedt Medical Scholarship Fund, is a charitable trust with no conditions of repayment attached to it. The Trustees are not prohibited however from accepting contributions from the beneficiaires in a position to make some return. Such contributions will be welcome in view of the present position of the fund.

D. V. ALTENDORFF }
F. E. LOOS } Trustees.
E. S. BROHIER }

NOTES ON CURRENT TOPICS

Secret Minutes of the Dutch Political Council, 1762: This is the title of a book issued by the Government Press, Ceylon, in which Mr. J. H. O. Paulusz, B. A. (Lond.), Oxon; the Government Archivist, has edited and translated certain Minutes of the Political Council relating to the period 1762-66. This period is referred to by the author in his Introduction as: "a stirring term covering the war between the King of Kandy and the Dutch; the British attempt to fish in troubled waters and gain a foothold in the country by sending an Envoy to the Kandyan Court; the miscarriage of that mission; the campaign of Governor van Eck and the dramatic story of the long peace talks that culminated in the Treaty of 1666."

The book offers the reader a clear understanding of the Dutch administration of Ceylon from the confidential angle, when, in times of danger and emergency, matters of a top-secret nature had to be discussed and recorded. We hope to furnish a further notice of this book in a future issue, and, in the meantime would recommend it to readers interested in the Political History of Ceylon.

It seems very wishful however, to imagine that the book will be readily used by the students who make the Dutch period a study and would therefore profit most by it. At the scheduled price of Rs. 25/- a copy, it is most unlikely that the publication will be available for reference in any but a very few libraries. To serve its purpose best, it should have been available at a more popular price, and this desirable aim could possibly have been attained if what would seem a passion to render a straight-forward task more impressive by reproducing the Dutch text of the translation, was avoided.

The Dutch text runs into 166 pages of print. This can but only serve to satisfy a reader bent on making rigorous comparison between the translation and the original text. It serves no other purpose as a record of history. A translation issued by the Government Archivist is sufficient hallmark of authenticity to the average reader and student. There seems little reason why he should be called upon to pay toll for a format which is meant to satisfy a very few specialists. The latter have access to the Dutch text at the Government Archives, or might equitably have been provided with photo-stats of the originals, if they so desired it, on payment.

Heydt's Ceylon: Time was, when the Directors of the Honourable East India Company, recruited those who wished to go to the Indies, by a public announcement in all the by-ways and streets of Amsterdam, "with drums and flutes, fifes and trumpets". This was how many a citizen of Europe who was fired by a spirit of adventure, lured by the romantic stories of the East, or enticed by the get-rich-quick idea, found themselves on one or the other of the great Indian-bound ships which regularly set sail for the sun-porches of the expanding Empire of the Netherlands. These conditions of recruitment were within the experience of the early settlers in Ceylon

during the period of Dutch occupation. As most readers are aware these included besides the burghers of Holland; Germans, French, Danes, Channel Islanders and many other nationals who had sworn allegiance to the Dutch East India Company, and to the acceptance of the Articles of War.

It was in such circumstances, that 222 years ago, there embarked on a ship: the "*Meermond*", bound for the East, a German, whose name was Johann Wolfgang Heydt. After what must have been a long-drawn, tedious voyage of many months, he reached the Cape. Here Heydt spent four weeks. Thereafter, continuing his voyage further East, he reached Ceylon, where he disembarked, and spent nearly two and a half years.

To Heydt's gift of a seeing eye and a flare for describing what he saw, we owe a lucid topographical and geographical account of Ceylon, which was originally written by him and printed in German. Apparently only two copies of this book had been preserved in local libraries. They remained unknown to all but the very few who probed the history of this Island and delved in publications of by-gone times.

Nevertheless, today the way has been made easy for those who would use this German publication to go back two centuries, and browse over the vestiges of Dutch occupation which Time's ruthless hand has completely obliterated, or changed. Heydt's rare book has been translated into English by Major R. Revenhart, and published by the Ceylon Government Information Department. The annotation by the translator has moreover greatly enhanced the value of the book to the enquiring student of history, or the casual reader.

Heydt was by profession an Architect and Surveyor. On his arrival in Ceylon he seems to have made a friend of Arent Jansen, a landscape-artist who had arrived earlier. Working together, they produced many drawings of the Forts and Churches in Ceylon, and of other places of interest in the Dutch territory. These have been largely used by Heydt in his book, to hold the readers interest, and as visual aids to his written descriptions. By resorting to this technique, Heydt's work although couched in what has been described as a "wooden style", has lent itself to explain his points very clearly. There are 47 plates in the book, all of which have been reproduced and bound into the translation. It seems a great pity that very little effort has been made to reproduce the original pictures more clearly. They certainly bring little credit to the local Government Department whose responsibility it must be to ensure that illustrations in a Government sponsored publication are of good standard.

The book is priced Rs. 12/50, and is procurable at the Government Publications Bureau, the Secretariat, Colombo.

Governor North and the Dutch Ladies of Ceylon: A lady correspondent refers to a brief note in the News Bulletin issued in April, where mention was made of Percival's observation that the Dutch ladies of Ceylon have a custom of cracking their finger joints,

and rubbing them over with oil, in order to render them supple. She recalls having heard it said, that the Dutch ladies took objection to this, and enquires whether it was so.

To quote from an old note, Percival's reference to the custom being a national characteristic of the Dutch ladies, had been extracted from Admiral Stavorinus' account of *The Women of Batavia*, and was used by him in stress of circumstances to belittle the Community. This jibe at the expense of the Dutch ladies however, had its sequel.

The story our correspondent refers to concerns a ball which was to be given by Governor North, at Galle, in the year 1803, in honour of a visit by Lord Valentia. Naturally, there could be no ball without the Dutch ladies, as the English community at that time included very few ladies. The invitations had gone out and everything was set for the big social event, when it reached the Governor's ears that the Dutch ladies would not attend as they took "prodigious exception" to the cheap sneer against them in Captain Percival's book. The shrewd observation was current that as they had been maligned by an English officer, they would not accept an invitation from an English Governor!

The story is told that Governor North, and his staff, did everything possible to conciliate the ultra-sensitiveness of the Dutch ladies, and that the ball was held after all. We know how Captain Percival grossly exaggerated, and distorted fact to suit his malicious purpose; and we know too that the progenitors of our Community always vindicated themselves in such conflicts by falling back on their sterling good sense. Actually, who would blame the Dutch ladies for yielding, instead of staying at home to tear one's hair and lament over having missed a State ball!

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths.—Members of the Union are entitled, free of charge, to the insertion of notices of domestic occurrences. These notices must be restricted to a bare statement of the name or names, place, and date of occurrence, and must be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Dutch Burgher Union.

Standing Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.—The attention of members is invited to the need for co-operation in carrying out the object laid down in sub-section (f) of Rule 2 of the Constitution. Any suggestions on this subject are to be addressed to Mr R. L. Brohier, 43 Asoka Place, Bambalapitiya. Literary and other contributions are invited, for the Bulletin and The Journal.

Changes of Address.—All changes of address should be notified without delay to the Honorary Secretary of the Union, Dutch Burgher Union Hall Reid's Avenue, Colombo, or to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union. This will ensure the safe receipt by members of all notices, invitations, reports, etc.