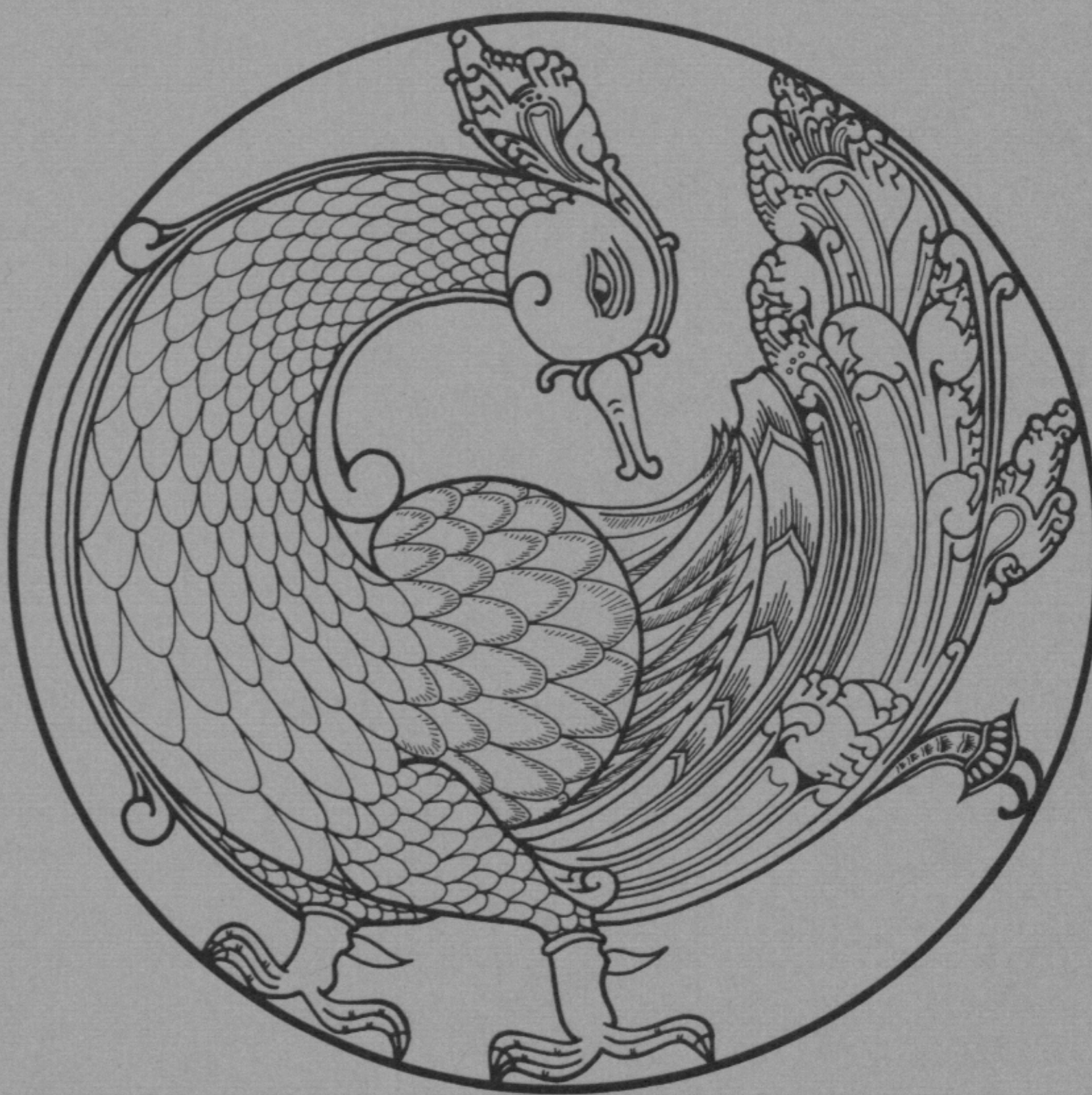


Sinhalese Domestic Life In Space and Time

by

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South Asia Occasional Papers and Theses

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Cornell University

SINHALESE DOMESTIC LIFE IN SPACE AND TIME

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TO

ETTA-MARIE MacDOUGALL

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PREFACE

This work is based on research we undertook in a small village in highland Sri Lanka in 1965 and 1968. We should like to express our gratitude to the residents of that village for their many kindnesses, their patience and their interest in our work. We owe a particular debt of thanks to Mr. R.B. Ekanayake who often served as a field assistant, to Mr. K.G. Abeeratne, our landlord, who looked out for our health and welfare, and to the householders around whom this work is organized. These people and others not only contributed immeasurably to our understanding of Sinhalese language and culture but also left us with happy memories of the time spent in fieldwork.

Although many of the particulars in this work will be of interest to specialized audiences, the monograph, especially its introductory sections, has been written with the student of architecture in mind. Over the past several years Robert MacDougall has developed a series of courses organized around architecture in the perspective of the concept of culture which includes a required course for students at the undergraduate level as well as a graduate level sequence. For teaching purposes, there are many important illustrative needs still to be met in this area. They range from the most basic discussions of the study of domestic space in ethnography to case studies which show what kinds of problems can be developed in architecture as culture. This work is intended to help fill these needs.

Over the years we have benefited enormously from our associations with South Asianists and anthropologists at Cornell University. We should like to take note of the early encouragement given to our work by Professors Robert Ascher, James Gair, Gerald Kelley, Morris Opler and John Roberts. We should also like to acknowledge the support given by Professors Mary Katzenstein and Kenneth Kennedy during the preparation of this monograph.

The fieldwork on which this monograph is based was supported by the U.S. Office of Education, the Canada Council and the Cornell South Asia Program. The Cornell South Asia Program and the Center for International Studies have provided subventions for the publication. These sources of support are gratefully acknowledged. A study leave from the Department of Architecture in Fall 1977 for Robert MacDougall provided needed time for the completion of the manuscript. The support given by Professor Mario Schack, Chairman of the Department, and by Professor Kermit Parsons, Dean of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning, is acknowledged with appreciation.

The technical problems presented by this manuscript have consumed much time. The tasks involving Sinhalese language skills have been undertaken by Bonnie MacDougall, whereas the graphic work is that of Robert MacDougall. Mrs. Renee Pierce took on the difficult task of typing

a long manuscript with numerous tables and material in three languages. She was patient and skillful, and we are much indebted to her. We should also like to thank Mr. Blake Middleton for doing the graphic work in the inventory table, and Mr. Gordon Wenneker for the Kodalith reductions of the drawings. Finally, we should like to express our appreciation to Mr. Richard Gingras of the Cornell University Graphic Arts Services who has supervised the production of the monograph.

Robert D. MacDougall
Bonnie G. MacDougall
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