

The Relationship between VOC Trade and Dutch Forts in Sri Lanka

By

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Thesis

Presented to the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology of

The University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

In fulfillment

Of the Requirement

For the Degree of

Master of Arts in Heritage Studies

Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology

August 2011

TH 136

Abstract

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Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya, 2011

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The thesis, examining the relationship between VOC trade and the Dutch fortification in Sri Lanka, discusses the factors underlining the Dutch colonial conquest in Sri Lanka. The socio-economic-political situation in Holland is penetrated into, tracing the political atmosphere of Holland in comparison to her European naval explorer counterparts. Thereby the root causes for the inception for the VOC as well as the manner that Holland launched her colonial expedition are identified. Much analysis is done in the details pertaining to the history of the VOC. Hence the initial relationship between the Dutch and the Ceylonese is outlined. The VOC trade is approached as one of the key components in the research topic. Therefore, focus is much on trade and trade routes in Sri Lanka during the Dutch regime. An overall analysis is provided of the different types of trade and the regions of the island in which such trade existed. Moving beyond Sri Lanka, a discussion is made with reference to the manner that Sri Lanka connected with other international trade centres, through the VOC. As the thesis is written with a view to probe into the relationship between VOC trade and the Dutch forts in Sri Lanka, light is thrown on how ports were strengthened by fortification. Classification of forts is attempted as an important research area in the study. The academic research identifies the method of classifying the forts as per regional clusters, which is a classification that has not been tried by previous studies. The said fort clusters are discussed, paying special attention to the way they are regionally formed according to trade locations and trade routes.