

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION IN ARCHEOLOGY

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INTRODUCTION

Archaeology being a highly specialized field discipline, even the developed countries like America and Britain, were reluctant to institutionalize the study of Archaeology, either at the undergraduate or the postgraduate level in the Universities. The pioneering work in this regard was commenced by Mortimer Wheeler who initiated this study programme at postgraduate level at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London. He was followed by other eminent Archaeologists like Gordon Child, W.P. Grimes, K. De B. Codrington, Evans and others. After the second world war, new field exploration methods like aerial photography and magnetometer technology were evolved and this resulted in the awakening of a great interest in archaeological education among the students. Consequently American and European Universities began to emulate the British model and postgraduate studies in Archaeology were instituted in a wider perspective. The refinement of relevant archaeological methods saw the birth of absolute technological aspects, and archaeology today is practiced as a multidisciplinary field of study encompassing such related disciplines as Environmental Archaeology, Archaeobotany, Archaeozoology, Palaeopathology, etc... With the advancement of such knowledge the West has come up in a big way in imparting archaeological education especially at postgraduate level.

Archaeological Education in Sri Lanka

Since the establishment of the State Archaeological Survey in 1880 with H.C.P. Bell as its first Commissioner Sri Lanka commenced a speedy exercise of