

# The Ceylankaam



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*Keeping Our Heritage Alive*

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## Contents

• Our Readers Write.....	4
• The Rentons of Middleton by Mahinda de Alwis .....	5
• Lapping it up in Bagura by Tony Peries .....	7
• Lookout for Lionel Wendt's Treasure by Bill Mackie .....	11
• Blessed Joseph Vas of Sri Lanka by Vama Vamadevan .....	13
• Born Under a Dark Star by Joe Simpson .....	15
• Meals Amme` Made by Chulie de Silva .....	20
• Book Review Sri Lankan Buses Past & Present.....	21
• Synopses of Meetings .....	22
Sydney - Thiru Arumugam Melbourne - Dilhani Kumbukkage Colombo - Sirilal Silva	
• Appreciations .....	26
- Patrick Williams - Dr Chris Raffel - Dr Upali de Tissera - Dr Edward Schokman	
• Bookshop & web resources.....	28
• Nature Notes by Stefan D`Silva .....	29
• Notice Board.....	31

## How to become a Member of the CSA

Who can become a member of the CSA? Any person with a common interest relating to the historical heritage of Ceylon/Sri Lanka and wishes to share that interest with like-minded people worldwide is welcome to seek membership. Please contact any of the following for further details:

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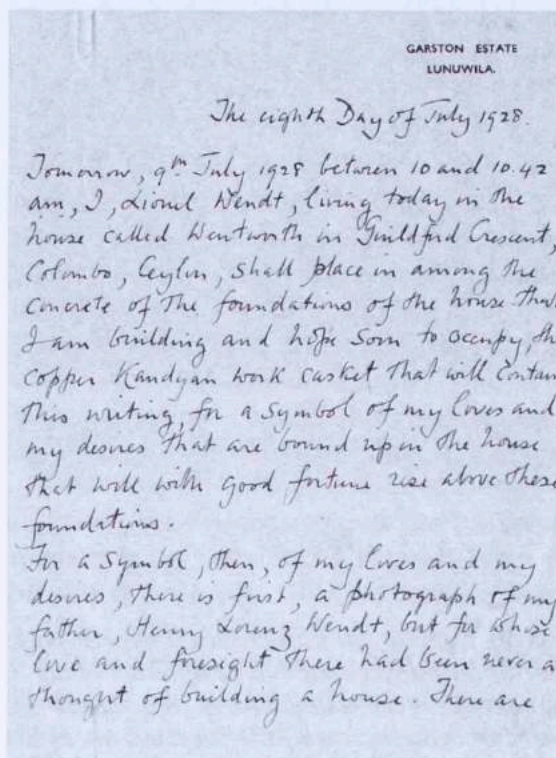
**BILL MACKEY** concludes his article on the memorabilia bequeathed by Sri Lanka's much revered artist as he goes on the

## Lookout for Lionel Wendt's buried treasure

In Number 50 of this Journal the article "Mementoes of Lionel Wendt" provided brief information about memorabilia of Lionel Wendt's talents in music and photography. These memorabilia and the subject of this article were inherited by me from my aunt Gladys Forbes of Colombo. This note reveals details about Lionel's placement of a letter and small personal treasures in a copper casket that he buried in the concrete foundations of the new house built in 1928 to be his home named *Alborado* at 18 Guildford Crescent, Colombo. The message and contents of the casket expressed Lionel's special wish that beauty and peace flourish in the new house.

Beauty, especially in its aural and visual forms, was a passion of Lionel Wendt. This passion is manifest in his perfectionist's approach to performing piano music, in his writing on art, literature and music, and in his creative aspirations in photography. Burying the casket containing the letter and some of his chosen treasures suggests a pagan rite and sacrifice by Lionel to secure beautiful outcomes on this piece of land.

A copy of the letter in the casket, which was written in Lionel's hand and given to Gladys



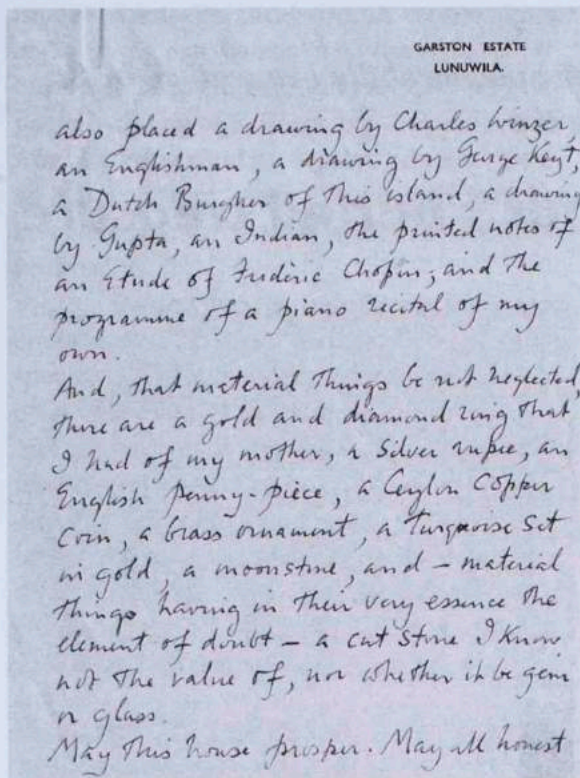
Page 1

Forbes, is reproduced in the accompanying illustration. My own research into the fate of the casket and its contents is hampered by time and distance from the site of *Alborado's* demolition.



*The Lionel Wendt Memorial Art Centre in Guildford Crescent in Colombo is the symbol and testimony that Lionel's dreams for the prosperity of the Arts in Sri Lanka have been and will continue to be fulfilled.*

*-Photograph by Stefan D'Silva*



Page 2

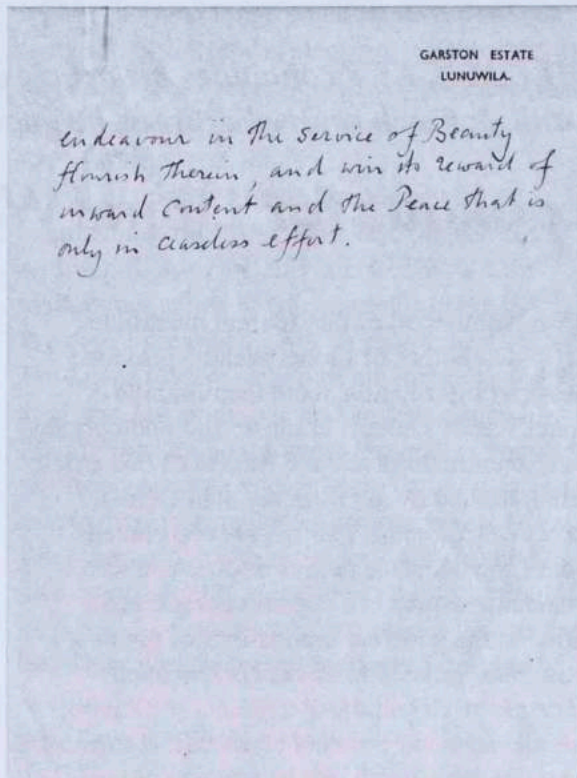
(Above) The copy of Lionel Wendt's three-page letter of July 1928 which accompanied other symbols of his loves and desires in a casket buried in the concrete of the foundations of his new house Alborado.

Consequently I seek to know has the casket been retrieved and safely retained, was it purloined and lost to posterity, or does it still reside under the Memorial Centre to continue its ritual function to fulfil Lionel's wishes stated thus:

***"May this house prosper. May all honest endeavour in the service of Beauty flourish therein, and win the reward of inward content and the Peace that is only in ceaseless effort."***

The building of the Lionel Wendt Memorial Art Centre and its popular usage today leave no doubt that Lionel's wishes have been and will continue to be fulfilled.

• (Right) The gravestone of Lionel's parents Henry Lorenz and Amybelle.



Page 3



• The gravestone of Lionel Wendt at the Kanatte Cemetery.

