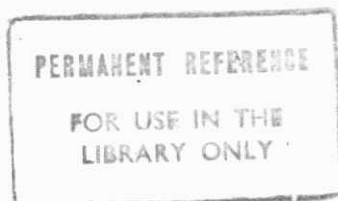


TRENDS IN ORIGINAL SRI LANKAN DRAMA IN ENGLISH
AND ENGLISH THEATRICAL PRODUCTION IN
SRI LANKA FROM 1933 TO 1983



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by

Mrs. F. N. S. de Mel

422208

Department of English, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
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SYNOPSIS

This dissertation is a detailed study of original English drama written by Sri Lankans, and of English dramatic productions presented between 1933 and 1983. I discuss aspects of style, language and motivation in the plays of H.C.N.de Lanerolle and E.M.W.Joseph, Lucien de Zoysa, Ernest MacIntyre, and Nedra Vittachi, with some reference to the work of other playwrights such as Gamini Gunawardene, Letitia Boteju and Raj Bastianpillai.

These playwrights write original plays with varied purposes in mind - whether social satire as in the case of H.C.N. de Lanerolle; a belief in the traditions and grandeur of our historical past as found in the plays of Lucien de Zoysa; to convey attitudes and concerns of immediate social relevance through the vehicle of comedy as in the case of Ernest MacIntyre; or realise our potential as a human race and our powers of destruction which will ultimately only negate that potential, as found in Nedra Vittachi's experimental theatre.

It is also a study of information on dramatic productions in English from 1933 to 1983, dealing with aspects of production techniques such as the projection of different nuances of interpretation, the effectiveness of the acting, set-design, lighting, costumes, make-up etc., together with aspects of sponsorship, and last but not least, the relationship between our local English theatre audience and the choice of English theatre prevalent today.

Information for this dissertation is based on a study of the original plays themselves (published, or unpublished but presented), reviews published in newspapers, magazines, or broadcast over the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, interviews with playwrights, actors and others involved with dramatic productions, letters written by playwrights to critics and friends, various relevant articles by critics and theatre programmes.

