

Lanka Decorative Arts

THE KITCHEN: CULINARY ETHNOLOGY IN SRI LANKA



2016

4th to 7th August

5th International
Conference

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On

THE KITCHEN

Culinary Ethnology in Sri Lanka

August 4th - 7th 2016

Organized

by

Lanka Decorative Arts

Sponsored

by

The American Center, Colombo

and

The Mount Lavinia Hotel

Panel II:

Dr. T. Sanathanan

AN INVENTORY OF EPHEMERA: CRAFTING KITCHEN UTENSILS
FROM WOOD & PALMYRAH

Abstract:

Intricacies of food culture have been interwoven with the craft traditions that have produced the kitchen utensils, in Jaffna. The geographical and cultural location of Jaffna has enabled the production of kitchen utensils from a variety of materials such as terracotta, copper, brass, iron, silver aluminum, ceramic, stainless steel, glass, plastic, granite, wood, cane, bamboo and palmyrah leaves. Some of these materials are locally available while others have been imported.

This paper will focus on ephemeral utensils that have been produced within the Jaffna peninsula, by local craftsmen. Therefore, they reflect the social divisions within Jaffna society. An attempt will also be made to map the industry of minor crafts in the Jaffna peninsula.

Biography:

Dr. T. Sanathanan is a visual artist and a Senior Lecturer in Art History at the Department of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna.

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Ninel Fernando

TRADITIONAL KITCHEN ACCESSORIES: DESIGN EVOLUTION
TO SAVE TIME AND SPACE

Abstract:

Traditional village homes in Sri Lanka were small considering the internal floor area with one or two small sleeping rooms. The family interacted in the open verandah *Pila*, and the male head of the house as protector, slept at night. The *Pila* was also used to for entertaining guests, bringing in incompletely dried rice and spices for the night,