

**TRADITIONAL BETEL - BAGS  
IN SRI LANKA  
NATIONAL MUSEUMS**



P. H. D. H. DE SILVA  
M. M. DAYANANDA PEIRIS

A Sri Lanka National Museums Publication

# CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Forword	iii
Authors' Preface	v
<b>Chapter 1.</b> Introduction .. .. .	1
<b>Chapter 2.</b> Small betel - bags or wallets carried at the waist .. .. .	6
<b>Chapter 3.</b> Larger Betel - bags with handles – a General Description .. .. .	20
(i) Handle types .. .. .	20
(ii) Shapes .. .. .	24
(iii) Dimensions .. .. .	25
(iv) Chief Designs used .. .. .	25
<b>Chapter 4.</b> Square, Rectangular and Other Betel - bags .. .. .	27
(i) Bowl – shaped .. .. .	28
(ii) Oval, Square shaped .. .. .	30
(iii) Pyramid, Square shaped .. .. .	32
(iv) Rectangular .. .. .	48
<b>Chapter 5.</b> Plain or less embroidered Betel - bags .. .. .	50
(i) Oval shaped .. .. .	50
(ii) Heart shaped .. .. .	62
<b>Chapter 6.</b> Elaborately Embroidered Heart shape Betel - bags .. .. .	78
(i) Faces with white cloth .. .. .	78
(ii) Faces with blue cloth .. .. .	90
(iii) Faces with black cloth .. .. .	104
(iv) Faces with red fabric .. .. .	108
(a) Red cloth .. .. .	108
(b) Red felt .. .. .	112
(c) Red velvet .. .. .	122
<b>Chapter 7.</b> Elaborately Embroidered Oval shape Betel - bags. .. .. .	128
I. Of white cloth	
(i) With two handles .. .. .	128
(ii) With a single inverted U – shaped handle .. .. .	130
II. Of Blue cloth	
(i) With two handles .. .. .	132
(ii) With three handles .. .. .	138
(iii) With a single inverted U - shaped handle .. .. .	140
<b>Chapter 8.</b> Discussion .. .. .	174
Acknowledgements .. .. .	175
References to Literature .. .. .	177
Subject Index .. .. .	179