

Galle—An Image of a Local Commercial (II) City in Sri Lanka—

by Takashi TOMOSUGI

2. Classification of commercial activities

Commercial activities which have been a major factor in the construction of Galle city are classified into five categories. They are (1) itinerant marketing, (2) weekly fairs, (3) permanent markets, (4) shops along the street and (5) trading agents and branches of big companies.

The relationships between commerce, social history and urban landscape in Galle are made clear through examining these classification.

3. Family genealogy

The genealogy of a family can be a vivid representation of the social history of a society. A merchant family descended from a lower caste is chosen and its genealogy is traced back to more than fifty years ago by interviewing its descendants. By means of this reconstructed genealogical work, the urban landscape and commercial activities are imagined in terms of human interests. The rise and fall of families starting the same ancestor is considered as a mirror of living experiences in the social history of Galle during these 50 or so years.