

An Archeological and Religious Study of *Sagama Rajamaha Vihara* and *Sagami* Rock Inscription

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This study is based on the site of the *Sagama Rajamaha Vihara* belonging to the *Pathahewahete* Divisional Secretariat Office of the Kandy District. The word "*Sagama*" means six Villages. It is surrounded by six villages namely *Nugaliyadda*, *Bettawatta*, *Godamunna*, *Kapuliyadda*, *Haputale* and *Mahamedagama*. Research problem of this Study is how far devotees followed by the ancient rite, ceremonies, and what were the archeological heritages depicted from the site of the *Sagama Rajamaha Vihara*. The data for this study was collected from a field study and the relevant books and articles related to this field. The method followed for this paper is to draw a narrative by interpreting the research findings and information included in the *Sagama* rock inscription. The paintings of the old *vihara* belong to the *Gampola* era. The *Bo* Tree which is the great significant of the heritage of this temple. It is mentioned that forty-five acres of the Village of *Haputale* have been offered to the *Sagama Vihara* by two soldiers namely *Alakeswara* and *Devamantri* of the six *Bhuvanekabahu*, king of the *Gampola* Kingdom. There is an annual rite called *Budumagula'* which is the great offering to the *Bo* tree. In this Study, Archeological heritage and religious background could be identified from the *Sagama Rajamaha Vihara* premise and rock inscription established in the village of *Nugaliyadda*.

Keywords: Sagama, Rock Inscription, But/magi/la, Rite and Ceremonies.