

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD

PREFACE

ABBREVIATIONS

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.	THE DIFFERENT SYSTEMS OF LAW IN FORCE IN SRI LANKA	1
1. a	The multiple systems of law	...1
1. b	The laws before 1505	...2
1. c	The Portuguese influence on the laws of Sri Lanka	...4
1. d	The Dutch influence on the laws of Sri Lanka	...4.
1. e	The British influence on the laws of Sri Lanka	...5
2.	THE SOURCES OF THE LAWS OF SRI LANKA	8
3.	LAW REPORTS, DIGESTS AND TEXTBOOKS	9
4.	THE SYSTEM OF COURTS	10
5.	AN OVERVIEW OF THE LAWS OF SRI LANKA	11
5. a	The laws of Sri Lanka	...11
5. b	Criminal law, procedure and evidence	...12
5. c	Constitutional law	...12
5. d	Commercial and Mercantile law	...14
5. e	The sphere of influence of the Roman-Dutch law	...14
5. f	The law of tort or delict	...14

5. g	The law of contract	...15
5. h	The law of property	...17
5. i	The law of persons	...23
5. j	The law of succession	...26
5. k	The law of remedies	...27
5. l	Foreign influences	...27
5. m	The end product is the law of Sri Lanka	...30

CHAPTER 11. THE INFLUENCE OF THE COMMON LAW TRADITION

6.	THE RECEPTION OF ENGLISH LAW BY STATUTE	31
7.	THE RECEPTION OF ENGLISH LAW THROUGH JUDICIAL ACTIVISM	37
8.	ROMAN-DUTCH LAW V. ENGLISH LAW?	41
9.	THE EXTENT OF THE RECEPTION OF ENGLISH LAW	42
10.	THE OVERALL INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH LEGAL IDEAS AND CONCEPTS	45

CHAPTER 111. THE ROMAN-DUTCH LAW

11.	ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY	47
11. a	The phrase "Roman-Dutch law"	...47
11. b	The reception of Roman law in Europe	...47
11. c	The reception of Roman law in the Netherlands	...48
11. d	The reception of Roman-Dutch law in the Dutch colonies	...50

12.	THE SOURCES OF THE CLASSICAL ROMAN-DUTCH LAW	51
12. a	Sources	...51
12. b	Treatise	...52
12. c	Statute	...55
12. d	Judicial decision	...55
12. e	Juristic opinion	...56
12. f	Custom	...56
13.	THE SOURCES OF DUTCH LAW IN SRI LANKA	56
13. a	Sources of law in the Dutch period	...56
13. b	Sources of Dutch law in modern Sri Lanka	...59
14.	THE APPLICATION OF DUTCH LAW IN SRI LANKA	62
14. a	The sphere of influence of Dutch law in the Dutch period	...62
14. b	The sphere of influence of Dutch law in the modern period	...66
14. c	Overlap of English law and Roman -Dutch law	...69
14. d	The common law of Sri Lanka	...74
14. e	The renaissance of Roman-Dutch law	...78

CHAPTER IV. THE SPECIAL LAWS

15.	THE ANCIENT SINHALESE LEGAL SYSTEM	103
15. a	The laws and customs of the Sinhalese	...103
15. b	The administration of justice	...108
15. c	The procedure in the courts	...110
15. d	Sanctions and punishment	...112

16.	THE TERMS "PERSONAL LAW" AND "TERRITORIAL LAW"	112
17.	KANDYAN LAW	114
17. a	The term "Kandyan law"	...114
17. b	The subjects of Kandyan law	...115
17. c	The sources of Kandyan law	...120
17. d	Substance of Kandyan law and the extent of application today	...124
18.	MUSLIM LAW	130
18. a	Religion and the state	...130
18. b	The sources of Islamic law	...130
18. c	Sources of Muslim law in Sri Lanka	...132
18. d	Applicability of Muslim law in Sri Lanka	...137
19.	TESAWALAMAI	140
19. a	The origin and history of the <i>Tesawalamai</i>	...140
19. b	Sources of the <i>Tesawalamai</i>	...143
19. c	The applicability of the <i>Tesawalamai</i>	...144
19. d	The <i>Tesawalamai</i> as a territorial law	...148
19. e	The contents of the <i>Tesawalamai</i>	...148
20.	MUKKUVAR LAW	149
CHAPTER V. SOURCES OF LAW		
21.	THE TERM "SOURCE"	151
22.	LEGISLATION	152

23.	JUDICIAL PRECEDENT	156
23. a	The term "precedent"	...156
23. b	The doctrine of <i>stare decisis</i>	...156
23. c	What part of a case is binding?	...157
23. d	<i>Obiter dicta</i>	...159
23. e	Distinguishing	...160
23. f	<i>Obiter dicta</i> and <i>ratio decidendi</i>	...161
23. g	Overruling	...161
23. h	Circumstances destroying the binding force of precedent	...163
23. i	Preliminary assessment of the problems involved in analysing the operation of <i>stare decisis</i> in Sri Lanka	...167
23. j	Courts of First Instance	...169
23. k	The Supreme Court	...169
23. l	Court of Criminal Appeal	...174
23. m	Foreign decisions	...175
23. n	<i>Stare decisis</i> in the post 1978 era	...178
23. o	The Roman-Dutch authorities and <i>stare decisis</i>	...181
23. p	Do judges make law?	...182
23. q	Conclusions	...185
24.	OPINIONS OF WRITERS	188
25.	CUSTOMS	189
26.	RELIGION	193
26. a	Religion as a source of law in primitive societies	...193
26. b	Religion as a source of law in Europe	...193

26. c	Religion as a source of law in the East	...194	
26. d	Religion as a source of law in Sri Lanka	...194	
27.	EQUITY		196
27. a	The concept of "Equity"	...196	
27. b	English Equity	...197	
27. c	Roman Equity	...197	
27. d	Equity in the law of Sri Lanka	...197	
28.	THE SYSTEMS OF LAW AND THE SOURCES OF LAW		200