Lanka, Ceylon, Sarandib: merely three disparate names for a single island? Perhaps. Yet the three diverge in the historical echoes, literary cultures, maps and memories they evoke. Names that have intersected and overlapped – in a treatise, a poem, a document – only to go their own ways. But despite different trajectories, all three are tied to narratives of banishment and exile. Ronit Ricci suggests that the island served as a concrete exilic site as well as a metaphor for imagining exile across religions, languages, space and time: Sarandib, where Adam was banished from Paradise; Lanka, where Sita languished in captivity; and Ceylon, faraway island of exile for Indonesian royalty under colonialism. Utilizing Malay manuscripts and documents from Sri Lanka, Javanese chronicles, and Dutch and British sources, Ricci explores histories and imaginings of displacement related to the island through a study of the Sri Lankan Malays and their connections to an exilic past.

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Asian Connections

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Asian Connections is a major series of ambitious works that look beyond the traditional templates of area, regional or national studies to consider the trans-regional phenomena which have connected and influenced various parts of Asia through time. The series will focus on empirically grounded work exploring circulations, connections, convergences and comparisons within and beyond Asia. Themes of particular interest include transport and communication, mercantile networks and trade, migration, religious connections, urban history, environmental history, oceanic history, the spread of language and ideas, and political alliances. The series aims to build new ways of understanding fundamental concepts, such as modernity, pluralism or capitalism, from the experience of Asian societies. It is hoped that this conceptual framework will facilitate connections across fields of knowledge and bridge historical perspectives with contemporary concerns.
Banishment and Belonging

Exile and Diaspora in Sarandib, Lanka and Ceylon

Ronit Ricci
Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Australian National University
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A Note on Orthography and Manuscripts

The sources cited and discussed in this book span several places, periods and languages. In addition, orthographic variation was very much the norm for much of the period covered, and it is not unusual to find the same word or name spelled differently even in a single document or manuscript. Variation typically also occurs when spelling the same words across scripts. This raises the question of whether standardization is a technical move or an imposition as, for example, when Arabic diacritics or long vowels are added to Malay words to “correct” them.

I have attempted to retain the original spelling as much as possible and therefore the same word may be spelled differently depending on language or source (i.e. Pangéran in Javanese, Pangeran in Malay, in Ceylon sometimes spelled Pangeeran or Pangerang).

When citing manuscripts, the available information, often incomplete, is given in the first citation. For Javanese sources it is sometimes known who the author was, as well as who inscribed the particular exemplar cited. For the Sri Lankan materials that is not the case and therefore, when known, I have included the name of the person who created the exemplar available at present.

Non-English terminology is italicized on first appearance. Capitalization and punctuation have sometimes been added to Javanese and Malay citations and their translations in order to make them more legible to the reader.
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***

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Abbreviations

Manuscript Collections, Archives, and Publishers

BL  British Library
BP  Bale Pustaka
BU  Budi Utama
DBP  Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
EAP450  British Library Endangered Archives Programme project #450, “Manuscripts of the Sri Lankan Malays,” https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP450
The site contains, in addition to digital copies of collected materials, available information on each item such as ownership history, current ownership, condition etc.
KS  Karaton Surakarta, Surakarta, Indonesia
LOr  University of Leiden Oriental Manuscripts, The Netherlands
MF  microfilm, in Hussainmiya Collection, Department of National Archives, Sri Lanka
MN  Reksa Pustaka Library, Kadipatën Mangkunagaran, Surakarta, Indonesia
PNM  Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
PNRI  Perpustakaan Nasional Republik Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
PP  Kadipatën Pura Pakualaman, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
RP  Redya Pustaka Museum, Surakarta, Indonesia
TT  typescript of manuscript
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Archival Documents
SLNA/1 Department of National Archives, Sri Lanka
Lot 1 (VOC Archive)

Journals
BKI Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde
JRAS Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society

Languages
A. Arabic
D. Dutch
J. Javanese
M. Malay
Sin. Sinhala
Skt. Sanskrit
T. Tamil
Map 1 Indonesia and Sri Lanka

Map 2 The Indonesian Archipelago
Map 3 Sri Lanka