

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. SANSKRIT IN CEYLON.

There has lately come into my hands what is, so far as I know, a unique MS. of another old Sanna on a Sanskrit poem composed in Ceylon. The author is Wilgam-mūla Mahā Thera, and the work on which he comments is the Sūrya-stotra-ṣataka, written "by the celebrated poet Mayūra."

By the latter the author of the Pūjāvali and of the Yogārṇawa is doubtless meant. Wilgam-mūla states in his colophon that he was pupil of "the great master of the six languages and of the three Piṭakas, Śrī Rājaguru Galaturu-mūla Mahā Swāmi."

Mayūra-pāda wrote at the end of the thirteenth century. I do not know the dates of either of the others. "Master of the six languages" is an epithet also applied to Śrī Rāhula of Toṭagamuwa (floruit 1415), and is explained in the Sanna on his Scēla-lihini-sandese as meaning master of Sanskrit, Pāli, the three principal Prakrit dialects, and Tamil.

The poem itself has been much read in India, and often commented on, and the date of Mayūra is therefore of importance. It is, of course, just possible that some other Mayūra is meant. But in Ceylon the name can only suggest the very famous scholar and poet of that name who was contemporary with Dharmakīrti, and lived under the patronage of the royal author Paṇḍita Parākrama Bāhu, who began to reign 1267 A.D. There is no other Ceylon scholar or poet called Mayūra.

RH. D.