



## **PUBLIC TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT**

Unveiling ceremony

of

The Photographs

of

**Sir Baron Jayatilaka**

**Sir Arthur Ranasinha**

**D. E. Wijewardane esqr.**

at

**THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE OFFICE**

**2, Buller's Lane, Columbo 7.**

at 3.00 p.m.

on Tuesday 2 July, 1985.

## **DON EDMOND WIJEWARDANE**

A columnist once described him as "publicity shy Public Trustee". That was Mr. Don Edmond Wijewardane, the Oxonian who obtained two degrees: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Civil Law and became the third Sri Lankan to do so.

A Barrister-at-Law in the Middle Temple, on his return, he practiced in Colombo and was Lecturer and Examiner in the Law College, Colombo.

In 1935 he became the acting Public Trustee and during the Second World War he was appointed Assistant Custodian of Enemy Property.

On the eve of Sri Lanka regaining political independence from Britain, he became the Public Trustee.

Mr. Wijewardane, a product of St. John's College, Pandora was a non-snooker and teetotaler. A quite man, was an exceptionally disciplined to the very letter.

The family still remembers with nostalgia, the ordeal one son had to face when he went to pick the father from his Melbourne Place, Bambalapitiya PT's Office. The lad noticing his buttonless shirt had picked up a pin from the PT's Desk and covered the open shirt. Getting into the car, the father had seen the pin on son's shirt. To the child's dismay, before he could drive the father home, the father drove the son back to replace the pin in the tray.

Mr. Wijewardane not only performed his duties well and diligently, he made those under him do it equally well.

After this retirement he served the Universities Commission and the Industrial Courts as President. A rare public servant, he died in 1965.