

**F-22 : TRACING THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF THE
JETAVANARAMAYA STUPA ANURADHAPURA BY T.L. DATING**
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Jetavanaramaya Stupa located in Anuradhapura is said to have been built by King Mahasen (276 - 303 A.D.). Under the Cultural Triangle excavations, an inscribed stone slab, datable to 5 A.D. was found. This stupa is referred to as Devanampiya-Tissa Maha Dagaba. The Jetavana Stupa is one of the tallest brick buildings in the ancient world. It is said that the dome of this Stupa was constructed first and the three basal mouldings later. Below the compound of the Jetavanaramaya Stupa, a smaller ancient courtyard was discovered which was made up of brick masonry. Literal evidence indicated that this site of the 3rd A.D. was the likely cremation grounds of the first major Sri Lanka Royal missionary elder Mahinda, son of King Asoka of India. Brick samples were collected from the dome, mouldings and the courtyard for this study. The results indicate:

Dome $295 \pm 87 \pm 100$ A.D.

Mouldings $289 \pm 28 \pm 73$ A.D.
 $251 \pm 83 \pm 147$ A.D.
 $293 \pm 52 \pm 98$ A.D.

Courtyard 253 ± 58 106 B.C.
 237 ± 55 106 B.C.

The dated brick samples fall into 2 major period of time.

The first period corresponds closely to the C-14 dates obtained early on charcoal indicating that during the period of King Mahasen the stupa would have been built. The results also indicate that the courtyard which was found, dates back to six centuries earlier than the Stupa and agrees well with the literal evidence of its association with the Arahata Mahinda Period.