

Basic Detail Report



Entrance to the Buddhist Temple, Kandy, Ceylon

Date

c. 1880s

Primary Maker

Charles T. Scowen

Medium

Albumen print from a collodion negative

Description

British photographer Charles Scowen arrived in Ceylon, modern day Sri Lanka, in 1873 and by 1876, he established his first studio, Scowen & Co. in Kandy. A second would open in Colombo by

1885. The firm soon became one of the leading commercial photographers in Sri Lanka known for producing superior quality photographs for tourism, commerce, and industry, while also capturing the beauty and culture of the island. Known for his botanical photographs, Scowen also produced architectural and landscape studies, photographs of ancient ruins, city and street views, and portraits of native people. The view seen in this work depicts the main entrance to Dalada Maligawa or the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, one of the most sacred places of Buddhist worship in the world. Constructed during the 17th and 18th centuries, the temple holds the shrine containing the left canine tooth of Buddha, which was first brought to Sri Lanka during the reign of King Kirtisri Meghavanna (301-328).

Dimensions

Image: 8 1/4 × 11 1/4 in. (21 × 28.6 cm) Image: 8 × 11 in. (20.3 × 27.9 cm)