Similarities of characteristics of British Hill stations in South Asia and Mainland South East Asia: British India, Ceylon, Burma and British Malaya.

Theme: Integrating Southeast Asia
Subtheme: Culture

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Abstract

Hill stations in South Asia and Mainland South East Asia in British India, Ceylon, Burma and British Malaya were established in the 19th and 20th century by the British who governed these countries in these regions. The objective of this paper is to show the similarity of hill stations in South Asia and Mainland South East Asian countries ruled by the British in terms of location and size, city ranking, purpose and layout, facilities and architecture. The purpose to found a hill station was to escape from the soaring heat in the plains and to recover from tropical diseases contracted. The hill stations in the countries governed by the British were based on the same ideas and schemes. Hill stations were located in the mountains or hills where the air is cool on a height between 2,000 and 9,000 feet. The size of the stations is between 4,08 square miles. Some hill stations had the function of capital of the government of a country or specific area. The hill station had characteristics and facilities of the British home country. Climate, clubs, golf courses, racecourses, lakes, architecture in the British (pseudo-Tudor, Elizabethan Renaissance and Victorian style) or Swiss Gothic style, botanical gardens, vegetation and life style.

Key words: Hill stations, South Asia, Mainland South East Asia, British India, Ceylon, Burma, British Malaya.

Introduction

In this study the origins and criteria of hill stations in British hill stations, in South East Asia: British India (in the North: Simla and Mussoori, in the East: Darjeeling and Kalimpong, in the West: Lonavala and Mahabelishwar and in the South: Kodaikanal and Ootacamund (Ooty) and Ceylon (Nuwara Eliya) and Mainland Southeast Asia: Burma (Maymyo (Pyin Oo Lwin) and Kalaw) and British Malaya (Penang Hill, Fraser’s Hill, Maxwell’s Hill and Cameron Highlands) will be analysed. The analyses will be done according to five criteria. These are: location and size, city ranking, purpose and layout, facilities, architecture and surrounding areas.

Hill stations were a 19th century phenomenon. Most were established between 1820 and
1855, though the French came later with Dalat, Viet Nam, and the Americans with Baguio, in the Philippines, at the beginning of the 20th century. (Crossette 1999:7) Hill stations were retreats as what seaside resorts, spas, and great mountain lodges were in Europe and the United States. In some cases, the style and atmosphere of European or American mountain retreats, were copied in the colonies. A planner of Baguio, in the Philippines, was influenced by the Adirondacks1. But in colonial Asia the high altitude hill station, at 5,000 to 8,000 feet above sea level, always was more than just a resort. It was a medical centre to justify an officer taking leave to restore his health, however insubstantial the excuse or ineffectual the cure. The site was beyond the reach of mosquitoes, though it was not known until the end of the 19th century that the malaria parasite was carried by insects. The hill station was also a retreat where the colonial was in a European town with European architecture, the club, the library and the village church. The hill station is a phenomenon most often associated with the British in British India but the French, the Americans, and to some extent the Dutch also provided them with similar properties. (Crossette 1999:7/8)

**British India**

*History*

Though western exploration and trade started in some parts of British India in the 16th century; from the late 18th century to the middle of 19th century, large areas of British India were annexed by the British East India Company. Dissatisfaction with Company rule led to the British Indian Rebellion of 1857, after which the British provinces of British India were administered by the British Crown and witnessed a period of both rapid development of infrastructure and economic stagnation. The direct rule was from 1858 till 1947.

In this paper 8 hill stations in British India will be discussed which were established in the 19th century. Simla around 1841, Mussoorie around 1825, Darjeeling in 1828, Kipling after 1864, Lonavala in 1871, Mahabaleshwar in 1828, Kodaikanal in 1845 and Ootacamund in 1819.

Many of the hill stations claimed a founding father: John Sullivan2 for Ootacamund. Cap-

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1 The Adirondack Mountains are a mountain range located in the north-eastern part of New York that runs through Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Saint Lawrence, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington counties.

2 District Collector of Coimbatore (1788-1855). Sullivan was credited to initiate the development the Nilgiri hills as sanatorium for sick European soldiers in British India.
tain Charles Kennedy\textsuperscript{3} and Dr. Arthur Campbell\textsuperscript{4} for Simla and Darjeeling Dr. James Murray\textsuperscript{5} for Mahabaleshwar and Vere Levinge\textsuperscript{6} for Kodaikanal. (Kennedy 1996:106/107)

\textit{Characteristics (location and size, purpose and layout, facilities and surrounding areas)}

The hill stations of British India described in this paper are located in the mountains on a height between 2,000 to 9,000 feet. Simla is at a height of 7,000 feet high and the capital city of the British Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Mussoorie is a hill station and a municipal board, at a height of 6,170 feet, in the Dehradun District of the northern British Indian state of Uttarakhand. Darjeeling is situated at a height of 9,000 feet, on a ridge of the Great Sinchal mountain, due north of Calcutta. (Clarke (1818:533) Kalimpong is at an elevation of 4,101 feet, in the Shiwalik Hill or Lower Himalaya in the Indian state of West Bengal (Biswas 2013:43/44). Lonavala is located in the western part of the state of Maharashtra, in the western region of British India, situated southeast of Mumbai at an altitude of 2,050 feet above sea level. Mahabaleshwar, is at a height of 4,500 feet (Kennedy 1996:24), a small town on a range of the Western Gaths, in the Bombay area. Kodaikanal is a city in the hills of the Dindigul district in the state of Tamil Nadu situated at a height of 6,998 feet. The town of Ootacamund is situated at the junction of the Eastern and Western Ghats at a higher point where the Nilgiri summits go over 8,000 feet high above the plains to the north and the east. (Emeneau 1963:188).

The size of the hill stations is between 4, 08 to 600 square miles. Simla is 10 square miles, Mussoorie is 25 square miles, Darjeeling is 4.08 square miles, Kalimpong is 407.9 square miles, Lonalava is about 15 square miles, Mahabaleshwar is 52.95 square miles, Kodaikanal is 8.28 square miles and Ootacamund is on a plateau 40 miles long by 15 miles

\textsuperscript{3} Captain Charles Pratt Kennedy, Political Officer to the Hill States.
\textsuperscript{4} Archibald Campbell or Arthur Campbell (1805-1874) of the Bengal Medical Service (the British Indian Medical Service according to some sources) was the first superintendent of the sanatorium of Darjeeling town in British India.
\textsuperscript{5} Superintendent of Mahabaleshwar from 1831 to 1839.
\textsuperscript{6} Sir Vere Henry Levinge (1819-1885). District Collector of Madurai. Levinge developed the hill station of Kodaikanal.
broad. That is 600 square miles.

Lord William Bentinck authored the establishment of Simla in 1819. The town was the frequent residence of governors-general, lieutenant-governors, commanders-in-chiefs and high authorities. (Clarke 1881:536). Simla is “a city of symmetry in variety”. Ground plans of the buildings and complexes were adapted to the contours and character of the various areas. Sunlight was allowed to the maximum and the buildings are orientated to maximize the scenic beauty. Parallel to the Mall were roads with then names Circular Road, Cart Road and Ridge Road. Similarly, roads follow the spurs and ridges diverting from the central axis. (Revised Heritage Report (4). Simla was one of the few places in British India which had a municipality and the only one which had a British municipality. The town had an observatory, large dispensary, bank, library, hotels, assembly rooms, type copper-plate and lithographic printing house and many shops. (Clarke 1881:536)

At the side where now the city of Mussoorie is a shooting lodge was constructed in 1825 after the British military officer Captain Young and Mr. Shore, the resident Superintendent of Revenues at Dehradun, explored the areas surrounding Dehradun. In time, Mussoorie became a popular holiday resort and a hill station owing to the natural beauty and biological diversity of the town. Mussoorie soon acquired a reputation as a centre for European education. The hill station had a botanical garden.

In 1828 the hill station of Darleeling was established. (Clarke 1881:529) The location was discovered by J.W. Grant and Major-General G.W.A Lloyd while establishing the boun-

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8 The "discoverer" of Mussoorie, who was also the Commandant of the first Gurkha battalion raised by the British after prevailing in the Gurkha War.
9 The commercial resident at Malda in Northern Bengal.
10 Commander of the Dinapore Division in the Bengal Army.
dary between Nepal and Sikkim. (Clarke 1881:533). It was meant for British recruits and as a permanent station for a British regiment. The settlement was a summer capital and year-round resort for East-British India company agents in the colonial era. Darjeeling once belonged to Sikkim, the independent Buddhist kingdom annexed by imperial British India in the mid-1870s. (Crossette 1999:78) Darjeeling was the place which produced most of British India’s tea leaves. The great importance of the Darjeeling territory was that it was situated between Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan on the natural routes to Central Asia and products from the eastern frontier was traded here. Included were gold dust, iron, copper, lime, woods, tea, wax, ginger, catechu\(^\text{11}\), cassia\(^\text{12}\), coffee, cotton, hemp, gunny cloth, rice, cardamoms, oranges, potatoes, ghee\(^\text{13}\), hides, horns, musk, wool, chowries\(^\text{14}\), blankets, woollen cloth and many other articles. Clarke (1881:534) From the colonial era on Darjeeling had many schools, educating Europeans, British Indians and a large number of students from Bhutan. Schools were an important part of the town’s economy. (Crossette 1999:81) The Lloyd Botanical Garden, named after General Lloyd, covered fourteen acres just below the central portion of the station. The garden played an important role in the development of tea, coffee, cinchona, and other commercial crops, but it also served as pleasure parks for station residents, supplied them with flower and vegetable seeds, cuttings from ornamental shrubs and shade and fruit trees. (Kennedy 1996:48)

Kalimpong was developed after the Anglo-Bhutan War in 1864 by the British as an alternative hill station to Darjeeling. The first recorded mention of the town was a short reference made by Ashley Eden, a government official with the Bengal Civil Service. The town was known for the educational institutions many of which were established during the British colonial period. It had been a gateway in the trade between Tibet and British India prior to China’s annexation of Tibet and the Sino-British Indian war. (Biswas 2013:43) Horticulture was important to Kalimpong: It had a flower market notable for the wide choice of orchids. Nurseries, which exported Himalayan grown flower bulbs, tubers\(^\text{15}\) and rhizomes\(^\text{16}\), contributed to the economy of Kalimpong.

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\(^{11}\) Catechu is an extract of acacia trees used variously as a food additive, astringent, tannin, and dye.

\(^{12}\) Cassia refers to cassia bark, the spice made from the bark of East Asian trees related to the “true cinnamon” (Cinnamomum verum) of Sri Lanka.

\(^{13}\) Clarified butter that originated in ancient India and is commonly used in South Asian cuisines.

\(^{14}\) A device for repelling flies.

\(^{15}\) Tubers are various types of modified plant structures that are enlarged to store nutrients. They are used by plants to survive the winter or dry months.

\(^{16}\) A continuously growing horizontal underground stem which puts out lateral shoots and adventitious roots at intervals.
Lonavala was a part of the Yadava\textsuperscript{17} empire along the Western Ghats\textsuperscript{18} of Maharashtra. The Mughals realized the strategic importance of the region. In 1871, the Lonavala and Khandala hill stations were discovered by Lord Mountstuart Elphinstone\textsuperscript{19}, who was the Governor of Bombay Presidency. In the proximity of the hill station were numerous lakes which carry the names Tugauli, Lonavala, Bhushi and Walvan. Lonavala Lake is surrounded by natural scenery, about 1.6 km from the town. The lake dries up during the winter months. Close to Lonavala market is, the botanical garden, Ryewood Park. Named after an English officer Mr. Rye.

Starting with Sir John Malcolm in 1828, who founded Mahabaleshwar, a succession of Governors starting with Sir Elphinstone, Arthur Malet\textsuperscript{20}, Carnac\textsuperscript{21}, Frere\textsuperscript{22} and many others became regular visitors. Present day Mahabaleshwar came into existence in the year 1829-30. Mahabaleshwar was soon established as the summer headquarters of the government of Bombay. The official season soon extended from April to October or even November in many of the Himalayan stations. (Kennedy 1996:165) In Mahabaleshwar an artificial lake was created for scenic beauty. (Kennedy 1996:50) The town bazaar, in the centre of town, is called Malcolm Peth after the British Governor of Bombay, Sir John Malcolm\textsuperscript{23}. The town has a church, library, bazaar and invalid garrison. (Clarke (1881:539) In 1928 a sanatorium was built, a polo ground and race course where opened. The hill station has one the few evergreen forests of British India. Heavy rains pound down on the town in the monsoon period. (Kennedy 1996:24)

\textsuperscript{17} The Seuna, Sevuna or Yadavas of Devagiri (850–1334) was an Indian dynasty, which at its peak ruled a kingdom stretching from the Tungabhadra to the Narmada rivers, including present-day Maharashtra, north Karnataka and parts of Madhya Pradesh, from its capital at Devagiri (present-day Daulatabad).

\textsuperscript{18} The Western Ghats are a mountain range that runs almost parallel to the western coast of the Indian peninsula, located entirely in India.

\textsuperscript{19} John Elphinstone, 13th Lord Elphinstone and 1st Baron Elphinstone (1807–1860). A Scottish soldier, politician and colonial administrator. He was twice elected to the Parliament of the United Kingdom as a Scottish Representative peer, serving once from 14 January 1833 to 29 December 1834 and then again from 8 September 1847 to 23 April 1859. His political career also included the governorships of Madras and of Bombay.

\textsuperscript{20} Malet, Sir Charles Warre (1753?–1815). 1st Baronet. Malet was an British Indian administrator and diplomatist. At an early age he entered the service of the East British India Company, and after filling various posts, including a mission to the great mogul, he was in 1785 appointed resident minister at Poona, at the court of the Peishwa. Subsequently Malet was for some time acting governor of Bombay, an office which he held until 1798, when he retired from the service and returned to England.

\textsuperscript{21} Sir James Rivett-Carnac (1784–1846). 1st Baronet. Governor of the Bombay Presidency of British British India from 1839 to 1842. Carnac served the East British India Company in British India from 1801 and was a director of the Company for various periods between 1827 and 1838. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in May 1838.

\textsuperscript{22} Sir Henry Bartle Edward Frere (1815–1884). 1st Baronet. A British colonial administrator. He had a successful career in British India rising to become Governor of Bombay.

\textsuperscript{23} Major-general Sir John Malcolm (1769-1833). A Scottish soldier, diplomat, East British India Company administrator, statesman, and historian.
In 1821, the first westerner to visit Kodaikanal, B. S. Ward\textsuperscript{24}, climbed up from his headquarters in the Kunnavan village of Vellagavi to Kodaikanal to survey the area on the hilly ranges of Palani. His report of a healthy climate in beautiful hills with accessibility from Periyakulam encouraged the early settlers. (Ward 1837:280) The town was known for the scenic beauty natural attractions. Lakes, parks and different waterfalls along with the rich abundance of flora and fauna and town. Kodaikanal had several clubs and civil society organizations operating for social, charitable, environmental goals and an 18-hole golf course. Kodaikanal is known for the rich flora. Of the big trees, cypress, eucalyptus and acacia are the dominant varieties. Pear trees are numerous. Rhododendron and magnolia bloom. Large dahlias of different hues are the main attraction of Bryant Park, situated close to the Kodai lake. The park's pond has water lilies. The town abounds in a kind of beautiful yellow wild flowers.

The discovery of the Nilgiri area, where the town of Ootacamund is located, is attributed to Wish and Kindersley assistants to John Sullivan\textsuperscript{25}, the Collector of Coimbatoire, who passed through the area when he tried to capture two tobacco smugglers. (Emeneau 1963:191) Ootacamund was South British India’s most famous hill station and the official summer retreat of the Madras Government during the Raj and throughout the 19th century a British choice for both short retreat popular and permanent residence. (Veale 2007:1) The town had a swamp through which a stream flowed which came down from the Public Gardens past Stonehouse Hill. The stream was dammed down and by 1825 a twisting lake about 2 miles long was formed. In 1884-85 a boat club was founded. Later the upper portion of the lake silted up, including the part fronting the bazaar, and in time the lake’s length was reduced to half the size. The reclaimed upper part of the lake was the side of the racecourse in the first half of the twentieth century. (Emeneau 1963:192) The town has a church, public gardens and meteorological observatory (Clarke 1881:539). The botanical garden, 55 acres large, was laid out in 1847 by the Marquis of Tweeddale\textsuperscript{26}. The garden of Ootacamund played an important role in the development of tea, coffee, cinchona and other commercial crops, but it also served as pleasure parks for station residents and supplied them with flower and vegetable seeds, cuttings from ornamental shrubs, shade and fruit trees. (Kennedy 1996:48).

\textit{Main characteristics (city ranking and architecture)}

\textsuperscript{24} Lieutenant, Sub-Collector of Madura.
\textsuperscript{25} District Collector (1788-1855). Sullivan was credited to initiate the development the Nilgiri hills as sanatorium for sick European soldiers in British India.
\textsuperscript{26} Colonel Arthur Hay, 9th Marquess of Tweeddale (1824-1878). A Scottish soldier and ornithologist.
The main characteristic of Simla was that it became the main residence of the Viceroy of British India, the commander-in-chief of the British Indian Army, the lieutenant-governor of Punjab and other government dignitaries. It had become the political capital of British India in the hills. Architecture in Simla was diverse and in different styles. (Kennedy 1996:159) The post office in the British Tudor style (Clarke 1881:536), the fortress like telegraph office, the Swiss Gothic Ripon Hospital, the large stone courthouse and a public office for administrative or judicial business of the deputy commissioner, the public-works building, the town hall, an Victorian Gothic complex that housed municipal offices, the police station, an assembly hall, a Masonic hall, the Gaiety Theatre and the foreign office in the Swiss chalet style and the Vice regal Lodge a castle of gravy limestone in the Elizabethan Renaissance style. (Kennedy 1996:163/164)

The main characteristics of Mussoorie was that it became a popular holiday destination and a hill station owing to the natural beauty and biological diversity. Mussoorie soon became a centre for European education. (Kennedy 1996:135) The hill station was one of the earliest centres for cutting trees for export to the plains. (Kennedy 1996:53) Mussoorie had a superior church school for boys, a common girls school, two boarding schools for young ladies. The churches in the town were Christ Church, built in 1836 in the British Gothic style, with one of British India’s best examples of stained-glass windows and the Central Methodist Church built, in 1885, in massive stone.

The main characteristics for the settlement of Darjeeling was that it was the summer capital and holiday destination for East-British India company agents during British times. (Crossette 1999:78) Darjeeling had British India’s most famous tea plantations. The importance of the Darjeeling territory was that it was situated between Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan on of the natural routes to Central Asia and an important trading post. (Clarke 1881:534) The town had architecture of various kinds. St. Andrew's Church was built in the Gothic style. Other buildings were the Baptist and Roman Catholic chapels, a nunnery, boarding and other schools for boys and girls, public library, masonic lodge, hospital, treasury, jail, hotels and various shops. (Clarke 1881:534) The solid stone British-style houses were complemented by more fanciful wooden-fronted buildings that were like idealized Swiss chalets with steep roofs, carved eaves and gables.

The main characteristics for Kalimpong was that it was known for educational institutions. Many were established during the British colonial period. The town used had been a gateway in the trade between Tibet and British India prior to China’s annexation of Tibet and the Sino-British Indian war. (Biswas 2013:43) The architecture of
Kalimpong has different aspects. Dr Grahams Home, an orphanage and school, has a chapel with elements which remind of a Scotland parish, with the grey slate, spire and fine stained-glass windows. St Teresa’s Church, a missionary church, built in 1929 by Swiss Jesuits, has elements which remind of a Bhutanese Gompa. The wooden apostles resemble Buddhist monks and carvings on the doors resemble the tashi tagye eight auspicious symbols of Himalayan Buddhism. MacFarlane Church, built in 1870 has wood-butressed Gothic interiors. Morgan House, a building of two stories, is a classic example of British colonial architecture. (Desai, M., Desai M. & Lang J. 2012:174)

The main characteristic of the hill station of Lonavala is the beauty of the area and serenity. Surrounded by caves and with a dense forest. In the proximity of the hill station were numerous lakes. Lonavala is famous for sweet hard candy known as “chikki”. The town had no British architecture to speak of.

The main characteristic for Mahabelishwar was that it became the principal hill station for the Bombay presidency. (Kennedy 1996:165) The hill station had views combined with springs that flowed continuously, streams, waterfalls and a year round agreeable climate, drew the British and others to Mahabaleshwar. At the end of the 19th century the town had become a popular hill station of world renown. The architecture of Mahabelishwar were bungalows built in the British colonial-style like Babington House. The bungalow was in the shape of a cross with a deep veranda, elaborate metal work railing and extensive outhouses. (Kennedy 1996:166) In Mahabaleshwar, a government house was built in 1886 for the governor of Bombay. (In what style?)

The main characteristic of Kodaikanal was the rich flora, with big trees, cypress, eucalyptus and acacia were the dominant varieties. The architecture of Kodaikanal was in an American style and distinctive stone architecture.

The main characteristics for Ootacamund were that it was the most important hill station

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27 Gompas, or gönpas, "remote place". Tibetan monasteries or temples.
founded by the British in South British India, for Mysore State and even more distant parts of South British India for the use of the governing classes of the Madras presidency, to regain ones health and to withdraw for a holiday. The hill station was also the official summer retreat of the Madras Government. Architecture was an eclectic mix of gothic, arts and crafts and Swiss architecture.

**Ceylon**

*History*

The British era in Ceylon was from 1815 till 1948. The hill station of Nuwara Eliya was founded in 1847. The settlement was to a great extent undeveloped in 1832, except for a sanatorium and the British governor’s season residence. (Crossette 1999:131/132)

Sir Samuel Baker, a British explorer of the Nile, spent weeks in Nuwara Eliya in 1847 recuperating from a malaria attack was so taken by the setting in a wet high altitude valley 2 miles long that he decided to settle and build “a British town around my own residence”. Sir Samuel did not think small “why should there not be highlands of Ceylon, with an Italian climate, be rescued from their bareness?” He asked rhetorically – or so he later wrote in his account of what followed, Eight years in Ceylon, “why should not be the plains be drained, the forests felled, and cultivation take the place of rank pasturage, and supplies be produced to make Ceylon independent of other countries?” “Why should not schools be established, a comfortable hotel be erected, a church built? In fact why should Nuwera Eliya with its wonderful climate, so easily attainable, be neglected in a country like Ceylon, proverbial for its unhealthiness?” (Crossette 1999:133)

*Characteristics (location and size, purpose and layout, facilities and surrounding areas)*

Nuwara Eliya is a city, in the hill country of the Central Province, Ceylon. The meaning of the city name is "city on the plain" or "city of light". The city is the administrative capital of Nuwara Eliya District, with a picturesque landscape and temperate climate. It is located at an altitude of 6,128 feet. The city is overlooked by Pidurutalagala, the tallest mountain in Ceylon. Nuwara Eliya is known for being the coolest area in Ceylon. The size of the area is about 5 square miles. The British chose the place as the highest and healthiest place to establish a convalescence centre, because with the conquest of Kandy, the interior of the island was now accessible. (Crossette 1999:133) Nuwara Eliya was con

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28 Sir Samuel White Baker (1821-1893). A British explorer, officer, naturalist, big game hunter, engineer, writer and abolitionist. Baker is remembered as the discoverer of Lake Albert, as an explorer of the Nile in 1846 and interior of central Africa, and for his exploits as a big game hunter in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.
sidered the most important location for tea production in Ceylon. The town’s attractions included the golf course, trout streams, Victoria Park, and boating or fishing on Lake Gregory. Victoria Park was an attractive and well-used oasis. In the surrounding areas of the hill station vegetables, fruit and flowers were grown.

Main Characteristics (city ranking and architecture)

The main characteristic of Nuwara Eliya was the widespread growing of vegetables, fruit and flowers associated with the mild climate in Europe. "Little England" was covered with terraces growing potatoes, carrots, leeks, and roses, mixed with tea bushes on the steeper slopes. The slow-growing tea bushes of this highland region produced some of the world's finest Orange Pekoe tea. Many of the buildings retain features from the colonial period such as the “Queen's Cottage”, “General's House”, “Grand Hotel”, “Hill Club”, Town Post Office. Many private homes still maintain old British-style lawns and gardens. British architecture in Nuwara Eliya was in an eclectic mix of revival styles of previous periods. From the Classical, Elizabethan, Jacobean, Scottish Baronial, Gothic style Renaissance and Romanesque periods.

Burma

History

An expansionist British Government took advantage of Burma's political instability. After three Anglo-Burmese wars over a period of 60 years, the British completed colonization of the country in 1886, Burma was annexed as a province of British India, and the British began to impregnate the ancient Burmese culture with foreign elements. Burmese customs were often weakened by the imposition of British traditions. The British era in Burma was from 1824 till 1948.

The town of Myamyo began as a military outpost established near a small Shan village with two dozen households situated on the Lashio-Mandalay trail between Nawnghkio and Mandalay. In 1896, a permanent military post was established in the town and later, because of the climate, it became a hill station and the summer capital of British Burma. The establishment in Burma (civil, commercial and military) would move to Maymyo during the hot season to escape from the high heat and humidity of Rangoon. The British named the location Maymyo, literally May's Town in Burmese, after Colonel May29.

29 A veteran of the British Indian Mutiny and Commander of the Bengal Regiment temporarily stationed at the location of the town in 1887.
The hill station of Kalaw was founded by Sir James George Scott to escape the heat of the plains. The population was a mix of Shan, British Indian Muslims, Bamars and Nepalis (Gurkhas retired from British military service) many of whom were missionary educated.

**Characteristics (location and size, purpose and layout, facilities and surrounding areas)**

The settlement of Maymyo was 30 miles east of Mandalay, with a size of 20 square miles, on a high tableland, stretching from Burma to the Salween and from China to Siam. Maymyo (Pyin Oo Lwin or Pyin U Lwin) is located in Mandalay Division, Burma, in the Shan Highland at an altitude of 3,510 feet. The town has a Mall with streets named Downing Street, Church Road and Club Road and Charing Cross Road. And all around the hills were little half-timbered cottages with names like “All in All”, and “Fernside”, with Cotswold gardens. (Iyer 1988:216/217)

The centre of the settlement was the club overlooking polo grounds and fairways of a golf course. The Forestry Department had encircled the station with a hundred miles of well-kept rides. Ladies’ Mile, Five Mile Bottom and Rotten Row, a whole maze of pathways for a man or woman on a horse. (Hunt 1967:207)

Established in 1915, the National Botanical Gardens and the adjacent Pyin Oo Lwin Nursery were the attractions of Maymyo. Characteristic were the eucalyptus, silver oak and pine and on the slopes of the hills are the coffee plantations, flower and vegetable gardens and strawberry and pineapple orchards. Cabbage, cauliflower and all kinds of fruits were abundant. Coffee plantations, Sweater knitting and cow rearing were the main local businesses.

Kalaw is a hill town in the Shan State of Burma. It is located in Kalaw Township in Tau-

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30 Sir (James) George Scott (pseudonym Shway Yoe (1851-1935). Aa Scottish journalist and colonial administrator who helped establish British colonial rule in Burma.
nggyi District. The town was popular with the British during colonial rule. The hill station is located at an elevation of 4,330 feet. The hill station is sprawled over a large area. It is difficult to determine the exact size of the town. Kalaw is a small, not well developed, hill station with a few bungalows and one or two hotels. (Spate 1945:541) The purpose was for retreat from the plains. Characteristic for Kalaw was the Inle Lake; a freshwater lake. The countryside surrounding the town has agricultural lands growing ginger, oranges, tea, cauliflower and other produce. Limited wild, uncultivated areas exist in the area surrounding the catchment for Kalaw's water reservoir The Inle Lake.

Main Characteristics (city ranking and architecture)

The main characteristic for Maymyo was after founding in 1896, as a permanent military post, later because of the climate the town became a hill station and the summer capital of British Burma. Maymyo was an important educational centre during colonial times, with the GEHSs (Government English High Schools) all based in the town. British settlers and colonial administrators sent their children to be educated here. The town was also the location of the various schools of military education open to all ethnicities. Buildings included “Government House” and “Flagstaff House”. (Hunt 1967:206). A Post Office and Railway Station, St Joseph’s Convent School and Boarding house “Candacraig” of the British Bombay Burmah Trading Company, built in 1904, for their employees. The house is a pseudo-Tudor style mansion, with turret rooms on the first floor and deep green vines growing up the front wall. (Larkin 2004:48) In the town is the Church of the Immaculate Conception built in 1905 and All Saints Church built between 1912 and 1914. All Saints Church has a traditional colour scheme an inscribed cornerstone, a commemorative altar and stained glass windows. The houses are red brick, with pseudo-Tudor effects in the shape of nailed on timber. The residential area is pine woods, with English-style half-timbered houses standing back in large gardens. (Mannin 1955:132)

The main characteristic of the hill station of Kalaw is to retreat from the heat of the plains. The hill station is dominated by the Catholic Christ the King Church and other British style buildings. Pseudo Tudor-style houses stand amongst British rose gardens. An Anglican Church was built in 1906 located in the south-western part of Kalaw. Bungalows bear the name “Tudor Rose”, the “Caritas Cottage” for vacationing nuns and the Steels Brothers Company House from Steel Brothers Burma Trading Company Ltd. (Campagnac-Carney, S. L. 2010:4) The Kingswood High School was a Methodist Mission school opened in 1928 and named after the first Methodist school founded by John
Wesley\textsuperscript{31} at Kingswood near Bristol (UK) in 1748.

**British Malaya**

_**History**_

British traders had been present in Malay waters since the 17th century. Before the mid-19th century British interests in the region were economic, with little interest in territorial control. Already the most powerful coloniser in British India, the British were looking towards Southeast Asia for new resources. The growth of the China trade in British ships increased the Company's desire for bases in the region. Various islands were used for this purpose, but the first permanent acquisition was Penang, leased from the Sultan of Kedah in 1786. Soon followed after by the leasing of territory on the mainland opposite Penang (known as Province Wellesley). In 1795, during the Napoleonic Wars, the British with the consent of the Netherlands occupied Dutch Melaka to forestall possible French interest in the area. The British era in British Malaya was from 1771 till 1957.

The hill stations in British Malaya were established in the 19\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th} century. Penang Hill established in 1788, Maxwell’s Hill was established in 1880, Fraser’s Hill was founded in 1922 and Cameron Highlands in 1925.

The oldest British hill station in British Malaya dated from 1788 when Captain Francis Light travelled on horseback to the top of the hill (Crossette 1999:165). Maxwell Hill was named after William George Maxwell\textsuperscript{32}. (Crossette 1999:171) Fraser’s Hill was named after Louis James Fraser\textsuperscript{33}, an entrepreneurial wanderer from Europe whose business in the Malay peninsula in the late 19th century was described as mule-train operator, opium smuggler and tin miner. Fraser set up a tin-ore trading post in the 1890s? He also found rich tin deposits and recruited Chinese workers to open a mine. Two expeditions were

\textsuperscript{31} John Wesley (1703–1791). An Anglican minister and theologian. Credited with the foundation of the evangelical movement known as Methodism.


\textsuperscript{33} ( …– 1915)
organized in the area, which is now called Cameron Highlands, in the 1920s. Maxwell concluded that the area was not unlike Nuwara Eliya or Baguio. The 1927 Handbook to British Malaya suggested that the highlands of Pahang might also become a retirement community for Europeans.

**Characteristics (location and size, purpose and layout, facilities and surrounding areas)**

The hill stations are on a height of between 2,000 and 5,000 feet and small in size except for Cameron Highlands. Penang Hill area, 2,000 feet above sea level and small in size, is a complex of peaks and spurs connected by a ridge. (Kam Suan Pheng 1992:6) Maxwell’s Hill, is located 10 km from Taiping Perak, 4,101 feet above sea level and equally small in size. Fraser's Hill includes seven peaks, with heights between 4,000 and 5,000 feet above sea level. The hill station covers about 0.54 square miles. Cameron Highlands is on a plateau, at a height of 4,921 feet, with the size of Singapore (275 square miles) in the Titiwangsa Mountain Range. To the north, the boundary touches that of Kelantan; to the west, parts of the border are shared with Perak.

Penang Hill was meant for health and relaxation. The geographical areas of the hill station are: the steep north, west and south slopes. Part of the rainforest cover of the whole central range of hills. On the east slopes is farmland, houses and the funicular railway. On the Crag/Lomonds/Richmond Ridges a low density distribution of buildings. The spur of the Crag Ridge, projects northward offering broad views out to the sea and the mainland (Penang Hill Resort. Final Master Plan. 1990). In Maxwell Hill rest and convalescence were the main objectives for the visitors. (Crossette 1999:171) The hill is ideal for birdwatchers and nature lovers. The main purpose for the hill station of Fraser’s Hill was relaxation. The hill station has a country club, a golf course, water supply and a post office.

Cameron Highlands has three towns, Ringlet, the gateway to Cameron Highlands, a commercial town with a large Tamil population of South British Indian and Ceylonese origin. The towns at the centre of hill station life are Tanah Rata and Brinchang (Crossette 1991:173). Tanah Rata is the general administration area of Cameron Highlands. The purpose of a Tanah Rata is that is the administrative centre for Cameron Highlands. The different parts of the specification of the layout of Tanah Rata are the circulatory part with roads, streets and lanes. An educational/religious part with schools and churches. A built up part with bungalows and houses. Tanah Rata has one main thoroughfare and some side streets.
In Maxwell Hill the Tea Garden House, situated mid-way up the hill, was once the office of a tea plantation. However, when tea plants did not grow well here, the British shifted the tea plantation to Cameron Highlands, where the Boh Tea Plantation now is. All types of Malaya’s flowers including the rare giant fishtail palm grow here. Fraser’s Hill is the location for one of British Malaya’s few original forests, with a high level of biodiversity\(^{34}\) first recognised by the botanist H. N. Ridley\(^{35}\) in 1897. In the surrounding areas of Cameron Highlands is agriculture (vegetable farms) and plantations with the Cameron Bharat plantation and the Sungai Palas Boh plantation.

**Main Characteristics (city ranking and architecture)**

The main characteristic for Maxwell’s Hill was the tea plantation, where the tea plants did not grow well and which the British shifted to Cameron Highlands. British colonial administrators built houses or were provided by the government. Missionaries were also in residence. In Maxwell Hill bungalows were built in the colonial architecture “The Cottage” (1890) and “The Tea Garden House”. The main characteristic for Fraser’s Hill is that it one of British Malaya’s few original forests. The 1927 Handbook to British Malaya recorded of Fraser’s Hill that the hill station had 9 bungalows for the use of government officials, 4 houses were built with the help of the Red Cross for ex-servicemen and women and 3 private homes. Dozens of bungalows and a large rest house were built in Fraser’s Hill before World War Fraser’s Hill never developed as fast as Cameron Highlands (Crossette 1999:85)

The main characteristic for Cameron Highlands is agriculture (vegetable farms) and tea plantations like the Cameron Bharat plantation and the Sungai Palas Boh plantation. In Cameron Highlands buildings are designed in the English Tudor Revival style and the

\[^{34}\text{Biodiversity is the variety of different types of life found on earth. It is a measure of the variety of organisms present in different ecosystems. Referring to genetic variation, ecosystem variation, or species variation (number of species) within an area, biome, or planet.}\]

\[^{35}\text{Henry Nicholas Ridley was a British botanist and geologist. Born at West Harling Hall, Norfolk, England. Ridley was the first Scientific Director of the Singapore Botanic Gardens from 1888 to 1911.}\]
black-and-white Tudor Revival style. (Crossette 1999:176). The architecture of the Pensionnat Notre Dame/Convent School in Tanah Rata is in the English Tudor Revival style. Other buildings are designed in black and white which is considered the black-and-white Tudor Revival style and architecture in the Chinese shop house style.

Conclusion
Hill stations in South Asia and Mainland South East Asia, in the countries discussed in this paper, were established in the 19th and 20th century by Europeans who governed countries in these regions. The purpose to found a hill station was to escape from the soaring heat in the plains and to recuperate from tropical diseases contracted to which Europeans were so susceptible and did not have resistance. A hill stations had a sanatorium. All hill stations are located in the mountains or hills of the specific countries where the air was cool. The hill stations are on a height between 2,000 and 9,000 feet. The highest located hill station in British India is Darjeeling at 9,000 feet and the lowest is Lonavala at 2,050 feet above sea level. In Ceylon Nuwara Eliya is located at an altitude of 6,128 feet. In Burma Maymyo is at a height of 3,510 feet and Kalaw is located at an elevation of 4,330 feet. In British Malaya Penang Hill is 2,000 feet above sea level, Maxwell’s Hill is 4,101 feet above sea level, Fraser's Hill is between 4,000 and 5,000 feet above sea level and Cameron Highlands is at a height of 4,921 feet. The size of the hill stations differ. In British India hill stations had a size between 4,08 square miles to 600 square miles. Simla had a size of 4,08 square miles to Ootacamund with a size of about 600 square miles. In Ceylon Nuwara Eliya had a size of about 5 square miles. In Burma Maymyo had a size of about 20 square miles. In British Malaya hill stations were quite small except for Cameron Highlands with a size of 275 square miles.

Hill stations were inhabited by Europeans. Some hill stations had the function of capital of the government of a country or specific area. Simla for the whole of British India, Mahabelishwar for Bombay or Ootacamund for Madras. Maymyo held that position for Mandalay in Burma. In British Malaya that function was held by Cameron Highlands for Kuala Lumpur. A hill station had all the characteristics, attractions and facilities of the home country. Climate, clubs, golf courses, racecourses, lakes, architecture (government buildings, country houses, bungalows and churches), botanical gardens, vegetation (plants and flowers) and life style. Almost everything in a hill station was a duplication of the home country. The architecture was in the British (pseudo-Tudor, Elizabethan Renaissance style, Victorian) or Swiss Gothic style and an important aspect of this duplication.
Bibliography


