

The Ilukvava terracotta figurines

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A significant aspect of the archaeology of the Sigiriya-Dambulla region is the existence, within the area, of three or four sites associated with 'primitive' or 'folk' terracottas, that enigmatic phenomenon that has drawn the attention of many archaeologists, but which has neither been investigated nor explained satisfactorily. One of the typical sites associated with these figurines is Ilukvava in the Kiri Oya basin, where P.E.P. Deraniyagala discovered and recorded the well-known Ilukvava collection (Deraniyagala 1957:G19) presently in the Archaeological Museum at Anuradhapura. The objective of the present report is to prepare a detailed catalogue and classification of this collection as a contribution to a better understanding of this phenomenon and to facilitate comparative studies.