

**The Social Archaeological Background, Opening by the Identical Symbolic  
Marks related to the Ancient Irrigation Builds of Sri Lanka**

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The ancient irrigation of Sri Lanka was a great factor for supporting to make the permanence of the dry zonal society of this country. According to the facts that can be taken from the literary and archaeological sources, this process, which was started by constructing small irrigation works for receiving water for Agriculture and other purposes by the native people who lived in the proto-historic period. While examining about these irrigation builds, it can be identified that there had been a generation of technicians and a leadership, who managed it. Important evidence related to this fact is the symbolic marks that could be seen reflecting some ancient irrigation builds.

The main purpose of this research is to conduct an investigation about the social archaeological background that can be opened through the different symbolic marks that was identified relating the ancient irrigation builds of Sri Lanka. As archaeological sources for this, the symbolic marks identified relating to the ruins of ancient irrigation builds and the facts from inscriptions and literature sources have been used.

There was an opportunity to identify many different symbolic marks applied on the rock lumps and rock boards that were used for ancient irrigation builds. While studying those symbols, it was clear that, among them, there were symbols equal to the symbolic marks used by people who lived following the related culture of different techno-cultural periods in Sri Lanka. It was able to identify, by the analysis, conducted comparing with these symbols, the continuous relationship had among societies and also the technical teams who took part in the creations.

***Key words:*** Ancient irrigation, Social archaeology, Symbolic marks, Techno cultural periods