

Sigiriya Paintings: Lesser Well Known Paintings at the Boulder Garden Area

Mr. Anura Manatunga, Senior Lecturer, Department of Archaeology,
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Abstract

Sigiriya is well known for its elegantly executed paintings found in two interconnected depressions designated as Painting Pockets A and B on the Western slope of the Sigiriya rock. There are twenty three female figures representing court ladies and their attendants, possibly for symbolizing *Apsaras* or water nymphs who pay homage to warrior king Kashyapa, the builder of Sigiriya.

Studies on Sigiriya paintings are widely based on these famous paintings, but there are a large number of paintings or fragments of painting work on the rock shelters at the boulder garden area of Sigiriya. These paintings are not much known, but should be studied for a better understanding of Sigiriya paintings, hence the present paper.

The following facts will be discussed in comparison with well known paintings of Sigiriya with lesser well known Boulder Garden paintings.

1. Sigiriya paintings are not confined to the Sigiriya rock.
2. Sigiriya paintings are not only female figures.
3. Sigiriya paintings represent various cultural phases.
4. Sigiriya paintings are different in technique, style and subject matter

An illustrated lecture of these lesser well known paintings, including newly discovered paintings by the present writer himself will be delivered.