

Art of writing and letterings during Pre-Buddhist Era in Sri Lanka**Kobbekaduwe. H. G. A. V. K. M. ¹**

When discussing about the history of the art of Writing of Ceylon it is not very famous that there had been evidence about the art of writing before the arrival of Arahant Mahinda thero (viz. before 03rd century A. D) according to archaeological sources. Such sources help to estimate that the art of writing in Sri Lanka has a long history which goes back to the period of time in which Aryan colonies were established in Sri Lanka, in the 05th century B.C. Instead of written sources like Mahawamsa, there had been much evidence such as, set of lettering inherent to Ceylon which was not found in set of Ashoka letterings, the different writing patterns of ancient inscriptions, etc. But new archaeological sources which were found in Anuradhapura Salgahawatta, Kantharodaya, Akurugoda, and Ibbankatuwa excavations from carbon 14 methodology which has been decided upon the chronological factors before the 05rd century B.C. interms of the evolusions of the letterings in the art of writing in Sri Lanka. Letters like 'ම, බ, ද, ක, භ, ඵ, ධ' are carved on clay plaques and clay pots were found from these excavations. Finally, it could be concluded that there had been the art of writing in Sri Lanka inexistence before the arrival of prince Wijaya and his followers and it was developed after 03rd century A.D. Archaeological information, related books were associated as sources for this study.

Key words: Art of writing of Ceylon, written sources, Archaeological sources, Arrival of Mahinda thero, Epigraphy.