

ESSAYS IN ARCHAEOLOGY:
IN HONOUR OF
PROFESSOR
SENAKE BANDARANAYAKE

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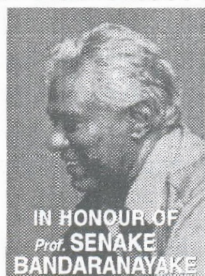
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Beyond Artifacts and Ecofacts :

A basic classification of material remains for Archaeological Purposes.¹

Anura Manatunga

Archaeology is essentially a subject based on material remains. Therefore, a meaningful classification of material remains should be adhered to by Archaeologists. The present paper is an attempt to introduce such a classification.

Every student of Archaeology has been taught for years that Archaeological entities could be divided into two groups; i.e. Artifacts and Ecofacts. Artifacts mean objects made or shaped by Man. Ecofacts are natural products formed without a human intervention, though they may have been used by Man. Thus, this is a division based on 'culture' and 'nature' in general.

Though this dichotomy is well known, it is illogical and inadequate for archaeological purposes. In fact, some archaeologists have already understood the inadequacy of this dichotomy and added one more division, that is 'features' as a separate entity. 'Features' in this case mean, all the other physical elements which have not been categorized as 'objects' either of Artifacts or Ecofacts.²

But this addition does not solve the problem. It has taken Artifacts and Ecofacts for granted and had just added 'features' to them. This does not question or justify the presence of Artifacts and