

THERMOLUMINESCENCE DATING OF BRICKS AND  
POTTERY OF 5TH CENTURY A.D. ROCK FORTRESS, SIGIRIYA.

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History of Sigiriya extends from about 3rd century B.C. 19th century. Historians divide this into several phases.

Under the UNESCO-Sri Lanka Cultural Triangle Programme, a large area around the Sigiriya Rock has been excavated. Among the archaeological finds unearthed in this area are ancient brick walls and a large amount of potsherds. In order to determine the age of these finds, Thermoluminescence Dating was carried out on three brick and two potsherd samples. In brick dating an interesting experimental condition is met, the environment is identical to the sample itself and constant during storage time. The ages thus obtained are given below:

Date S 1 (Brick)	1303 $\pm$ 43 A.D.
S 2 (Brick)	1026 $\pm$ 60 A.D.
S 3 (Brick)	1185 $\pm$ 50 A.D.
S 4 (Potsherd)	498 $\pm$ 78 A.D.
S 5 (Potsherd)	1132 $\pm$ 44 A.D.

The results show that samples 1,2,3 and 5 belong to the post Kasyapa phase while sample 4 belongs to Kasyapa phase.

#### References

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