Diverse archaeological materials coming from different parts of British Bengal have proved to be a major source of its history of the ancient and early mediaeval period. Numerous terracotta objects, forming chiefly the peoples' art, are among these surviving relics of the cultural past. Apart from their aesthetic import and the evolution of their technique and style in terms of time and space they are of immense value and interest to a social historian. In an unpretentious tiny object like a terracotta plaque he can catch a glimpse of a socio-cultural milieu of a lost world of the distant past.

In the following pages have been put forth the results of my five-year study of all known and hitherto unknown terracotta finds, both excavated and chance, from West Bengal and Bangladesh. In course of my investigation, I have examined all the terracottas preserved in different museums and private collections bearing on my subject of discourse, and the materials garnered therefrom have been arranged in chapters under different heads. Needless to add, they have been integrated with the corroborative evidence furnished by literary and other records.

The present study is spread over five chapters:

Chapter I : Historical and Geographical backgrounds.
Chapter II : Spatial distribution of main centres of early Bengal terracottas.
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