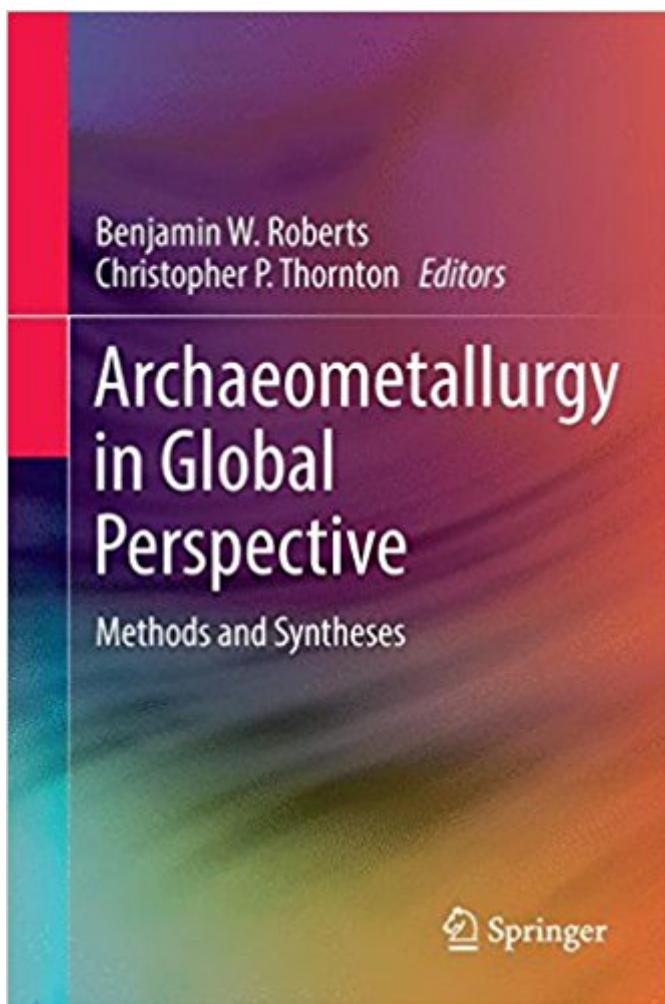


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# Archaeometallurgy In Global Perspective: Methods And Syntheses



## Synopsis

The study of ancient metals in their social and cultural contexts has been a topic of considerable interest in archaeology and ancient history for decades, partly due to the modern dependence on technology and man-made materials. The formal study of Archaeometallurgy began in the 1970s-1980s, and has seen a recent growth in techniques, data, and theoretical movements. This comprehensive sourcebook on Archaeometallurgy provides an overview of earlier research as well as a review of modern techniques, written in an approachable way. Covering an extensive range of archaeological time-periods and regions, this volume will be a valuable resource for those studying archaeology worldwide. It provides a clear, straightforward look at the available methodologies, including: Smelting processes Slag analysis Technical Ceramics Archaeology of Mining and Field Survey Ethnoarchaeology Chemical Analysis and Provenance Studies Conservation Studies With chapters focused on most geographic regions of Archaeometallurgical inquiry, researchers will find practical applications for metallurgical techniques in any area of their study. Ben Roberts is a specialist in the early metallurgy and later prehistoric archaeology of Europe. He was the Curator of the European Copper and Bronze Age collections at the British Museum between 2007 and 2012 and is now a Lecturer in Prehistoric Europe in the Department of Archaeology at the Durham University, UK. Chris Thornton is a specialist in the ancient metallurgy of the Middle East, combining anthropological theory with archaeometrical analysis to understand the development and diffusion of metallurgical technologies throughout Eurasia. He is currently a Consulting Scholar of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, where he received his PhD in 2009, and the Lead Program Officer of research grants at the National Geographic Society.

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“Benjamin Roberts and Christopher Thornton have brought together the right people to produce a superb book that will be of useful service for some decades. It deserves to become the standard text for a decade, while the first part, which should age more slowly, deserves to be even longer. Roberts and Thornton book is the more accessible and will probably have the greater shelf-life and influence.” (Rob A. Ixer, European Journal of Archaeology, Vol. 18 (3), 2015)

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Quite a lot of detail about numerous ancient production sites for metal production. Includes a range of metallurgical topics. Not for a general reader. Has excellent graphics displaying ancient sites and modern experimental reproductions and numerical data about compositions of alloys and precursor minerals. My own background is a college education in metallurgy and career in process engineering plus an interest in ancient technology as a part of the historical record (sorry no ancient astronauts, colliding planets, lost civilizations or reptilian overlords here). Topics range across extractive metallurgy, slag analysis, smelting sites and metal working processes. Ancient metals include copper, lead, tin, gold, silver and iron. This is millennia before modern alloys made from aluminum, titanium, even iron alloys were advanced in the form of steel. You will need some background in physical and chemical metallurgical topics for this material to make any sense. This is not an encyclopedia but its geographical scope picks areas from around the world. Humans didn't just get smart in the last fifty years, but have a long history of intelligence and creativity. The concept of metals in ancient times is so fundamental to human advancements that archaeologists used the nomenclature of stone, bronze and iron ages to roughly describe ancient human cultures.

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