



Ancient Metal Technology and Archaeology of South Asia

By D.P. Agrawal

Aryan Books International, New Delhi, India, 2000. Hardcover.

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The focus of the Book is primarily on the ancient metal

technology of South Asia but its not a technical treatise.

Archaeometallurgy has been situated in the matrix of archaeology. Such studies have a meaning only in the human Context of the past. The introductory chapter of the book

emphasises, by giving examples, what such technical studies

should aim at and what all one can glean about the past

through them. The main emphasis is on copper/bronze but other metals have been duly covered: silver, gold, tin, arsenic, lead, brass and iron. As more detailed work is available now for the Indus civilisation and its antecedent cultures, it has been

discussed in two detailed chapters. But the other chalcolithic cultures and the copper hoards have also been dealt with in adequate detail. The History of brass is quite polemical and it has therefore been given one full chapter. The chapter on iron

summarises all the relevant issues but one could not go into all the details, as it requires a book to itself. The Central Himalayan region has been shown to be equally...



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