

Bergbau und Metallurgie im antiken Sri Lanka

Mining and Metallurgy of Ancient Sri Lanka

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Schlüsselworte:

*Bergbaugeschichte
Erzlagerstätten
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Abstract:

In Sri Lanka Ancient chronicles (3 B.C. - 1800 A.D.) are well preserved in the University of Peradeniya Library. They are classified under following headings.

1. Ancient Literature (Sinhala)
2. Ancient texts (Sinhala)
3. Ancient Pali texts
4. Ancient Sanskrit texts
5. Rare Collections (Ola leaves books)

6. Museum Collection of coins.

The purpose of this study is to bring light, the data available in some of these texts for present and future mineral prospecting.

Data mentioned in ancient chronicles since 3rd B.C. are as follows, Metals and Alloys mentioned in Ancient chronicles. Metal mentioned by Ancient Explorers (MAGASTHENES, etc.). Metallurgists, mentioned in Ancient Chronicles: Mining and metallurgy techniques used.

Archaeological reports published by the Archaeology Department and UNESCO-Sri Lanka Culture Training Reports show that objects made out of variety, of metals were found during excavations .

It is concluded from this study that there had been thriving-house holding industry using metals and also to demarcate target areas for future explorations Ancient Sri-Lanka had their villages in close proximity to the metal mining sites (KARUNARATNE and DISSANAYAKE, 1990). The villages themselves were named after the metal being made. e.g. "Ran" (sinhala) gold; "Agara" (sinhala) -iron; "Tamba" (sinhala) -copper. These villages named are mentioned in Kadaimpot (Book gives district boundaries) written during 1341 A.D.

In most of these villages in Sri Lanka mineral deposits have been discovered by modern geological methods.

By using these village names the following mineral maps were able to be published.

Map 1. Iron mines in Ancient Sri Lanka

Map 2. Gold mines in Ancient Sri Lanka

Map 3. Copper mines in Ancient Sri Lanka

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