

## Erze, Hüttenmänner und Hüttenmännische Techniken in alten Chroniken von Sri Lanka (Ceylon)

**Metals, Metallurgists and  
Metallurgia Techniques  
Mentioned in  
Ancient Chronicles of  
Sri Lanka (Ceylon)**

**Металлы, металлурги и  
металлургические техники,  
упомянутых в древних  
хрониках в  
Шри Ланка**

Von / by

**W. M. A. A. KARUNARATNE<sup>10</sup>**

### Schlüsselworte

Aufbereitung  
Hüttenwesen (Geschichte)  
Montanarchäologie  
Sri Lanka (Ceylon)

### Zusammenfassung

There are literary and archaeological evidences to show that ancient Sri Lankans have been using metal alloys to make ornaments and statues starting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. until early decades of the nineteenth century A.D.

After the introduction of Buddhism in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. from India the village temple became the place of learning. In addition to religion, astronomy, mining methods, metallurgical techniques, art and medicine were taught in these temples. Early days learning was by verses committed to memory and were passed from generation to the next. In later periods they were written on treated tender leaf of Palmyrah, Palm (*Borassus flabellifer*) are known as *ola leaf books*.

Most of these books were written in Sanskrit and Pali languages and later period some of these books are translated to Sinhala language and English. Excellent collection of *ola leaf books* are available in the University of Peradeniya Library and Museums in Sri Lanka.

The purpose of this paper is to discuss

1. Metal extracting techniques
2. Techniques used by metallurgist to make alloys Art of making ornaments and statues.

From our studies we can conclude that small scale mining techniques were used to extract metals from ores. There were different groups of metallurgists eg. gold smiths, solver smiths, etc. who were specialized in different fields. These metallurgists have been passed their techniques by verses from generation to the next until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>10</sup> Anschrift des Verfassers:  
Department of Geology  
University of Peradeniya,  
Sri Lanka (Ceylon)

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Berichte der Geologischen Bundesanstalt](#)

Jahr/Year: 2000

Band/Volume: [52](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Karunaratne W.M.A.A.

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