

**Dr. Paul Craddock, Emeritus**  
**British Museum**  
**Department of Conservation, Documentation and Scientific Research**  
**Great Russel St, London WC1B 3DG**

Paul Craddock researched metals in the Department of Conservation, Documentation and Scientific Research and undertook authenticity investigations for many years before retirement from the British Museum in May 2005.

After graduating in chemistry at the University of Birmingham in 1966 he joined the British Museum as an analyst. He then studied prehistoric archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, London, and metallurgy at John Cass College, in East London, and went on to complete a PhD on the bronze metallurgy of the classical period.

Dr. Craddock continued to research in the technical study of archaeological and historical artefacts, but has specialised in all aspects of early mining, extractive metallurgy and metalworking. To this end he has worked on or conducted excavations and surveys at early mines and smelters around the world, including Bronze Age copper mines in Israel, King Croesus' gold refinery at Sardis in western Turkey, copper mines in Nigeria, Roman silver mines at Rio Tinto in southern Spain and in Serbia, zinc in India and China and crucible steel production sites in Central Asia and southern India. In addition he has recorded traditional processes such as the bidri wares of the Deccan of central India, and the manufacture of hot-forged high tin bronze vessels and bronze mirror in Kerala as well as the casting of large images at Swami Mali and other centres in Tamil Nadu in south India, and statuettes in Nepal. He has also recorded zinc distillation in China and blacksmithing in Nigeria. He has also been Secretary of the Early Mines Research Group since its foundation.

He has also been interested in all aspects of metalworking, including the methods by which metals were fabricated, especially the early history of lost wax casting and the surface treatment of metals. Part organising the British Museum' 1990 *Fake?* Exhibition led to a general interest in the whole subject of authenticity and more specifically in the scientific detection of fakes and forgeries.

He has a strong commitment to education and has taught Extra Mural classes on prehistoric archaeology and ancient technology for Birkbeck College, London University for many years. More recently he has been running courses of copper smelting experiments for Birkbeck's Master's degree course.

Through his career Dr Craddock has produced over 350 papers. Recent books include *Early Metal Mining and Production, 2,000 years of Zinc and Brass, King Croesus' Gold, Mining and Metal Production Through the Ages* and most recently *Scientific Investigation of Copies, Fakes and Forgeries*. He is currently completing books on Indian metallurgy.