

Geological Sources of Tin – Some New Approaches

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Nearly 40 years ago Jim Muhly raised the question of the source(s) of tin for the Bronze Age of the Near East and the Aegean. This question is still not answered, but very recent research suggests that (1) isotopic ratios of tin itself, and (2) isotopic ratios of trace lead in tin may allow us to distinguish between tin from different regions. In some cases the lead isotope signature of the tin may be conserved even after the tin is combined with copper to form bronze.