



Alok Kumar Kanungo, Editor. 2017. *Stone Beads of South and Southeast Asia: Archaeology, Ethnography and Global Connections*. Indian Institute of Technology Gandinagar and Aryan Books International: 444 pp., hardcover \$66.00.

This large format, well-printed and heavily illustrated volume is the result of a stone bead workshop held in 2015, organized by the editor. While most of the participants were from the Indian subcontinent, archaeologists from other Asian countries, Europe and the United States also were present, totaling ten countries and eighty attendees. Archaeological, ethnographic studies and the increasing importance of trade in antiquity of stone ornaments were addressed, with some degree of overlap among the articles. Because of the conservative nature of stone bead manufacturing, which is still ongoing in South Asia, it is possible to effectively compare ancient with historic and current production processes. With nondestructive elemental and isotopic analyses being extended to stone beads, this has led to widespread application of these methods to provenance raw stone sources.

The various authors cover from Neolithic Mehrgarh to present-day Khambhat, as well as stone beads used by the Nagas. Having written on various Naga tribes, I find this chapter short on content. Several chapters cover stone beads in historic literature. The most informative chapters are on processing of raw materials, production techniques, especially drilling, and ethnoarchaeological studies. Kenoyer's chapter on the history of stone beads in South Asia serves as a good summary. The ample and usually well-photographed images provide excellent identification for most south and southeast Asian stone beads, as well as the source stones and minerals for these beads. Current techniques for compositional analyses of stones and methods of studying drilling processes will inform both scientists and bead enthusiasts on how so much more information can now be extracted from beads.

Anyone working with stone beads will benefit from this compilation, especially archaeologists and serious students of beads. University and institutional libraries need to have this volume, which is a good value for the price.

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