



Ian Blanchard



## Mining, Metallurgy and Minting in the Middle Ages

Vol. 1  
Asiatic Supremacy,  
425–1125

The first of four volumes, which examine non-ferrous precious and base metal mining, metallurgy and minting in the Middle Ages, encompasses the history of these activities during the years 425–1125. It describes the shift in the focus of world precious metal production from the Western Roman Empire (~350), to the Sāsānid and Byzantine Empires (350–650) and Central Asia (480–930).

### CONTENT

- PART I:  
Gold Mining and Trade in the World  
of Islam
- PART II:  
Central Asian Supremacy:  
Mawara'n-nahr and the  
Semiryeche
- PART III:  
Central Asiatic Specie and European  
Silver Production

Central Asia dominated for almost half a millennium world precious and base metal production, before output collapsed and an industrial diaspora caused the foci of silver and gold production to shift to Europe and sub-Saharan Africa respectively (930–1125).

Mining activity in Central Asia (480–930) is examined in depth, as is also its impact on local society and the distribution of precious metals from there to China, India and South-east Asia, Asia Minor and, via the Trans-Pontine steppes, to Europe. It also explores the impact of this flow of Sassanid-Islamic silver and gold on European mining and monetary systems when that trade was at its height (560–930), and the response of the Europeans to the great “Silver Famine” occasioned by the collapse of Central Asian production (930–1125).

2001  
XIV, 550 p. with 18 illustrations,  
76 maps and 5 tables, hardcover  
€ 100,- / sFr 160,00  
ISBN 3-515-07958-0

Franz Steiner Verlag

P. O. Box 101061, D-70009 Stuttgart  
www.steiner-verlag.de, service@steiner-verlag.de  
phone: 0049-711-2582-0, fax: 0049-711-2582-390

You can order this title by post, fax, e-mail,  
or by phone. Please state author, title, ISBN  
and your address in your order.

Prices subject to change