

A 2500-2200 BC Date for the Arrival of Michigan Copper in Europe

(Los Millares, Andalucia, Spain, c.3,200-2,200 BC)
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Los Millares is a ruin of a Chalcolithic (Copper Age) town protected by several rings of fortified walls. It was an important smelting center, 12 miles from the coastal city Almeria on the SE corner of Spain. The site sits on a flat point of land, with dramatic cliffs down to

sites in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. On the hillside above the walls of the settlement, the site is known for "over 100" circular, chambered corbel-roofed tombs, called tholoi, some of which were found to have paint on the walls. They say there was a pottery factory, as

and shipped. Michigan float copper is 99.9% pure crystallized copper, but has some lumps of silver crystallized in it, called "halfbreed" copper. The vast quantity of float copper was unique in the world, and of extreme value. When the old miners' pits were deeply mined in the late 1800's, the copper was used to electrify America. Shiploads of Michigan float copper in the nearby harbor of Almeria would have changed the copper market, which we guess caused the closing of this smelting center.

Corroborating evidence is also coming from England. "In the English Lake District, stone axe factories date from 3650 BC. Stone axes continued to be made for 1500 years, but at 2500 BC with the introduction of bronze axes, production declined sharply, and ceased altogether by c. 2300 BC." (Bradley & Edmonds, *Interpreting the Axe Trade, Production and Exchange in Neolithic Britain*, Cambridge R. press, 1993).

When you are in the British Museum, read the placards on their beautiful Bronze Age axhead collection. One of them says, "the use of Bronze, previously found around the Mediterranean, suddenly exploded all over Europe after c.2500 BC."

In the Late Copper Age (2450 to 2250 BC) the first bell beakers appeared, a form of pottery that was produced henceforth on a large scale in the settlement. The site appears to have been finally abandoned around 2200 BC. ■

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Photo 1: What remains of one line of the defensive walls of the town of Los Millares. (Photo taken looking south, town to the left, tombs to the right. May, 2008)

now-dry rivers on both sides. Obviously the climate has dried up, from when the town was functioning. In back, the land rises to hilltops, with 13 trenched and walled ancient forts on them. The site was discovered in 1891. Recent excavations since 1978 have been supervised by Professor Arribas and Molina of the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology of the University of Granada. One of these archaeologists reportedly has spent his career convincing his profession that this was a megalithic copper smelting center, occupied for a millennium. We could see no green rock in the surrounding area, so we think rock for smelting must have been brought down the rivers from mine

there are quite a few pot shards scattered about.

The attached photos we took in 2007 show the remains of the town wall, and a smelting center. The site signs advise that the site was abandoned in c.2,200 BC. Our work on megalithic sites for the last 15 years has taught us that round-trip routes to and from America were found possible in 2500 BC (Ref.: How the Sun God Reached America, c.2500 BC). It is reasonable to suppose that by 200 or 300 years after the discovery, that the slabs of "float copper" flushed from their lava beds by the huge glaciers in Michigan could have been discovered, mined,



Photo 2: Remains of copper smelting building at Los Millares (Photo by authors, May, 2008)

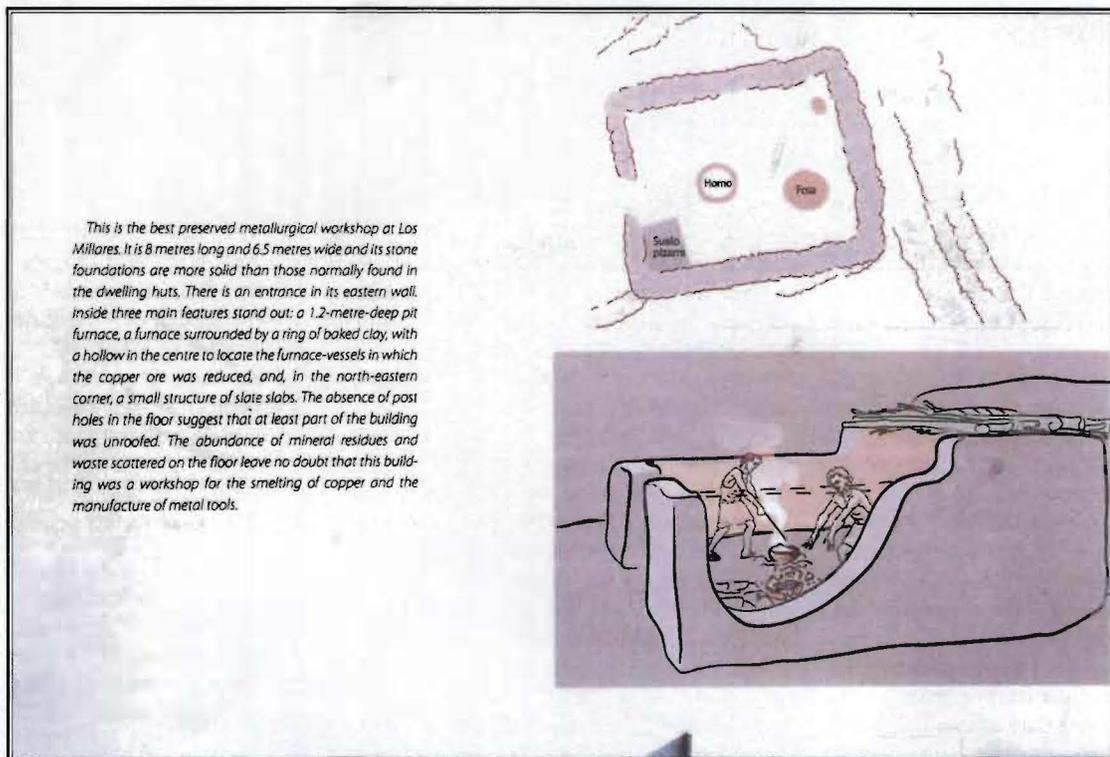
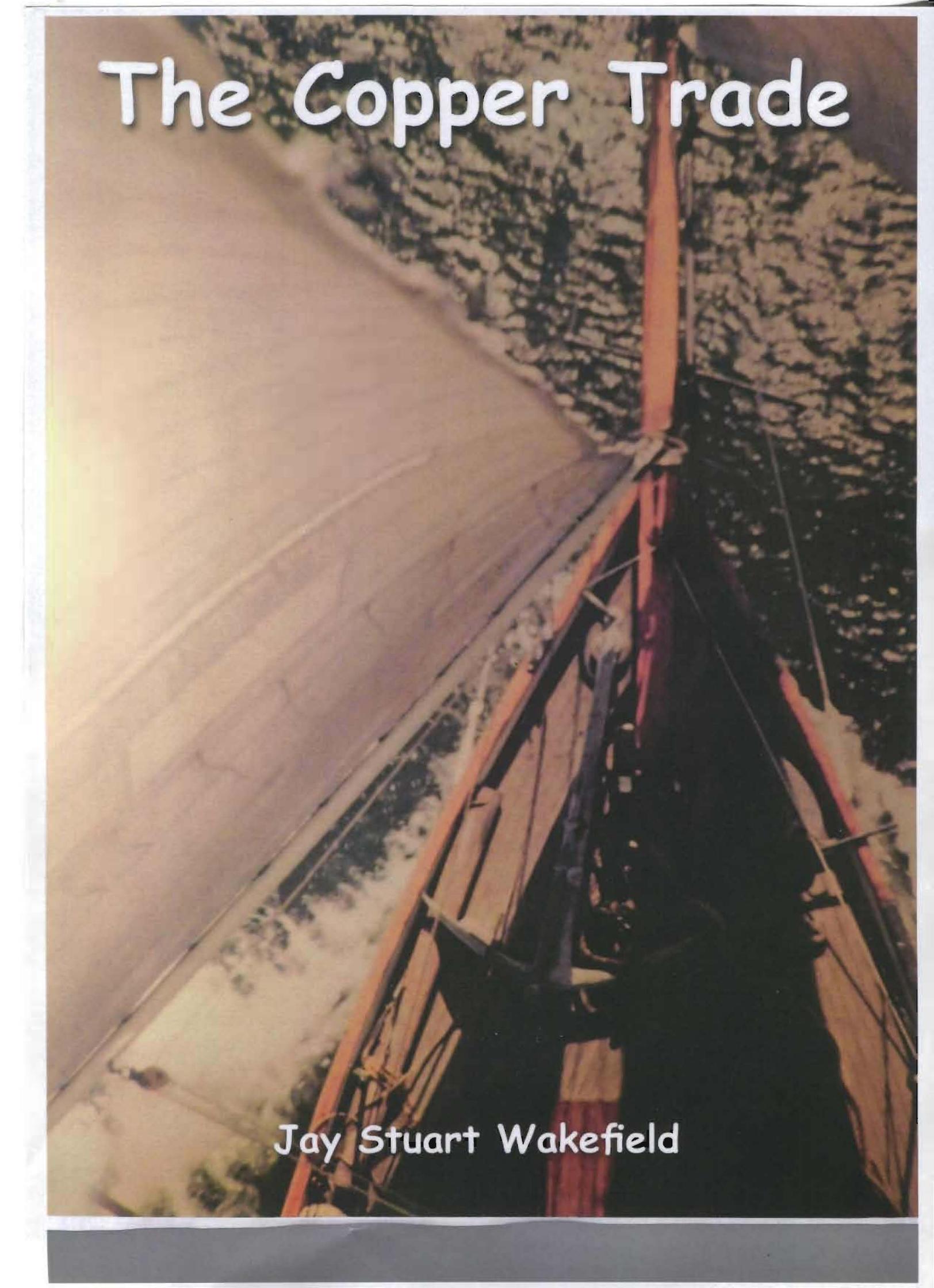


Photo 3: Close-up of the smelting sign (Photo by authors, May, 2008)

The Copper Trade



Jay Stuart Wakefield

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by Jay Stuart Wakefield

“Over and beyond mere living, the human Spirit adds and creates what is better than what was before” -R.Roefield



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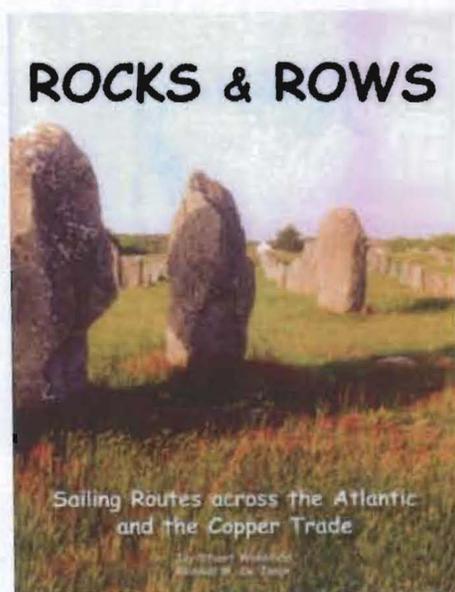
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Cover photo by Richard Holt Wakefield, Yacht Valhalla in Bahamian waters, 1946

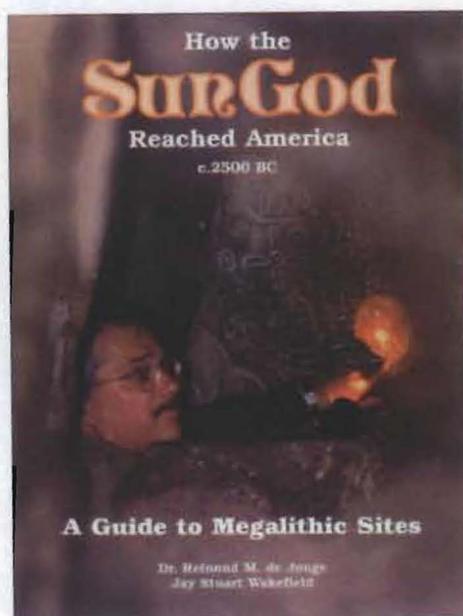
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