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James A. Mulholland

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A
HISTORY OF
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James A. Mulholland : History of Metals in Colonial America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised History of Metals in Colonial America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy T.A.S.Satisfied0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent for iron, poor for other metalsBy The Reviewer Formerly Known as Kurt JohnsonThis book starts with a quick look at metallurgy in pre-Columbian Central and South America, and the state of metallurgy in Europe prior to the founding of Jamestown in 1607. The book then goes into a history of metalworking in Colonial America, through to the end of the American Revolution.To a large extent, this book is a history of iron working in Colonial America. The author points out that no native sources of copper and other metals were found or developed.

Later in the book, though, a small amount of time is given to explaining colonial copper, silver, tin and pewter-smithing. However, as a history of iron working, this book is possibly without peer. It fully explains colonial era smelting and forging techniques, and explains their ramifications for the new country. Therefore, if you want a book on colonial iron working, you will find this to be an excellent book. If you are interested in colonial work in other metals, then you will probably be disappointed. I give this book a qualified recommendation.

The story of the introduction and growth of the technology of metals in the North American colonial period entails significant developments beyond the transfer of the technology from the Old World to the New. In the struggle to create an indigenous industry, in the efforts to encourage and support the work of metals craftsmen, in the defiance of British attempts to regulate manufacturing of metals, the colonial society developed a metals technology that became the basis for future industrial growth.

"Mulholland has welded a large amount of diverse information into a fine general account. Everything from mining and processing to handicrafts and technological transfer fit into a tightly bound narrative, and Mulholland's efforts to integrate the role of metals, particularly iron, into the overall development of colonial America is balanced and judicious."