

Conference
April 23th & 24th 2010

Iron metallurgy and African societies
Assessments and new paradigms
in the anthropological and archaeological research

colloque.fer.aix.2010@gmail.com

Organised by Bruno Martinelli and Caroline Robion-Brunner
With the collaboration of Jean-Marc Fabre and Rodrigue Guillon

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University of Provence

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University de Bourgogne

Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme
5 rue du Château de l'Horloge, 13094 Aix-en-Provence (France)

Scope of the conference

After two conferences focusing on the origins of iron metallurgy in Africa (Descoedres et al. eds. 2001 ; Bocoum ed. 2002-2004), it is indispensable to continue the discussion by now examining the role of iron in the formation and the transformation of past and present African societies.

The iron plays an essential role in the everyday life of the African traditional societies. At the same time long-lasting, malleable and conductible, iron is the best material to make agricultural tools necessary for the subsistence of populations based on the culture of cereal and to make weapons for the hunting and the war. The widespread adoption of the use of iron during the African protohistory led to major changes in the organization of human societies and management of their territory. The iron strengthens the armies as well as the productivity of agricultural

The human responses brought to the development of this industry are multiple on the African continent. How are these socioeconomic and technologic expressions? How can we understand them through archaeology and ethnology?

Sessions

The organizers of this conference want to place the accent on the role of iron in African societies by addressing:

- **the socio-economic organization and management of territory in the context of iron metallurgical activities,**
- **the technologic variability and style in iron metallurgy,**
- **the apprenticeship of the know-how in iron metallurgy.**

Language of the conference and speaking time

The official language of the conference will be French and English.

The oral presentations will be each of 20mn followed 15mn by discussion.

Key Dates colloque.fer.aix.2010@gmail.com

Deadline for submission of abstracts at: **November 16th 2009**

Abstracts should have a maximum length of 2500 marks. They should contain a brief description of the paper's topic, how it relates to the core subjects of the conference, a description of the research goals, the techniques used and the results obtained so far, and its interpretations.

Notification of acceptance or rejection : **December 15th 2009**

Deadline for submission of complete texts: **February 13th, 2010**

Deadline for registration: **February 13th, 2010**

Selected papers will be published.

Registration fees

The participants are informed that they have to find the financing of their participation in the colloquium (transport + registration fees; the hosting and the meals are taken care by the organizing team.

Participant : 100 euros

Students: 30 euros

Public : 50 euros