Traces of the past, unraveling the secrets of archaeology through chemistry

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Titre de la source
Traces of the past, unraveling the secrets of archaeology through chemistry

Éditeur/distributeur
Helix Books ; Addison-Wesley

Ville de l’éditeur / distributeur
Reading, Mass.

Pays de l’éditeur / distributeur
United States

Date de publication
1997

Collationnement
319 p.

ISBN
0-201-40928-3

Langue du texte
English

Mots clés anglais-sujet
- Archaeology - Methodology
- Archaeological chemistry

Résumé
Using cutting-edge scientific methods such as radiocarbon dating, DNA analysis, and elemental fingerprinting, acclaimed chemist Joseph Lambert expertly details the rich insights into ancient life
that chemistry alone can provide. He shows, for example, how investigators today can determine the
diet of prehistoric Europeans, the geographical origin of the marble in a Greek statue, or the reason
why the Liberty Bell cracked. He uses nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy to reconstruct
ancient trade routes, and X-ray diffraction, among other methods, to compare the color palettes of
the Mesopotamians and Egyptians (the latter were apparently much more flamboyant). He explains
how chemical analysis of DNA can be used to sort out human lineages and migratory patterns
demographic trends that affected, in turn, everything from language development to the spread of
disease.

Traces Of The Past has 20 ratings and 1 review. Benjamin said: Excellent treatment of where the fields of
Chemistry and Archaeology intersect. I give it ...

Where Stonehenge's giant bluestones come from? Was the fall of the Roman Empire hastened by lead poisoning? How did amber get from the Baltic to Belize? In exploring these and other historical enigmas, Joseph Lambert expertly details the rich insights into ancient life that chemistry alone can provide. Using cutting-edge scientific methods such as radiocarbon dating, DNA analysis, and elemental fingerprinting, acclaimed chemist Joseph Lambert expertly details the rich insights into ancient life that chemistry alone can provide. He shows, for example, how investigators today can deter