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### ANALYSIS REPORT OF METALLURGICAL MATERIALS FROM NGURUNI SITE, KILWA KISIWANI, SOUTHERN TANZANIA

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Metallurgical analysis of material excavated at Kilwa Kisiwani, south-eastern Tanzania, shows that iron was produced for local consumption and copper processed, probably for coinage issued by the Sultan at Husuni Kubwa.

L'analyse métallurgique du matériel excavé à Kilwa Kisiwani, dans le sud-est de la Tanzanie, montre qu'on produisait le fer pour la consommation locale et qu'on traitait le cuivre, probablement pour fabriquer des pièces de monnaie émises par le Sultan à Husuni Kubwa.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The history of metal working along the coast of East Africa is little known, despite the relatively better archaeological coverage of the area. This state of affairs has been attributed to several factors, the leading being the dearth of archaeometallurgists working in the area (Mapunda 2002). Often metallurgical analyses appear as appendices to archaeological reports, rather than as reports in their own right. It is only recently that some works specifically on coastal metallurgy have been forthcoming (see e.g. Klein-Arendt 2000; Mapunda 2002). Nonetheless, two problems are still apparent. First, there is very little research done along the coast which focuses specifically upon metallurgy. Often the information we have on metal working results from either broad perspective research (e.g. the discovery of Limbo, the Early iron working site, Schmidt et al. 1992) or research aimed at studying other materials (e.g. pottery) where metallurgical relics appear by chance (e.g. the information presented in this paper). But these and other studies (e.g. Kusimba 1993, Kusimba et al. 1994) demonstrate that the coast abounds with evidence of metal working. Second, up till now metallurgical research along the coast has been biased towards iron production. Other metals such as copper and gold which according to the archival record, featured prominently in the political and economic history of the coast, especially the time of Swahili Civilization (8th - 15th century AD) have been neglected. We are thus missing a crucial component of the history of this region.

This paper addresses some of these issues using data collected by the second author in early 2005 at Nguruni site, Kilwa Kisiwani, southeastern Tanzania (see Chami, this volume). Principally, it is an analysis report of metallurgical relics. The discovery of so rich a collection of metallurgical remains at Kilwa suggests that the coast still has many more sites remaining to be discovered.