

Metals in Mandara Mountains Society and Culture – the ebook

Metals in Mandara Mountains Society and Culture was published by the Africa World Press and ready to ship in May 2012. However when I received my editor's copies in late August I found that, while the production was generally of high quality, not only were about 15 blotched and/or blurred illustrations quite unacceptable but different copies showed two patterns of such imperfections. I complained to the publisher, stating that "I am sure that your and the press's commitment to excellence and innovation will not permit a book with these faults to be published under your imprint, quite apart from the irreparable damage it would do to the press's reputation." In mid-November 2012 the publisher wrote to me as follows, "After much agonizing about the Metals book, we have now decided to discard the existing copies and reprint the book at the earliest possible."

Almost two years passed during which the publisher made two unsuccessful attempts to find a printer who could produce acceptable work. At which point, rather than continue, I suggested to the authors of the work that we might offer it to MetalAfrica as an ebook to be distributed as they saw fit. MetalAfrica agreed. Accordingly I wrote to the publisher in early October 2014 stating that, "I am prepared to take responsibility for *MMM*'s printing and distribution entirely off your hands. The work will be reproduced from the final proofs ...

On 20 October 2014 I received the following letter,

Dear Prof, David;

This is to confirm per your letter of October 8, 2014 received by e-mail, that the rights and privileges of your edited publication, *Mandara Mountains Metals*, has effective immediately reverted to you and your colleagues in the volume.

In the meantime, we have agreed with your request that the camera ready galley presented to you on 02/12/2014, subsequently printed by us, and whose printed quality was unacceptable to you, can be used by you for reproduction with our logs and Isbn numbers in place for a period of five years. After the passage of the allotted time, the AWP logos and Isbn's will no longer be used, and the publication will be considered out of print for all purposes.

We wish you all the best in reproducing a book that meets your desired quality.

Please note that effective the signing of this letter, AWP will remove all links to the book as published by AWP, and for all purposes the book will be considered permanently out of stock in our records and that of our distribution and retail outlets.

Sincerely, Kassahun Checole, Publisher

I agreed to this on 18 December 2014, thereby opening the way for e-book distribution. The authors and I hope that you will find value in *Mandara Mountains Metals* and that those of you who can afford to do so will make a donation to MetalAfrica to support its documentation of the technology that, more than any other, produced the Africa of late pre-colonial times.

Nicholas David, editor *MMM*
15 January 2015

PostScript

Unfortunately, as of yet MetalAfrica has been unable to make the files available for download, therefore, and for the moment, I am making it available via the Sukur website.

ND 9 November, 2016