



Exhibits inside the recently opened Nehushtan Pavilion at the Haaretz Museum, Tel Aviv

## New pavilion tells story of mining in Bible lands

A new pavilion, exhibiting the archaeo-metallurgical finds of the Arabah Expedition over the past twenty years under the leadership of Professor Beno Rothenberg, has been opened at the Haaretz Museum in Tel Aviv.

Entering the building, which has been named the Nehushtan Pavilion, the visitor finds himself in an underground shaft-and-gallery system showing mining technologies from earliest Chalcolithic to Roman times in the Arabah, with special emphasis on the large-scale Egyptian mining in Timna in the 12th century BC.

Next, the visitor is confronted with a large transparency of the Timna Valley and the reconstruction of a copper-smelting camp with furnaces from the 4th millennium BC to Roman technology. Here also are samples of tools, raw materials, slag and metal ingots, all shown against a background of a smelting community at work as reflected by the Timna discoveries.

Technical details are available in a series of showcases demonstrating various types of tuyères, crucibles, moulds, copper ingots, and the complex logistics of sustaining an ancient mining industry in a vast desert area extending from Arabia to the Nile Delta and to Southern Palestine, including

the Negev, and to the shores of the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

Finally there is a section devoted to the Timna Mining Sanctuary, introduced by another large transparency, a model of the excavated site and reconstructions of its main phases – Chalcolithic, Egyptian, New Kingdom and Midianite. Here too are displayed some of the most important of the thousands of priceless objects which were found during excavation.

The Nehushtan Pavilion was officially opened on October 18 in the presence of the Mayor of Tel Aviv, Mr Shlomo Lahat.

The first major exhibition of archaeo-metallurgical discoveries in Bible lands was mounted at the British Museum in 1970-71 and created great interest in the archaeological world. The Tel Aviv exhibition follows a similar presentation.

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### Mining Magazine

The May 1983 issue of *Mining Magazine* includes a four-page illustrated article on the results of IAMS's investigations into the ancient metallurgy of the Huelva province of SW Spain. *Mining Magazine* is published at 15 Wilson Street, London EC2.