

A BRIEF HISTORY

Foundry & Forge

The **Smelting of Copper** is among the first written records in History, accomplished in Mesopotamia, the Cradle of Civilization. The process of casting copper alloys, Bronze and Brass, follows on the heels of the first smelting of copper .

In both of the alloys, bronze's and brass's, copper is the principal metal. The main addition to the mix, which traditionally which separates brass from bronze, is **brass is copper alloyed with zinc** and **bronze is copper alloyed with tin**.

There are countless variations to these alloys but, as the casting industry began to define itself, brass became the preferred alloy for bells, maritime and utilitarian objects.

Generally, brass objects are shined an aspect brought on by the zinc alloy which is an 'oily metal', in addition, these *brasses were almost always sand cast*, a process which sacrifices detail and intricacy for speed and cost of production, making brass ideal for useful and common objects..

Bronze alloys are cast-able as well and traditionally retain a finer detail. The method for casting most commonly used is known as *Lost Wax*. Bronzes are seldom polished, foundries preferring to patina or oxidize the object through a chemical reaction with the metal.