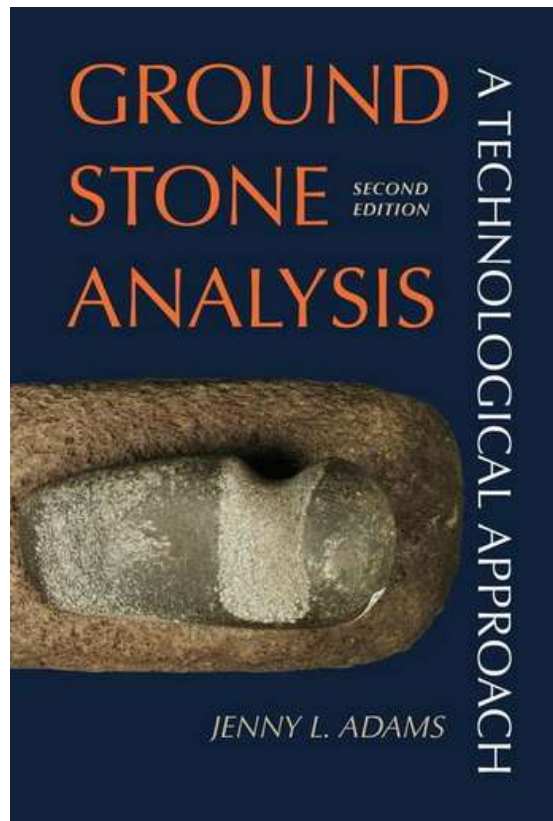


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# Book review: **Ground Stone Analysis. A Technological Approach**

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## **Ground Stone Analysis. A Technological Approach**

by Jenny L. Adams

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The second edition of *Ground Stone Analysis. A Technological Approach*, by Jenny L. Adams, provides an overview of the methodological and conceptual foundations for the study of this tool type. Originally published in 2002, this pioneer work became a turning point in the study of Ground Stone Tools (GST) which were relatively unknown area of material culture.

Ranging from meticulously crafted pieces to simple cobbles with scars of use, the GST has traditionally received little attention in both research papers and monographs. These artefacts have been modified during use and show signs such as impact marks, striations, abrasions, or polishing, which provide information about processes relevant to understanding human behaviour. This second edition includes a revision of the original manuscript, enhanced by an updated bibliography. The book is divided into two sections, the first of which is devoted to the principles and methodology that guide the study of these objects (3 chapters). While the second section brings together the technical and typological description of the main types of GST (9 chapters).

The first part of the book is devoted to the methodological foundations (*Part 1 - A foundation for research*) and is divided into 3 chapters. The first chapter (*The Groundwork*), introduces and defines the object of study, while also presenting a brief state of the art in the field. Chapter 2 (*Grinding Technology and Technological Analysis*) presents in detail the key elements for functional characterisation of grinding artefacts. It reflects on concepts such as wear and use-wear pattern analysis, as well as the description of wear kinetics. These analysis strategies allow the resolution of research questions on the tool life history of this type of objects. Chapter 3 (*Resources for Modelling Tool Use and Technological Behaviour*) succinctly presents complementary resources in the study of GST, such as graphic records, ethnography, and experimental research.

The second part of the book (*Part 2 - Artifact Descriptions*) is devoted to the description of the artefacts developed in nine chapters. The chapters provide detailed descriptions of the main types of GSTs, including morphological descriptions, technological notes, and archaeological and ethnographic examples. Throughout this section, the examples focus mainly on materials from North American Southwestern groups.

The tour begins with tools for abrading, smoothing, and polishing tools (chapter 4) and tools for grinding and pulverizing (chapter 5) with tools such as manos and metates, mortars or pitted stones. The next two chapters are aimed at thrusting percussion tools - including along with hammerstones and anvils as well as other tools such as pecking stones, choppers, or chisels (chapter 6) and hafted percussion tools (chapter 7). Then there are sections on spinning tools (chapter 8) and perforating, cutting, and scraping tools (chapter 9). The next section is devoted to objects that perform specific technological functions with tools such as loom weights, lighting stones, personal ornaments or figurines (chapter 10). This is followed by a section on various types of containers and vessels (chapter 11). Finally, the description of structural stones (chapter 12) refers to tools that were part of habitat structures, such as cooking stones or fire cracked rocks. This section offers graphical information on each of the types from both an archaeological and ethnological perspective. This part presents a good snapshot of the author's study scenario, but unfortunately the lack of detailed use-wear patterns for each category makes difficult to correlate these objects with parallels in other contexts.

The appendices (Appendix A to F) present a series of data sheets that offer a proposal for the analysis of tool attributes. The models provided allow basic information to be recorded for each type of object. These tables can be used as a basis for further analysis in future research. The glossary and the detailed indexes at the end of the book are particularly useful, as they facilitate quick and easy access to the contents of the book.

The book brings together the researcher's extensive experience in the study of GSTs and provide available tools for the analysis of this type of object, with a wealth of graphic material and tables that can be easily located using the corresponding indexes. This new edition joins

the growing number of publications devoted to this type of instrument over the last two decades. The text is clear, and the analytical approach presented provides a solid framework for the study of the GST for both students and researchers. The manuscript is structured in a way that makes it suitable both as a starting point for learning about this field and as a reference manual.

In short, the publication represents a milestone for the study of the GST in a panorama where systematic technological revisions of this group of objects are still marginal.