

Glass of the Bronze Age between the Alps and the Baltic Sea: Investigations on production and distribution of the oldest glass finds in Central Europe

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Summary

Glass beads from graves and settlements of the Middle to Late Bronze Age (14.-9. century BC) are the oldest glass products in the area between the Alps and the Baltic Sea. The rarity and the close connection to higher-than-average appointed graves show the exclusive and precious value of this material in that time. Bronze Age glass is poorly investigated in Germany, compared to an international standard. The project deals with archaeological and archaeometrical investigations on Bronze Age glass finds from Germany and adjacent regions, with the aim to get information about their forms, colours, time, find-context and distribution. Chemical analysis of major, trace and rare earth elements will give insight into the glass production and the recipes used, to get information about provenance and distribution of certain glass and organisation of glass production. Comparison with Bronze Age glass from other regions, i.e. Italy, will give information about possible trade at that time. The interdisciplinary approach will lead to knowledge about aspects of cultural history and manufacture history of glass in the Bronze Age.

Publications

Mildner, S., Falkenstein, F., Schmidt, J.-P., Schüssler, U. (2010): Materialanalytische Untersuchungen an ausgewählten Glasperlen des Hortfundes von Neustrelitz, Lkr. Mecklenburg-Strelitz. - Bodendenkmalpflege in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Jahrbuch 57, 43-63.