

A Scientific and Archaeological Investigation on Potash Glass Found in Ancient Japan

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Summary:

Potash glasses are considered to be unique in ancient Asia. We classified potash glasses found in Japan into two groups, Group PI and Group PII. Group PI, consisting of dark blue beads colored by cobalt, contains high CaO. On the other hand, Group PII consisting of light blue beads colored with copper contains high Al_2O_3 . However, some potash glass beads colored by different colorants have different compositional characteristics. In our recent research, we have found some new types of potash glass beads and reconsidered the compositional classification of potash glasses. Furthermore, we discuss the provenances of potash glass beads based on lead isotope ratios of colorants.

Keywords: potash glass , glass beads , chemical composition , colorants