Characterization of ancient Harappan faience bangles

Gilberto Artioli\textsuperscript{1}, Ivana Angelini\textsuperscript{2}, Massimo Vidale\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1}Geosciences, UNIPD, Padova, Italy, \textsuperscript{2}Dipartimento di Beni Culturali DBC, UNIPD, Padova, Italy

E-mail: gilberto.artioli@unipd.it

Several types of faience were produced by the Indus Valley civilizations during the Early (3300-2600 BC), Middle (2600-1900 BC), and Late Harappan (1900-1300 BC) periods [1], including faience, glassy faience, and glazed terra-cottas. A special kind of high-strength faience was manufactured by multiple-step grinding and fritting procedures [2] to produce wear-resistant bangles. Several fragments of such high-strength faience from Harappa and Moenjodaro were analysed by XRPD, SEM-EDS, and Raman spectroscopy in order to check for similar production techniques and starting raw materials between the two archaeological sites, and compare them to previous characterization [2]. The phase purity, the observed high amount of cristobalite, and the textural homogeneity of the samples agree with the proposed multiple fritting preparation procedure.


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