



# Combined Spectroscopic Analysis of Beads from the Tombs of Kindoki, Lower Congo Province (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Anastasia Rousaki<sup>1</sup>, Alessia Coccato<sup>2</sup>, Charlotte Verhaeghe<sup>2</sup>, Bernard-Olivier Clist<sup>3</sup>, Koen Bostoen<sup>3</sup>, Peter Vandenberghe<sup>2</sup>, and Luc Moens<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

Raman spectroscopy and X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis are commonly applied to archaeological objects as a fast and nondestructive way to characterize the materials. Here, micro-Raman spectroscopy and chemometrics on handheld XRF results were used to completely characterize beads found during archaeological excavations in the Congo. Metallic objects, organogenic materials, and glass beads were studied. Special attention was paid to the glassy materials, as they seem to be of European production. The matrix family and crystalline phases assemblage, as well as the results from principal components analysis on the elemental data, were used to define groups of beads of similar composition, and therefore probably of similar origin. This research project establishes the feasibility of this approach to archaeological glasses, and can be used to confirm and support the bead typologies used by archaeologists.

## Keywords

Micro-Raman spectroscopy, Handheld X-ray fluorescence, Chemometrics, Western Central-African beads, Colored glass, Archaeometry

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## Introduction

Glass beads are commonly found in archaeological contexts from all over the world.<sup>1</sup> Special attention has been drawn to glass beads found in Africa in order to quantify,<sup>2</sup> classify,<sup>3–9</sup> provenance,<sup>10,11</sup> and to evaluate the possibility of using them for dating purposes.<sup>12</sup> Northern American glass beads traded by the Europeans have been chemically studied and identified as European productions on the basis of analytical results.<sup>13,14</sup>

The materials studied here come from a Western Central African context and are on archaeological grounds likely to be of European origin. Excavations have been carried out since 2012 in the Lower Congo Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as part of the KongoKing project hosted by Ghent University.<sup>15,16</sup> The project is devoted to the study of the origins and early history of the Kongo kingdom through an interdisciplinary approach mainly involving archaeological and historical linguistics. The archaeological research has so far focused on

two hilltops, Kindoki and Ngongo Mbata, associated with the historical capitals of two of the kingdom's provinces, i.e., Nsundi and Mbata.

This article provides an in-depth study of glass beads excavated on the site of Kindoki (05°04'069 S; 15°01'403 E), situated some 10 km north-west from Kisantu, a small town on the National Road no. 1 between Kinshasa and Matadi and about 95 km as the crow flies south-west from Kinshasa. On this hilltop site, archaeological evidence has been uncovered for human settlement between the 14th and 19th centuries. Furthermore, a small

<sup>1</sup>Department of Analytical Chemistry, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

<sup>2</sup>Department of Archaeology, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

<sup>3</sup>Department of Languages and Cultures, KongoKing Research Group, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

## Corresponding author:

Anastasia Rousaki, Department of Analytical Chemistry, Ghent University, Krijgslaan 281, S12, B-9000 Ghent, Belgium.  
Email: [raman@ugent.be](mailto:raman@ugent.be)

cemetery of 11 tombs dated between the 18th and early 19th century has been fully excavated. In several tombs glass beads were found along with other material culture pointing to elite burials.<sup>17,18</sup>

In the cultural context of the Kongo kingdom, shell beads were used as personal adornment to symbolize fertility and femininity, as well as currency. Glass beads also had a strong link with magical rituals and with the display of social status. In more recent times, they were also used to symbolize femininity and as the main form of currency since 1858.<sup>12,13,18</sup> The beads excavated in the Lower Congo, similarly to other archaeological findings in Africa and North America, seem to be of European manufacture (Venice, Amsterdam, Bohemia, France, and Bavaria).<sup>18</sup>

The aim of the study is to characterize each type of bead from a chemical point of view so that a better understanding of the materials can be achieved. This information can then be used for comparison among the beads of the present study, and for comparison with the productions of known workshops. We aim to obtain a deeper insight on glass-making technology (glass type, formers and stabilizers, colorants, opacifiers, etc.) and to support the archaeological interpretation of the excavated materials. Special focus is given to the glass beads, as they represent the vast majority of the studied samples and were often used in trading.

The beads recovered were nondestructively analyzed to provide chemical evidence in support of archaeological theories. Moreover, the chemical characterization of trade beads is strictly connected and complementary to typological studies on the same manufactures,<sup>9,17</sup> which can dramatically improve our knowledge and understanding of large-scale processes, such as the production of glass beads in Europe, the introduction of these beads into African contexts, their circulation, and their use.

The proposed approach to the compositional question is nondestructive and multi-technique, as commonly chosen for the study of glassy materials.<sup>19–21</sup> The combination of molecular techniques, such as Raman spectroscopy, with one or more other mainly elemental techniques<sup>22–24</sup> is well-known for the study of glass archaeological artifacts, and is especially favored as it allows for the characterization of such materials in a nondestructive way.<sup>25</sup> Moreover, in the last decade, Raman spectroscopy proved successful as an elemental probe for glasses: different glass types can be easily recognized based on their spectrum<sup>26–28</sup> and valuable information on the network formers can be obtained via this vibrational spectroscopic technique.<sup>29,30</sup> This chemical information should be easily implemented into the existing beads description systems.<sup>6–9,17,31,32</sup> Moreover, the data extracted from handheld X-ray fluorescence (hXRF) spectra were processed with such chemometric techniques as principal component analysis (PCA). As a next step, the outcome of this clustering processing has been combined with Raman spectroscopy results.

## Experimental

### Samples

Of the 11 excavated tombs in the Kindoki burial site (Congo), four contained beads.<sup>18</sup> The majority of the excavated beads is made of glass. The colors observed in the set are white, blue, red, black, and transparent. Some metal objects and biogenic materials were also investigated. The sample names used for the discussion of the results correspond to published literature (Table I). Pictures of each type of bead (glass, biogenic materials, and metals) can be found as Supplementary Material for this paper (Table SI: a, b, c, d). All the measured samples came to our lab after being cleaned and consolidated.

### Instrumentation

*Micro-Raman Spectroscopy.* Raman spectra were recorded with a Bruker Optics Senterra dispersive Raman spectrometer coupled with a microscope. Point measurements were performed using a red diode laser (785 nm) and a green Nd:YAG laser (532 nm). Spectra were obtained in the range of 60–2750  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 80–2642  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for the 532 nm and the 785 nm laser, respectively, allowing the recording of both the Raman spectrum of glass and of the other mineral phases. The system uses a thermoelectrically cooled CCD detector, operating at  $-65^\circ\text{C}$ . The power of each laser is software controlled. The laser power was maximum 29.7 mW and 13.5 mW for the 785 nm laser and the 532 nm laser, respectively. The measured spot size was generally 10  $\mu\text{m}$  for the glass characterization, and 4 to 2  $\mu\text{m}$  for the inclusions. The spectra were recorded without any cleaning or polishing of the surface, as this was not allowed by the archaeologists. In some cases, broken beads were available, and the spectra were recorded on the less altered internal surface. The instrument is controlled by Bruker OPUS software. The measuring time, laser power, and number of accumulations were set to obtain a good signal-to-noise ratio. The collected Raman spectra were further processed in GRAMS (ThermoFisher Scientific). As regards the glass matrix characterization, a linear segment baseline was removed according to literature,<sup>23,29,30,33</sup> and the glass massifs were subjected to curve fitting in the same software, in order to allow for reproducible results and for comparison with published data.

*Handheld X-ray Fluorescence (hXRF) Analyses.* A commercial hXRF instrument (Olympus InnovX Delta) was used for elemental analysis of the beads. The measurements were conducted in air, inside a shielded chamber, and with the following conditions: tube voltage of 40 kV, tube current 79  $\mu\text{A}$ , silicon-drift detector (SDD) and measuring time of 300 s (live time). The Rh-target based X-ray source produces a polychromatic X-ray beam of  $5 \times 5 \text{ mm}^2$ . The instrument was connected to a portable computer, which

**Table 1.** Overview of the beads excavated at Mbanza Nsundi. For more information and the archaeological interpretation, see reference.<sup>18</sup> The samples characteristics are provided (provenance, shape, dimensions, and color).

	Amount	Type	Weight (g)	Measurements (mm)	Munsell color chart
<i>Tomb 8</i>					
Wound, ridged tube, dark blue beads	14	Kindoki type 1	10.16–15.98	Ø 16.5–18.4 L 22.1–29.4	7.5PB 2/5 dark blue
Wound, cylindrical, red-on-white beads	1140	Kindoki type 2	0.38–1.09	Ø 6.0–7.7 L 7.5–11.3	2.5R 3/10 ruby
Wound, oblate, yellowish white bead	1	Kindoki type 3	1.25	Ø 12.2 L 7.5	N9 white
Wound, oblate, dark blue bead	1	Kindoki type 4	1.38	Ø 11.3 L 8.2	7.5PB 2/5 dark blue
Blown, round, silvered beads	3	Kindoki type 5	0.25	Ø 10.5 L 12.5	
Copper bead	1	Kindoki type 6	0.44	Ø 4.5 L 4.9	2.5G 6/4 light almond green
Copper alloy hawk bells	32	Kindoki type 7	1.7–1.22	Ø 12.5–16.7 L 7.8–9.9	
<i>Pusula depauperata</i> shell beads	660			Small: L 10.7 W 9.1 H 6.7 Big: L 15.2 W 12.9 H 8.8	
<i>Timpanotonus fuscatus</i> shell bead	1				
<i>Tomb 11</i>					
Wound, cylindrical, red-on-white beads	268	Kindoki type 2	0.38–1.09	Ø 6.0–7.7 L 7.5–11.3	2.5R 3/10 ruby
<i>Pusula depauperata</i> shell beads	272				
<i>Tomb 9</i>					
Wound, round, white with blue floral inlay (blue decoration)	3	Kindoki types 8–9	0.56–0.74	Ø 6.8–7.1 L 7.2	5.0Y 9/2 pearl
Wound, round, white with blue floral inlay (incisions)	1	Kindoki types 8–9	0.57–0.69	Ø 5.7 L 6.1	N9,5 bright white
Wound, round, blue with floral inlay	2	Kindoki type 10	0.49	Ø 6.8–7.4 L 6.4–6.8	5.0PB 3/4 moonstone blue
Wound, round, dark blue with floral inlay	1	Kindoki type 11	0.46	Ø 7.7 L 8	7.5B 3/3 dark shadow blue
Wound, round, dark blue beads	2	Kindoki type 12	0.75–0.83	Ø 8.3–9.6 L 7.8–8.1	N9 white
Wound, drop-shaped, white with floral inlay	5	Kindoki type 13	0.58–0.78	Ø 6.6–7.0 L 6.3–6.8	N9.5 bright white
<i>Tomb 12</i>					
Wound, pentagonal-faceted, black beads	14	Kindoki type 15	0.17–0.24	Ø 4.9–5.1 L 5.9–6.1	10.0YR 4/1 lead gray
Wound, oblate, black bead	1	Kindoki type 16	0.2	Ø 5.9 L 3.5	N1 lamp black

(continued)

**Table 1.** Continued.

	Amount	Type	Weight (g)	Measurements (mm)	Munsell color chart
Drawn, round, navy blue, white stripes	1	Kindoki type 17	0.26	Ø 5.9 L 5.1	10.0B 2/4 dark navy
Beads of shell or coral	2	Kindoki type 18	0.01	Ø 1.7 L 2.2	

allowed controlling and monitoring of the actual XRF measurements remotely. To take into account the effect of sample shape and dimensions, multiple spectra were recorded on each measured bead. The spectra were analyzed with the “Analysis of X-ray spectra by iterative least squares” (AXIL) and microxrf2 software tools.<sup>34,35</sup> The contribution from the shielded chamber was measured, and it was concluded to be insignificant on the elemental analysis results. Only qualitative information can be obtained by these analyses,<sup>25,36</sup> which can be of help in a first screening of the samples, to establish groups of similar glasses.<sup>36</sup> The results of the spectra evaluation were collected in an Excel sheet, and then imported into IBM SPSS version 22.

*Chemometrical Analysis on hXRF Data.* The results of the spectra evaluation as obtained by AXIL<sup>34</sup> and microxrf2<sup>35</sup> programs were used for chemometrical calculations in SPSS Statistics 22 (IBM) software.<sup>37</sup> The Kindoki types 6 and 7 beads, which are metallic, the organogenic beads (*Pusula depauperata* and *Timpanotonus fuscatus* shells, as well as Kindoki type 18), and Kindoki type 5 beads, whose interior was coated with a silver-like layer, were excluded from chemometrical analysis and are treated as separate cases. The aim of the statistical analysis discussed in this paper is the clustering of glass beads on the basis of their hXRF spectrum and their correlation with the Raman grouping results on glass, in order to group the different origins of glass.

## Results and Discussion

The samples originate from a funerary site in the Congo, which was in use during the 18th and 19th centuries. Of the 11 excavated tombs, four contained beads. Of these tombs, two are attributed to women (nos. 8 and 11) and two to men (nos. 9 and 12). The amount of beads in the female graves is much higher than in the male ones, and shells are only found there.<sup>18</sup>

Overall, three types of samples can be recognized: metallic objects, biogenic materials as shells and ivory, and, finally, glass beads. The selected analytical techniques are suitable for the characterization of these samples.

### Metals

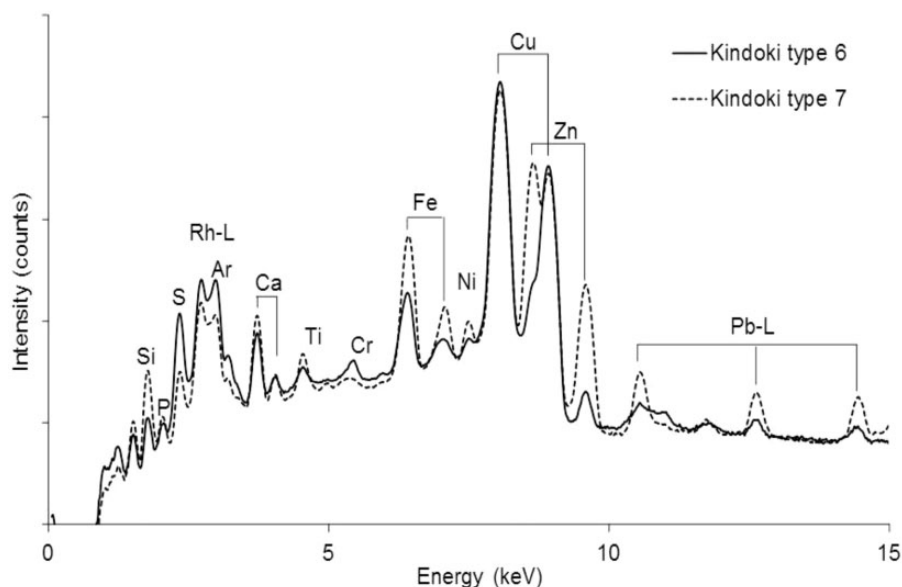
Raman spectroscopy is not applicable to metals<sup>38</sup> while, on the other hand, it is a powerful tool for the characterization

of corrosion products.<sup>39–41</sup> To characterize the metals and alloys, XRF is easily applied.<sup>42</sup> For the analyzed metallic objects, which show a strong corrosion, the information on the chemical composition is obtained from hXRF analysis. The penetration of the X-rays depends on the matrix of the sample. This technique allows us to evaluate the overall composition of the studied artifact, core, and corrosion products at the same time. The qualitative information from the X-ray spectrum shows a different composition for the copper bead (Kindoki type 6) and the copper alloy hawk bells (Kindoki type 7). The Kindoki type 6 bead is composed of Cu. Traces of other elements were also found in the corroded bead, such as Zn and Fe. The Kindoki type 7 bells consists of a Cu–Zn alloy, with a minor Fe and Ni content (Figure 1). Fe and Zn presence, is stronger for the copper alloy hawk bells than for the copper bead. The peaks of S and Cl are clearly visible, and are likely to be related with corrosion products formed on the surface of objects from burial environments (sulfates and chlorides, as well as phosphates and carbonates). It is important to keep in mind that the composition of an archaeological object is affected by burial.<sup>43</sup> Metallic ions can be leached from the surface and substituted by different cations, and different salts can be deposited on the surface from water in the soil.

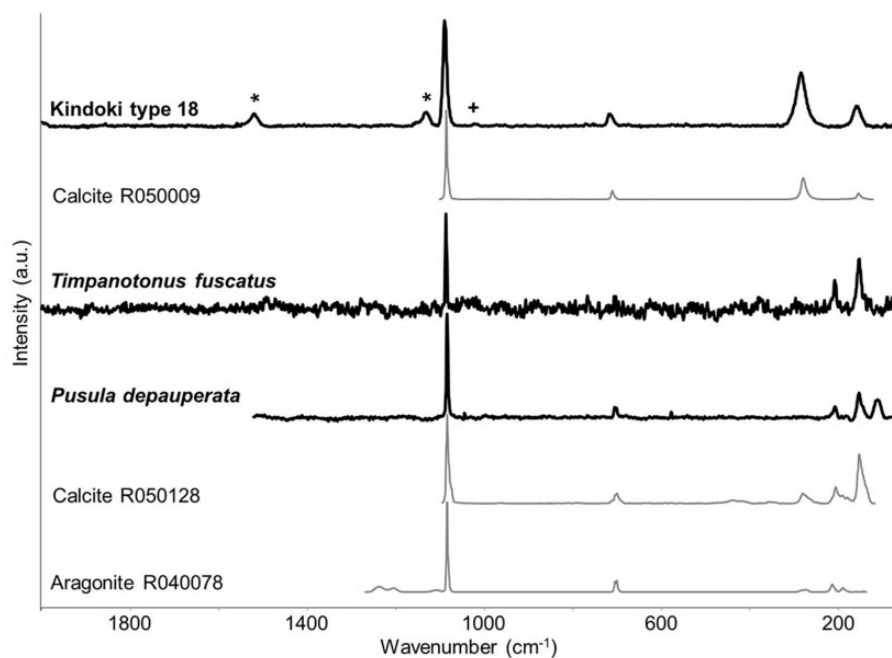
### Shells and Ivory

With regard to the biogenic materials, two species of shellfish were identified (*Pusula depauperata* and *Timpanotonus fuscatus*), and ivory was suggested as the constituent of the two minuscule beads (Kindoki type 18).<sup>18</sup> The cultural meaning of shell beads in daily life and in funerary rituals is described in another work.<sup>18</sup> Micro-Raman analysis, in general, can differentiate between the two main polymorphs of CaCO<sub>3</sub>, i.e., aragonite and calcite.<sup>44,45</sup>

In neither of the shells was it possible to distinguish between calcite and aragonite<sup>46</sup> (Figure 2). The carbonate structure in both cases was identified by the bands at approximately 1085, 706, 206, and 152 cm<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>47</sup> In a *Pusula depauperata* shell a band at 144 cm<sup>-1</sup> is attributed to anatase.<sup>48</sup> In the *Timpanotonus fuscatus* shell two bands at 3075 and 3050 cm<sup>-1</sup> were observed. These are likely to be ν(C–H) vibrations from organic molecules.<sup>49</sup> In fact, the application of different laser wavelengths and power together with weathering of the samples can shift the



**Figure 1.** Handheld XRF spectra from the metal objects, the Kindoki type 6 (copper bead) and Kindoki type 7 (copper alloy hawk bells).



**Figure 2.** Raman spectra of the biogenic materials. Raman spectrum of the supposedly ivory beads (Kindoki type 18), which are actually shell or coral. The broad bands marked with \* correspond to carotenoids and the band marked with + to anhydrite (CaSO<sub>4</sub>). Reference spectra are from RRUFF database.<sup>46</sup> Raman spectra of the shells *Timpanotonus fuscatus* and *Pusula depauperata* are also shown.

Raman bands, hampering the identification of the molecules. In both shells elemental analysis identified as major elements Ca along with minor ones, such as Fe, Mn, Co, Ni, and Ti, probably attributed to the burial

ground. In the *Timpanotonus fuscatus* shell Sr was also observed.

Moreover, the identification of ivory is feasible by Raman spectroscopy.<sup>50</sup> The detection of Ca and P together in the

hXRF spectrum of the beads of Kindoki type 18 are in agreement with the identification of the investigated material as ivory (hydroxyapatite  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$ ). Again, phosphate ions may come from the burial environment, and in this specific case, the extremely small size of the supposed ivory beads certainly influences the results of the hXRF analysis.<sup>36</sup> Therefore, the results of Raman measurements have to be taken into account. The spectrum, collected on a fresh surface, does not correspond to that of ivory,<sup>50</sup> while it shows the presence of calcite or aragonite (1088, 716, 283, and  $157\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), traces of anhydrite ( $1019\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), and bands of organic molecules (Figure 2), which rejects the suggestion of ivory and puts forward the hypothesis of shell or coral as the used raw material for these tiny beads. The position of the  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_3$  bands of carotenoids ( $1520$  and  $1130\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) suggest the presence of  $\beta$ -carotene.<sup>45,51</sup> The bands at 3051 and 3075 might be overtones from a carotenoid structure, which is not optimally excited due to the fact that this specific shell was measured with the 785 nm laser.<sup>44,45</sup> It is known that in general green lasers are the most preferable, due to resonance enhancement of the signal of carotenoids.<sup>44,45,51</sup> The traces of anhydrite found on Kindoki type 18 may originate from contamination from the burial ground or as degradation product from weathering. Elemental analysis revealed the existence of other elements such as Mg, Sr, and Zn, which may be associated with the high Ca content, and Cr, Fe, and Co, which may be contaminations from the burial environment.

## Glass

To characterize the glass matrix, Raman spectra were collected mainly using the green laser.<sup>33</sup> A typical Raman spectrum of glass shows two massifs corresponding to the silicate network vibrations, namely the bending vibration of the polymerized structure (centered at approximately  $500\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and stretching of Si–O bonds (centered at approximately  $1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).<sup>27,29,33</sup> As the vibrational properties of chemical bonds are affected by their chemical environment, it has to be expected that the insertion of network modifiers, fluxing agents, and stabilizers will affect the spectral parameters of glassy materials.<sup>52,53</sup> Actually, the replacement of  $\text{Si}^{4+}$  by other ions (alkali, alkali–earth, Pb, etc.) creates non-bridging oxygens (NBO) in the Si–O network.<sup>29</sup> This depolymerization also affects glass stability.<sup>29</sup> Moreover, silanol species are created on the surface of glass as result of cations leaching. The Si–OH vibrations are centered around  $980\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>54</sup> Table 2 summarizes the nomenclature of the silicate species according to the number of NBO.<sup>29,52,55,56</sup> Table 3 reviews the correlations between Raman spectral parameters and glass properties. Some of the most interesting parameters from the compositional point of view are easily obtainable by the baseline corrected Raman spectrum, such as the  $x_{\nu_{\text{max}}}$ <sup>22,28</sup> and  $x$

**Table 2.**  $Q^n$  notation used to describe the glass network.<sup>29,52,55,56</sup>

Notation	Species	NBO
$Q^4$	$\text{SiO}_2$	0
$Q^3$	$\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$	1
$Q^2$	$\text{SiO}_3$	2
$Q^1$	$\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$	3
$Q^0$	$\text{SiO}_4$	4

$\delta_{\text{max}}$ <sup>22,28,57</sup> positions. These maxima are useful for a first discrimination among glass types.<sup>28</sup>

Figure 3 shows the raw (top) and the baseline corrected Raman spectrum one (bottom): a segment baseline was subtracted, with fixed points at approximately 150, 700, 830, and  $1200\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>23,28</sup> The baseline corrected spectrum is then deconvoluted by using Gaussian curves (Figure 3): during this step, it is possible to identify the relative contribution of the different silicatic species  $Q^n$  to the glassy network. Moreover, it is possible to quantify the ratio between polymerized species, mainly contributing to the bending massif, with respect to the non-polymerized units, which can be related with the stretching massif. This ratio is well known as the polymerization index  $I_p$  and is calculated as the area ratio  $A_{500}/A_{1000}$ .<sup>23,27–29</sup> It has been demonstrated to be in relation with the firing temperature of the glass itself,<sup>23</sup> and it can be combined with the stretching and bending positions in order to have an idea on the glass chemistry.<sup>22,28</sup>

Moreover, it is known that the insertion of other cations than Si modifies the linking of the tetrahedral units, and that some cationic species are preferably found in relation with specific silicatic species, as for example divalent stabilizers which favor the formation of  $Q^2$  species, thus enhancing the contribution of the  $\nu Q^2$  band at approximately  $950\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to the stretching region.

Many studies of glass materials which combined Raman spectroscopy with elemental techniques succeeded in establishing compositional correlations.<sup>22,23,28–30</sup> Such a combination seems of primary importance, as some elements such as Ca and Pb are present both in the glass matrix and as colorants/opacifiers. Micro-Raman spectroscopy can easily distinguish between the two possibilities. However, quantitative elemental techniques are commonly applied such as X-ray based techniques,<sup>58</sup> instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA),<sup>13</sup> and laser-ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectroscopy (LA-ICP-MS).<sup>11,43</sup>

Correlations between the glass chemistry and the Raman parameters have been established for the amount of Si, of stabilizers and flux (alkali and earth alkali ions), and of lead, which may act either as a network modifier or as a former.<sup>30</sup> An overview of the chemical characterization of



**Table 3.** Overview of existing correlations between Raman vibrational features and chemical composition. The parameters are given for each measured bead.

Raman parameter	Attribution	1 (blue)	2 (red)	2 (white)	3 (white)	4 (blue)	5	8 (blue)	11 (blue)	12 (blue, corroded)	15 (black)	16 (black)	17 (blue)	17 (white)
$\times \delta_{\max}$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) <sup>22,28</sup>	Glass family	526	455	453	447	535	560	561	600	590	556	598	596	–
$\times \nu_{\max}$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) <sup>22,28</sup>	Glass family	1099	1078	1075	1097	1100	1096	1097	1087	1085	1049	1090	1087	1086
$\times \delta Q^3$ ( $550 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) <sup>29</sup>	SiO <sub>2</sub>	534	550	542	564	540	554	555	500	584	565	595	530	–
$\times \nu Q^3$ ( $1070 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) <sup>23,30</sup>	Pb	1098	1068	1071	1096	1100	1098	1086	1094	1089	1059	1103	1086	1084
$A \nu Q^2$ ( $990 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )/ $A_{1000}$ <sup>22,28</sup>	Glass family	0.31	0.12	0.20	0.27	–	–	0.14	0.01	0.05	0.10	0.32	0.34	0.36
$A_{500}/A_{1000}$ ( $I_p$ ) <sup>23,27–29</sup>	Firing T (flux)	0.77	0.67	0.80	2.28	1.54	0.98	0.69	0.60	1.37	0.54	0.80	1.75	3.72

the glass based on the Raman spectra through the above mentioned observations is summarized in Table 3.

Concerning the identification of the coloring agents, it has to be kept in mind that transition metal ions dispersed in a glassy matrix cannot be detected by means of Raman spectroscopy.<sup>33</sup> On the other hand, the optical properties of glass are related to the presence of crystals formed during the cooling process or to the dispersion of pigment granules.<sup>33</sup> Metal nanoparticles are also reported to be used as colorants for glass.<sup>33</sup>

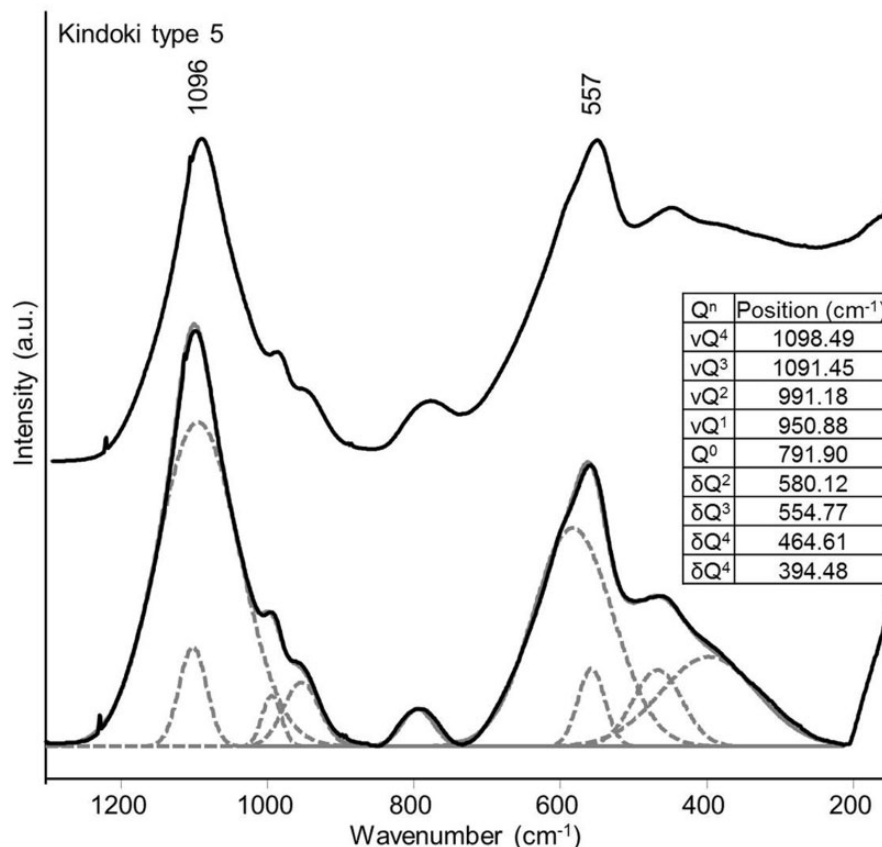
**Black Glass: Kindoki Types 15 and 16.** The black glass shows in both cases a purplish hue under the microscope light. This can be correlated to the presence of Mn.<sup>20</sup> The baseline corrected spectra, the band positions obtained after deconvolution, and the estimation of lead and stabilizers from the spectral parameters (see Table 3) all agree towards a mixed alkali composition for the glass, and a firing temperature slightly lower than 1000°C. Such a glass is expected to be stable<sup>29</sup> (see Figure 4, spectra a and b).

**Blue Glass: Kindoki Types 1, 4, 11, and 17; Blue Decoration on Kindoki Type 8.** Among the blue glasses, different Raman signatures can be observed. The blue bead Kindoki type 11 (with incisions; Figure 4, spectrum c) has a signature which is similar to that of the blue glass of the striped bead Kindoki type 17 (Figure 4, spectrum d). The band positions are compatible with a mixed alkali glass composition. The value of  $I_p$  combined with the maximum of the bending massif, suggests the use of Ca and K as fluxing and stabilizers in the glass.<sup>22</sup>

Another type of Raman spectrum is observed for the blue beads of Kindoki types 1 and 4 (Figure 4, spectrum f). In addition to the stretching and bending massifs ( $1100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the  $535 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , respectively), which suggest a mixed alkali composition,  $\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$  is identified on the basis of its main vibration at  $960 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>19</sup> It is likely that most of the calcium detected by hXRF is related to this compound, more than to its presence as a stabilizer inside the glass network.

These blue beads seem to have been produced in Germany (Fichtelgebirge, Bavaria; 18th–19th centuries), and were typically traded via Amsterdam and other ports to Africa.<sup>5,18</sup> Finally, the blue decoration present on some of the beads of Kindoki types 8 and 9 was analyzed. It showed a Raman spectrum whose maxima are 1097 and  $561 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , respectively, for the stretching and bending vibrations. No lead is expected in this type of glass.<sup>22,30</sup> Various independent parameters agree on a mixed alkali composition for this glass (see Table 3).

**Corroded Blue Glass: Kindoki Types 10 and 12.** These beads are strongly corroded. They both show a blue color under direct illumination. Kindoki type 10 bead presents incisions



**Figure 3.** Example of the spectral processing of Raman spectra of glass. First, the raw spectrum (top) is baseline corrected. The resulting spectrum is band deconvoluted using Gaussian curves. The band positions and assignments are given in the inset.

on its surface, where a decoration (now lost) was applied. Due to the thick corrosion crust, Raman spectroscopy was not able to identify the glassy structure.

One Raman spectrum was collected on the broken surface (less altered) of Kindoki type 12 bead. The stretching and bending maxima are at 1085 and 590  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Again, a mixed alkali composition is established based on different observations, such as  $\nu\text{Q}^2$  contribution and band positions.

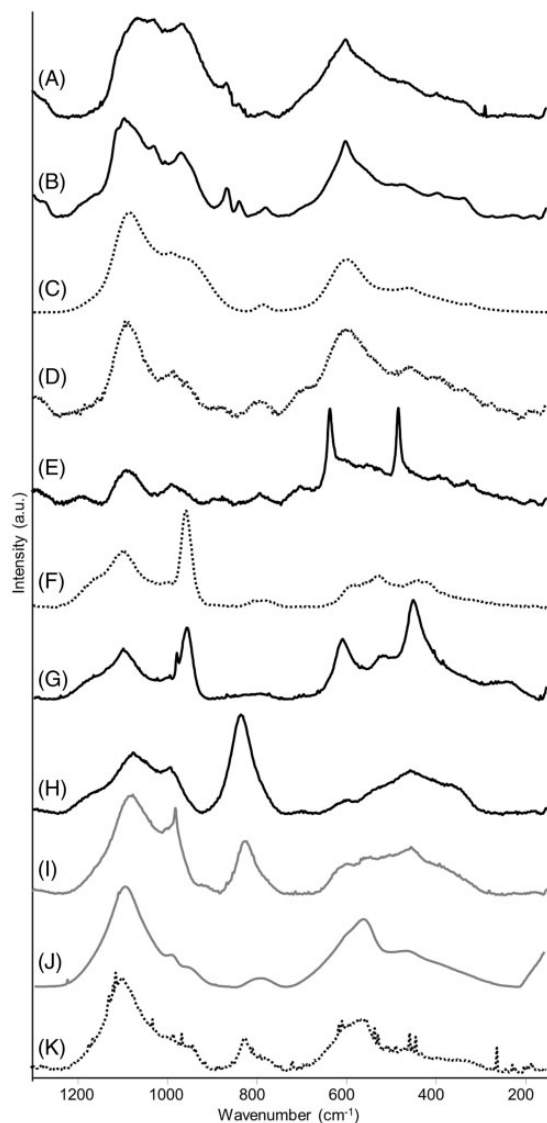
*White Glass: Kindoki Types, 2, 3, 8, 9, 13, and 17.* As already observed, different types of glass can be identified in the same color group. This applies to the blue beads (previously described) and to the white ones. The white core of the red-on-white beads (Kindoki type 2; Figure 4, spectrum h) shows the lowest observed value among the studied beads, for the stretching maximum position. It is known that lead affects the  $\nu\text{Q}^3$  position and the  $\nu\text{Q}^2$  relative area, and therefore in this case some lead has to be expected as a network modifier.<sup>30</sup> Moreover, the calculated  $I_p$  value is the lowest recorded among the samples, and it can confirm the presence of lead, as it was added in order to lower the firing temperature of the glass.<sup>28</sup> The bending maximum (452  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), again, supports a mixed Na–Pb composition.<sup>22</sup>

Moreover, the band of a lead-based opacifier is clearly visible (see next sections).

A different type of glass is found for the white glass bead Kindoki type 3 (Figure 4, spectrum g). The main band of  $\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$  is visible at 960  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,<sup>19</sup> in addition to the glass features. This bead type corresponds to other findings in the Congo and to beads in museums.<sup>5,18</sup> It was believed to be a product of Holland, but again it matches the Bavarian productions of Fichtelgebirge.<sup>18</sup> Moreover, additional bands overlapping with the bending massif are detected. The broad bands at 606 and 446  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  can be assigned to rutile.<sup>59</sup> The  $I_p$  value and  $\text{Q}^3$  band position indicate that the amount of Si in this bead is high (approximately 80%), and that the structure is well polymerized.

The opaque white glass (Kindoki types 8, 9, and 13) was tested with both the red and the green lasers of the instrument. All the Raman spectra showed the band of lead arsenate  $(\text{AsO}_4)_2\text{Pb}_3$  at approx. 824  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>60,61</sup> However, the spectra collected with the green laser are difficult to relate to a glassy material, as the baseline correction with segments, as described in the literature, is not straightforwardly applicable.<sup>23,28–30</sup> All the spectra of opaque white glass beads were acquired with the 785 nm laser. The spectra are dominated by an intense luminescence





**Figure 4.** Stack plot of representative Raman spectra of the distinguishable types of studied glass beads. Full lines indicates either black or white color of the glass, dashed lines are for the blue glass, full gray lines are used for the red and transparent glasses. (a) Kindoki type 15, black; (b) Kindoki type 16, black; (c) Kindoki type 11, blue; (d) Kindoki type 17, blue; (e) Kindoki type 17, white; (f) Kindoki type 1, blue; (g) Kindoki type 3, white; (h) Kindoki type 2, white; (i) Kindoki type 2, red; (j) Kindoki type 5, transparent; (k) Kindoki type 8–9, blue decoration.

feature centered at approximately  $1350\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>62</sup> The main Raman band of lead arsenate ( $(\text{AsO}_4)_2\text{Pb}_3$ ,  $823\text{ cm}^{-1}$ )<sup>60,61</sup> is also clearly visible, and characterizes all the spectra from this grouping. Also, a weak band at ca.  $767\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is attributable to borosilicatic features in the glass.<sup>63</sup> A downshift in the expected center of the bending envelope is observed. The stretching massif is composed of two bands at approximately  $1040$  and  $980\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Such band positions do not correspond to published values, probably because the

preferred wavelength for glass analysis is green or blue.<sup>27</sup> The interpretation of these spectra is therefore limited.

The white stripes on the Kindoki type 17 bead gave a Raman spectrum very similar to that from the blue glass of the same bead (Figure 4, spectra d and e), with superimposed the features of calcium antimonate ( $\text{Ca}_2\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_7$ ).<sup>20,22,24</sup> These, at  $630$  and  $480\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , make the interpretation of the Raman spectrum of glass not straightforward. However, the presence of lead can be excluded on the basis of the  $\nu\text{Q}^3$  band position.<sup>30</sup>

**Red Glass: Kindoki Type 2.** As already observed for the white glass of this same bead, a certain amount of lead can be present in the glassy network, as suggested by the slightly downshifted  $\nu\text{Q}^3$  band position ( $1086\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). The lead presence has an influence on the firing temperature of the glass, and therefore on the calculated  $I_P$  value, which is lower than for the other beads of mixed alkali composition. However, when comparing the value of the maximum of the bending massif with literature, the suggestion is made that the glass is based on sodium and lead.<sup>22</sup> The red and white glass from this typology are very similar, suggesting that the same glass was used to produce them, with different additives for obtaining the white and red colors (Figure 4, spectra h and i).

**Transparent Glass: Kindoki Type 5.** The blown beads of Kindoki type 5 show the signature of mixed alkali silicate glass (Figure 3 and Figure 4, spectrum j), with no lead in the silicatic network. The absence of lead explains the relatively high firing temperature value as obtained by the  $I_P$  value.<sup>23</sup>

The spectrum of this transparent glass can be anyway related to the blue decorations on Kindoki types 8 and 9 beads, which shows the band of lead arsenate<sup>64</sup> in addition to the glass related massifs (Figure 4, spectrum k).

Notwithstanding the chemical homogeneity of the glass, different groupings can be highlighted:

1. Black beads (Kindoki types 15 and 16) and blue bead Kindoki type 11
2. Kindoki type 17: the white and blue glasses share the same matrix, and colorants/opacifiers were likely added to the same glass recipe
3. Blue glass of decoration of Kindoki type 8–9 and transparent glass of Kindoki type 5
4. Kindoki types 1, 3, and 4 due to the presence of calcium phosphate. The two blue beads are similar to each other
5. The red and white glasses of Kindoki type 2 beads are similar, and might contain some Pb in the matrix as from the Raman spectral parameters

Representative spectra from each bead type are collected in Figure 4. All the studied samples belong to a mixed alkali glass family, with the exception of type 2, which probably contains some lead as well (on the basis of spectral parameters, see Table 3).

### Crystalline Phases of Glass, Opacifiers, and Coloring Agents

**Black Beads.** The main characteristics of these beads (Kindoki types 15 and 16) are the different phases of manganese oxides found with micro-Raman spectroscopy and Fe and Mn found from elemental analysis. The approximate Fe/Mn counts ratio in the two black glasses is 0.6 and 2.1, respectively. Specifically, for Kindoki type 15, bands at 657 and 630, 650, 636, 630  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  correspond to  $\alpha\text{-Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\alpha\text{-MnO}_3$  or  $\beta\text{-MnO}_2$  or  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\gamma\text{-Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ , respectively.<sup>65</sup> The bands at 648, 643, and 594  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  can be assigned to  $\text{MnO}$ .<sup>65</sup> Specifically, the band at 643  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  could be also attributed to spinel  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ <sup>60</sup> with actually a more dominant theory based on the color of the bead. The bands at 545 and 420  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  can be assigned to  $\text{MnO}$ <sup>65</sup> or magnetite<sup>66,67</sup> for the first one and magnetite for the second. A band at 432  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is attributed to  $\nu_2 \text{PO}_4^{3-}$  vibration mode.<sup>68</sup> The presence of Mn is also responsible for the purplish hue of the glass.<sup>11</sup> For Kindoki type 16, bands at 1732 and 1453  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  may imply the presence of a Ca-oxalate (Weddellite,  $\text{Ca}(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4) \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). This compound is likely to be a degradation product.<sup>69</sup> A band at 599  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is corresponding to  $\text{MnO}$ <sup>65</sup> and one at 141  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to anatase.<sup>48</sup> Two bands at 865 and 836  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are considered to be vibrations from silicates, namely olivine ( $\text{Mg,Fe}_2\text{SiO}_4$ ).<sup>70</sup> Elemental analysis revealed common elements for the two beads such as Ca, Ti, Mn, Fe, and Ni. Minor elements inside the Kindoki type 15 mixture could be considered Co, Cu, and Cr, with Co, Sr, Pb, and Zn for Kindoki type 16.

**Blue Beads.** Four types of beads are included in the group of blue beads, having shades from dark blue to navy blue (Kindoki types 1, 4, 11, and 17). The major characteristic of the blue beads is the presence of different phases of manganese oxides, identified by micro-Raman spectroscopy, which, together with Co, identified with hXRF, form the color of the artifacts. Specifically, on Kindoki type 1, bands at 545, 540, 537  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are attributed to  $\text{MnO}$  and a band at 526  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  corresponds to  $\beta\text{-MnO}_2$ .<sup>65</sup> Moreover an intense peak at 960  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu_1 \text{PO}_4$  vibration mode)<sup>33,68</sup> in combination with the amount of Ca found from the elemental analysis imply the existence of calcium phosphate ( $\beta\text{-Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ ), as opacifier. Bands at 150 and 140  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  correspond to feldspars (Ca-bearing plagioclase)<sup>66</sup> and anatase<sup>48</sup>, respectively. On Kindoki type 4, due to high luminescence, no manganese oxides were identified and it was only possible to retrieve one single band at 960  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu_1 \text{PO}_4$  vibration mode) probably indicating the presence of calcium phosphate ( $\beta\text{-Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ ).<sup>33,68</sup> From the elemental analysis on Kindoki type 1 and type 4, considerable amounts of Ca, P, Fe, Mn, Co, and Ni were found. Also, As and Bi were identified in the mixtures. The coloring agent for the dark blue color was probably Co along with Mn. The differences on minor elements for both beads

are Pb and Rb for Kindoki type 1 and Cr and Pb for Kindoki type 4. On Kindoki type 11, micro-Raman spectroscopy revealed a band at 544  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  attributed to  $\text{MnO}$ <sup>65</sup> or magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ).<sup>66</sup> On Kindoki type 17, a band around 960  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is attributed to  $\nu_1 \text{PO}_4$  vibration mode, probably again forms calcium phosphate ( $\beta\text{-Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ ).<sup>33,68</sup> Moreover, from the white stripes on the blue bead, calcium antimonate ( $\text{Ca}_2\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_7$ ) was identified as opacifier by the bands at 842, 634, and 480  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>20–22</sup> The orthorhombic phase of calcium antimonate is identified here according to spectra of synthetic products.<sup>20</sup> From the blue area, a band at 631  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  may be indicative of the presence of a phase of manganese oxide ( $\alpha\text{-Mn}_2\text{O}_3$  or  $\beta\text{-MnO}_2$  or  $\gamma\text{-Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ ).<sup>65</sup> Anatase was also identified inside the mixture by the band at 144  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . A band at 890  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is related to the symmetric stretching of tetrahedral silicate groups with one ( $\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5$ ), two ( $\text{SiO}_3$ ), three ( $\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7$ ), and four ( $\text{SiO}_4$ ) non-bridged oxygens<sup>52,55,56</sup> (see also Table 2). For Kindoki types 11 and 17, the major components in the mixtures are again Ca, Fe, Co, Mn, and Ni. On Kindoki type 11, the intensity of Mn is less than that of Fe, something that is reversed for Kindoki type 17. Other elements identified in the two beads are Ti, Cu, As, Sr, Pb, and Bi for Kindoki type 11 and Cu, As, Sr, and Sb for Kindoki type 17. Lastly, Co and Ni are much more correlating than the other elements on the blue beads. There is some published literature<sup>13,21,31,43,71–74</sup> (Table 4) indicating correlations between Co and other elements found in the mixture,

**Table 4.** Correlations of elements with Co and indications of the possible origin of the source mineral.

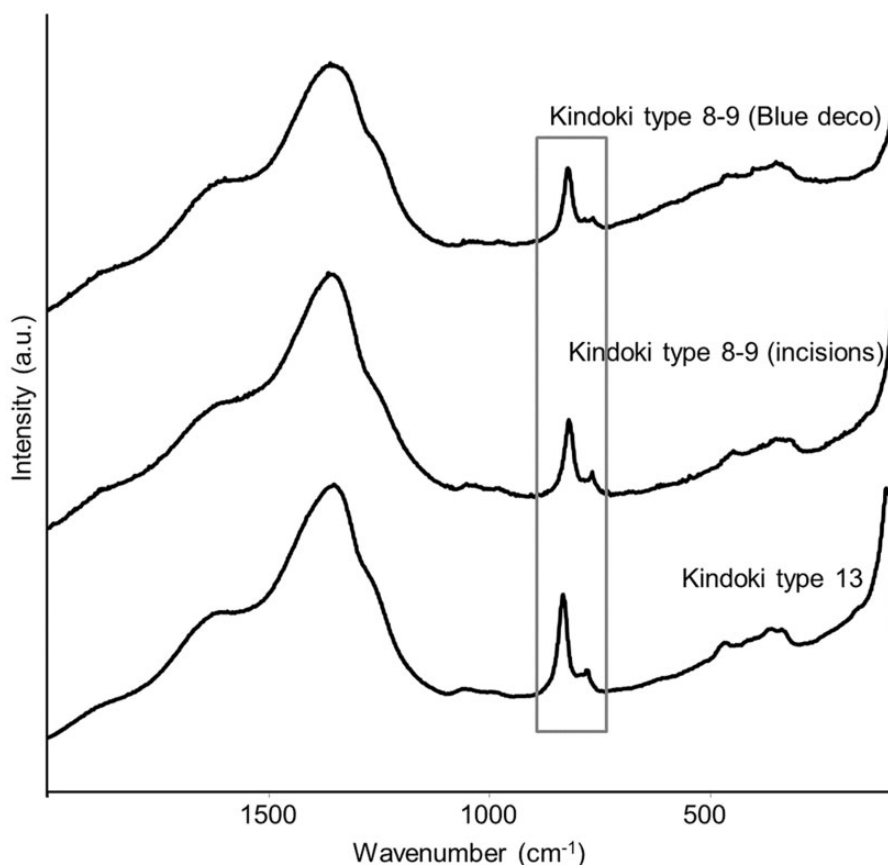
Correlations of Co with:	Co mineral provenance	Reference
As	Germany	13
Cu–Ni–Sn	–	21
Ni, As	Germany (Schneeberg)	31, 71
Mg, Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Pb, Sn, Sb	–	43
Fe, Cu, Pb, Sn, Zn	Levantine	71
As, Bi (Fe, Ni, Cu)	Germany (Erzgebirge)	72
Fe	–	72
Ni–Mo–Fe	Germany (Erzgebirge)	73
As–Ni–Bi–Mo–U–Fe	Germany (Schneeberg)	73
Zn–Pb–In–Fe	Germany (Freiberg)	73
Sb; Cu; Mn; Zn–Ni–Fe–Cr–As	Unknown (Near East?)	73
Mn, Ni, Zn	Africa (Egypt)	74

but no general conclusions can be made for the group of blue beads described in this paper.

**Corroded Blue Beads.** Kindoki types 10 and 12 beads belong initially to the blue beads group. Macroscopically they appear severely corroded so they are treated separately from the other blue beads. Different phases of manganese oxides were identified in the mixture of Kindoki type 10. Bands at 635, 592, and 529  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are attributed to  $\gamma\text{-Mn}_2\text{O}_3$  or  $\beta\text{-MnO}_2$ , MnO, and  $\beta\text{-MnO}_2$ , respectively.<sup>65</sup> Bands at 1150 and 202  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  correspond to  $\alpha\text{-quartz}$ .<sup>75</sup> Bands at 455, 398, and 143  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  can be interpreted in two ways on the basis of the literature: either the three bands correspond to bindheimite ( $\text{Pb}_2\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_7$ )<sup>22</sup> either to  $\alpha\text{-quartz}$ ,<sup>22</sup>  $\beta\text{-MnO}_2$ ,<sup>65</sup> and anatase.<sup>48</sup> Taking into account that the color of the bead is blue and that by elemental analysis the intensity of Pb and Sb is very low, the second indication for the band identification is more probable. X-rays found Ca, Mn, and Fe to be major elements. Co and Ni are also observed, and minor elements such as Cu, As, Sr, and P were also identified. The Kindoki type 12 bead was analyzed with Raman spectroscopy on the white (corroded) area and on the blue dark one. Cassiterite ( $\text{SnO}_2$ )<sup>76</sup> or

calcium antimonate ( $\text{CaSb}_2\text{O}_6$ )<sup>20,22</sup> was identified by the bands at 634 and 282  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The two compounds seem to have similar bands in this region and simultaneously to the absence of other bands it is difficult to assign the bands either to the one or the other compound. From the dark blue area, bands at 633, 625, 396, 390, and 381 are attributed to  $\gamma\text{-Mn}_2\text{O}_3$  or  $\beta\text{-MnO}_2$ ,  $\alpha\text{-MnO}_2$ ,  $\beta\text{-MnO}_2$ , and  $\alpha\text{-Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ , respectively.<sup>65</sup>  $\alpha\text{-quartz}$  was identified by the bands at approximately 404, 387, and 262  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>22</sup> Ca, Fe, Mn, Cu, Pb, and Bi were identified by elemental analysis.

**White Beads.** Three types of not corroded white glass beads were studied (Kindoki type 3, two beads from Kindoki types 8–9, one with blue decoration and one with incisions, and Kindoki type 13; see Figure 5). For Kindoki type 3, a band at 979  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is attributed to  $\beta\text{-Wollastonite}$  ( $\text{CaSiO}_3$ )<sup>33</sup> and one at 956  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  corresponds to the  $\nu_1$   $\text{PO}_4$  vibration mode.<sup>33,68</sup> The latter band, in combination with Ca found from the elemental analysis, imply the existence of calcium phosphate ( $\beta\text{-Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ ), probably used as opacifier.  $\alpha\text{-quartz}$  was identified by the bands at 358, 354, 181, 150  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ <sup>75</sup> and anatase by the



**Figure 5.** The signature of the lead arsenate ( $\text{Pb}_3\text{AsO}_n$ ) is clearly visible in all the Raman spectra of beads from this cluster, and might point out a similarity in origin.

band at  $142\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>48</sup> In addition to anatase, also rutile is identified by its strong features at  $606$  and  $448\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The transition between the two  $\text{TiO}_2$  phases is related to the firing temperature.<sup>59</sup> Two bands at  $554$  and  $550\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (doublet) probably correspond to  $\delta$  Si-O-Si  $Q^3$  vibrations from the alkali rich silicate.<sup>29</sup> Elemental analysis revealed the presence of P, Ca, Fe, As, Rb, and Sr. For Kindoki types 8–9, blue decoration on the bead, bands at  $822$  and  $427\text{ cm}^{-1}$  correspond to lead arsenate ( $\text{Pb}_3\text{AsO}_n$ ).<sup>60,61</sup> Moreover, the band at  $620\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may correspond either to  $\alpha$ - $\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_3$ <sup>65</sup> or  $\beta$ - $\text{MnO}_2$ ,<sup>48</sup> the band at  $615\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may imply the existence of magnetite<sup>67</sup> and at  $140\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is attributed to anatase.<sup>48</sup> A band at  $813\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which existed in all the spectra recorded from this bead, is attributed to the symmetric stretching  $\nu_1$  mode of the  $\text{AsO}_4^{3-}$  free ion, which coincides with the anti-symmetric stretching  $\nu_3$  mode.<sup>77</sup> A rather intense band at  $946\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is likely to correspond to the abundance of precipitated Ca-rich nanosilicates.<sup>22</sup> On the Kindoki types 8–9, with incisions, again lead arsenate ( $\text{Pb}_3\text{AsO}_n$ ) was identified by the bands at  $820$ ,  $600$ ,  $454$ , and  $341\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>60,61</sup> Bands at  $400$ ,  $374$ ,  $344\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $143\text{ cm}^{-1}$  correspond to  $\alpha$ -quartz<sup>22,78</sup> and anatase,<sup>48</sup> respectively. Bands at  $1728$ ,  $1634$ ,  $1605$ , and  $1453\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are attributed to a Ca-oxalate degradation product (weddelite or whewellite).<sup>69</sup> For the two beads, elements such as Ca, Fe, Ni, As, and Pb can be identified as major elements. At Kindoki types 8–9, with blue decoration, Co was also identified and it contributes to the blue decoration probably along with the manganese oxides. At the bead with the incisions from the same type, Sn was also found. At Kindoki type 13, again lead arsenate ( $\text{Pb}_3\text{AsO}_n$ ) was identified from the bands at  $820$ ,  $347$ , and  $321\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>60,61</sup> A band at  $452\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is attributed to  $\alpha$ -quartz.<sup>22</sup> The elements found in this bead are Ca, Fe, As, Pb, and Bi.

The elemental composition of the Kindoki type 3 bead seems to be different of the other three white glass ones. Molecularly, micro-Raman spectroscopy revealed the usage of different opacifiers for the Kindoki type 3 and the Kindoki types 8–9 and 13 beads.

**Red-on-White Beads.** The Kindoki type 2 beads are the only red glasses found in the tombs. Micro-Raman spectroscopy ( $785\text{ nm}$  excitation) revealed the existence of lead arsenate ions by the characteristic bands at  $863$  and  $836\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>64</sup> It is likely that the counter-ion is Pb and, as in the spectra collected with the other laser ( $532\text{ nm}$ ), the lead arsenate is identified on the basis of the band at  $824\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>62,79</sup> Again with the red laser, calcite (bands at  $1114$ ,  $1097$ , and  $745\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ),<sup>80</sup> phosphate ( $\nu_1$   $\text{PO}_4$  vibration mode at  $966\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ),<sup>33,68</sup> and MnO (approximately  $600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ )<sup>65</sup> were identified. Traces of Ca-oxalates are also present (approximately  $1450$  and  $1715\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).<sup>69</sup>

With the green laser, calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) was identified by the band at  $1085\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,<sup>48</sup> and  $\alpha$ -quartz by the bands at  $400$

and  $336\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>22</sup> The bands at  $960$  and  $451\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are attributed to anglesite  $\text{PbSO}_4$ <sup>81</sup> and that at  $141\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to anatase.<sup>48</sup>

Unfortunately, no compounds that could contribute to the red color were identified. Lead arsenate ( $\text{Pb}_3\text{AsO}_n$ ) is probably used as an opacifier of the white glass and calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) and anglesite ( $\text{PbSO}_4$ ) come from the altered white, yellow, and purple surface of the beads. From the elemental analysis Ca, Fe, Cu, As, Sn, Sb, and Pb were found. One of the most known ancient recipes for obtaining red glass was the combined use of copper and iron, usually in lead-rich matrix.<sup>22,82</sup> The red color was obtained by precipitation of copper compounds, in form of metal and/or oxide.<sup>82–84</sup> Iron was used for darkening the shade of the red glass and simultaneously as a flux for promoting the formation of coloring particles.<sup>85</sup> The lead containing glass of the Kindoki type 2 was probably colored in that way, though the Cu amount in the mixture is relatively low compared with iron and lead.

**Blown Silvered Beads.** These beads consist of clear glass coated on the interior with a metallic layer. Micro-Raman analysis on the glass revealed phosgenite ( $\text{Pb}_2\text{CO}_3\text{Cl}_2$ ) by the bands at  $1067$ ,  $269$ ,  $159$ , and  $126\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and cerussite ( $\text{PbCO}_3$ ) by the bands at  $1054$  and  $226\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>81</sup> A band at  $314\text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be attributed to fluorite ( $\text{CaF}_2$ ).<sup>22</sup> With hXRF it was not possible to obtain separate measurements from the metallic coating and the glass. The elements present in high intensity are Fe, As, Sn, Pb, and Bi. The coating is a silver-colored layer of Pb, probably in an alloy with Bi and Sn.<sup>18</sup> Other elements identified are Cu, Zn, and Cr.

An overview of the previously discussed results can be found in Table 5.

### Chemometrics on Glass Beads

Chemometrical methods were applied in order to differentiate between glass bead samples. PCA was used as a data extraction method that reduces the number of variables. These limited number of variables contain maximal variance.

Principal component analysis, performed on hXRF results, was used in order to find natural groupings, taking into account the most significant variables, without a priori knowledge of reference spectra and characteristics. During PCA, a new set of axes is constructed such that each principal component axis is orthogonal to the others and captures maximum variance over the spectra. On these principal components axes, every measurement can be described by its coordinates.<sup>86</sup> Principal component analysis starts from original correlated variables and by the use of eigenvalue-eigenvector matrix operations on the  $N \times m$  data matrix ( $N$  points in an  $m$ -dimensional hyper-space) produces new uncorrelated variables.<sup>87</sup>

**Table 5.** Overview of the results obtained by Raman spectroscopy and X-ray fluorescence analysis. The samples are ordered by color. Detailed explanation of the findings and Raman bands can be found in the corresponding paragraphs in the text.

Glass color	Sample	Glass	Crystalline phases of glass, opacifiers, and coloring agents	Major elements (hXRF)	Notes
Black	Kindoki type 15 (Tomb 12)	Mixed alkali	Mn and Fe oxides,	Ca, Ti, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu	Fe/Mn = 0.6
Black	Kindoki type 16 (Tomb 12)	Mixed alkali	Mn oxides, (Mg,Fe) <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub>	Ca, Ti, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Sr, Pb	Fe/Mn = 2.1
Blue	Kindoki type 1 (Tomb 8)	Mixed alkali	Ca <sub>3</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> , Mn phases, feldspars, TiO <sub>2</sub>	P; Ca, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Rb, As, Pb, Bi	Possibly German Co ore (see Table 4)
Blue	Kindoki type 4 (Tomb 8)	Mixed alkali	Ca <sub>3</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	P; Ca, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, As, Pb, Bi	Possibly German Co ore (see Table 4)
Blue	Kindoki type 11 (Tomb 9)	Mixed alkali (K, Ca)	MnO or Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	Ca, Ti, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, As, Sr, Pb, Bi	
Blue	Kindoki type 17 (Tomb 12)	Mixed alkali	Ca <sub>3</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> , Ca <sub>2</sub> Sb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> , Mn oxides, TiO <sub>2</sub>	Ca, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, As, Sr, Sb	
White stripes		Mixed alkali (K, Ca)	Ca <sub>2</sub> Sb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub>		
Blue, corroded	Kindoki type 10 (Tomb 9)	–	SnO <sub>2</sub> , Mn oxides, SiO <sub>2</sub> , TiO <sub>2</sub>	P; Ca, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, As, Sr	
Blue, corroded	Kindoki type 12 (Tomb 9)	Mixed alkali	Mn oxides, SiO <sub>2</sub> , TiO <sub>2</sub>	Ca, Ti, Mn, Fe, Co, As, Sr, Pb, Bi	Possibly German Co ore (see Table 4)
White	Kindoki types 8–9 (Tomb 9)	Borosilicate glass (?)	Pb <sub>3</sub> AsO <sub>n</sub> , SiO <sub>2</sub> , TiO <sub>2</sub> , Ca oxalates	Ca, Fe, Ni, As, Sn, Pb	Strong luminescence (785 nm)
Blue		Mixed alkali	Pb <sub>3</sub> AsO <sub>n</sub> , Mn and Fe oxides, TiO <sub>2</sub> , Ca-rich nanosilicates		In beads with blue decoration also Co was detected
White	Kindoki type 3 (Tomb 8)	Mixed alkali	Ca <sub>3</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> , CaSiO <sub>3</sub> , TiO <sub>2</sub> , Pb <sub>2</sub> SnO <sub>n</sub>	P; Ca, Ti, Fe, As, Rb, Sr	
White	Kindoki type 13 (Tomb 9)	Borosilicate glass (?)	Pb <sub>3</sub> AsO <sub>n</sub> , SiO <sub>2</sub>	Ca, Fe, As, Pb, Bi	Strong luminescence (785 nm)
White	Kindoki type 2 (Tomb 8 and 11)	Na–Pb glass	TiO <sub>2</sub> , SiO <sub>2</sub> , MnO, Pb <sub>3</sub> AsO <sub>n</sub> , Ca <sub>3</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> , PbSO <sub>4</sub> , CaCO <sub>3</sub> , oxalates	Ca, Fe, Cu, As, Sn, Sb, Pb	Ca/Pb arsenate
Red		Na–Pb glass			No clear origin of the red color
Transparent	Kindoki type 5 (Tomb 8)	Mixed alkali	Pb <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> , PbCO <sub>3</sub> , CaF <sub>2</sub>	Cr, Fe, Cu, Zn, As, Sn, Pb, Bi	Silver coloured metal coating (Pb, Sn, Bi)

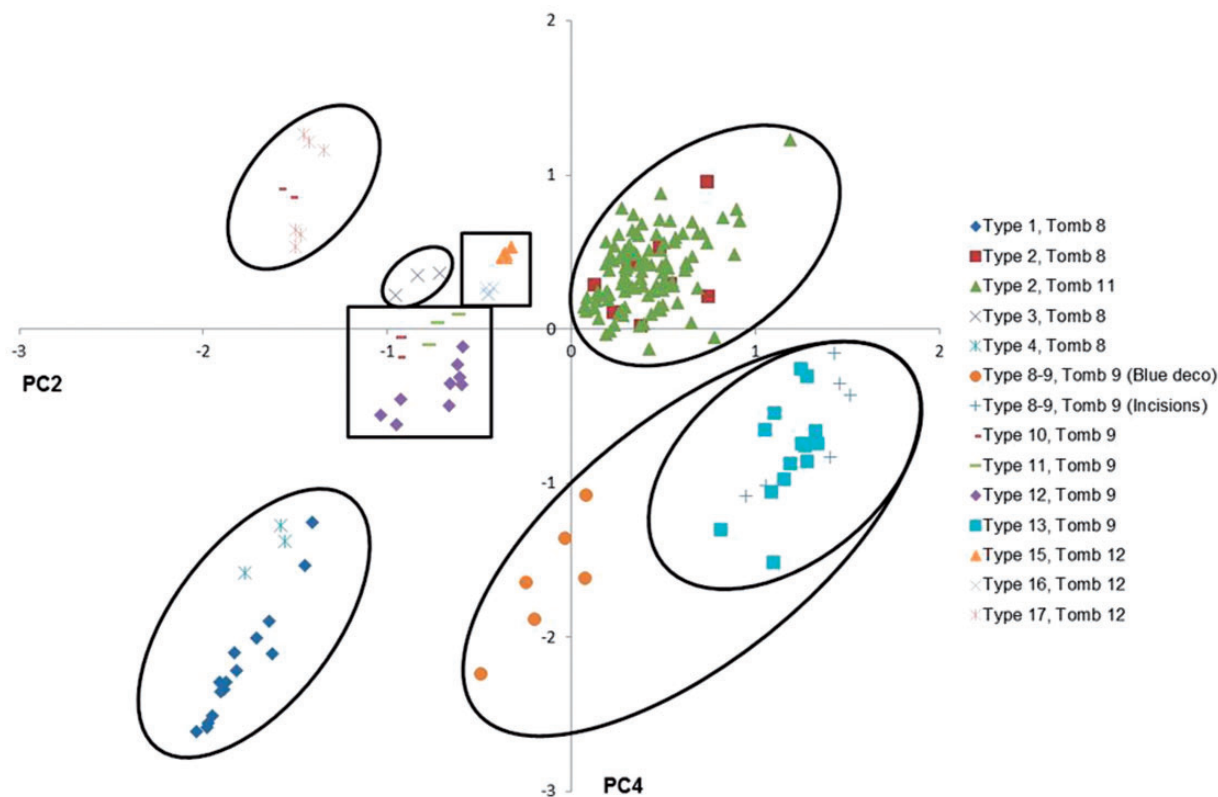


In order to perform PCA analysis, several steps were followed. This approach was applied on the hXRF results of glass beads in order to group them and compare the results with the micro-Raman glass identification grouping. All the beads were measured under similar conditions and the spectra were fitted with AXIL.<sup>34</sup> Unique fitting models were created for each bead separately. With these models, and the via microxf2 program,<sup>35</sup> the large number of spectra per type and tomb were analyzed. All the fitted hXRF spectra were collected, grouped per type and tomb, and normalized by iron. Insignificant elements for the analysis such as Cl, Ar (from the air), Rh (K and L lines, from the source), and Bi were excluded from the data set. No scaling was applied. Outlier labelling was performed via SPSS 22 (IBM). A  $g$  value of 2.2 was used for the calculation of the upper and lower limits (quartiles) of the Gaussian distribution, in order to exclude all the measurements that fall out of the this distribution for each element.<sup>88,89</sup> In literature,  $g = 1.5$  is also sometimes used, but it is proven to identify also measurements which are in the Gaussian distribution.<sup>90</sup>

After outlier labeling, the elements S, Rb, and Zr were excluded because they gave zero values for all the beads. In a next step, probability plots (P–P plots) were generated to check the remaining elements for normality. P–P plots indicate normal distribution of the data by plotting the

empirical data against a theoretical normal distribution. If the data are normally distributed, this will result in a straight line with positive slope.<sup>91</sup> The elements Mg, Al, P, and Zn were excluded. Cu and Mn were left out of the clustering because there are not core elements for glass and are present in certain types of beads. Ca and K were also excluded because they can be contamination from the burial environment and moreover Ca can also serve as an opacifier in selected types. Finally, PCA was performed, taking into account the following normally distributed elements: Si, Ti, V, Cr, Co, Ni, As, Sr (K lines), and Sb and Pb (L lines), with a fixed amount of factors equal to the elements used for the analysis. All possible matches of the principal components were tested and it was decided that the best grouping was performed by PC2 and PC4 (Figure S1 and Figure S2, Figure 6).

Principal component analysis was able to cluster each type of bead using 10 elements. As can be seen from Figure 6, beads from Kindoki type 2 (red-on-white) measured from two tombs (nos. 8 and 11) seem to have a chemical resemblance. Macroscopic observation, which was performed by the archaeologists, attributed these beads from the two tombs to one type, which is confirmed from chemometrics. This bead typology is also known as “Cornalina d’Aleppo”. It was likely produced in Venice and exported to Africa and America.<sup>3,5,7,18</sup> Kindoki type I



**Figure 6.** Score plot for PC2 and PC4. Each bead is demonstrated according to type and tomb.



(dark blue) and Kindoki type 4 (dark blue) beads seem to belong to the same group. It is clear from various independent factors that the glass is of the mixed alkali type, and that a calcium containing phase, such as bone white, has been added as insoluble crystals in the glass of these types. The similarity in the Raman spectra seems to correspond to a similar geographical origin.

Beads from Kindoki type 8–9 (opaque white, incisions) and Kindoki type 13 (opaque white) cluster together with Kindoki type 8–9 (opaque white, blue decorations). These three bead types have the same type of glass but Kindoki type 8–9 (opaque white, blue decorations) has a decorative layer of blue glass that distinguishes it from the other two. Kindoki type 3 (yellowish white) and Kindoki type 17 (navy blue with white stripes) represent two separate groups. Lastly, two clusters of beads are formed: by Kindoki type 11 (dark blue) and Kindoki type 12 (dark blue), and Kindoki type 15 (black) and Kindoki type 16 (black). Kindoki type 10 (blue) seems to belong to two groups, but the fact that it is highly corroded and not a lot of measurements were performed on it, allows its exclusion from these groups. Kindoki type 10 does not cluster with any group described before.

Grouping of glass performed by micro-Raman analysis demonstrated similar results. In this case, chemometrics of hXRF results and molecular characterization of the glass were able to group the glass beads successfully. Moreover, the clear results from the opacifiers found on Kindoki types 8–9 (white with blue decoration or incisions) and Kindoki type 13 (white with incisions) attribute these beads also to a single group, and probably to the same workshop.

## Conclusions

The combination of elemental and molecular information is necessary to understand the different components of the glass-based beads. The potential of Raman spectroscopy for discriminating between different types of glass is well known. Besides, the qualitative information from hXRF is valuable for the identification of chromophores and to cross-check the Raman results. The application of chemometrics is especially useful to characterize groups of beads.

As no data are published on Raman and hXRF analysis of beads from Western Africa or European beads production, it was difficult to make clear conclusions about the origin of these materials. However, it was possible to group them and to observe a good agreement between typological, chemical, and statistical analysis.

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## Conflict of Interest

The authors report there are no conflicts of interest.

## Supplemental Material

All supplemental material mentioned in the text, including four tables (Table S1 a, b, c and d) and two figures (Figure S1 and Figure S2), is available at <http://asp.sagepub.com/supplemental>.

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