

Invitation to contribute

to a specialised international book on prehistoric glass beads

Tiny, fragile, and colourful – yet often overlooked. Prehistoric glass beads remain under-recognised and underexplored. While scientific interest in these artefacts is rapidly increasing, the objects chosen for analysis have frequently not been thoroughly examined or classified from an archaeological perspective. Moreover, the questions raised by archaeologists are not always fully addressed by those engaged in chemical analyses.

Glass beads, like other forms of personal adornment – including all items worn on the body or clothing in a broader sense – played a significant communicative role within traditional costumes. They may have been selected according to age and gender, or used to signal wealth and prestige. Prehistoric glass beads are frequently viewed as imports that reflect wider cultural contacts. However, comparative material from the first and second millennia BC is frequently unavailable, due to a lack of published collections, incomplete documentation, or the absence of adequate illustrations or measurements.

This planned volume will provide a platform to explore all aspects of prehistoric and pre-roman glass beads from Europe and the wider Mediterranean World in a in-depth and comprehensive way. We invite specialists from various fields to present their findings and share current research on these glass objects. Our aim is to foster a better basis for future studies by offering a forum where contributors can present typological, chronological, and contextual analyses, as well as reconstruction of production processes, or notes on use, re-use, and social interpretation, supported by as many colour illustrations as necessary.

We welcome contributions that address the archaeological study of prehistoric glass beads, whether focused on new material, specific bead types, or their broader contexts. Additionally, we encourage submissions related to chemical analysis, provided that they deal questions of archaeological relevance. Possible topics include:

- Presentation of new or legacy finds and collections, complete with measurements and high-quality colour photographs.
- Studies on manufacturing techniques or their experimental reproduction.
- Archaeological examination of specific types of glass beads.
- Investigations into the use of glass beads in particular contexts.
- Interpretations of the social role of glass beads within their cultural settings.
- Chemical analyses that provide meaningful insights into archaeological questions.

The contributions will be published in a monograph, which will also be available as an open-access volume (potentially through Propyläen or Sidestone). All submissions will undergo peer review by the editors.

We invite contributors to submit material that has not yet been fully published or to explore under-discussed aspects of glass beads. Papers may be written in **English, French, Italian, or German**, and each submission should be accompanied by a detailed summary in one or two additional languages. Contributors are responsible for securing permissions for the publication of any illustrations, including for open-access purposes.

Please send your expressions of interest, including a provisional title and a brief summary of the proposed topic, by **1 December 2024** to us both.

We encourage you to share this invitation with colleagues who may be interested.

We would be very happy to receive your feedback,
with best wishes from Germany and Italy,

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