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Front Matter: Volume 8422

, "Front Matter: Volume 8422," Proc. SPIE 8422, Integrated Approaches to the Study of Historical Glass, 842201 (1 September 2012); doi: 10.1117/12.981689

Event: Integrated Approaches to the Study of Historical Glass - IAS12, 2012, Brussels, Belgium

PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

Integrated Approaches to the Study of Historical Glass - IAS12

Wendy Meulebroeck
Karin Nys
Dirk Vanclooster
Hugo Thienpont
Editors

16–17 April 2012
Brussels, Belgium

Sponsored by
NARNIA—EU FP7 PEOPLE 2010 ITN 265010 New Archaeological Research Network for
Integrating Approaches to Ancient Material Studies
B-PHOT—Brussels Photonics Team, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)
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B-PHOT—Brussels Photonics Team, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)
MARI—Mediterranean Archaeological Research Institute (Belgium)
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Published by
SPIE

Volume 8422

Proceedings of SPIE, 0277-786X, v. 8422

SPIE is an international society advancing an interdisciplinary approach to the science and application of light.

Integrated Approaches to the Study of Historical Glass - IAS12, edited by Wendy Meulebroeck,
Karin Nys, Dirk Vanclooster, Hugo Thienpont, Proc. of SPIE Vol. 8422, 842201
© 2012 SPIE · CCC code: 0277-786X/12/\$18 · doi: 10.1117/12.981689

Proc. of SPIE Vol. 8422 842201-1

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Author(s), "Title of Paper," in *Integrated Approaches to the Study of Historical Glass - IAS12*, edited by Wendy Meulebroeck, Karin Nys, Dirk Vanclooster, Hugo Thienpont, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 8422 (SPIE, Bellingham, WA, 2012) Article CID Number.

ISSN 0277-786X

ISBN 9780819491046

Published by

SPIE

P.O. Box 10, Bellingham, Washington 98227-0010 USA

Telephone +1 360 676 3290 (Pacific Time) · Fax +1 360 647 1445

SPIE.org

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Printed in the United States of America.

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Isotopic Analysis – ToF-SIMS – XRF and Other Techniques

Wendy Meulebroeck, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

Introduction

This Integrated Approaches to the Study of Historical Glass (IASHG) conference formed part of a workshop that was organized in the framework of the European funded Marie Curie Initial Training Network (People 2010 – 265010) with the acronym NARNIA (New Archaeological Research Network for Integrating Approaches to Ancient Material Studies). NARNIA is an interdisciplinary project, the main objective of which is to provide young researchers with the means to conduct research on Ancient Eastern Mediterranean material culture and to develop their analytical skills through a series of research and training activities.

The conference focused on methods and methodologies for the study, documentation and conservation of ancient glasses. Lectures targeted on studies where analytical tools and measurement techniques were applied to specific archaeological and art historical questions.

The program was divided in six sessions grouping the contributions in terms of the analysis technique that was used. The first two sessions emphasized techniques which are typically applied for elemental analysis (major glass composition + trace elements). These are Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectrometry (SEM-EDX), Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) and Electron Probe Microanalysis Wavelength Dispersion X-ray Spectrometry (EPMA-WDS). The two following sessions were devoted to optical analysis techniques: in session three Raman spectroscopy was the technique of interest, session four contained the contributions where absorption spectroscopy in the ultraviolet, the visible and the near-infrared part of the electromagnetic spectrum was used. Papers that were related to conservation and restoration aspects of historical glass were classified in the fifth session. A last session was devoted to the use of Isotopic Analysis, Time of Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (ToF-SIMS) and X-ray Fluorescence (XRF).

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