

Abstract:

Glass beads are small personal ornaments, which are occurring especially in funerary contexts. The aim of this work is to chart the distribution of glass bead types in northern Italy and to study their chronology. The secondary aim is to explore if there are any regional, chronological, or cultural specifics. To answer these questions the database of small glass personal ornaments in the north Italian Iron Age is set up. The majority of the corpus consists of undecorated glass beads, which do not show any specifics. On the contrary, some types of the decorated beads show obvious chronological development. The most evident is the development of beads with circular decoration, where it seems that the earliest were beads with simple circles, which were replaced in the 5th century BC by beads with stratified eyes. This type of bead is followed by beads with spiral decoration. Beads with spiral decoration together with beads with irregular lines are specific of the north Italian La Tène culture. Regional specifics have not been detected with a few exceptions: beads with coloured prunts and beads with the spots in simple circles are exclusive of Verucchio, while beads with prunts appear only in Adria.