

Kohl Faience Pot.



Provenance;

This Kohl faience pot was donated to Cyfarthfa Museum in the early 1900's by Major Harry Hartley Southey. Darker green areas around the waist and base suggest it was repaired. This may have been during the period of 'Egyptomania' in the 1900's when artefacts such as these were highly sought after and many items were repaired for lucrative sales. (Zinn, 2023). As such, assessing provenance of this and similar items is impossible.

Kohl, an Intrinsic part of daily life;

To protect from glare of sun.

To repel flies.

To enhance beauty.

(Szpakowska, 2008).



Kohl, Essential to the Funerary Sphere;

Included in grave assemblage for use in the afterlife.

Eye of Horus, symbol of rebirth.

Iconography, visible religion.

(Zinn, 2023).



Social context; The abundance of style and type of kohl pots reflect the social strata in Ancient Egypt. Although the quality and style varies immensely, evidence suggests that kohl is consistent in use for all social classes. (Lawrence, 2023).



Bibliography;

1. Item 313.004 Cyfarthfa Museum

2. <https://www.metmuseum.org>

3. Katharina Zinn, personal communication. (7.02.23).

4. Lawrence, L. (2023) 'Kohl, more than meets the eye.' Aramco World. pp.34-37. Volume 74. Number 1. Aramcoworld.com.

5. Szpakowska, K. (2008). Daily life in Ancient Egypt. Blackwell Publishing, U.K.

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