

Faience kohl container, object number: 313.004

By David Hinsull (21035221)



Taken by David Hinsull
23/1/2023

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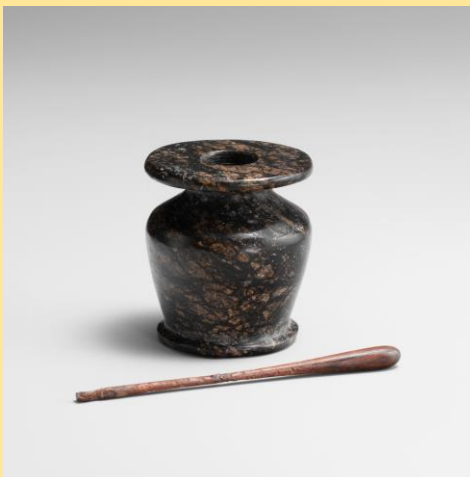
A kohl container was used to store the makeup kohl, which was a black or green powder that was applied to the eyebrows and eyelashes. Kohl became black during the dynastic period of Ancient Egypt. Even though kohl containers were used throughout the social hierarchy, the object we have was clearly used by someone wealthy as it was made from faience. Faience is made out of quartz, lime, alkaline salts and mineral-based colorants. The social value of the faience was determined by, geographical setting of production, the identity of the makers, the quality of the item produced and the identity of the end user. Furthermore, the amount of makeup people used was a way to distinguish the social hierarchy of Egyptians for example, peasants would use dry, red clay instead of green malachite and beeswax, which was applied to the eyelid and under the brow bone alongside the kohl.

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Kohl Jar of Hatnefer



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Experimental archaeology

We have experimented with the creation of kohl pots and have found out that they are hard to make into the correct shape and easily fall apart. The way we made them the correct shape was by making an indent with a finger and working around the finger to get the shape. However, historically they would have drilled the holes in the pot which were made out of materials such as wood, faience, or stone. Also, hopefully we will be able to see how the different techniques of applying Egyptian makeup created diverse outcomes. One thing I found out from my experience is that kohl sticks are quite wide and that a brush is easier to use. These images show the outcome of our two experimental archaeology projects.

Experimental Archaeology One



Taken by David Hinsull 26/1/2023



Taken by David Hinsull 27/1/2023

Experimental Archaeology Two



Taken by David Hinsull 29/1/2023



Taken by David Hinsull 29/1/2023