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ANTH 444:
Technology of Cultural Materials –
Ceramics and Glass
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Glass Annotated Bibliography
Topic: Roman Glass

Fleming, S. J. 1997. *Roman glass: reflections of everyday life.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

As an anthropologist, I found this work to be the most interesting one that I have read. It is concerned with the everyday use of glass in the Roman Empire. The author talks about glass's many uses and gives the reader a glimpse into the everyday life of glass during the Roman Empire. The work has engaging text as well as a wealth of pictures and illustrations that make it easy to understand.

Harden, D. B., H. Hellenkemper, K. Painter, and D. Whitehouse. 1987. *Glass of the Caesars.* Milan: Olivetti.

This work is encompassing. It breaks down all of Roman glass making into pre-blown glass technology and blown glass technology. Under each of these headings, the material is sectioned according to its manufacturing technology with each section containing a catalogue and an introductory text that describes the technique – its technology, history and use. Each of the images in the catalogue is accompanied by copious information.

Jackson, C. M., H. E. M. Cool, and E. C. W. Wager. 1998. The manufacture of glass in Roman York. *Journal of glass studies* 40: 55-61.

This article presents an overview of the evidence for glass production at York during its time as part of the Roman Empire. Unlike the traditional expectation of recycled glass manufacture, evidence from elemental analyses of glass on crucible fragments and of semi-reacted batch material shows that the glass manufactured at the site was most likely from raw materials and not cullet. The site might provide the first evidence for local production of window glass throughout the Roman Empire.

Jennings, S. 2000. Late Hellenistic and early Roman cast glass from the Souks excavation (BEY 006), Beirut, Lebanon. *Journal of glass studies* 42: 41-59.

This article is primarily concerned with distinguishing categories for glass finds discovered during archaeological digs at Beirut. Through the information presented in the article, the author tries to determine provenance for the objects. While the author is good at describing decoration in detail, she leaves out too much other important information, such as information from elemental analyses,

that would help her make her argument for local production of most of the objects without the discovery of manufacturing technology at the site.

Newby, M., and K. Painter, eds. 1991. *Roman glass: two centuries of art and invention (Occasional papers, 13).* London: The Society of Antiquaries of London.

This work is the publication of papers presented at a 1987 conference held in honor of Dr. Donald B. Harden. These papers include information pertaining to Roman "tablewares of the first century BC and the first century AD." Overall, the papers are quite comprehensive with helpful illustrations and photographs.

Pilosi, L., and M. T. Wypyski. 2002. Two Roman engraved glasses in the Metropoloitan Museum of Art. *Journal of glass studies* 44: 25-34.

This article reexamines two glass pieces from the Metropolitan Museum of Art collection that were claimed to be forgeries in a 1997 article by Beaudoin Caron. The authors, through elemental analyses and close examination of the engravings, determined both pieces to be genuine Roman glass, one later embellished by the addition of an engraved inscription. The argument is clear and easy to understand.

Scott, G. D. 1995. A study of the Lycurgus cup. *Journal of glass studies* 37: 51-64.

This article, as the title states, is a study of the Lycurgus cup, which focuses on possible blowing techniques and grinding techniques and technologies that were used to produce the piece. The author is unable to offer a conclusive evaluation of how exactly the blank used for this cage cup was produced although providing much information that could serve as clues. The author does however offer a detailed explanation of its cutting technology, including information from experimental work he has performed to try and reproduce the same effects.

Stern, E. M. 2001. *Roman, Byzantine, and early Medieval glass, 10BCE – 700CE.* Ostfildern-Ruit: Hatje Cantz Publishers.

This work is well organized and comprehensive. It breaks down into major sections according to time period under which there is an introduction to the techniques of the time period, a discussion of how the objects in the catalogue demonstrate the previously outlined techniques and then finally a catalogue of works in the Ernesto Wolf Collection. The images in the catalogue are clear and vibrant and are accompanied by further discussion, and sometimes illustrations, of each piece. While the work is primarily concerned with vessels there is a substantial section devoted to other glass objects such as rings, pendants, amulets, beads and household objects other than vessels. It also includes a glossary of terms that is helpful for beginners.

Weinberg, G. D, ed. 1988. *Excavations at Jamale: site of a glass factory in late Roman Palestine.* Columbia: University of Missouri Press.

This work is the publication of the data and interpretations of this data for excavations at the site of Jamale, a site that was the location of a glass factory during the time of the Roman Empire. As such, the book is not completely concerned with glass objects but it is its main focus. It includes fairly long sections on the glass objects that were found as well as the technology found in the glass factory excavations. Overall, it is a very complete account of the findings at the site but is definitely geared towards a map- and data-oriented archaeologist.

Wight, K. 2000. Leaf beakers and Roman mold-blown glass production in the first century AD. *Journal of glass studies* 42: 61-79.

This article is concerned with a small set of Roman beakers with hereto-unknown origin. The author explores possibilities on the basis of the unusual decorative patterning, place of origin within the Roman Empire and production methods. A new technique for the production of these multi-piece mold-blown vessels is presented as well as results of an experiment to try to determine the mold material, with hopes that scholars will continue to study the mystery behind Roman mold-blown glass.