

EXPLOSION EFFECTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL GLASS, CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION STRATEGY

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Abstract

In 2014, Cairo, the Capital of Egypt waked up on a dramatic explosion in the Cairo Security Directorate building, which is opposite the Museum of Islamic Art; a disaster that damaged many pieces of monuments in the museum especially fragile ones. Many monuments of archaeological glass were broken due to the explosion, and the archaeological glass pieces were mixed up with the non-archaeological pieces of broken windows of the museum. On the other hand, the non-damaged glass monuments were unsafely exposed and needed protection. The first step for the conservation of the non-damaged glass monuments was to pack and move the objects to a safe storage area. Meanwhile, the damaged glass objects were collected carefully, placed in boxes, and moved to the conservation lab to separate the archaeological pieces away from non-archaeological pieces depending on the previous documentation. The restoration process of the damaged objects started with the documentation, examination by SEM and LM, analysis by EDX and XRF, cleaning, assembling, and completion of the process. This Paper is a case study of the restoration of the museum damaged glass objects.