



Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology

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February 9th, 1973

To: Mr. David Crownover, Executive Secretary

From: Mark C. Han, MASCA



Ref: This is a report of the results of a thermoluminescent (TL) test performed on a fragment which was removed from the head of a terracotta female object. The object is said to have come from the region of Karo, Nigeria, Africa. The TL test was requested by Prof. Roy Seiber of Indiana University.

The TL Sample (P-T-313) was removed from the back side above its neck line. The fragment was part of the decoration attached to her hair.

The following measurements and results are given below.

1. There was no measurable natural TL present, when it was heated.
2. The material was highly susceptible to applied radiation; when irradiated with X-Rays, the artificially produced TL was proportionate to the amount of radiation applied.
3. It was found that the sample possesses a moderate amount of inherent radioactivity as compared with other terracottas.

Based on the above findings we can firmly conclude that the object tested was fired in recent times (within 100 years or so).

cc: Prof. Roy Seiber
University of Indiana

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