

## Abstract

The ancient glass collection of the National Museum has more than 200 completely intact and so far – beside few exceptions – unpublished vessels which encompass a wide chronological framework from the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC until the end of antiquity. The core of the collection is composed of mold-blown and free-blown glass. The analysis of the collection offers a view into the history of the ancient glass production; examples of all kinds of production methods can be found in it – from a core-formed glass, through a glass made by sagging into a form, and up to a mold-blown and free-blown glass. A great number of various decoration techniques and styles used in antiquity are represented in the collection; also, it contains vessels from various places within the Roman Empire, as well as outside of it. The major part of the work comprises blown glass from the Roman imperial period (chapter four), both free-blown and mold-blown, and from this virtually half are unguentaria of various types. Almost all types of vessel produced in this period are found in this chapter. The vessels were ordered according to types – e.g. open shapes, closed shapes and in the framework of these types they are arranged further – according to other criteria which create other sub-groups – as for example forms without a foot or on a foot, with a handle, without a handle etc. Thus were created – in the framework of a certain type – other categories. Within each category, the vessels were ranked in a chronological order. Beside the typology and the chronological framework, the vessels were – if it was possible – also ordered according to their geographical context. As a comparative material, first and most ancient glass – which came from the dated archaeological context – was used (e.g. Roman glass from the canton Ticino, Magdalensberg, Colchester and Herculaneum); also, from salvage archaeology in Israel and as well as from big collections of world-known museums, for example the Corning Museum of Glass, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Toledo Museum of Art, etc. Beside the vessels intended for everyday use, there are in the collection also a few exceptional pieces – as for example the round bottle with wheel-abraded decoration on body with view of a port in Puteoli with an inscription. Many vessels come from the Eastern Mediterranean of the Late Imperial Period when the glass production of the East and West develop in different ways.

Key words: Ancient glass, core-formed glass, blown glass, Western Mediterranean, Eastern Mediterranean, Islamic glass.