

Supplementary Materials for

Novel optical photothermal infrared (O-PTIR) spectroscopy for the noninvasive characterization of heritage glass-metal objects

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Supplementary Text

Supplementary experimental details

The exploratory elemental analysis of the samples was performed by means of μ XRF and MA-XRF spectroscopies. μ XRF point analysis were performed with an Artax portable micro-XRF spectrometer (Bruker GmbH, Germany) equipped with a Rh-probe. The X-ray generator was operated at 50 kV and 600 μ A, while the acquisition time was 300 s. The beam was focused on the analysis spot with the help of a laser and a camera, point analysis with a spot size of approximately 70 μ m were performed. The analysis of the XRF spectra, including the integration of the characteristic fluorescence signals, was carried out using PyMCA(64). The MA-XRF elemental imaging of the sequin in analysis was performed with an M6 Jetstream macro-XRF scanning spectrometer (Bruker GmbH, Germany) equipped with a Rh-probe. The X-ray generator was operated at 50 kV and 600 μ A. The elemental imaging data were obtained with a 50 μ m spot size, a distance between measuring points of 40 μ m and a dwell time of 40 ms. The data analysis, including the calculation of the elemental distribution maps, was performed with the software of the instrument.

The conservation state and distribution of the corrosion products on the glass samples was studied by means of micro computed tomography (μ CT). The samples were initially scanned by means of a benchtop tomographic scanner SkyScan 1172 (Bruker, Belgium). Different X-ray tube voltage (40 kV or 100 kV) and current (250 μ A and 100 μ A) were applied depending on the attenuation properties of the single samples. 500 projection images were collected with a step size of 0.4 degrees and a final resolution between 4 and 8 μ m, depending on the size of the sample. The latest SkyScan (Bruker, Belgium) softwares (NRecon, DataViewer, CTAn, and CTVox) were used to reconstruct and process images and to obtain virtual slices and volume rendering reconstructions. Higher resolution scans were obtained with a different X-ray tomographic system (MICRO XCT-400, Xradia - Zeiss), at 40 kV and 200 μ A. 800 projection images were collected with a step size of 0.25 degrees and a final resolution between 2 and 4 μ m, depending on the size of the sample. The volume was reconstructed with the instrument software and was then exported to Avizo Fire (FEI Visualization Sciences Group) for further 3D image analysis.

Supplementary experimental results (exploratory elemental and CT analyses)

The elemental composition of the corroded areas of the metal objects was first studied by means of MA-XRF and μ -XRF. The results of the MA-XRF analysis (Fig. S2A and S2B), performed only on the sequin (sample 1S) it being the only relatively flat and large sample, confirmed the presence of Cu and Zn (main components of the brass alloy) in the bulk of the material. The analysis also clearly highlighted a close link between the distribution of elements such as K, Zn and to a minor extent Ca, and the severe corrosion observed (Fig. S2A and S2B). The abundant presence of K only in the corroded areas of the sequin was confirmed also by the SEM-EDX analysis, which also excluded the presence of significant amounts of other light elements (too light to be detected by XRF), such as Na (Fig. S2C and S2D). In a similar fashion, K was also systematically found in the corroded areas of the brass wires in analysis (Fig. S3A), often in association with higher Zn concentrations (Fig. S3B). The presence of relatively higher amounts of Zn in the degraded areas is expected for brass, since this less-noble component of the alloy is often preferentially leached out from the bulk metal (a phenomenon known as dezincification, although Cu leaching can also simultaneously take place) and, if not washed away, reprecipitated in oxidation products on the surface of the material(65, 66). The systematic presence of K, on the other hand, is likely a result of the interaction with weathered historical glass, as described in the main body of the manuscript (9, 15, 17).

The non-invasive μ XRF analysis of the glass samples showed a very similar composition for the two beads considered. In particular, both are made of a potash glass with a limited lime content, as indicated by the high K/Ca ratio (average=1.6 \pm 0.3) and by the low contribution of Pb in the

XRF spectrum (Fig. S4A, B)(67, 68). It is important to mention that the experimental K/Ca ratio is likely affected by the poor conservation state of the glass, since the degradation is normally associated with the leaching of alkali ions from the surface. However, this process would cause a decrease of the ratio due to the leaching of K rather than an increase, hence not changing the attribution of the samples in analysis to the potash glass category. Particularly interesting is the presence of small amounts of Co (Fig. S4D), likely responsible for the dark blue color of the beads. Moreover, significant amounts of both Cu and Zn are observed in localized areas on the surface of the beads (Fig. S4E).

The SEM-EDX analysis performed on the surface of the glass beads confirmed both the overall composition of the objects (presence of K and Ca but absence of Na in significant amounts), as well as the high content of Cu and Zn, in particular in areas where green-blue corrosion products are clearly present (Fig. 2B). This suggests that these last two metals, main components of the brass objects, might be leached out from the metal and re-precipitated on the surface of the glass beads due to glass-induced metal corrosion processes(9, 17).

To further test this hypothesis, the distribution of the Cu- and Zn-containing products on the surface of the glass beads was non-invasively investigated by means of μ CT (Fig. S6). Since these corrosion products contain higher concentrations of (relatively) heavy atoms, characterized by higher attenuating properties compared to the lighter atoms in the silica network of the glass, they are in fact well-distinguishable in the final reconstructed volume. The results clearly showed that heavier corrosion products are distributed mainly on the surface of the central shaft (Fig. S6A) and on the inner rim of the beads (Fig. S6B). These are areas where the glass would have been mostly protected from surface deposition and where it certainly came in contact with a metallic wire (ubiquitously employed to assemble the decorative elements in the enclosed gardens(8)). Therefore, these are areas in which an interaction between metal and glass would have been more likely to take place.

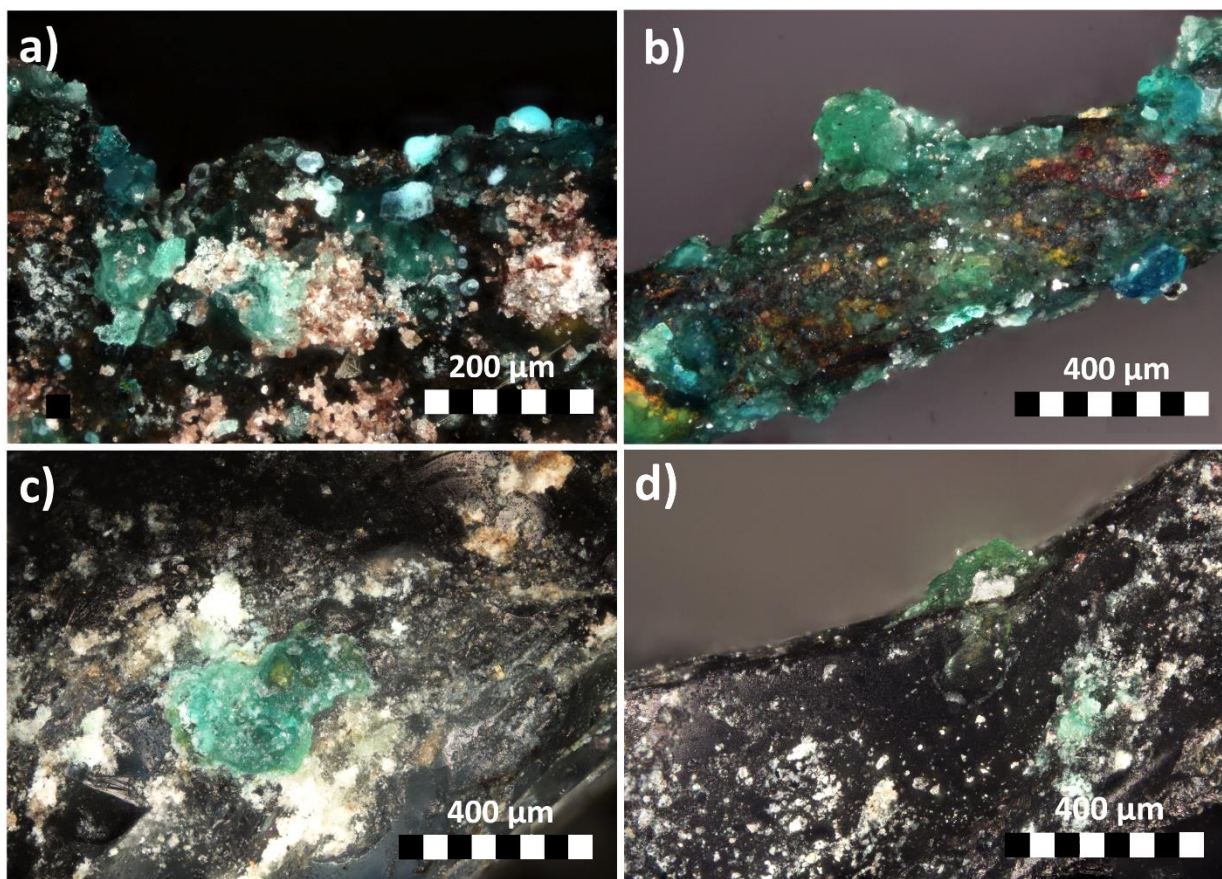


Fig. S1. Photomicrographs of the corrosion products on the surface of the samples (OM, bright field with polarized light). Examples of a) corroded brass sequin (sample 1S), b) corroded brass wire (sample 3W), c) glass bead (sample 1B), d) glass bead (sample 2B).

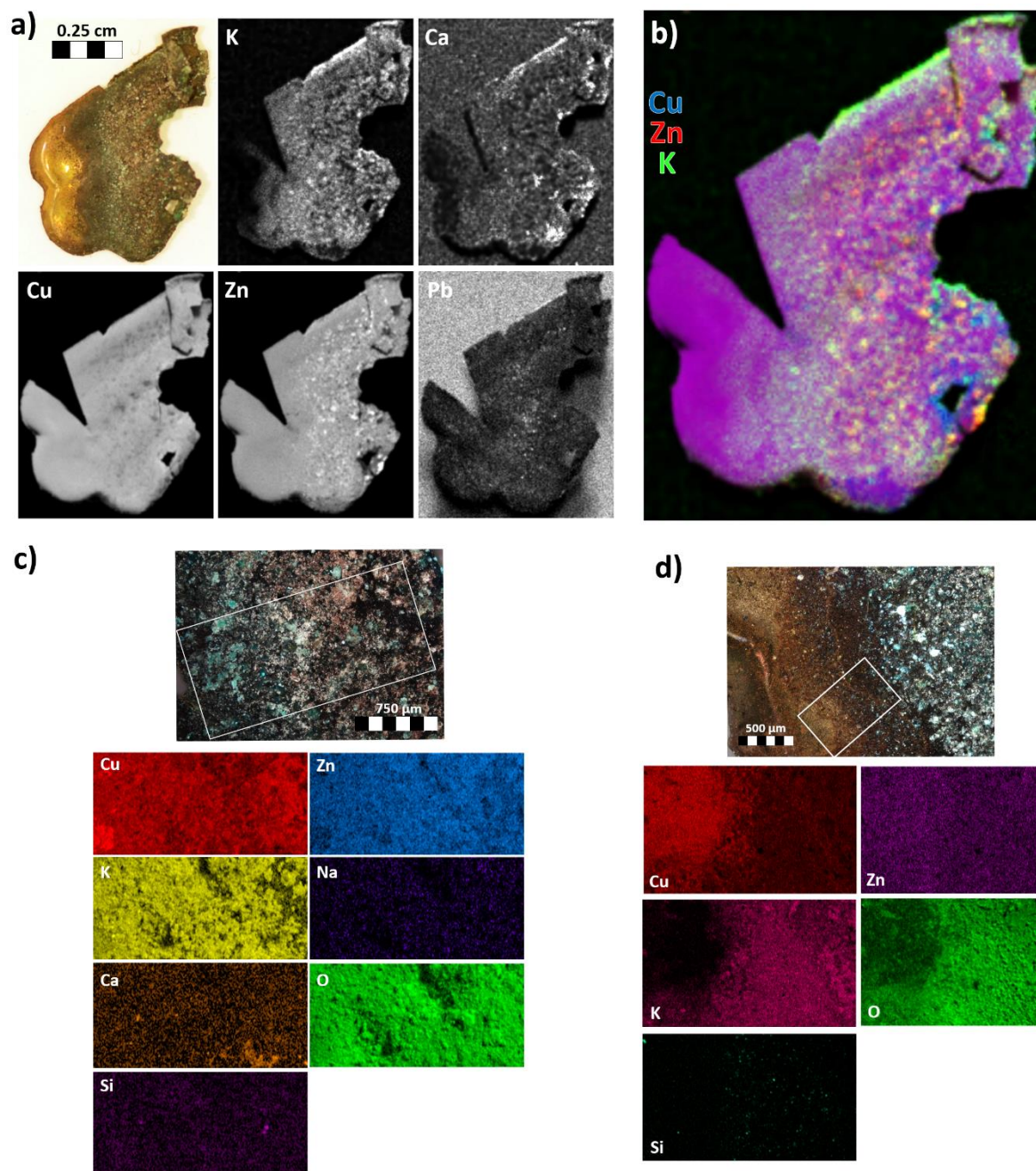


Fig. S2. Elemental analysis of the corroded sequin (sample 1S). a) MA-XRF single elemental maps; b) MA-XRF composite elemental map for Cu, Zn and K; c), d) SEM-EDX elemental maps. After the picture of the sample was taken (part a, top left) and before the elemental MA-XRF analysis were performed, a small triangular fragment of this object (the missing section visible in the elemental maps) was removed to be studied in the context of a different project. This is the reason for the differences in shape observed for the sequin in part a and b of the figure.

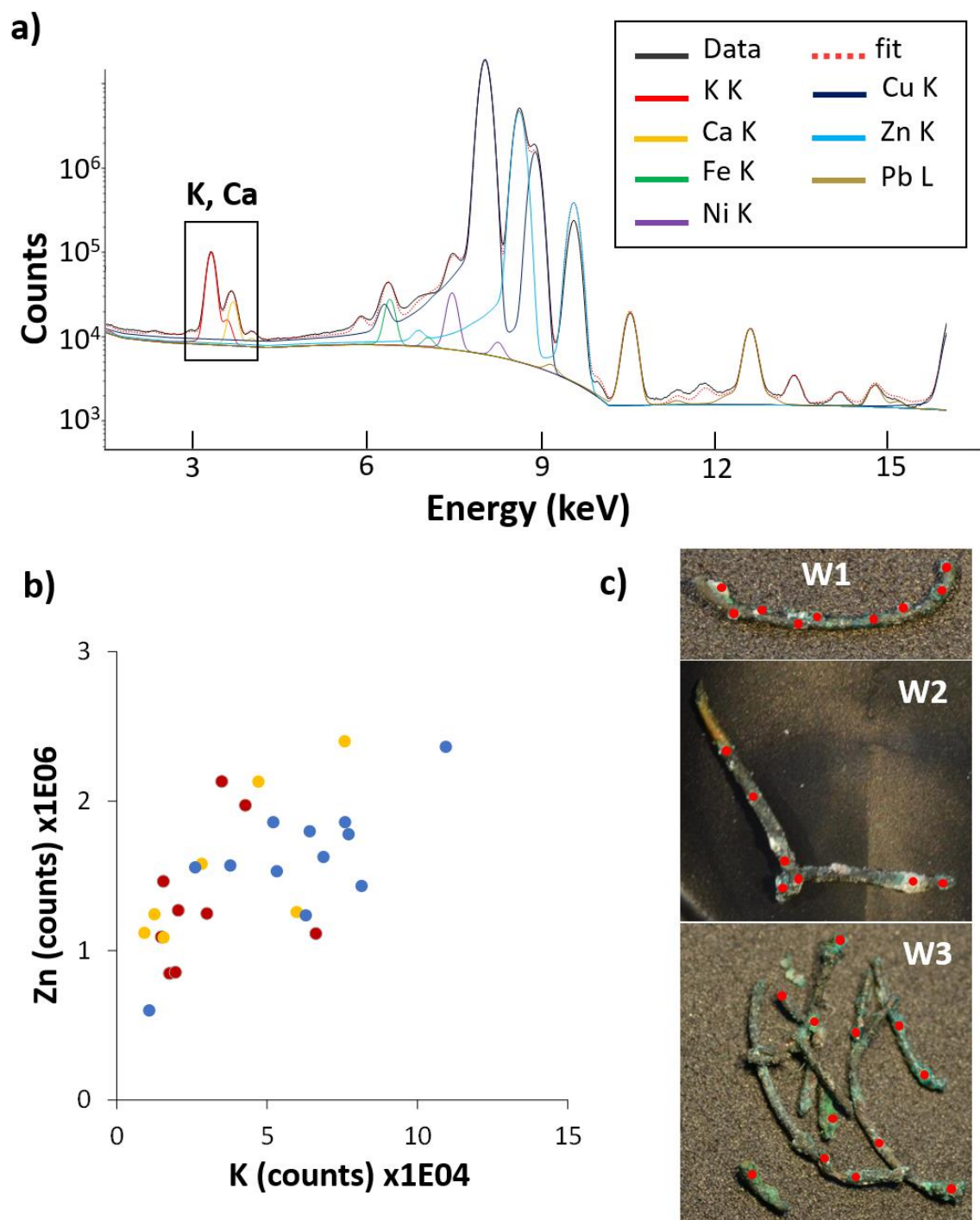


Fig. S3. μ XRF analysis of the visually degraded areas of all the corroded brass wires analyzed. a) sum spectrum, in evidence the contribution of the most relevant elements present (in addition to the element shown, minor contributions of S, Cl, Ar, Mn, As, Rb, Sr, Rh, Sn and Hg are also found in the spectrum); b) elemental scatter plot for Zn and K (integrated K Lines; red = sample 1W, yellow= sample 2W, blue = sample 3W); c) approximate location of the areas analyzed.

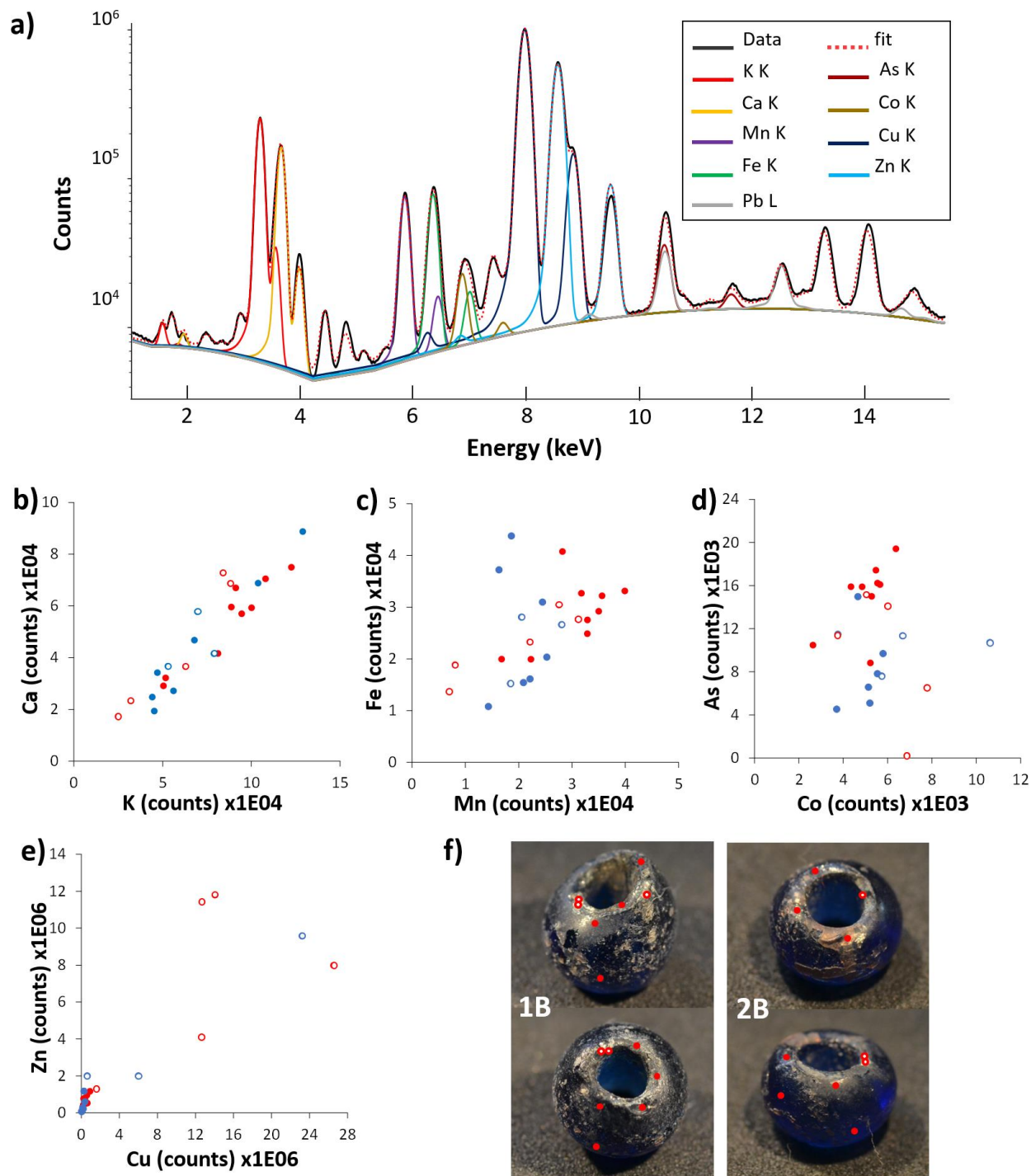


Fig. S4. μ XRF analysis of different areas of the glass beads. a) sum spectrum, in evidence the contribution of relevant elements to the spectrum (in addition to the element shown, minor contributions of S, Cl, Ar, Ni, Rb, Sr, Rh, Sn and Hg are also found in the spectrum); b), c), d), e) elemental scatter plots (integrated K lines; red = sample 1B; blue = sample 2B; empty circles = areas with visible green-blue corrosion products); f) approximate location of the areas analyzed (red-white circles = areas with visible green-blue corrosion products).

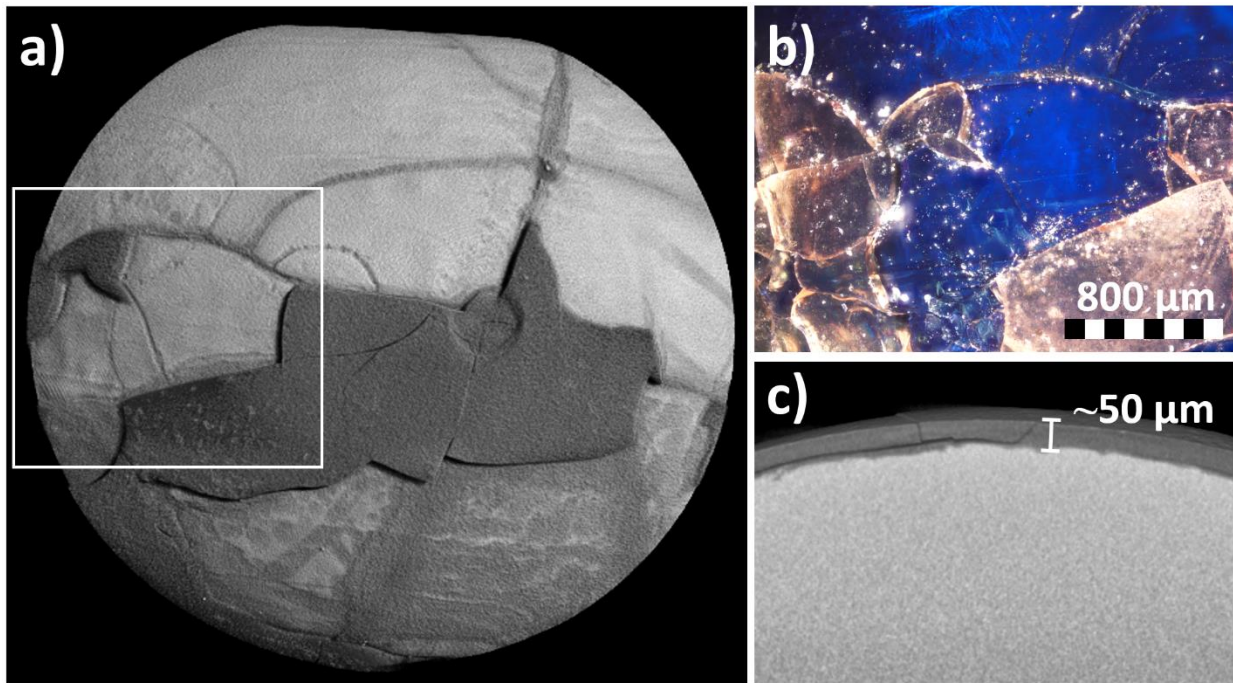


Fig. S5. Evidence of a partially detached iridescent gel layer on the surface of a glass bead (2B). a) μ CT reconstructed volume, the less electronically dense gel layer appears darker than the healthy glass; b) photomicrograph (OM, bright field with polarized light); c) virtual cross-section of the gel layer clearly showing the partial detachment and the thickness of the layer.

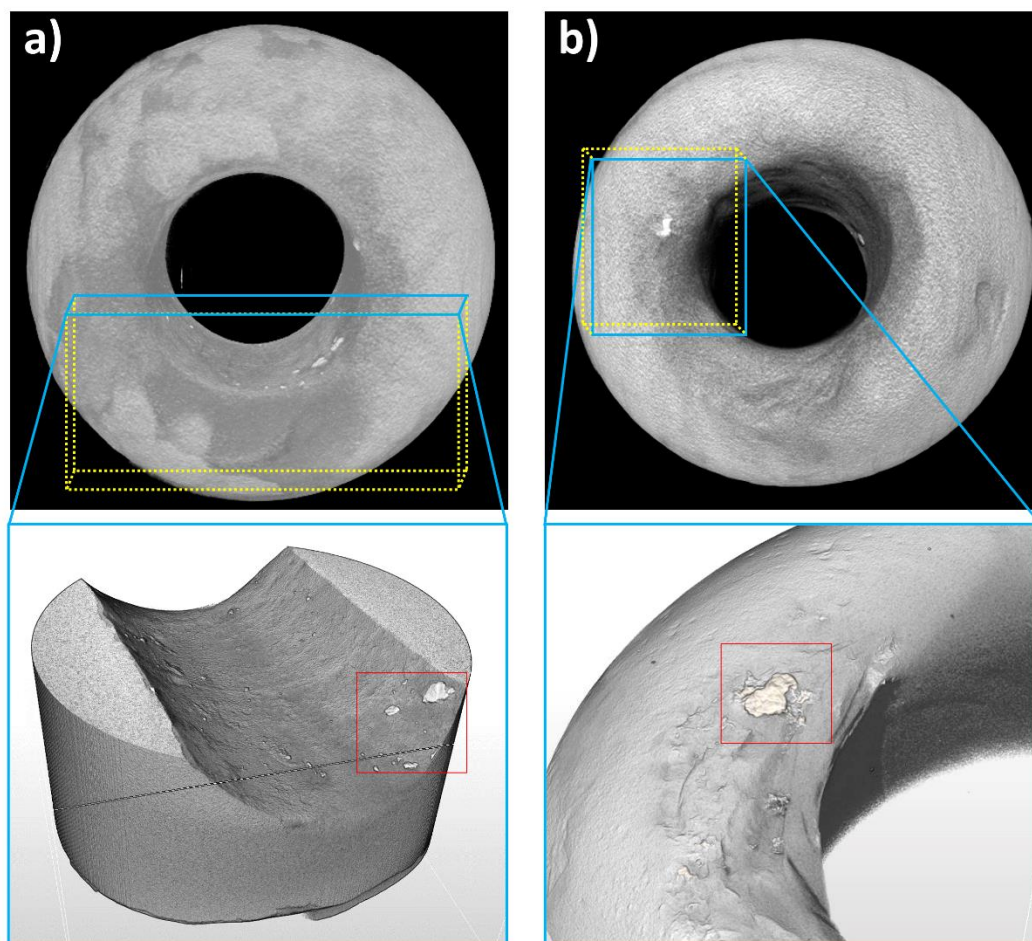


Fig. S6. μ CT scan results. Reconstructed volume and localization of highly attenuating corrosion products (red rectangles) on the inner rim and central shaft of the two glass beads a) sample 2B, b) sample 1B, the region highlighted in red corresponds to the area analyzed in Fig. 2 in the main body of the manuscript.

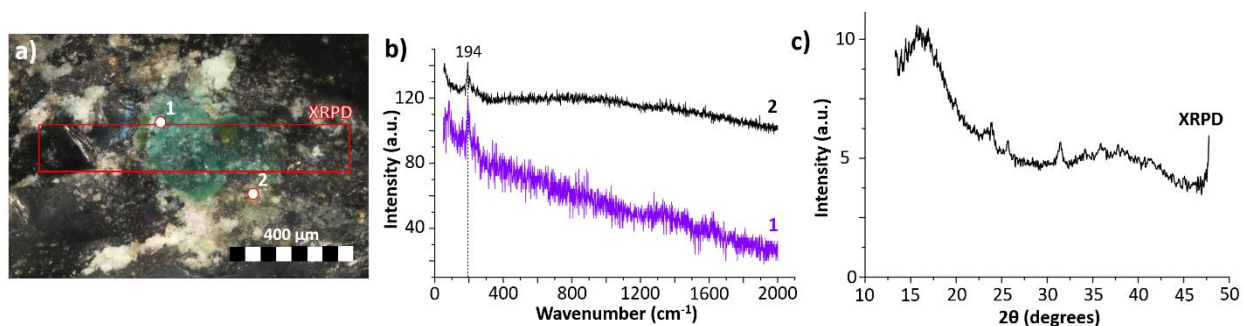


Fig. S7. Examples of the μ Raman and MA-XRPD results obtained for the glass beads and wires (in this case the glass bead P1). a) OM photomicrographs and approximate location of the measurements (the region of interest is the same as in Figure 2 in the main body of the manuscript; b) μ Raman spectra collected in point 1 and 2 (power: <1%); c) MA-XRPD result for the area in analysis. The low signal-to-noise ratio did not allow to perform any clear interpretation of the experimental results.

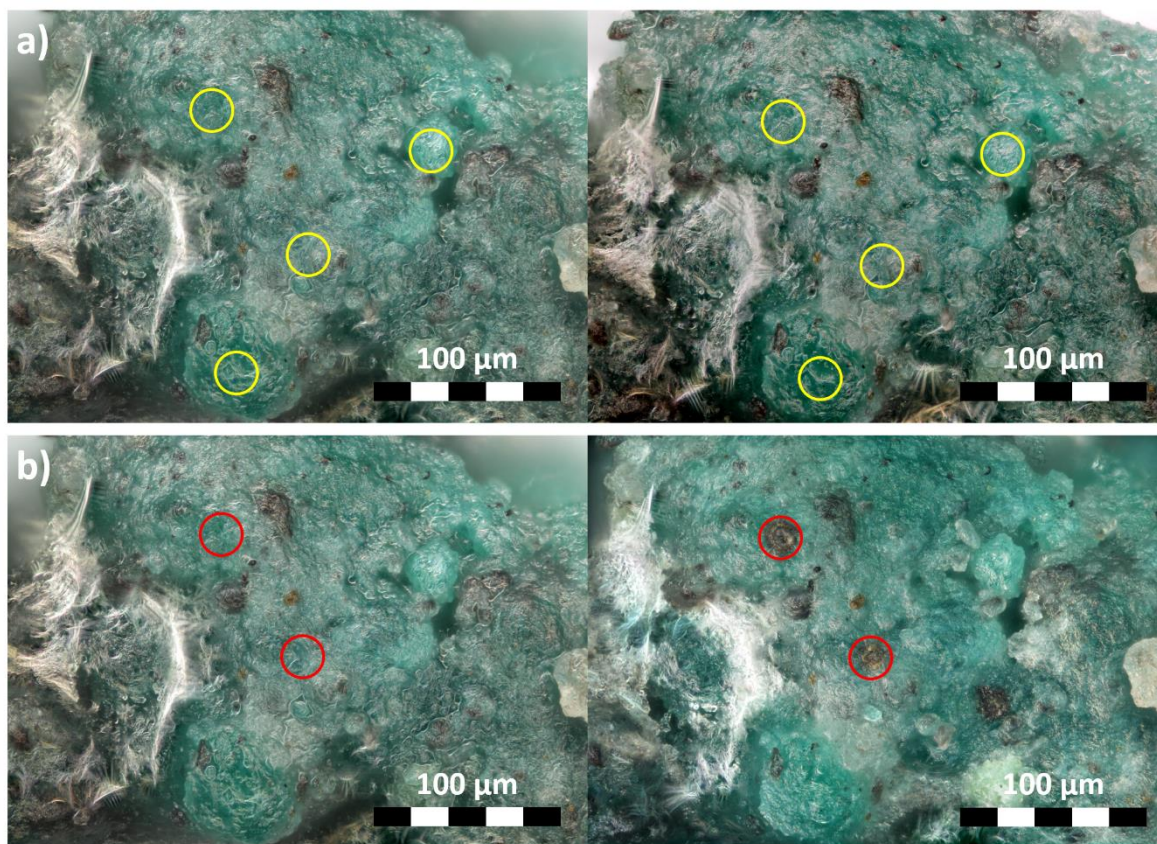


Fig. S8. OM photomicrograph of a corroded area of a brass wire (3W) before and after the analysis. a) O-PTIR (yellow circles, 10 replicates per point) and b) μ Raman (red circles, single analysis, power: 1%).

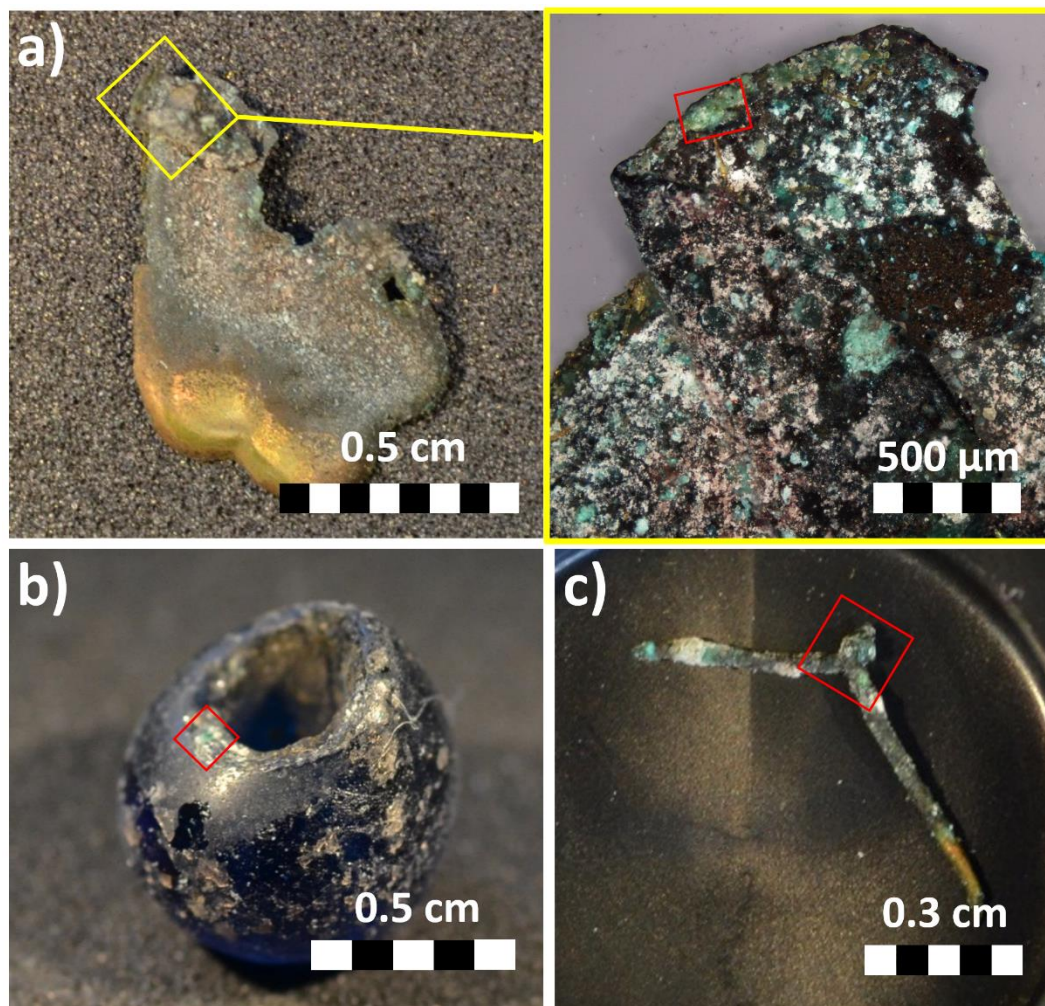


Fig. S9. Regions of interest (red rectangles) for the O-PTIR analysis presented in Figure 1, 2 and 3 respectively in the main body of the manuscript. a) sample 1S, b) sample 1B, c) sample 2W.

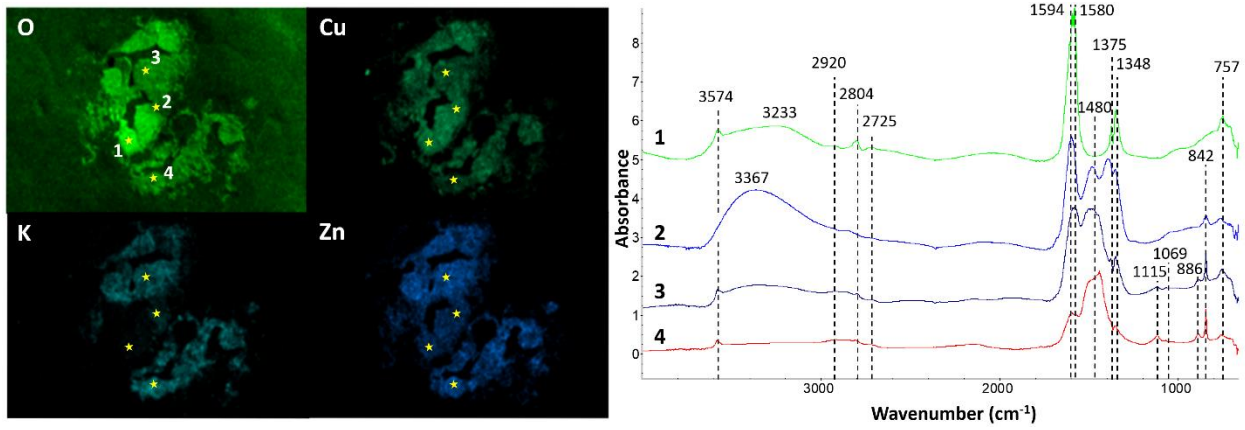


Fig. S10. SEM-EDX elemental maps and SR-FTIR spectra of the degradation products scratched from the surface of one corroded wire (3W). The material was pressed in a diamond compression cell prior to the analysis. In evidence the spots analyzed with SR-FTIR and the most intense absorption peaks in the spectra.

Table S1. Overview of the analytical techniques employed on the single samples.

	Code	μ XRF	MA-XRF	SEM-EDX	μ CT	μ FTIR	MA-XRPD	μ Raman	O-PTIR
	1S	X	X	X			X	X	X
	1W	X					X	X	X
	2W	X		X			X	X	X
	3W	X		X		X	X	X	X
	1B	X		X	X		X	X	X
	2B	X		X	X			X	X

Table S2. Overview of the spectral markers of the main compounds identified (28, 36, 41, 69, 70).

Compound	IR spectral markers (cm ⁻¹)	
Glass	1250 - 980	Si-O-Si and Si-O stretching
Carboxylate	1610 - 1550	C=O (asymmetric C-O stretching)
	1420 - 1300	C=O (symmetric C-O stretching)
Cu Formate	2800	CH (C-H stretching)
	1600	C=O (asymmetric C-O stretching)
	1377	CH (in-plane C-H bending)
	1350	C=O (symmetric C-O stretching)
Carbonate	1490 - 1410	CO ₃ ²⁻ (C-O stretching)
	880 - 840	CO ₃ ²⁻ (C-O bending)
Oxalate	1722 - 1615	C ₂ O ₄ ²⁻
	1410-1300	C ₂ O ₄ ²⁻
Sulfate	1120	SO ₄ ²⁻ stretching

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