

琉璃蜻蜓眼的起源与发展

The origin and evolution of dragonfly eye beads

远古时期，人类为避免厄运，抵消邪魔恶眼的伤害，会佩戴眼睛纹样的珠饰作为护身符。远在公元前 4000 年的两河流域文明，就发现这种装饰辟邪的天然玛瑙“眼珠”与石质“眼纹像”。通过贸易文化等交流，公元前 3000 年左右世界各地均出现了这类玛瑙“眼珠”，如印度、埃及、中国等早期文明发源地。可以辟邪的眼珠图腾盛行不衰，继天然玛瑙眼珠外，逐渐出现人工蚀花石珠、彩绘陶珠、雕刻贝珠，以及金属、釉陶、琉璃等材质的眼珠饰品。

In ancient times, people wore eye patterned ornaments as a talisman to drive away demons and bad luck. As far back as 4000BC, the demon-expelling agate eye beads and stone eye beads were used in Mesopotamia. Thanks to trade and cultural exchange, similar agate eye beads were seen in other parts of the world such as India, China and Egypt, around 3000BC. Following that time the eye totem began to prevail, and in addition to agate beads, stone beads, colored pottery beads, carved shell beads, metal beads, and glass beads, etc. gradually emerged.



(玛瑙眼纹珠饰, Agate eye beads, 3000-1000 B.C.)

费昂斯 (Faience) 在古埃及的发明与大量应用，推进了琉璃技术的成熟。约公元前 2000 年，古埃及和两河流域已经熟练掌握琉璃制造工艺，定制琉璃珠专供皇室贵族享用。公元前 1500 年左右，古埃及新王国

时期将版图扩张至两河流域，双方文化宗教的交流融合促生了“蜻蜓眼琉璃珠”工艺。也就是说，琉璃蜻蜓眼最早在埃及出现。随后，这类琉璃珠通过贸易流传至近东地区（地中海东部沿岸，包括非洲东北部和亚洲西南部）。古埃及的眼珠文化较为独特，主要以荷鲁斯之眼为符号，亦称为乌加特之眼（wedjat's eye）。Faience originated in ancient Egypt, and its wide application pushed forward the development of glass technology. Around 2000BC, people in Egypt and Mesopotamia mastered the techniques and made glass beads exclusively for royalty and the nobility. Around 1500BC, the new Egyptian Pharaoh expanded his kingdom to Mesopotamia, and the fusion of the culture and religion from the two sides gave birth to the dragonfly eye glass beads. This means the dragonfly eye glass beads originated in Egypt and were later introduced to the eastern Mediterranean coast - including northeast Africa and southwest Asia - through trade and cultural exchange. Ancient Egypt had a highly unique eye bead culture, mainly using the Eye of Horus (wedjat's eye) as the symbol.



(古埃及费昂斯荷鲁斯之眼护身符，美国波士顿博物馆藏)
(Eye of Horus (wedjat's eye) amulet, Faience, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)

公元前 1000 年左右，古埃及文明逐渐衰败，富庶的腓尼基人拓展了琉璃珠制造工艺，对“蜻蜓眼”样式演变作出极大推动，并在几百年间通过海上贸易，使琉璃珠在地中海及中欧地区广为流传。其中多眼圈的蜻蜓眼珠、做工精巧的人面珠、动物形珠尤为出彩。

Around 1000 BC, the ancient Egyptian civilization gradually declined, and the rich Phoenicians further improved the manufacturing process of glass beads, greatly promoting the evolution of the dragonfly eye beads. In the following centuries, glass beads - in particular the multiple eye rings dragonfly eye beads, exquisite face shaped beads, and animal-shaped beads - spread widely to the Mediterranean regions and central Europe through seafaring trade.



(伊特鲁里亚金珠与腓尼基琉璃珠项链，约公元前七世纪，大英博物馆藏)
(A necklace of Etruscan gold and Phoenician glass beads, British Museum, London)

大约在公元前 550 年的波斯帝国时期，“琉璃蜻蜓眼”从地中海流传至北非，西欧一带。公元前 330 年希腊大军击跨波斯帝国后，“琉璃蜻蜓眼”更是远播到中欧、非洲及亚洲大陆。

Around 550 BC, during the time of the Persian Empire, the dragonfly eye beads spread from the Mediterranean region to North Africa. Following the defeat of the Persian Empire by the Greek army in 330BC, the dragonfly eye beads further spread to central Europe, Africa and the Asian continent.

在中国，最早出土的琉璃是西周时期的管珠，状态与古埃及的“费昂斯”釉砂相似，也被称为原始玻璃。纯琉璃胎的蜻蜓眼珠最早出现于春秋末战国早期（约公元前 5 世纪初），例如曾侯乙墓出土的蜻蜓眼琉璃珠串。这些珠子的特征与腓尼基琉璃珠完全一致，与后期国产蜻蜓眼样式迥然有异，由此推测中国的蜻蜓眼就是此时由中西亚传入的。

In China, the earliest unearthed glass is the tube-shaped beads of the West Zhou dynasty, which are also called primitive glass, and are similar in material to the Faience in ancient Egypt. Pure glass beads with dragonfly eye patterns came into existence at the end of China's Spring and Autumn period and the beginning of the Warring States period (around 400BC), such as the beads unearthed in the tomb of Marquis Sui. These beads are identical to the Phoenician glass beads and are different to those of the late Warring States period, which suggests that this is the time when the dragonfly eye beads were introduced into China from middle and west Asia.



（曾侯乙墓出土的蜻蜓眼琉璃珠，战国早期，湖北省博物馆藏）

(Dragonfly eye beads unearthed at the tomb of Marquis Sui, the early stage of Warring States period in China, Hubei Provincial Museum)

此后，战国时期琉璃蜻蜓眼工艺成为中国古代琉璃史上的一个高峰。工匠们殚精竭虑，将外来的蜻蜓眼技

术与纹饰发挥到极致，使之成为帝皇诸侯们炫耀的必备品。除了西方常见的圆珠外，拓展至方珠、锥形珠、长管等形状，更被制成圆片、长条形、弯月形琉璃蜻蜓眼镶嵌于铜壶、铜镜、金铜带钩、青铜车马件、漆罐、陶罐等器物上，彰显主人的华贵身份。

Following this, the technology behind dragonfly eye glass beads of the Warring States period reached a climax in the history of ancient Chinese glass. Craftsmen from that time took painstaking efforts to make full use of dragonfly eye glass technology, making those beads a must for the royalty and nobility. Besides the round beads which were common in West, other shapes such as cube, cone, tube, disk, rectangular, crescent moon, etc. were also used in the decoration of bronze kettles, mirrors, hooks, chariots, cans and pots, etc., symbolizing the noble status of the owners.



（镶嵌白玉琉璃蜻蜓眼铜镜，战国时期，美国哈佛艺术博物馆藏）

(Dragonfly eye bronze mirror embedded with white jade, Warring States period, Harvard Art Museum)

关于琉璃蜻蜓眼的起源及发展，史料信息错综复杂，牵涉面极广。以前人整理的资料为基础，仅对眼纹图腾及琉璃珠的年代地域流传作扼要描述，欢迎有志者一起探讨探究。

There is too much intricate and complex historical information on the origin and evolvments of the



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dragonfly eye glass beads, involving a broad range of fields. Here I only give a brief description of the origin, covering the time and scope of ancient glass beads and the eye totems, based on previous researches made by other experts. I welcome those who are interested in this field to exchange ideas with me on this subject.

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