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KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS:
REASSESSING THE INDIGENOUS
AMERICAN HERITAGE IN ITALY

Collezione di mineralogia "Museo Luigi Bombicci" – Sistema Museale di Ateneo, Università di Bologna

Piazza di Porta S. Donato, 1, 40126 Bologna (BO)

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Davide Domenici

Introduction

The "Museo Luigi Bombicci" mineralogy collection preserves a small collection of obsidian artefacts of Mesoamerican origin. Although the origin of this group of objects is unknown, it probably entered the museum's collection in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Cultural Areas (tags): Mesoamerica

Collection name	Group of obsidian artefacts from Mesoamerica
Collector	Unknown
Cultural areas	Mesoamerica
Ethnic group / community / cultural sphere	Nahua (Mexico)
Description of the	The small group of objects includes eleven obsidian

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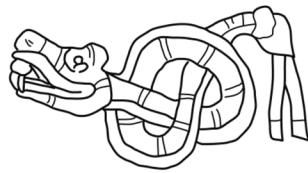
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collection	artefacts (a large retouched flake, three exhausted cores for the production of prismatic blades, three arrowheads, a fragment of an eccentric piece and three flakes). At least one of the points and two of the flakes are made of green obsidian from the Sierra de las Navajas (Hidalgo, Mexico), while the remaining artefacts are of grey obsidian from one of the numerous deposits of central Mexico. The wooden frame in which the objects are mounted also includes five quartzite points of unknown provenance.
History of the collection	The numbered labels attached to the artefacts suggest that they entered the museum's collection over the course of the second half of the nineteenth century, after the foundation of the museum itself (30 January 1862), which followed the division of the collection of the Gabinetto di Storia Naturale of the Istituto delle Scienze di Bologna. The labels also suggest that the inventorying took place under the supervision of Luigi Bombicci, professor of mineralogy at the University of Bologna and director of the museum from its foundation until his death (1903). In 1907 the collection of the Museo di Mineralogia, which until then had been kept in Palazzo Poggi, was transferred to its present location.
Online database	
Web page	

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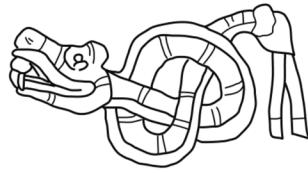
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Bibliography

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