

## ***Possible sources of nephrite artefacts found on Hungarian archaeological sites***

Péterdi, Bálint; Bendő, Zsolt; Szakmány, György; Kasztovszky, Zsolt:

Its pleasing aesthetic appearance and its toughness – ensured by the compact fabric consisting of interweaving and interlocking thin, fine amphibole fibres – makes nephrite an excellent raw-material for polished stone-tools, therefore it became a widespread raw-material all over Europe in the Neolithic- and the Bronze Age; however, it was not used (as raw material) in large quantities because of the small size and limited occurrence of the nephrite-bodies.

Nephrite is present among archaeological finds in Hungary in very few number and they are known mostly from Transdanubian sites, primarily in the material of old surface collections like the Mihálydy Collection of Veszprém (Szakmány et al., 2001) and the Ebenhöch Collection of the HNM (Friedel et al., 2008).

Since we do not know any nephrite-source in the Carpathian Basin, the raw material must have originated from a distant source.

By applying totally non-destructive geochemical (PGAA), mineral-chemical (non-destructive SEM-EDS: the “original surface method”) and petrophysical (MS) methods as well as comparing literary data (especially about nephrite sources in Switzerland and in the Bohemian Massif) we located the most probable raw material sources of nephrite artefacts found on Hungarian archaeological sites.