



Archaeomagnetic intensity data from the Saadien Tombs (Marrakesh, Morocco), late C16th AD

Ll. Casas, J.L. Briansó, A. Álvarez

Unitat de Cristal·lografia i Mineralogia. Departament de Geologia. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain (Lluis.Casas@uab.es)

Several archaeomagnetic intensities have been obtained on pieces of enamelled tiles that were part of the decoration (zellij) of the royal necropolis named Saadien Tombs (Marrakech, Morocco).

Documentary evidence indicates that the tombs were built in the late C16th AD, during the kingdom of sultan Ahmed al-Mansur. Additional thermoluminescence dating points to the same period.

The archaeointensities were determined using the 14.4 GHz Microwave system, both pTRM and pTRM tail checks are generally positive and the assembly of intensity values shows low dispersion, and group around 42.5 μ T.

The obtained data is of great interest for several reasons: i) it is high quality data with good independent date control, ii) there is a lack of archaeomagnetic data from Morocco, to our knowledge, no previous archaeointensities are available iii) the investigated period is faintly earlier than the first available historical observations and its associated models.