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Archaeomagnetism in Portugal

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Archaeomagnetic results are now available for many countries in Europe. For the Iberian Peninsula, however, such studies are still in their infancy. A few early results for Spain were published sporadically, but the first systematic compilation of Spanish data appeared only very recently (Gómez-Paccard et al. *Geophys. J. Int.*, 166, 1125-1143, 2006). As far as we are aware, the rich cultural heritage of Portugal remains untapped. We have therefore initiated a project to address this deficit, and we report here the first results from three ancient kilns in central Portugal: Mosteiros (39.48˚N, 7.40˚W), Peniche (39.38˚N, 9.36˚W), and Seixal (38.63˚N, 9.10˚W). They yield archaeodirections of Declination, D = 358.6˚±2.1˚, Inclination, I = 54.4˚±1.2˚; D = 001.0˚±2.6˚, I = 54.3˚±1.5˚; and D = 356.1˚±2.7˚, I = 51.7˚±1.6˚, respectively. Comparison with a suitably smoothed version of the secular variation curve of Gómez-Paccard et al. allows the Portuguese kilns to be archaeomagnetically dated at 100 CE, 50 CE, and 250 CE for Mosteiros, Peniche, and Seixal, respectively.