

Microanalysis of Thai amulet: Phra Luang Pho Thuad

An amulet, also known as a good luck charm, is an object believed to confer protection upon its possessor. Thai Amulets exist in many forms in Thailand and are made by many different traditions and ethnic groups. Many people in Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia believe that amulets depicting Phra Luang Pho Thuad hold great protective powers granting safety in times of distress, especially saving the lives of believers from seemingly fatal automobile accidents. This work is aimed to study the 16 samples of the Phra Luang Pho Thuad amulets created from Wat Chang Hai (Pattani) which are made from herbs and powder. A scanning electron microscopy coupled with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (SEM-EDS) uses to characterize these elemental compositions and structures. It is found that carbon (C), oxygen (O), silicon (Si), aluminum (Al), phosphorus (P), sulfur (S), calcium (Ca), potassium (K), titanium (Ti), iron (Fe), copper (Cu), sodium (Na), magnesium (Mg), arsenic (As), and tungsten (W) present as a major, minor and trace elements. Moreover, by means of the mature of these elements, there is the chemical composition of quartz, orthoclase, and anhydrite as the basic minerals, while magnetite is identified to the characteristic mineral as the fingerprint.

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Track Classification: Nuclear and Radiation Physics