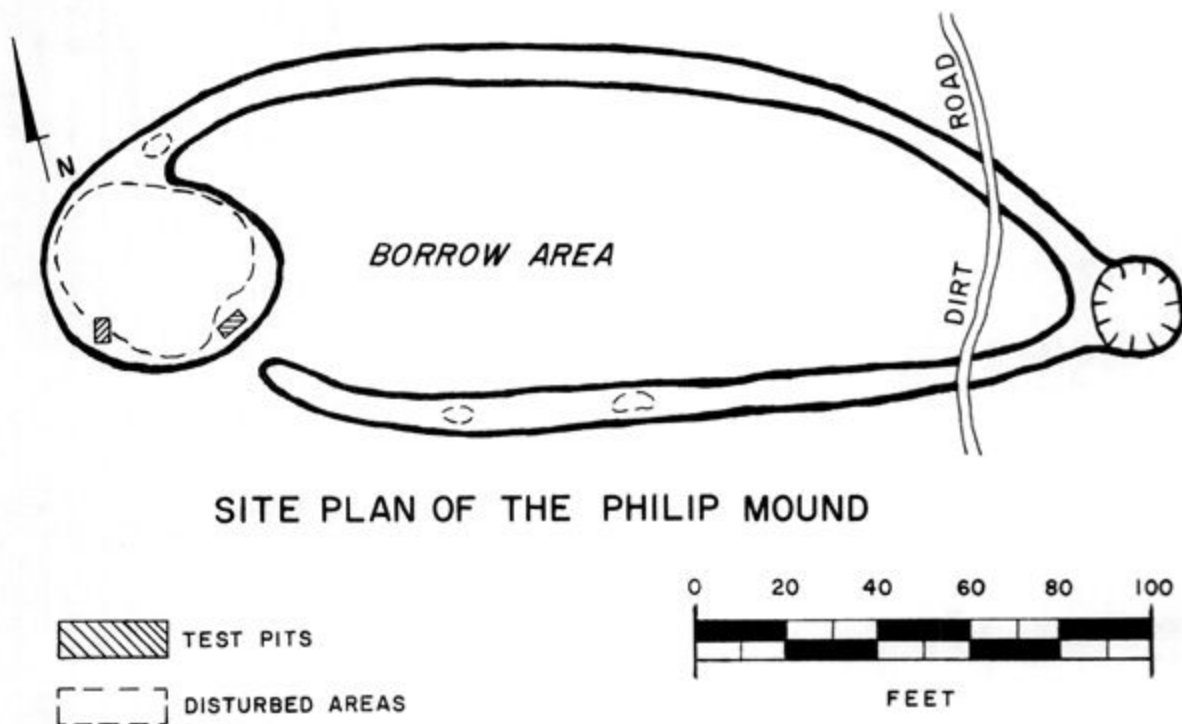


THE PHILIP MOUND: A HISTORIC SITE

Carl A. Benson

Reports of beads and other objects that were uncovered near Lake Marion, Polk County, Florida prompted the writer to investigate these stories further. The site in question was located on the east side of Lake Marion, near Marion Creek, on property owned by Mr. Philip Berkovitz of Winter Haven, Florida. A tentative examination of the mound indicated thorough destruction by previous excavations. Questioning of natives in the area revealed that the site had been explored for many years by various individuals.

The Philip Mound is roughly 40' wide and 50' long measuring from the extreme edges. The contour is oval shaped and is about 3 1/2' to 4' high in the center. An earthen ramp protrudes off the northern portion of the mound and extends nearly 200' in an easterly direction to a large circular borrow pit. It then turns back in a westerly direction to within 5' of the southern portion of the mound (Fig. 1). The width of the ramp averages 12' to 15', with the



SITE PLAN OF THE PHILIP MOUND

Fig. 1. Site Plan of the Philip Mound.

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGIST, Vol. 20, Nos. 3-4, September-December, 1967.

height approximately 4'. Earth used for construction of the mound and ramp was taken from around the mound, the center of the ramp area, and from the pit at the eastern turn of the ramp.

The possibility of salvage efforts was considered, and kind consent to attempt this was given to the writer by Mr. Berkovitz and Mr. Jack Pines.

The areas previously disturbed were clearly obvious and only a thin margin of undisturbed palmetto remained on the fringe of the mound. Further investigation ruled out any benefits of controlled digging in the disturbed region. A small area on the south side of the mound was cleared of palmetto and a test pit approximately 2 1/2' by 4' was started. The first 6" consisted of tangled roots, humus, and sand. Our efforts were rewarded in the second level by the appearance of four Busycon shell dippers. All contained "kill" holes and three were inverted. One of the inverted dippers covered a portion of a pot, identified as Englewood Incised. Adjacent to this was a pair of scissors and a copper "coin" bead. This was the extent of material found in this test. Test number two approximately 20' away was unproductive.

Results of screening the disturbed area were interesting, and it is hoped that the salvaged objects can be beneficial as comparative material.

BURIALS

Fragments of human bones were found throughout the mound but not one undisturbed burial was encountered. From the meagre clues we had, it can only be suggested that some of the burials were of the primary extended type. Quite a number of unassociated, loose teeth were found; most of these were from adults.

EUROPEAN BEADS

Numerous glass beads were salvaged from the Philip site. A sample of the different types and styles is shown in Fig. 2, and described below. The number in parentheses following each type name is the quantity found, each row is described from left to right.

Row 1

Oblate Spheroidal (4)-Opaque blue, two vertical opaque white stripes with inlaid star or eye design. There are usually three star inlays per bead. Three of these lack the white stripes.

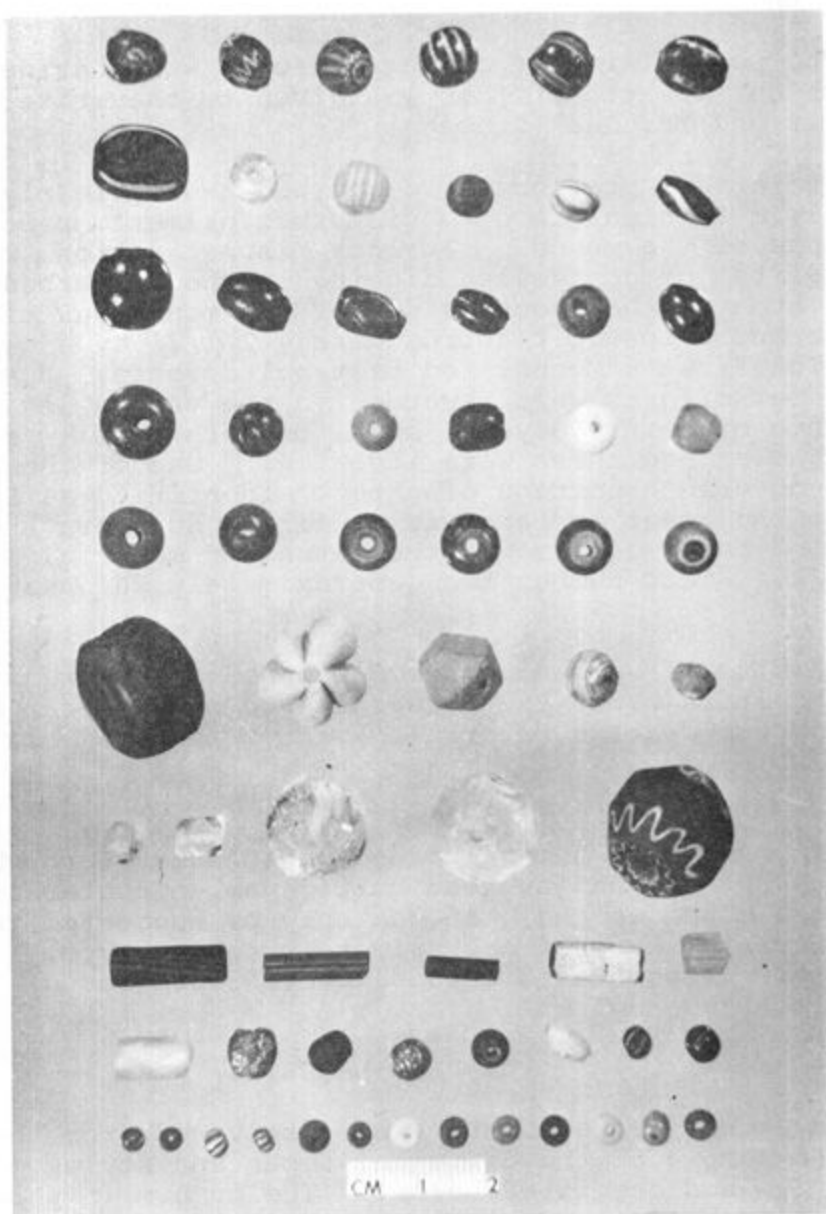


Fig. 2. European trade beads.



Ovate Sphercidal Chevron or Star Bead (3)-These are made of six superimposed layers of colored glass. Opaque white, translucent pale green, opaque white, opaque red, opaque white and translucent blue.

Spheroidal, "Eye Bead," Eye of India (1)-Opaque white core with layers of opaque red, opaque white, and translucent green; the last layer of white is combed or scratched to give the effect of lines. There are 12 of these lines.

Oblate Spheroidal (29)-Nine opaque white stripes on translucent blue; size range from 5 mm to 8 mm long; number and uniformity of stripes vary also.

Oblate Spheroidal (4)-Translucent blue green with four vertical opaque white stripes, in each of which is an opaque red stripe.

Ovate Spheroidal (1)-Two opaque white spirals on translucent deep blue; opaque white circle around eye.

Row 2

Cylindrical (5) -Opaque black with three vertical opaque white stripes; average length 12 mm.

Oblate Spheroidal (2) -Amber, translucent yellow; extensive patination loss.

Oblate Spheroidal, Gooseberry (10)-Clear with 12 vertical opaque white stripes; size range from 3 mm to 6 mm in length; number of stripes varies also.

Oblate Spheroidal (9)-Translucent blue with four alternating opaque blue and white stripes; size range 4 mm to 7 mm length.

Ovate Spheroidal (4)-Opaque white with six alternating opaque blue and red stripes.

Ovate Spheroidal (1)-Opaque black with three opaque white spirals.

Row 3

Spheroidal (38)-Translucent turquoise; size range 4 mm to 11 mm.

Ovate Spheroidal (36)-Translucent dark blue.

Elongated Spheroidal (1)-Translucent light blue. Hand pressed faceted.

Ovate Spheroidal (3)-Translucent light blue. Wire wound method of manufacture.

Oblate Spheroidal ("Cornaline d'Aleppo")-Clear light green core with outer layer of opaque red (only two but in seed bead class).

Ovate Spheroidal (1)-Translucent green.

Row 4

Oblate Spheroidal (38)-Ichtucknee plain; sky blue, between opaque and translucent; size range from 5 mm to 8 mm.

Oblate Spheroidal (36)-Translucent light blue.

Oblate Spheroidal (1)-Opaque light blue.

Ovate Spheroidal (10)-Opaque black.

Oblate Spheroidal and Ovate Spheroidal (38)-Opaque white; size range 3 mm to 6 mm.

Oblate Spheroidal (1)-Clear.

Row 5

Oblate Spheroidal (84)-Translucent green; size range 5 mm to 9 mm.

Oblate Spheroidal (8)-Translucent amber color.

Oblate Spheroidal (10)-Three superimposed layers of glass, clear core, opaque white, translucent amber color. The purpose of the white layer is to bring out the brilliance and depth of the latter color as suggested by Goggin (n.d.) in his description of the Nueva Cadiz Beads which have a similar arrangement.

Oblate Spheroidal (8) -Two superimposed layers of glass; a clear core with an exterior layer of translucent purple. The clear shows through around the eye. This bead lacks the opaque white layer described in the immediately preceding, and two following types.

Oblate Spheroidal (4)-Three superimposed layers of glass; clear core, opaque white, and translucent green.

Oblate Spheroidal (6)-Three superimposed layers of glass; clear core, opaque white, and translucent blue.

Row 6

Ovate Spheroidal (1)-Three sided amber, reddish brown.

Appears to have been molded. Substance medium soft, will flake off; opaque white.

Spheroidal (1)-Faceted amber-colored glass; 14 facets; tan color.

Oblate Spheroidal (1)-Quartzite material, faceted.

Ovate Spheroidal Opaque Grey (1)-Pressed mold facets.

Row 7

Ovate Spheroidal (10)-Clear, pressed mold facets appear to be same mold as last bead in Row 6; heavy patination.

Cylindrical, Quartz Crystal (3)-Ground, faceted; 14 facets; 7 mm.

Oblate Spheroidal, Quartz Crystal (1)-Spiral faceting.

Oblate Spheroidal, Quartz Crystal (1)-Circular facets.

Oblate Spheroidal, Chevron (1)-Six superimposed layers of glass; opaque white, translucent pale green, opaque white, opaque red, opaque white and translucent blue; 16 mm.

Row 8

Tubular (round cross section) Dark Blue Core (2)-Opaque white stripe around eye with three groups of opaque red stripes, three stripes per group.

Tubular (round cross section) Cornaline D'Aleppo Type (1)-Clear light green core, opaque red outer layer; three opaque white vertical stripes with brown stripe in center of each.

Tubular (round cross section) Translucent Dark Blue (9)-Size range, 6 mm to 11 mm in length.

Tubular (square cross section) Dark Blue Core (1)-Opaque white outer surface.

Tubular (square cross section) Clear Glass (1)-Probably Nueva Cadiz Plain.

Row 9

Tubular (square cross section) Clear Glass Over Opaque White Core (1)-Corners at ends ground off to long facets. Probably Nueva Cadiz Plain.

Flattened Oblate Spheroidal (2)-Translucent, green
"Corn Bead" made to represent a corn kernel.

Oblate Spheroidal (4)-Translucent dark blue; four
hand-pressed facets.

Oblate Spheroidal, "Seven Oaks Gilded Molded" (5)-Line
and dot designs in relief on clear or olive glass; surface
is covered with thin gilt layer.

Oblate Spheroidal (1)-Opaque blue on opaque white
core.

Ovate Spheroidal (1) -Opaque white.

Oblate Spheroidal (6)-Translucent dark blue 6 vertical
white stripes, opaque white circle around each eye.

Spheroidal (1)-Translucent blue, four opaque white
stripes with opaque red stripe in center of each.

Row 10

"Seed" Bead (144)-Translucent light blue.

"Seed" Bead (71)-Translucent lavender.

"Seed" Bead (1)-Clear glass core, opaque white outer
layer with alternating red and blue vertical stripes.

"Seed" Bead (3)-Clear glass core, opaque white outer
layer with vertical red stripes.

"Seed" Bead (225)-Cornaline D'Aleppo; clear pale green
core, opaque red outer layer.

"Seed" Bead (7)-Pseudo Cornaline D'Aleppo; imitation
of the previous described bead; dark circle around eye to
simulate original bead.

"Seed" Bead (7,177)-Opaque white.

"Seed" Bead (3,943)-Opaque dark blue.

"Seed" Bead (3,620)-Opaque light blue.

"Seed" Bead (54)-Translucent green.

"Seed" Bead (525)-Opaque yellow.

"Seed" Bead (8)-Opaque peach.

"Seed" Bead (101)-Translucent amber.

The number of beads salvaged and noted, is probably a rather small percentage of beads the mound originally contained.

The archaeological range for the beads presented here is, for the most part, that of the same types found elsewhere in Florida and other areas of early European occupation in adjoining states. The quartz crystal beads are, however, generally rare outside of Florida. These, as well as styles of amber beads, are not usually considered trade beads, but are a part of Spanish dress. Bead types and styles from the Philip Mound were similar to those recorded at the Goodnow Mound, Lake Butler, Albritton Mound, Osceola County, Seven Oaks, Bull Creek, and the Lightsey Mound, to name a few.

The chevron beads are a poor time marker since they are found in much earlier sites in other areas of the world, and are still manufactured for African trade. The same is true for many styles of seed or garment beads which can still be obtained today in most of our stores.

Cornaline D'Aleppo, Ichtucknee, Nueva Cadiz Plain, Amber Beads, Cut Crystal, and Seven Oaks Gilded Molded are better markers which date in the 16th century and early part of the 17th century.

Fairbanks, Goggin, Griffin, and Smith have added much to glass bead nomenclature and dating in Florida, but there still remains considerable work to be done in this field.

METAL BEADS

Beads made of metal were found also. These included silver coin beads (first five, top row, Fig. 3), copper and sheet silver tubular beads (last three, top row, Fig. 3), and small "rod" beads, cut from a perforated silver rod (first four, 2nd row, Fig. 3). "Coin" Beads were so named because the method of manufacture was to pierce a coin and flatten the edges until the desired effect was obtained. Some of these holes were square and were probably made with the early, handmade, square-cut nails.

Metal tubular beads were made from sheet silver, gold, and copper that was cut and rolled to the desired length. One silver tubular bead had previously been used as an oval shaped pendant pierced at the top. Cordage, preserved by salts, still protrude from last bead (top row, Fig. 3).

Round convex metal disks of silver and copper (last two, 2nd row, Fig. 3) were obviously used as veneers or inlays on a wooden button, or some other ornament. Fragments of pitch, or similar adhesive, still cling to the concave side of several.

STONE AND SHELL BEADS

Several beads of other than glass or metal were found, and are of aboriginal manufacture. These are pictured on the bottom row of Fig. 3. From left to right, they are: Tubular polished stone, steatite, convex-shaped, polished stone, oval shaped, flat shell bead, cylindrical shell bead, olivella shell bead, and small "seed" shell beads barely 3 mm in diameter.

METAL PENDANTS

Metal pendants of various sizes and shapes are pictured in Fig. 4. Most of these are cut from sheet silver and are of aboriginal workmanship. The large silver disk with central perforation, (top row, Fig. 4) and pointed pendant (top row end, Fig. 4) are too thick to be classed as sheet silver and were probably made from large coins.

Bottom Row (left to right)

The first four objects in the bottom row of Fig. 4 are of European manufacture. The first is a copper hook, grooved at top for suspension; the second appears to be part of a religious necklace with fractures at the edges of the extended nodules, suggesting other areas for continuation of the necklace. This could be the center piece for holding the crucifix or medal. The third object is a silver thimble with the crown pierced for suspension. The figure of a heart pierced with an arrow adorns one side, a band of words separated by triangular symbols encircles the bottom of the thimble. Corrosion has made the letters almost illegible, but they appear as ESPERANCA • EREI • FORE • AE • MORE. The fourth object is a round, copper, "dangle" object about the size of a #1 buckshot, with flat eye attached for suspension.

IRON TOOLS

The iron tools pictured in Fig. 5 were discarded by previous excavators as apparently worthless, or were unnoticed in their back fill. In the top row of Fig. 5 are a knife blade and scissors. The scissors was reconstructed from fragments. Two were found, both fragmentary. In the bottom row are an iron axe with eye for hafting, and a celtiform iron axe.

STONE OBJECTS

In Fig. 6 are shown the stone objects recovered from the site. From left to right in the top row there is a polished stone celt, projectile point, and a drill. In the bottom row, left to right, are small ovate projectile points, a triangular point, and a drill.



Fig. 3. Metal, stone and shell beads.

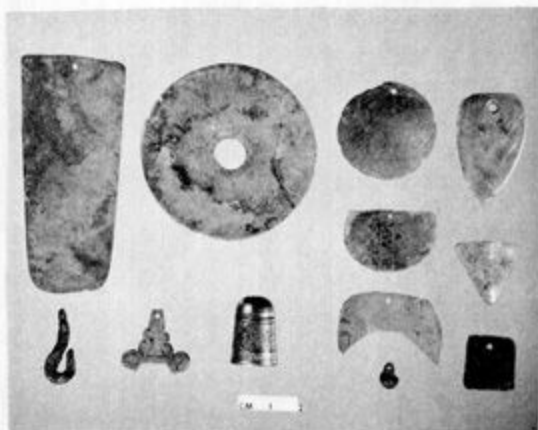


Fig. 4. Metal pendants, tools, and ornaments.

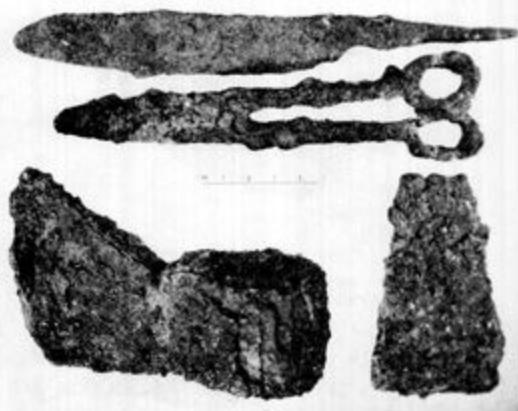


Fig. 5. Iron tools.

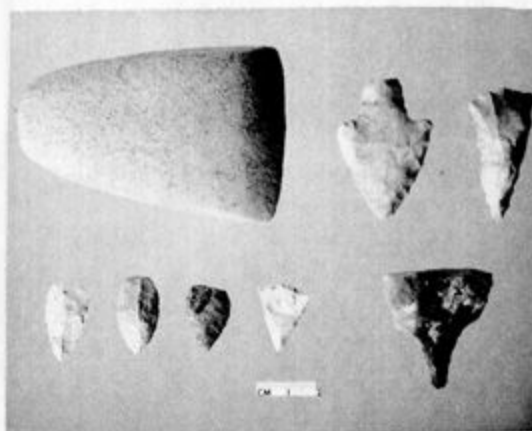


Fig. 6. Chipped and polished stone tools.

1 Englewood Incised (left, bottom row, Fig. 9).

1 Pinellas Plain, with node below rim (top Fig. 10). This is probably a copy because of Belle Glade paste characteristics.

1 Unclassified (left, bottom row, Fig. 10).

253 Belle Glade Plain (right, bottom row, Fig. 10).

37 Biscayne Plain (left, top row, Fig. 11).

32 Biscayne Check Stamped (right, top row, Fig. 11).

2 Gordon's Pass Incised or variant (bottom row, Fig. 11).

EUROPEAN WARE

One fragment of Majolica made up the total inventory of European ware that was recovered in the Philip Mound (Fig. 11, center). Charles Fairbanks (personal communication) indicated that the specimen was definitely related to San Luis Polychrome but that the paste and enamel colors are not those usually found with San Luis Polychrome. A suggested date of 1650-1700 A.D. was given because this is the most popular time period for this type.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Small triangular and ovate triangular projectile points, Pinellas pottery, Busycon dippers, reworked European metals taken from wrecked Spanish ships, plus trade beads and iron tools, indicate a Safety Harbor Period with an overlap from the earlier Englewood Period. The latter was designated by the Englewood Incised and Sarasota Incised sherds.

The Belle Glade and Biscayne Pottery is contemporaneous with both periods, and is often associated with other Safety Harbor sites. The Philip Mound has a close temporal and material association with the Goodnow Mound (Griffin and Smith 1948) which lies a short distance south in Highlands County. Goggin's "Archaeological areas of Florida" would put the Philip mound in the Kissimmee area with the Goodnow site, and very near the borders of the Central West Coast and Manatee areas. The Philip site contained considerable more pottery and a larger variety of types than the Goodnow mound. Belle Glade and Biscayne Plain were found in both mounds, but Goodnow lacked Biscayne Check Stamped and the Pinellas and Englewood complex found in the Philip Mound.

To my knowledge there were no silver ceremonial tablet pendants, as described by Griffin and Smith (1948: 16, 26),

found at the Philip site. Glass beads, iron tools and other previously mentioned objects were very similar in both mounds.

Griffin and Smith related Goodnow to the culture of the Glades area in late times, while the Philip site has strong characteristics of both late Glades and late Gulf Coast influences.

In conclusion, it is probable that the time period for the Philip Mound is 1600-1700 A.D., or possibly a little earlier. The 17th century is the range given to the Goodnow Mound by Smith (1956: 56).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank Mr. Philip Berkovitz for permission to excavate, Dr. Charles Fairbanks for assistance in bead identification, and Sara Benson for field and clerical assistance.

REFERENCES

- Bullen, Ripley P.
1958 Six sites near the Chattahoochee River in the Jim Woodruff Reservoir Area, Florida. River Basin Surveys Papers No. 14, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 169. Washington.
- DeJarnette, David L. and A. T. Hansen
1960 The Archeology of the Childersburg Site, Alabama. Notes in Anthropology, Vol. 6. Dept. of Anthropology, Florida State University. Tallahassee.
- Fairbanks, Charles H.
1949 A General Survey of Southeastern Prehistory. In The Florida Indian and His Neighbors (J. W. Griffin, editor), pp. 55-75. Rollins College. Winter Park.
- Ferguson, Vera M.
1951 Chronology at South Indian Field, Florida. Yale University Publications in Anthropology, No. 45. New Haven.
- Goggin, John M.
1952 Space and Time Perspective in Northern St. Johns Archeology, Florida. Yale University Publications in Anthropology, No. 47. New Haven.
- n.d. Spanish Trade Beads and Pendants. Unpublished MS, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Florida. Gainesville.