

EXCAVATIONS AT TWO FORT OKANOGAN SITES, 1952

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With Appendix on  
An Analysis of the Artifacts

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APPENDIX A. AN ANALYSIS OF THE ARTIFACTS  
FROM FORT OKANOGAN, 1952  
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INTRODUCTION

During the excavations of historic Fort Okanogan a number of implements of Indian and white origin were recovered. An analysis of these specimens adds further documentation to Hudson's Bay Company's activities in north-central Washington in the early 19th century as well as portraying, to some degree, both the preservation and acculturation of aboriginal Indian life during that period. Of special importance to the archeologist are those specimens which were used as trade items and to which can be assigned specific dates.

This project was originated and made possible by Mr. Louis R. Caywood, Archeologist, Region Four, National Park Service, and Dr. V. Aubrey Neasham, Historian Department of Parks and Beaches, State of California, formerly Regional Historian with the National Park Service. Mr. Caywood also gave suggestions and technical assistance to the writer. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Adan E. Treganza and Dr. C. E. Smith, Jr., Department of Anthropology, San Francisco State College, for their advice and comments in the preparation of this manuscript.

Also, appreciation is accorded Mr. Arthur Woodward, Los Angeles County Museum, for information concerning trade beads, clay pipes and snuff containers; Dr. Clement W. Meighan, Department of Anthropology, University of California at Los Angeles, for information on trade beads; Mr. Alphoeus H. Albert concerning buttons; Mr. Arnold Pilling for comments on English earthenware; Mr. Thomas R. Garth for information on bateau bolts and tin tinklers; Mr. A. P. Leonard concerning gun parts; and Mr. Gregory S. Beal for his research on the Indian material.

Other distinctive specimens include three brown glazed fragments in the shape of a face and five fragments of dark orange glazed in a leaf or flowered design. These could be either English or French in manufacture.

### BUTTONS

Of the twenty-seven buttons, all but two were found in Building C. These buttons range in diameter from 4 mm. to 22 mm. and have from one to four holes. The whole collection was examined by Mr. Alphacus H. Albert, who supplied most of the following information:

Six of the buttons are made of china, are all four-holed and range in diameter from 9 mm. to 11 mm. These buttons are from the 1816 to 1860 period (the dates of Fort Okanogan). Bone buttons are from the 1816 to 1860 period also and number six in total (Plate I, B, c, g and h). These buttons are from 11 mm. to 18 mm. in diameter and are one, three and four-holed. Only five specimens are made of pearl, ranging from 9 mm. to 13 mm. in diameter. They are four-holed and date from the 1816 to 1860 period and later. Three iron buttons, from 13 mm. to 22 mm. in diameter, also fall into the 1816 to 1860 period and later. One specimen had a cloth covering and a loop on the back side for attachment.

Six brass and two white brass buttons were found. The brass buttons are either four-holed (Plate I, B, f) or have the loop on the back side. These buttons range in diameter from 11 mm. to 17.5 mm. and are from the 1816 to 1860 date period. The white brass buttons (Plate I, B, i and j) are often called Tombac, are each 21 mm. in diameter and have the loop on the back side. Mr. Albert reported concerning these buttons: "These buttons are probably the oldest in the collection and were sometimes used as military buttons. They are similar to some that were unearthed from a ship which was sunk in the Delaware River in the 1770's and recently brought up."

### TRADE BEADS

Fort Okanogan produced a wide variety of trade beads. Of ninety-two types, blue was the most common color. Green, amber, yellow, red, white, black, brown and grey beads occurred less frequently. These colors occurred in both opaque and translucent forms. Most are round in shape through several are six and seven sided faceted. Most of the information was furnished by Arthur Woodward and Clement Meighan.

Possibly the oldest specimens are three cylindrical beads, yellow, white and green. These beads are 9 mm. and 10 mm. long and date from the late 18th century into the first two decades of the 19th century. Two of these types have been found in California Indian sites. One light blue opaque bead, 8.5 mm. in width by 1 cm. in diameter, was widespread in the Plains area in the mid-19th century, arriving about 1820 to 1830. The most common beads found are the "seed" or "embroidery"

beads, which range in diameter from 1.5 mm. to 3 mm. and occur in yellow, green, white blue, and red, are round in shape, and opaque or translucent. These beads date from the early 19th century to the post-1840's. Some forms have been found in California Indian and historic sites and at Fort Vancouver. 24/

Two types, dark green translucent and red-brown opaque, occur in the 1830 to the post-1840 period. These are 2.5 mm. and 5 mm. in diameter and are round. The third most common type is the six and seven sided faceted opaque and translucent beads. Blue is the most predominant color, green, black and grey-brown also occurring. Diameters range from 6 mm. to 9 mm. . This type is termed "3-cut agate" in modern times and dates from 1840 to the 1870's, being of frequent occurrence in California Indian sites.

The second most numerous bead type ranges in diameter from 2.5 mm. to 3 mm., round, and white opaque in color. These are common in California Indian sites and date from 1840 to 1860, although they probably occurred early in the Northwest. Nine of the bead types date from 1840 to 1890 in California, most likely occurring earlier at Fort Okanogan. Three of the nine are faceted, and a clear translucent blue. They range from 5 mm. to 7 mm. in diameter. The remaining six are round and are white, green, red and blue. They range in diameter from 2 mm. to 9 mm., are opaque and translucent. All of these nine types have been found in California Indian sites, three at Fort Vancouver and two at Fort Spokane.

One "pony trader bead" was identified, but lacks a date. The most interesting bead in appearance is 2.3 cm. long (is possibly broken), cylindrical, and of a yellow translucent material. Although this bead type has been found in California Indian sites and Fort Vancouver, no date has been determined for its occurrence.

The remaining bead types presently are lacking as to a means of identification though many occur in California Indian sites, some at La Purisima Mission, Fort Vancouver, and in Oregon and Alaska.

Concerning the beads in general, Arthur Woodward reports: "All of your beads belong in the ordinary class of trade beads. There are no unusual ones in the entire lot." Clement Meighan states: "My general impression is that all of your beads date a lot closer to the final occupation of Fort Okanogan than they do to the beginning phases ....on my dating information all of your beads date after 1840. However, this can't be taken too seriously, because the same types of beads that didn't reach California until 1840 could very well have been in use at an earlier date further north."

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24/ Caywood. The Archeological Excavation of Fort Vancouver, 113.