

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS
at
PEMAQUID, MAINE
1965-1974

by Helen B. Camp



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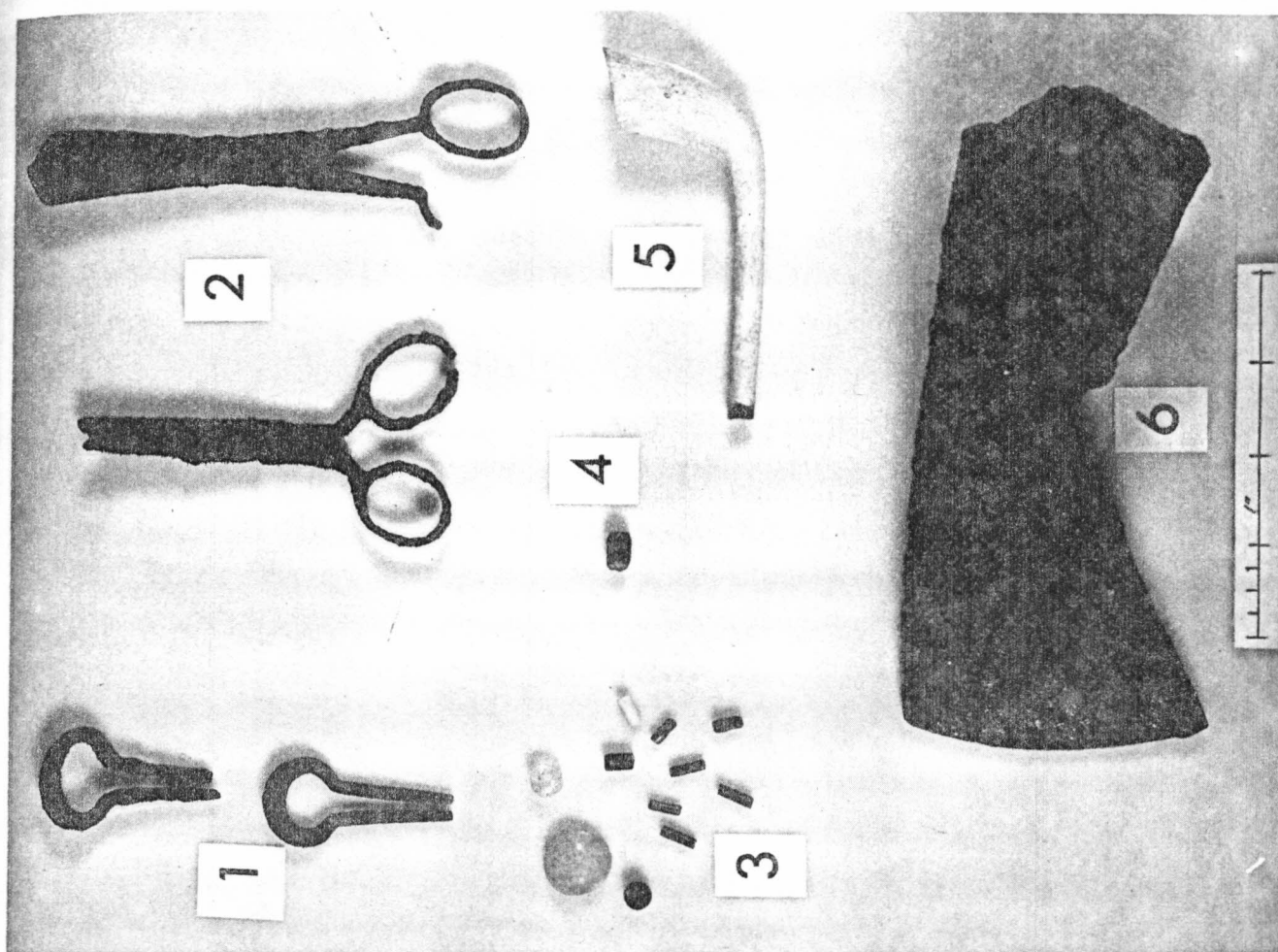


FIGURE 38
Indian Trade Goods

The Indians were not so much interested in trading for coins as they were in bartering for some of the articles used by the settlers. The colonists in turn were anxious to have furs and pelts, which the Indians got from trapping.

1. Jews harps. These are simple musical instruments consisting of a lyre-shaped metal frame with a metal tongue in the middle which was plucked while the frame was held in the teeth. The example at the top is steel; the one at the bottom is brass. The tongues of these Jews harps are missing.
2. Scissors. These are steel scissors made in England in the seventeenth century. They were, of course, used in the home as well as for trading purposes.
3. Trade beads. These were made in a variety of shapes and colors, and most of them came from Italy. In the middle of the eighteenth century the Hudson Bay Company set a standard of value for beads used for the Indian trade. Values were based on size and color of the bead and ranged from six beads for one skin to one bead for two skins.
4. This star of chevron bead was the aristocrat of trade beads. Such beads were widely traded in the Americas, first by the Spaniards, later by others, and they occur at random throughout the United States, and to some degree in Canada. Examples have been found in California, in Alabama, and in what are believed to be eighteenth century Iroquois graves.
5. White clay tobacco pipe. The Indians particularly coveted this trade item.
6. German trade axe. The Indians found such axes much easier to use than their stone types. This one was made in the seventeenth century.