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KANAKA VILLAGE/VANCOUVER BARRACKS
1974

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Reports in Highway Archaeology No. 3

Seattle

1976

THE BEADS

Of the 646 beads recovered from the site, only one was from an Army stratum. All the rest are considered to have been imported by the Hudson's Bay Company or its predecessors, in particular, the Northwest Fur Company of Montreal. In 1821 Hudson's Bay Company took over the Northwest Fur Company's inventory of merchandise causing a certain ambiguity in dating.

Within our six classes an attempt has been made to assign the chronological position to a number of kinds of beads. By the use of either 'Early' or 'Late,' the period of the bead's first introduction is indicated; this introduction is based upon the time of its deposition or discard. In the brief span that the Hudson's Bay Company was at Vancouver -- 36 years -- there was insufficient time for depositional strata to develop that were relatively free of earlier materials. This applied particularly to such a small item as a bead which is apt to be overlooked while cleaning habitation areas. Also, an item such as a bead is very apt to move vertically in the soil with rodent disturbance in a site such as Operation 19. In assigning chronological position, then, we are looking mainly at the earliest possible occurrences. In the case of large samples, we can be much more confident than with small ones. In a very small sample, even though the earliest occurrences of a particular type are not from the earliest strata present, we nevertheless must hesitate to label them as late since the opportunities for the fortuitous distribution of the sample through the stratigraphy are so much greater.

The beads, according to their type of manufacture, are classified as: (I) Cut beads; (II) Cut and Ground beads; (III) Wound beads; (IV) Mandrel Pressed beads; (V) Molded beads with facets; and (VI) Prosser beads. Within these six general classes are 29 types based on combinations of size and/or color. For example, Type III-a, is ten opaque light blue "Canton" spheres ranging in diameter from 9.5 to 10.0 mm. and Type III-b is 12 opaque light blue "Canton" spheres ranging in diameter from 2.7 to 5.0 mm.

Type VI, or Prosser bead, is based on Lester A. Ross' (n.d.:7) description of Roderick Sprague's hypothesis that this particular bead was manufactured in the same way as small china or ceramic buttons, i.e., using a technique patented by Richard Prosser in 1841. Dry, clay powder was placed in a two-piece mold, compressed and fired in a kiln. A typical Prosser bead has a small slightly raised band around its circumference. Only one bead of this type was found in 1974, but four more, two of them light blue, were recovered during the 1975 excavations.

Type IV, or Mandrel pressed bead, is also derived from Ross (n.d.:5-6). He states that Mandrel pressed beads

> ". . . were made by pressing two pieces of molten (or plastic) glass together in a mold . . .The resultant bead blank has a conical hole which did not pass through the entire bead. This bead blank was placed upon a mandrel and random facets were ground over the entire surface . . . and after faceting, the remaining portion of the hole was punched through the bead . . ."

The stringing hold through each bead, then, is invariably cone-shaped. Just as Ross described, all ten Type IV beads recovered show a "seam which marks the fused upper and lower hemispheres." Additionally, all beads of this type display an upper facet which was ground last to avoid shattering the bead during the final hole punching: "(The) radiating lines of percussion force would terminate at the facet edges, thus producing a uniform conical hole."

The 19 "Cornaline D'Aleppo" beads, Type Ia, are red with white centers. These were made by layering a core of molten white glass with molten red glass. This was accomplished by placing molten white on a rod, blowing an air bubble through the rod into the glass, and plunging the white into the molten red. A second rod was then placed against the glass bubble by a second worker, and both rod holders swiftly pulled the glass into a long rod. After cooling, the rods were chopped into working lengths and then further chopped into rough beads. The beads were placed in a vat containing a mixture of sand and wood ash and the vat constantly rotated until the beads were rounded and polished. The beads were sized by sifting. These sizings are identical to the old Venetian measuring system (L. Ross, personal communication).

Type II, cut and ground bead, was made as above except after polishing, facets were round. This was accomplished by briefly holding the bead against a foot-operated sander. Unlike the Mandrel pressed bead where facets were randomly placed about the entire surface, a cut and ground bead has facets cut only about each end. The bead's circumference, as a result, was formed into round, self-facets which were flattened by brief sanding. Typical of this type is a II-a, a light blue, translucent "Russian." This bead has a fairly large hole with two concentric layers of lighter blue glass around it. Type II-d is an opaque, milky cylinder with a small hole and one concentric layer of white glass around it. Type II-b is but a single-layered cylinder. All these beads, in spite of their varied layers, have in common the facets ground only about the holes on each end of each bead and the resultant self-formed center facets flattened by sanding.

Type III, wound beads, were individually made by winding a length of molten glass about a wire. After cooling, the bead was slipped off the wire. Type III-e, a slightly opaque, light amber oval, reveals, when held under light, the winding marks around the wire on which the glass was wound. This particular type was polished with care, for no marks of the winding are apparent on the face of the bead itself. A rare air bubble can be seen within this large example of the wound beads. Included in this class are the "Cantons," possibly those described by Lewis and Clark as being the most highly prized of all the beads by the Indians, at least in the early years. These beads, Types III-a & b, all reveal face marks of their winding. A slightly different glass-making formula might have been used in their production, perhaps a coarser sand, or a slightly different polishing technique. The large Cantons (a) are dull in comparison to the glaze-like finish on the smaller type (b). Lewis and Clark in their journal wrote: "This is a coarse cheap bead imported from China . . . in strands. It is far more valued than the white beads of the same manufacture and answers all the purposes of money, being counted by the fathom"(Woodward 1967:14). We believe, like Lewis and Clark, that our Cantons actually were of Chinese manufacture. While the explorers considered the Canton to be inferior, they included them among the beads used as currency or as an offering of friendship.

I. Cut Beads

a. 19 "Cornaline D'Aleppo's," red with white centers; opaque spheres ranging in diameter from 2.0 to 5.0 mm; early H.B.C. Munsell color: red, 7.5R 3/10; White, 5R 9/1.

b. 19 clear green spheres ranging in diameter from 1.5 to 2.0 mm. Munsell color: 5BG 5/8.

c. 143 clear blue spheres ranging in diameter from 1.0 to 4.0 mm. Late H.B.C. Munsell color: 7.5B 5/8.

d. 18 opaque blue spheres ranging in diameter from 1.0 to 2.5 mm. Munsell color: 2.5PB 3/8.

e. Four clear blue squat cylinders ranging in diameter from 2.0 to 3.0 mm. Munsell color: 5B 4/8.

f. 47 opaque milky-white, squat cylinders ranging in diameter from 1.7 to 5.0 mm; early H.B.C. Munsell color: 10BG 9/1.

g. 328 opaque white spheres ranging in diameter from 1.75 to 3.0 mm; early H.B.C. Munsell color: N 9.5.

h. One opaque sphere of white with four slender dark blue stripes; diameter 3.0 mm; early H.B.C.? Munsell color: Blue, 5PB 4/8; White, N 9.5.

i. Two clear milky-white spheres; diameters 1.0 mm each. Munsell color: 7.5PB 9/2.

j. Five opaque white spheres ranging in diameter from 1.25 to 1.8 mm. Munsell color: N 9.5?

II. Cut and Ground Beads

a. One light blue translucent "Russian" cylinder with facets; fairly large hole with two concentric layers of lighter blue around it; diameter 8.8 mm; length 7.0 mm; early H.B.C. Munsell color: 2.5B 5/6.

b. One clear pinkish-purple cylinder with facets; large hole; diameter: 5.5 mm; length: 5.2 mm. Munsell color: 10RP 3/10.

c. One clear crystal cylinder with facets; fairly large hole; diameter: 6.0 mm; length: 5.0 mm; early H.B.C.

d. One opaque milky cylinder with facets; small hole with a concentric layer of white around it; diameter: 6.0 mm; length: 5.0 mm. Munsell color: 5YR 9/1.

e. One opaque milky sphere with facets; diameter: 9.0 mm; length: 7.5 mm; fairly large hole with a concentric layer of white around it. Munsell color: 5YR 9/1.

f. Five opaque dark-blue "Russian" squat cylinders with facets; large holes with two concentric layers of lighter blue around them; ranging in diameter from 5.0 to 5.5 mm; length 6.0 to 7.0 mm. Munsell color: 6.25PB 3/12.

II. Cut and Ground Beads (cont.)

g. One opaque dark-blue "Russian" cylinder with facets; large hole; diameter: 4.7 mm; length: 5.8 mm; late H.B.C.? Munsell color: 7.5PB 3/12.

h. One clear light-blue cylinder "Russian" with facets; fairly large hole; diameter: 5.5 mm; length: 5.2 mm; late H.B.C.? Munsell color: 6.25 PB 4/12.

III. Wound Beads

a. Ten opaque light blue "Canton" spheres ranging in diameter from 9.5 to 10.0 mm; small holes; early H.B.C.? Munsell colors: 7.5B 5/8 to 7.5B 6/6.

b. 12 opaque light blue "Canton" spheres ranging in diameter from 2.7 to 5.0 mm; medium holes; early H.B.C. Munsell color: 7.5B 6/6.

c. One opaque red cone with medium hole; length: 8.5 mm; top: 6.0 mm; bottom: 4.0 mm; early H.B.C. Munsell color: 2.5R 4/12.

d. Three opaque white "Porcelain" barrels with small holes; lengths: 7.0 mm, 7.9 mm, 9.2 mm; diameters: 4.2 mm, 4.6 mm, 5.0 mm. Munsell color: N 9.5/.

e. One slightly opaque amber barrel with medium hole; diameter: 8.9 mm; length: 11.0 mm; late H.B.C.? Munsell color: 5YR 6/12.

f. Seven clear blue "Chinese"? spheres with small holes ranging in diameter from 6.1 to 7.0 mm. Munsell color: 10B 4/10.

g. One opaque green sphere oxidized to buff; small hole; diameter: 7.3mm; late H.B.C. Munsell color: 10BG 5/6.

IV. Mandrel-pressed beads

a. Eight opaque, very light-blue spheres with facets; conical holes; ranging in diameter from 8.0 to 9.0 mm; lengths: 7.5 to 7.9 mm.

b. Two clear crystal spheres with facets; conical holes; diameter: 7.0 mm; length: 5.8 mm.

V. Molded bead with facets.

a. One opaque medium blue sphere with molded facets; medium hole; diameter: 8.0 mm; length: 7.0 mm; early H.B.C.? Munsell color: 6.25 PB 4/12.

VI. Prosser bead

a. One opaque white sphere; diameter: 5.6 mm; Ingalls House, Army period. Munsell color: N 9.5/.

Table 10. Incidence and distribution of beads recovered from Kanaka Village/ Vancouver Barracks.

Type	N	Opn.	Str.
I a.	10	11	9B
	4	11	9
	2	11	9C
	1	11	9A
	1	11	9
	1	19	2A
	19		
b.	16	11	9B
	1	11	9
	1	11	9A
	1	19	3
	19		
c.	110	11	9B
	9	11	9A
	7	11	9
	5	19	2A
	5	19	3
	2	11	Tr. 5
	1	7	HBC
	1	11	Tr. 5
	1	13	9B
	1	6	8
	1	20	6C
	143		
d.	2	11	9
	1	19	2A
	1	19	3
	14	11	9B
	18		
e.	2	11	9
	1	11	9B
	1	19	2A
	4		
I f.	16	11	9B
	9	19	3
	6	11	9
	5	11	9C
	4	19	2A
	2	11	9A
	1	6	6
	1	11	Tr. 5
	1	19	4
	1	16	8
	1	11	6D
	47		
g.	227	11	9B
	41	11	9
	21	11	9A
	15	19	2A
	9	11	9C
	7	19	3
	1	24	7
	1	11	6
	1	6	8
	1	20	7
	1	11	2
	1	11	9
	1	20	Fea. 18
	1	11	Tr. 5
	328		
h.	1	19	3
i.	2	11	9B
j.	4	11	9B
	1	11	9A
	5		

Total: 583

Table 10. (Cont.)

Type	N	Opn.	Str.
II a.	1	19	3
b.	1	11	9
c.	1	19	3
d.	1	11	Tr. 5
e.	1	11	9B
f.	2	11	9B
	1	TP2	2
	1	11	9
	1	11	Tr. 5
	5		
g.	1	19	2A
h.	1	19	2A
Total:	12		
III a.	5	19	2A
	2	19	3
	2	19	3
	1	11	5
	10		
b.	5	11	9B
	2	19	2A
	2	19	3
	1	11	9C
	1	11	5
	1	11	9
	12		
c.	1	19	3
d.	2	11	9B
	1	19	3
	3		

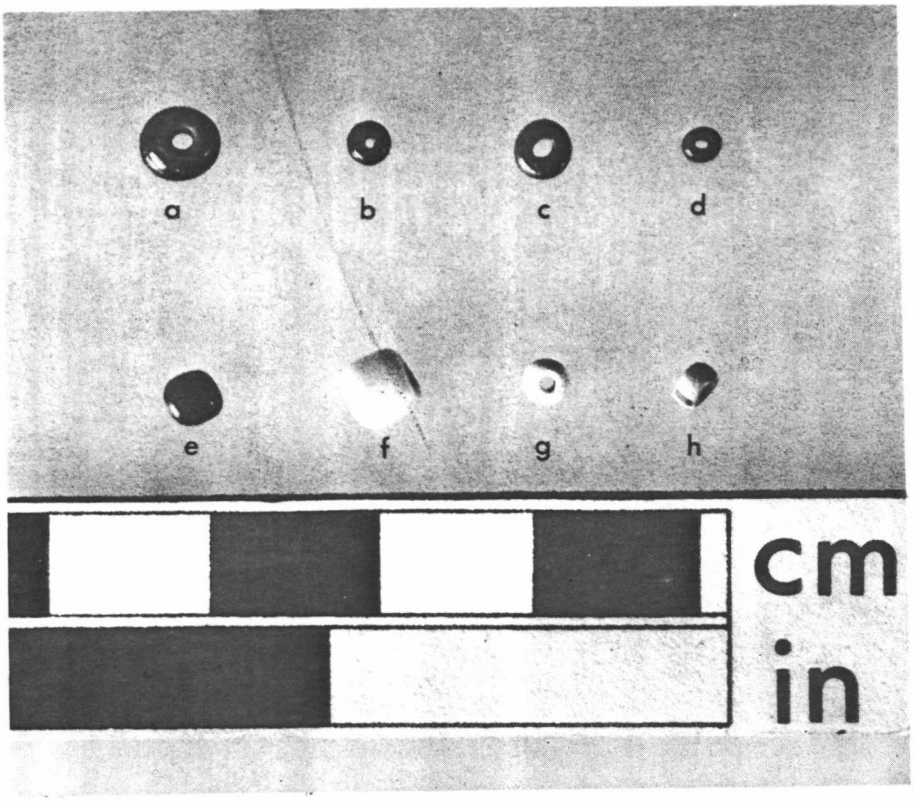
Type	N	Opn.	Str.
III e.	1	18	1
f.	2	11	9
	2	19	3
	1	11	9B
	1	13	5A
	1	20	7
	7		
g.	2	19	2A
Total:	36		
IV a.	5	11	9B
	2	11	9
	1	2	2
	8		
b.	1	11	9
	1	11	9A
	2		
Total:	10		
V a.	1	19	3
Total:	1		
VI a.	1	20	7
Total:	1		

Fig. 52. Cut beads, Class I

a. Type I a, No. 43287.
b. Type I b, No. 48839.
c. Type I c, No. 31694.
d. Type I d, No. 40021.
e. Type I e, No. 10314.
f. Type I f, No. 9396.
g. Type I g, No. 45126.
h. Type I h, No. 46370.

Fig. 53. Cut and ground beads, Class II

a. Type II a, No. 26043.
b. Type II b, No. 7596.
c. Type II c, No. 43652.
d. Type II d, No. 3476.
e. Type II e, No. 28403
f. Type II f, No. 8152.
g. Type II g, No. 41048.
h. Type II h, No. 33901.


a
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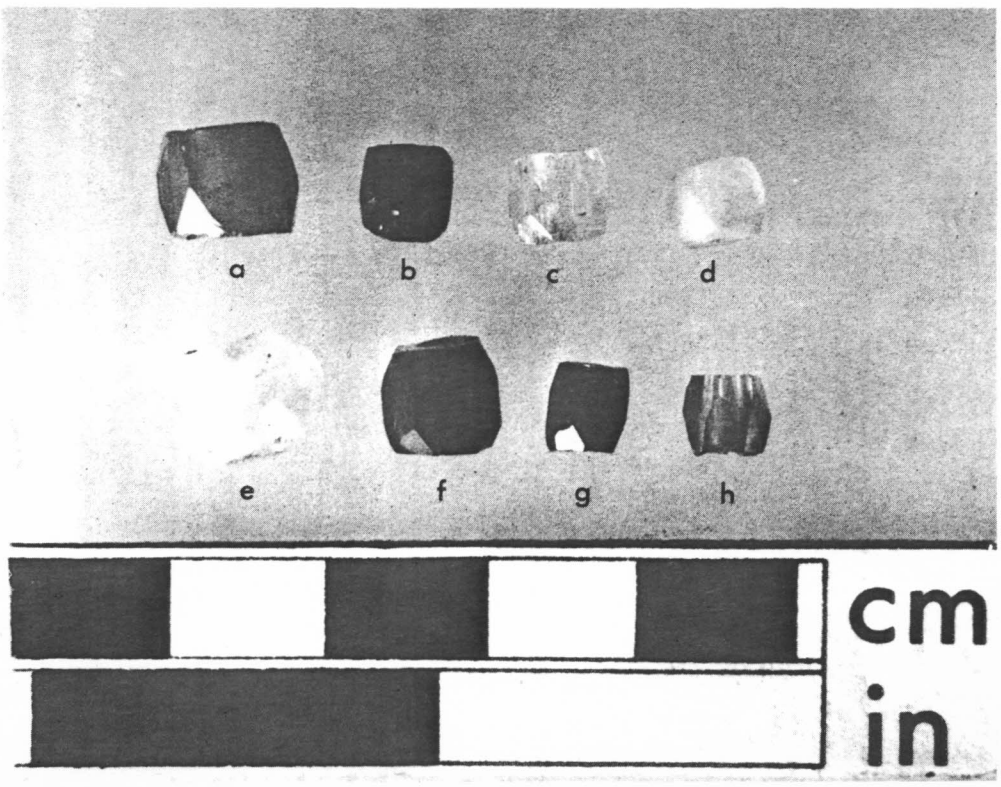
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Fig. 54. Wound beads, Class III

a. Type III a, No. 33534.

b. Type III b, No. 4089.

c. Type III c, No. 46372.

d. Type III d, No. 29069.

e. Type III e, No. 20525.

f. Type III f, No. 12555.

Fig. 55. Mandrel-pressed beads, Class IV; Molded bead, Class V; Prosser-molded bead, Class VI

a. Type IV a, No. 11773.

b. Type IV b, No. 40624.

c. Type V a, No. 43855.

d. Type VI a, No. 46562.

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