

KETTLE FALLS: 1976
SALVAGE ARCHAEOLOGY IN LAKE ROOSEVELT

by
David H. Chance and Jennifer V. Chance

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH MANUSCRIPTS SERIES, NO. 39

Laboratory of Anthropology
University of Idaho

1977

Moscow

The pipes that are possibly of American manufacture would probably post-date 1850, for just after that the Company began purchasing American goods in order to circumvent the high duties on British manufactures.

The Beads

In order to facilitate the discussion of the glass beads recovered from Fort Colville in 1976, we categorized those recovered in previous years and at other sites. This classification is a simple one that is based on manufacturing technique, basic color, and opacity. The criteria are objective, except for the last, opacity, which admits some subjective evaluation, partly because a bead can appear more opaque now than it was originally due to corrosion or fire damage. Nonetheless, this system has the virtue of simplicity and sufficient detail to permit the detection of real differences between assemblages, and an objectivity sufficient to allow comparisons to be made by other investigators.

Much of the information detailed in Tables 14-17 is reduced to more manageable proportions in Table 18. Most surprising, perhaps, is the fact that the store area (Operation 3) shows fewer varieties of beads than the chief trader's house, the officers' quarters, or the servants' houses. It does not even have twice as many varieties as the Operation 8 blacksmith shop! Also troubling is the virtual lack of wound beads in the store. Since it has only one bead of the blue wound varieties believed to be what the Company called "Canton" beads and which were important to Fort Colville in large quantities prior to 1850, our identification may be in doubt. Although the store area is far from completely excavated, we may well possess a near-representative sample. Another possibility, perhaps the more likely, is that the one or more inferred reconstructions of the store (Chance 1972), may have occasioned the scraping away of the ground. If true, our assumption that wound beads are an earlier class, restricted to the first half of the century, may be still correct.

The blacksmith shops at Operations 8 and 27 have a pattern of abundant wound beads in common with the officers' quarters (Opn. 6) near which they were situated. The servants' houses do not have so many, but they do have a large variety of them. It would appear then that the native spouses of the men of Fort Colville may very well have been wearing varieties of wound and other classes of beads--cut and ground, for instance--that were not part of the post's trading inventory. This could be explained in part by the fact that some women would have beads obtained as heirlooms, or ones bought in Canada, or some secured from the predecessors of the H.B.C. The Company only started trading in the Pacific Northwest in 1821, four years before the founding of Fort Colville.

Two classes of beads suggest themselves as indicators of wealth because they were apparently scarce. These are the cut and ground (Class II) and the mandrel-pressed and ground (Class IV). The fact that both classes are characterized by ground facets makes it very probable that they were more costly than the cut and tumbled varieties (often referred to as drawn or tubular beads). The chief trader's house (Operation 1) had the highest cut and ground/cut ratio (.18) of any place at the fort. Next highest is Operation 8, followed by Operation 28, a chief trader's privy. The mandrel-

TABLE 14. Glass beads recovered from Fort Colville in 1976

Operation:			8	26	27	28	30	Surface	Total
Class	Color	Type							
I Cut	White-opaque		12	10	6	8	11		47
	Blue-translucent		1	2	5		3		11
	Blue-opaque		1						1
	Lt. Blue-opaque		1						1
	Dk. Blue-opaque		1		1		1		3
	Green-translucent		1	1					2
	Red and white	'Cornaline D'Aleppo'		1		1			2
II Cut and ground	Blue-translucent	'Russian' or 'Aqua marina colliers'	3	1		1			5
	Green-translucent						1		1
III Wound	Blue-translucent	Canton(?)	1	6	3			1	11
	Blue-opaque	Canton	2	1			1		4
	Green-translucent				1				1
	Red-translucent				1				1
	White-opaque						1		1
IV Mandrel	White-translucent						2		2
V Molded	Blue-opaque		1						1
Total			24	20	20	10	19	1	94

TABLE 16. Class II, IV, V, and VI beads excavated at Fort Colville in 1970-71

	Class II Cut & Ground						Class IV Mandrel- pressed	Class V Molded w/ facets	Class VI 'Prosser'
	<i>Lt. Blue</i> Translucent "Russian" or "Aqua Marina Colliers"	<i>Lt. Blue</i> Translucent-oval	<i>Dk. Blue</i> Translucent "Russian" or "Aqua Marina Colliers"	<i>Green</i> Translucent	<i>White</i> Translucent	<i>Purple</i> Translucent-sphere	<i>Blue-Green</i> Opaque	<i>Blue</i> Opaque	White Beads on copper wire
Opn. 1 (Chief trader)	14		6	1	1		1		5
Opn. 2	1		1						
Opn. 3 (Store)	2		6						
Opn. 6 (Officers' qtrs.)	3		1		1			1	
Opn. 9	3							1	
Servants' Houses	31	4	6	1	3			5	
Trench D(NW)	1								
Trench F(W)	1								
Surface	1								
Surface W of Fort	1					1			
Total	58	4	20	2	5	1	1	7	5

TABLE 17. Class III (wound) beads excavated at Fort Colville in 1970-71

[illegible]

	Amber	Red	Black	White	Blue	Purple	Total
Opn. 1 (Chief trader)							
Opn. 2							
Opn. 3 (Store)							
Opn. 6 (Officers' qtrs.)							
Opn. 9							
Opn. 13							
Servants' houses							
Surface W of Fort							
Surface (General)							
Total							

TABLE 18. Summary of the classes of glass beads excavated to date at Kettle Falls

Sites	Classes						Total	Vari- Varieties/ III/		
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI		eties	Total	I
45 ST 94 (Fishery)	92	3	32		2		127	17	.14	.35
Area A	52	3	26		2		81	12	.15	.50
Area B	5						5	3	.60	
Area E	24		4				28	7	.25	.17
Surface	11		2				13	7	.54	.18
45 ST 97 (Ft. Col.)	1389	96	147	3	8	5	1648	53	.03	.10
Opn. 1 (Trader)	118	21	14	1		5	159	21	.13	.12
Opn. 3 (Store)	398	8	1				407	18	.04	.002
Opn. 6 (Officers)	146	5	47		1		199	20	.10	.32
Opn. 9	32	3	3		1		39	11	.28	.09
Svts' Houses	533	45	33		5		615	27	.04	.06
Opn. 8	17	3	3		1		24	10	.42	.18
Opn. 26	14	1	2	2			19	8	.42	.07
Opn. 27	12	1	7				20	6	.30	.58
Opn. 28	9	1					10	3	.30	
Opn. 30	15		5				20	6	.30	.33
45 ST 119 (S. Dune)	6	1	11				18	5	.28	1.83
Area E	2		4				6	4	.67	
Area W	4		5				9	2	.22	
Surface		1	2				3	2	.67	
45 ST 98 & 99			2				2	1		

pressed and ground have been found only at the chief trader's house and in the stratified dump of the Operation 26 which is linked to the former by chronology, ceramics, and kitchen refuse. The Class VI (Prosser-molded) is also found only at the chief trader's house, but here the deciding variable is more likely lateness of time than wealth. The information now available from Fort Colville does not contradict the finding at Kanaka Village that the modal temporal sequence of the bead classes is: wound; cut; cut and ground mandrel-pressed; molded with facets; and Prosser molded (Storm n.d.). However, when we turn to considering the beads at the Fishery site, we shall see reason to question the order of the first two.

The Vessel Glass

Compared to the previous excavations at Fort Colville, relatively little vessel (bottles, etc.) glass was recovered in 1976. Therefore a lengthy discussion is not warranted until we are able to discuss all of that recovered. But a few remarks should be made on the more diagnostic material of 1976. The colors of the glass sherds were quantified (Table 19) in order to contribute to a body of statistics that we believe has some utility in both dating assemblages and in generally characterizing the original general contents of most bottles.

Most of the vessel glass was discovered in the dumps within the Operation 28 privy and the Operation 26 cellar, especially the latter. Fragments from the blacksmith shops were very small as a rule, so that the sherd counts give an inflated view of things when comparison is made with the privy and the cellar. The majority of the vessel glass in all operations can be attributed to liquor bottles rather than those containing condiments, food, cosmetics, drugs, or ink. The largest sample, that from the Operation 26 cellar, can be reduced to about 25 alcoholic bottles, six condiment or food bottles, and one drug bottle. This separation is based largely on glass color, estimated size of containers, and the shapes of the collars.

Most useful for purposes of dating were fragments of two of Dr. J. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters bottles, one set from the bottom of the privy (Fig. 48), the other in Stratum 14, the lowest important refuse deposit of the cellar. Since 1853 was the date of initial production of this popular alcoholic nostrum (Munsey 1970:112), it seems wise to date the initial refuse disposal in both pits to after 1854. Both were of a dark olive-green color, and the example from the privy had an unusual semi-lunar mold seam on its base. It had been blown in a very irregular and crude two-piece mold. The collar was applied separately and then tooled. Useful for dating an upper deposit of the cellar, Stratum 6, were two machine-made bottles that would place that deposit after about 1900.

A collection of amber-colored sherds from the privy cross-mended to about half of a free-blown bottle of a type characteristic of before the nineteenth century. In its pushed-up bulbous base was a glass ring pontil mark, and on its shoulder was an applied glass seal embossed with *AMBROSIAL/B.M. & EAW & CO.* The style of this bottle made us initially estimate the age of the lower privy deposits much earlier than they actually were.

Slate Disc Beads

At Area E of the Fishery small stone disc beads of slate were found in nearly every level. This type of bead has not been noticed at any other site at Kettle Falls. Thus it seems that its occurrence in time should be relatively limited. But a glance at the following table shows it to have a most extreme vertical distribution.

TABLE 30. Occurrence of slate disc beads in Area E of the Fishery site

Stratum	2	2	2A	2A	3	3	3	3
Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	III		II	I	III		I	III

Since historic beads are rarely found more than 20 cm below the 1940 surface, even in highly disturbed areas, a very recent origin for this prehistoric stone bead is ruled out. Likewise, an early (for Area E) original provenience is out of the question, leaving the middle (Levels 4 and 5) as the likely source. Presumably then, deep hearths of Levels 4 and 5 times would account for the Levels 7 and 8 examples while the post holes of Stratum 2 times would account for the late examples. Fortunately, no other "diagnostic" artifact had a vertical distribution like these beads. This fact makes one wonder if perhaps we might instead be dealing with a very long bead tradition of one band of people, perhaps a Kalispel group. This hypothesis is not very tenable, however, because there are so many changes in other respects that one would expect some change at least in the size of these beads, if not in the stylistics or techniques of manufacture. Yet all these attributes hardly vary for the entire sample. They are usually about 7 mm in diameter and about 2 mm thick; their holes are biconic--drilled from both sides. Unlike Steatite, the stone from which these were made is a dull brownish gray. Two of the examples from Level 5 have been burned to a dull orange color.

Glass Beads

While the variety of beads recovered from the Native sites at Kettle Falls, principally the Fishery, is not large, several observations are worth making. The lack of any classes but cut and wound beads among those excavated in Area E suggests that those two classes were introduced first. From the level data it would seem that small opaque white cut beads are the earliest of all. However, the six beads of that variety located in Level 2 are intrusive since only the uppermost part of Level 1, at the most, can be attributed in a depositional sense to the protohistoric (ca. 1785-1810) and historic periods. The beads hold some potential for demonstrating predominant trade sources since the wound beads are most likely of Chinese manufacture while the cut beads are probably of European, possibly Venetian, origin. All, most probably, would have been brought to the Pacific Northwest

by British or American traders, though some may have been transmitted from the interior of the continent by Native traders. If wound beads were introduced during the protohistoric, they probably came from coastal traders having links with Canton.

One more thing to be said on this subject is that the beads provide a good index of intrusion. Unfortunately, the Lake Roosevelt Silt (LRS) sample is so heavily culled by relic collectors that we have no clear idea of the statistical base.

TABLE 31. Glass beads excavated in Area E of the Fishery site (45 ST 94) in 1976

Stratum			1	2	2	2	3	Total
Level			LRS	1	2	3	4	
Class	Color	Type						
I Cut (Drawn)	Green-translucent		3	6				9
	Blue-translucent		1	1	1			3
	Dk. Blue-opaque					1		1
	White-opaque		1	2	6		1	10
	Red (burned ?)		1					1
II Wound	Blue-translucent	'Canton'?		2				2
	Blue-opaque	'Canton'	1	1				2
Total			7	12	7	1	1	28

TABLE 32. Glass beads recovered from the surface of miscellaneous sites in 1976

Site			45 ST 94	45 ST 94A	45 ST 119	Total
Class	Color	Type				
I Cut (drawn)	White-opaque		1			1
	Blue-translucent		5	2		7
	Blue-opaque		2			2
	Red-opaque		1			1
	Green-opaque		1			1
II Cut and ground	Blue-translucent	'Russian' or 'Aqua marina colliers'			1	1
III Wound	Blue-translucent	'Canton'?	1	1	2	4