

THE SOBAIPURI INDIANS  
OF THE UPPER SAN PEDRO  
RIVER VALLEY,  
SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

BY  
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NO. 6

THE AMERIND FOUNDATION, INC.  
DRAGOON, ARIZONA

1953

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## CHAPTER VI

### SPANISH TRADE GOODS

SPANISH METALS, by Arthur Woodward<sup>1</sup>

#### *Introduction*

The Spanish invasion of the southwestern part of the United States began in 1539, and after this period one may expect to find evidences of European material culture in practically any place in southern Arizona or New Mexico. Since the bulk of such cultural residue may be expected to consist of those items which resist the forces of decay, such as bronze, copper, brass, silver, gold, glass, porcelain, pottery, and even iron, it is not surprising that a number of objects of Spanish or Spanish-Mexican origin were uncovered at the sites of Quiburi and Santa Cruz de Gaybanipitea.

Although the term "trade goods" has been applied to this material, it must be used only in the broader sense. Strictly speaking, many of these specimens were not objects of trade, i.e., used in bartering with the natives. Instead, they were things in everyday use among the Spanish settlers and priests who came north to establish Spanish outposts in a heathen land. Undoubtedly a certain amount of material such as glass beads, clothing, household utensils, glass bottles, pottery and porcelain vessels, and ornaments of various sorts, as well as religious medallions and small crucifixes were presented to the Indian neophytes; and it is to be presumed that some of these items, as well as others such as weapons, were probably filched from time to time. Hence I believe most of the specimens encountered in the course of excavation of these sites must be considered more in the light of representative items used by the Spaniards themselves in their everyday life.

It was noted that certain chronological developments occurred in the introduction of these objects as the digging progressed. For example, it would appear that specimens of brass and bronze were introduced into the Sobaipuri culture during the San Pablo de Quiburi Phase prior to the advent of Spanish ceramics and glassware, which appeared after 1704 in the upper San Pedro Valley.

There is a reason for this since metal cups, chocolate pots, basins, pans, etc. were generally carried in first. After settlements were established, the more fragile items were ordered and came overland in pack trains. As might be expected Mexican Majolica, often referred to as Mexican Talavera ware, was the most predominant of the introduced ceramics. This glazed ware was developed at the city of Puebla de los Angeles, east of Mexico City. The exact

<sup>1</sup> Arthur Woodward of the Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California, kindly consented to examine the metal goods found at Quiburi and Santa Cruz de Gaybanipitea and to indite the following section.

date of the establishment of the potteries in that city for the manufacture of Majolica is unknown. Puebla was founded in 1531, and it is presumed by at least one Mexican authority that there may have been some makers of Majolica among those first settlers. There are documentary data for the manufacture of Majolica in Puebla after 1550. It is also known that between 1580-1585 one Gaspar de Encinas, a master craftsman, operated a pottery-making establishment in the Street of the Iron Workers in Puebla. Thus began the making of glazed ceramics at Puebla.

Since their wares were the best of their type in Mexico (glazed wares were also manufactured at Patzcuaro in the 1580's but were of an inferior quality when compared with those from Puebla), it is not surprising that they soon found their way into all parts of the land. Prior to this time (1550's) Spanish glazed wares came into Mexico in rather limited quantities, which fact also mitigated against the widespread use of them in the outlying parts of the frontier at an early period. The English wares, which spread over Mexico in a veritable flood after the trade agreements between Great Britain and Mexico in 1824, examples of which were found at Tumacacori and other missions in Pimeria Alta, were not present at Quiburi or at Santa Cruz de Gaybanipitea.

If one is to argue that these people fled their villages because of the inroads of the Apache, which well may have occurred, some objects may have been left behind in the excitement of getting away. On the other hand, most of the items found were either shattered or useless. Moreover, the bulk of them were small and, had they been of any value, could have been easily carried away. The fact that the various furniture for firearms, for example—consisting of ramrod ferrules, parts of locks, etc.—was scattered indicates that the weapons were not intact when abandoned and the fragments of brass, iron, etc. had been removed from broken weapons and either put to secondary usage or carelessly lost.

To further a more detailed discussion of the trade objects, they have been divided into separate categories. Certain of the specimens, because of a lack of definite character, are difficult to analyze.

### *Metal Containers*

#### *Introduction*

A number of copper cups, chocolate pots, plates, bowls, and platters were found on the floors of the native dwellings. (Pl. 71) All these objects were badly crushed and corroded. Subsequently they were straightened out, cleaned in the laboratory of The Amerind Foundation, Inc., and were checked for details such as hallmarks or dates. Unfortunately, no such marks were found. This is not unusual, particularly in reference to the copper ware. This metal has long been a favorite in Mexico and Spain for the

Of course there were buckles used on saddle and bridle trappings, but such fasteners were heavier and of more sturdy construction. They were made of iron, steel, brass, or bronze and were larger. Heavy cinch rings or buckles were often chased with simple designs; some were inlaid with silver, gold, or brass.

No doubt the Sobaipuri obtained some buckles from the Spaniards and used them as ornaments, since in their simple culture the use of any kind of buckle as a fastener was unknown. There is the possibility, of course, that some of the tribesmen were wearing Spanish garments, in which case they would use the buckles and buttons as fasteners; but it is more likely they wore the buckles as nose or ear ornaments or as pendants on their necklaces.

DESCRIPTION					
No.	Length (.....in centimeters.....)	Width (.....in centimeters.....)	Thickness (.....in centimeters.....)	Material	Location
<i>Large buckles.</i> (5 specimens. (Pl. 78a, b; Fig. 24)					
Q/34	7.0	5.0	0.3	Copper-iron	Floor, House 31
Q/36	6.0	5.0	0.4	Copper	Surface
Q/44	7.0	5.0	0.3	Bronze	East gate trash
Q/68	7.0	5.0	0.3	Bronze	Test Trench 1
Q/288	Brk.		0.3	Bronze	Floor, House 105
<i>Small buckles.</i> 6 specimens. (Pl. 78c, f; Fig. 24)					
Q/335	4.4	3.0	0.3	Bronze	Floor, House 126
Q/203	4.0	3.0	0.3	Copper	Floor, House 70
Q/249	Brk.	4.0	0.3	Bronze	Floor, House 90
Q/313	4.0	4.0	0.3	Copper	Floor, House 109
Q/236	Brk.	4.0	0.2	Copper	Floor, House 90
Q/192	Brk.		0.3	Iron	Floor, House 23

### Personal Ornaments

#### Introduction

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were rich with gold and silver galloon, metallic sequins, gilt buttons, beadwork, and silk embroidery not to mention the excessive use of gold, silver, and silk thread on everything from costumes to horse trappings. The love of gay colors and elaborate trimmings was not confined to the civilian populace alone. Military uniforms and religious vestments all gleamed with silver and gold ornaments and heavy embroidery. A few scanty remnants of that richness were found at Quiburi. On Plate 79h is shown a strand of gold braid which may once have adorned some civilian or military jacket or hat. It might even have bound the edges of a religious vestment or altar furnishing.

Plate 79f shows a conical metal tinkler of a type once widespread in primitive America as adornment for a garment fringe, a pouch trim, or the end of an awl case. Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, native copper was used for this purpose; but when tin and brass came in from abroad, the Indians in certain areas quickly turned to this new source for their jinglers. The Apache in the Southwest are particularly noted for their use of tin tinklers on their garments and accoutrements. Although the Pueblo people have made some use of these tin cones, the Apaches are the ones who have adopted their use wholeheartedly.

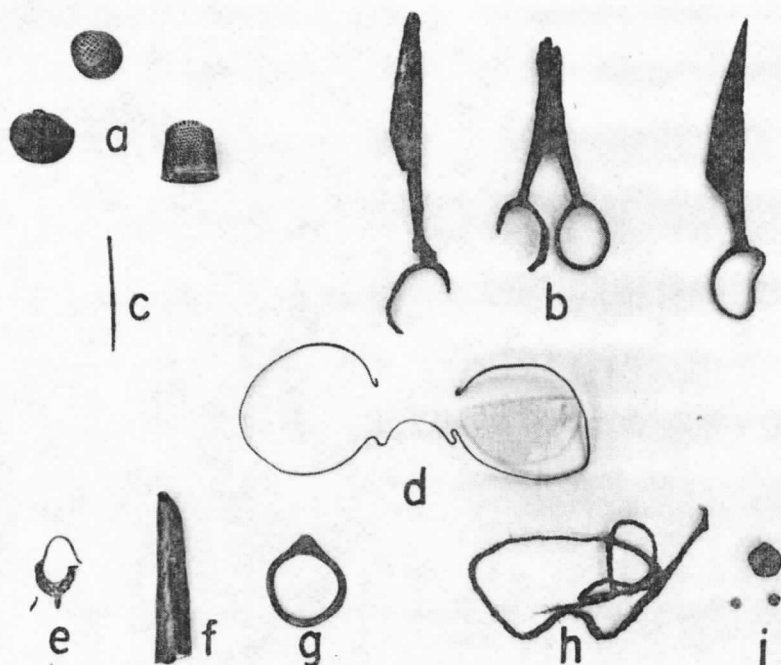


Plate 79. *Personal Ornaments and Miscellaneous Objects*

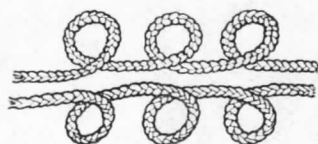
- a. Q/132, 242, 168. Bronze thimbles.
- b. Q/301, 243, and SC/2. Scissors.
- c. Q/147. Needle.
- d. Q/62. Glasses.
- e. Q/69. Earring.
- f. Q/212. Tinkler.
- g. Q/297. Ring.
- h. Q/79. Braid.
- i. Q/245, 123, and SC/3. Glass beads.

In contrast to this Indian ornament is the crescent-shaped metallic earring of European style. Plate 79e was a form of earring seen in ancient Rome, and during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries it became a favorite in the New World. Its use spread from the Europeans to the Indians; variants of this earring are to be found in silver among the tribesmen east of the Mississippi. So popular did it become that it was part of the stock in trade of the fur traders. Usually these trinkets were of the cheapest sort, being stamped out of thin gilt brass. The Spanish-Mexican women, on the other hand, frequently had gold or silver earrings; and good silver ear ornaments were found also among the Indians of the eastern woodland and later among the Navaho, while German silver earrings found their way into the Plains country north and south during the 1830's-1840's.

Plate 79g shows a typical trade ring of the late eighteenth century. It is of bronze or heavy brass. The latter metal was generally used for such ornaments, although earlier the religious orders car-

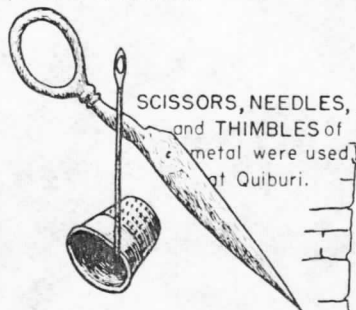
The natives may well have used shell, stone, and **GLASS BEADS**; shell, bone, and **COPPER TINKLERS**; **METAL BUTTONS**; and other Spanish goods such as discarded **SPECTACLES** as personal ornaments.

**METAL EARRINGS** were popular on the frontier.



**METAL BRAID** was sewn on various articles of clothing.

Ornamental **METAL BUTTONS** were used as fasteners and as decoration.



**SCISSORS, NEEDLES,** and **THIMBLES** of metal were used at Quiburi.

**METAL RINGS** were worn by the Spanish and traded to the natives.



**METAL TINKLERS** were also used as decoration on the fringes of dance skirts.



Gold



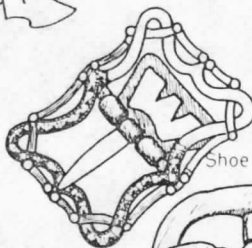
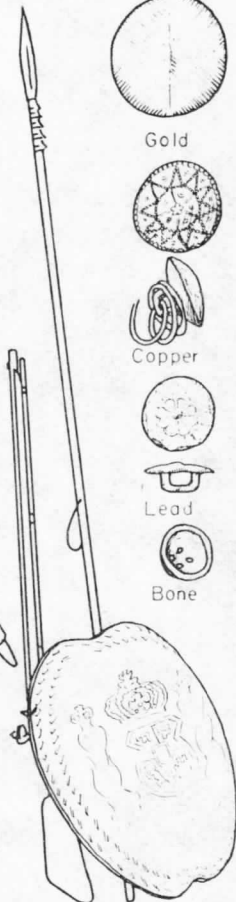
Copper



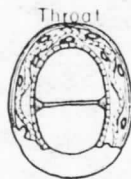
Lead



Bone



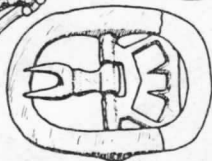
Shoe



Throat



Knee



Sword Bandolier

**METAL BUCKLES** were a popular article of dress at Quiburi. They were used as decoration and as fasteners on the neck scarf, sword bandolier, knee band, and shoes. They were usually made of highly decorated copper or bronze with iron prongs at Quiburi.

## SPANISH PERSONAL EFFECTS

FOUND AT QUIBURI AND RESTORED.

Fig. 24. Personal Ornamentation



ried small bronze finger rings bearing the monogram of Christ upon the bezels, which rings were used as gifts for native converts. Brass finger rings sometimes were set with glass and were designated "stone rings" in the trader's list of goods.

Glass beads were surprisingly few at Quiburi. Those found were of the small seed variety, red and blue, typical of the beads distributed by the Spanish explorers and missionaries. Beads of this same type have been found around the missions of California (founded 1769) and in burials along the southern California coast as well as in the southern part of the San Joaquin Valley. Glass beads vary greatly from period to period and according to tribal usage and preference.

Beads shown on Plate 79i can be duplicated by the hundreds in California or, in fact, in other areas where beads were being distributed by European traders, missionaries, or explorers during the eighteenth century. Venice supplied the glass beads for the whole world at that time, hence one may expect to find the same beads in historic sites in Georgia as well as in New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

#### DESCRIPTION

No.	Length (in centimeters)	Width	Thickness	Material	Location
<i>Tinkler.</i> 1 specimen. (Pl. 79f, Fig. 24)					
Q/212	5.5	1.1	0.1	Copper	Floor, House 72
<i>Gold braid.</i> 1 specimen. (Pl. 79h, Fig. 24)					
Q/79	31.1	0.3	0.1	Gold	Test Trench 1
<i>Earring.</i> 1 specimen. (Pl. 79e, Fig. 24)					
Q/69	2.3	1.2	0.4	Gold plate	Test Trench 1
<i>Trade ring.</i> 1 specimen. (Pl. 79g, Fig. 24)					
Q/297	3.0	2.5	0.15	Bronze	Floor, House 115
<i>Glass beads.</i> 4 specimens. (Pl. 79i, Fig. 24)					
Q/123	0.3	0.2		Red glass	Barro pit 1
Q/237	0.2	0.2		Blue glass	Barro pit 2
Q/243	0.4	0.2		Blue glass	Barro pit 2
Q/328	0.4	0.2		Blue glass	East gate trash

#### Religious Paraphernalia

##### Candle-sticks and Candle Snuffers

A few remnants of household and religious objects made of iron and brass were found. Among the items more readily identified were portions of candle-sticks (Pl. 80a, f), candle snuffers (Pl. 80g, h), and the distal end of a crucifix standard (Pl. 80d).

The heavy round candle-stick base (Pl. 80f) is typical of a certain form of brass or bronze candle-stick in use during the eighteenth century. This article assumed various forms, usually being turned on a lathe; since no portions of the candle-stick proper were found, we can conjecture the appearance of its upper portion.

Plate 80a depicts a common form of candle-stick during the same period. These light holders were used both in the churches and in private dwellings, hence it is not possible to say where they were used at Quiburi.

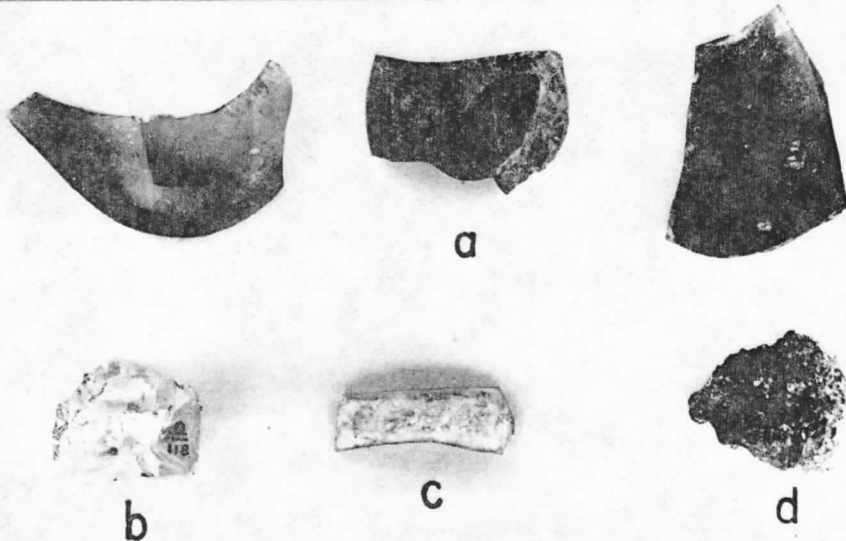


Plate 89. *Spanish Glass*

- a. Portions of deep green bottle glass.
- b. A portion of a clear glass from a drinking vessel.
- c. Rim of a clear glass drinking vessel.
- d. Vitreous lump of badly burned glass found in the trash dump at Quiburi.

#### SPANISH GLASS

One hundred seventy pieces of Spanish glass were found in the Santa Ana del Quiburi and Santa Cruz de Terrenate trash heaps. Of this number 122 were of the deep-green bottle glass variety (Pl. 89a) and 48 were clear glass; the latter sherds represented a number of forms, consequently varied considerably in thickness.

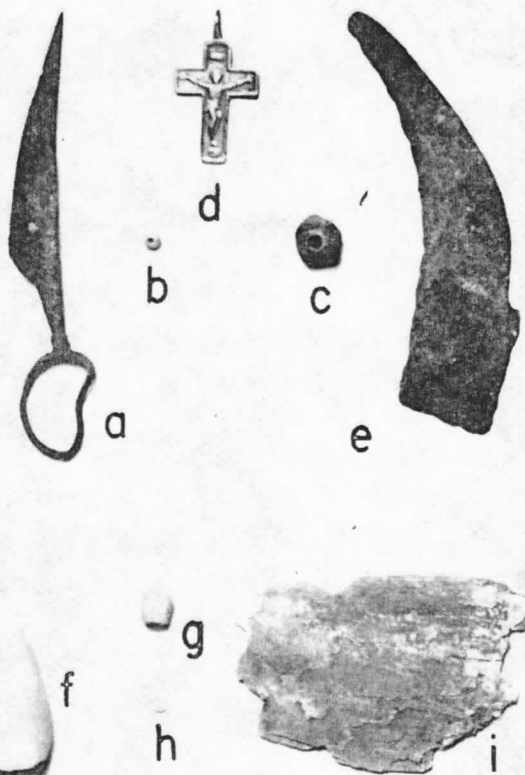


Plate 90. *Material Culture Items Found at the Village of Santa Cruz de Gaybani-pitea*

- a. SC/2. A portion of a pair of steel scissors.
- b. SC/5. A glass seed bead.
- c. SC/3. A blue glass decagonal bead.
- d. SC/10. A bronze crucifix.
- e. SC/1. An iron knife blade.
- f. SC/8. A *Conus* shell tinkler.
- g. SC/7. A shell bead.
- h. SC/6. A shell bead.
- i. SC/4. A sheet of mica.



## SPANISH TRADE GOODS AND NATIVE ARTIFACTS FROM THE SITE OF SANTA CRUZ DE GAYBANIPITEA (? - 1698)

Since the items of material culture found at the village of Santa Cruz de Gaybanipitea were so limited, Plate 90 will suffice to portray both the Spanish trade goods and the native materials. The only materials not depicted in the plate are 137 plainware sherds and a crushed arrowshaft straightener.

### DESCRIPTION

Plate 90a pictures half a pair of steel scissors which measured 10.0 cm. in length, 1.0 cm. in width, and 0.3 cm. in thickness. These scissors were found on the floor of House 1 at the Santa Cruz village.

Plate 90b shows a blue glass seed bead comparable with the ones found at Quiburi and described by Woodward. The Gaybanipitea specimen measured 0.4 cm. in diameter; it was found on the floor of House 6. ✓

The bead shown on Plate 90c was found on the floor of House 3; it has been identified as a glass bead which was popular in the area of Pimeria Alta prior to the introduction of seed beads.<sup>22</sup> This specimen measured 1.0 cm. in diameter and is decagonal in shape. ✓

A bronze crucifix much like the ones found in the church at Quiburi is pictured on Plate 90d. It measured 3.4 cm. in length, 2.0 cm. in width, and 0.5 cm. in thickness; it was found on the surface of the ruin.<sup>23</sup>

Plate 90e depicts a curved portion of an iron knife found on the floor of the fortress near the fire hearth. The remaining section measured 2.0 cm. in width and 0.5 cm. in thickness.

The *conus* shell tinkler portrayed on Plate 90f was found on the surface of the ruin; it measured 3.2 cm. in length and 1.8 cm. in diameter.

Plate 90g and h depict shell beads also found at Gaybanipitea. One measured 0.7 cm. in length and 0.3 cm. in diameter; it was found on the surface. The other measured 0.3 cm. in diameter and was found on the floor of House 8.

A sheet of mica found in association with the iron knife blade on the fortress floor is shown on Plate 90i. It measured 6.7 cm. in length, 4.2 cm. in width, and 0.5 cm. in thickness.

### SUMMARY

Spanish metals, ceramics, and glass were found intermingled with objects of native Sobaipuri manufacture at the villages of Santa Cruz de Gaybanipitea and Quiburi. This association definitely placed both sites as to their historic occupancy and aided in identifying the locations with historic Spanish accounts of the two villages.

In the previous chapter, which concerned itself with the native arts and crafts, the influence of these European wares was discussed. The factors of acculturation can be seen in the design of material articles when two cultures come into contact with each other.

During the course of excavations, certain chronological developments became apparent and are worthy of a short review. It was found that objects of Spanish metal, especially those of copper and bronze, were introduced into the Sobaipuri culture during the course of the San Pablo de Quiburi Phase. Spanish ceramics, Chinese porcelain, and Spanish glass, on the other hand, were not in-

<sup>22</sup> Personal conversation with Mr. Arthur Woodward.

<sup>23</sup> The crucifix is in the possession of Mr. W. A. Goodwin of Benson, Arizona.

roduced until the Santa Ana del Quiburi Phase. It was noted that the Mexican Majolica produced in Puebla, Mexico and the Guana-jato green glaze were much more abundant at Quiburi than either the Chinese porcelain or the "Olive-jar" green glaze.

The English wares that appeared in Pimeria Alta around 1820 and found at the Mission of Tumacacori<sup>35</sup> were completely absent from the sites of Santa Cruz de Gaybanipitea and Quiburi. This is a logical sequence of trade goods, inasmuch as it is known that Quiburi and Santa Cruz de Gaybanipitea were abandoned before Tumacacori reached the peak of its existence. The sequence of development will one day offer an interesting study of Spanish influence in the area through Jesuit and Franciscan occupancies, for the materials from Tumacacori can be analyzed along with those derived from the Quiburi expedition.

Caywood<sup>36</sup> describes a supply route which fed northern Sonora and Pimeria Alta during the time when both the villages of Gaybanipitea and Quiburi were occupied. This route led from Guadalajara, Mexico along the western coast into Sonora. The pack trains then traveled the coastal area through Sonora into the frontier stretches of Pimeria Alta. This method of transportation was costly and irregular, and the frontier missions were isolated. The Spanish trade goods described in this chapter undoubtedly were very dear to their owners. The findings of so many objects on the burned floors of the native dwellings of the San Pablo de Quiburi village suggests, along with other clues, that the Sobaipuri were driven from their homes by a surprise attack and were forced to leave many items behind them.

<sup>35</sup> CAYWOOD, 1950, pp. 87-88.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 92; *vide* SIMPSON, 1941, pp. 160-162.

