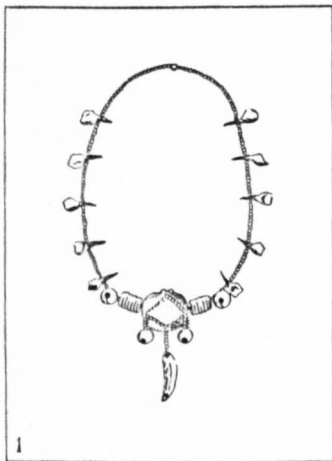


Indian Bead Standards

Star Beads Used As Exchange Base Among Indian Nations



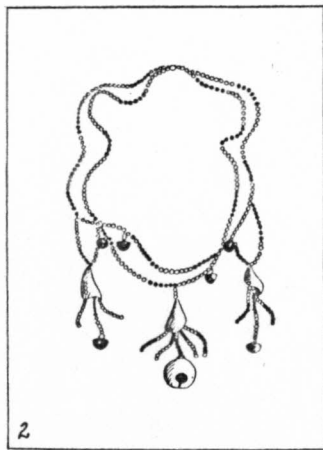
Style No. 1. The Teeth Trophy

This necklace is made up of the following: a bear's tooth, two trader bells made of brass, a small round brass disc cut from the bottom of a brass kettle, some coiled brass beads, more trader bells, balanced with sections of human teeth.

(By the Editor)

WHEN Captain John Smith came up the Susquehanna river in 1609 he came upon bands of Indians possessing iron tomahawks, iron knives, and wearing brightly colored glass beads. These same Indians were at that time natives of Lancaster and this community.

Captain John Smith later discovered that these tribes had carried on an extensive trade with the Indian traders and French-Canadian runners in the far north, some 350 miles from the St. Lawrence district. This marked the beginning of the Indian bead romance



Style No. 2.

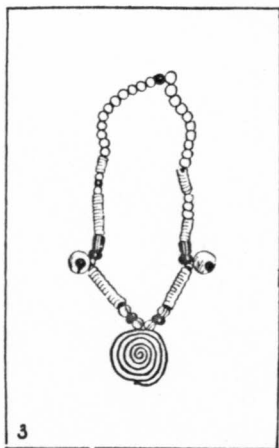
The Shoe Button Choker

This model is composed of conical brass beads made from metal obtained from the first whites in the country, a large trader bell, balanced by trader shoe buttons, and several large brass buttons probably removed from his captive's shoes. Odd chest keys added a touch of distinction.

in Lancaster County. English and Dutch traders later bought and sold beads to the Indians.

After ten years of research I was fortunate enough to unearth thousands of various type beads, 35,000 of them now in the Harrisburg Museum and some 30,000 others in my private collection, all of which were found in our own Lancaster County. In addition to the native collection, I possess many glass beads traded by the Hudson Bay Co. on the Pacific Coast. Many of these beads, however, were made from glass tubing similar to that used by glass blowers manufacturing Steigel, New Jersey and old fashioned blue glass.

The first glass beads brought in-



Style No. 3. The Protector Model

This model is composed of brass cylinder beads, trader bells or hawk bells, with a piece representing a coiled serpent made of brass taken from the bottom of a trader kettle. This type was supposed to ward off all danger from the wearer.



Style No. 4. The Utility Model

Brass cylinder beads and bells mingled with flat clam shell and glass beads. Also attached were two scoop spoons made of trader brass, shined to brilliance.

to the county by the early whites were of the round and variegated colored styles.

The "Tops" Bead

The oldest colored beads, of the blue variety about three-eighths of an inch in diameter, are extremely rare due to the poor grade of glass of which they were constructed. Among the traders and Indians the Star beads were the most valuable. Blue stripes and red and white star designs accounted for the quality in design. To the Indian the Star beads were the "Tops." Two beaver skins in exchange for one Star bead was considered a fair bargain.

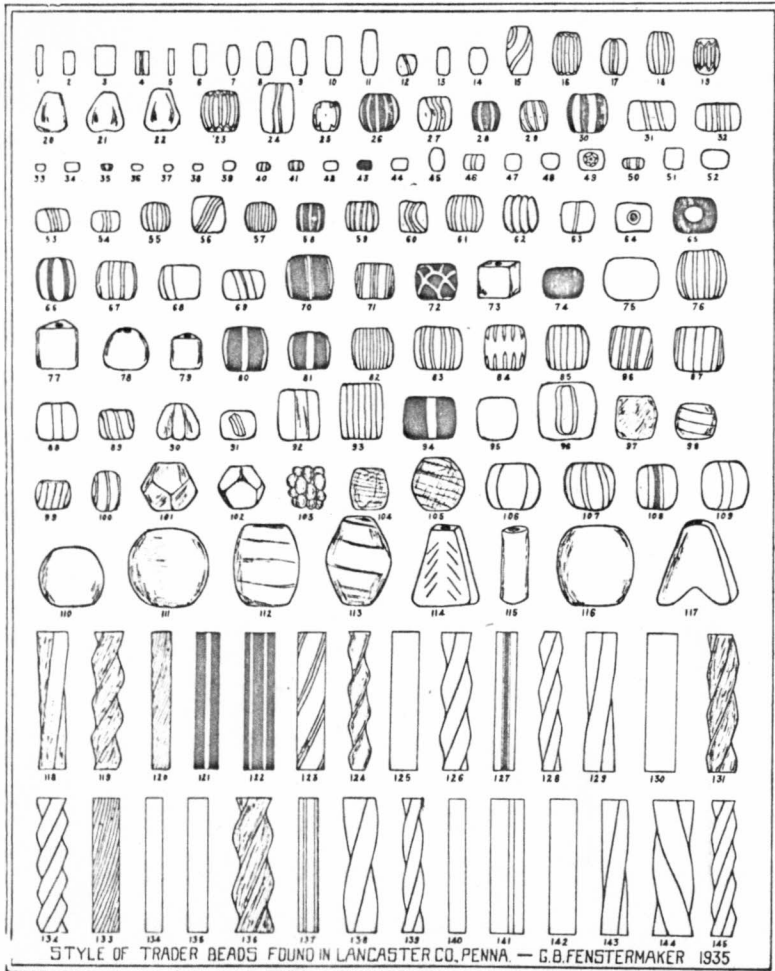
Since star beads were found from coast to coast in North Amer-

ica, this bead may have been the Indians' "Gold Standard." Even though the majority of these beads

were made in Venice, Italy, the early explorers and traders in the 14th century found these beads an

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EVOLUTION OF THE INDIAN BEAD



This chart shows the different styles and shapes of glass beads found in Lancaster County after ten years of research.

excellent media of exchange for trade with natives of many foreign lands.

Venetian Beads Today

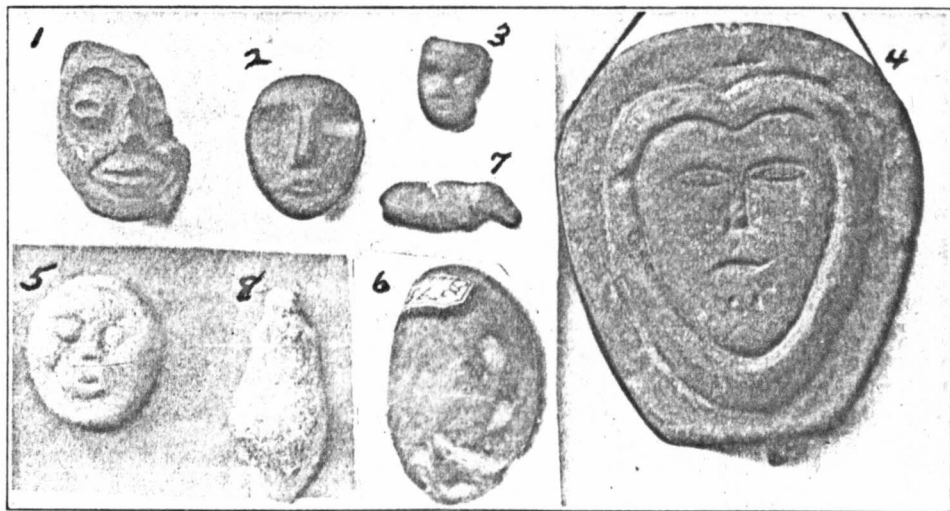
Indians all over the United States today buy glass beads made in Italy through a New York jobber. Style, color and transparency of the beads being used today resemble closely those used centuries ago.

The first American glass beads were made in Jamestown in 1622, in direct competition to the import bead trade. Fire, however, wiped

out all evidence of this industry until several years ago when excavating of the old Jamestown settlement revealed thousands of specimens some of which were quite unlike the designs of the original Indian trader beads.

Various other types of beads shown on the chart such as the elongated cylindrical type, corn and wheat beads were introduced into the county after the white traders had witnessed the Indians stringing all sorts of grains into long strings.

MASKETTES



The above collection is from the Dr. T. B. Stewart, Lock Haven, Pa.: (1) a maskette of clay slate, site, Montoursville, Penna.; (2) a maskette of green serpentine, grooved around edges, site, Monseytown flats, Lock Haven, Penna.; (3) a maskette of red clay slate, was once part of pipe—reworked and perforated—site, Jersey Shore, Penna.; (4) a maskette of fine grain sandstone 3 x 3½ inches from Columbia, Penna., site; (5) a maskette, white talc, concave back; (6) face maskette; (7) small effigy, hole in back, worn out, similar to one in book of Dr. Parker, curator of Rochester Museum, N. Y.; (8) a pendant, talc back, hollowed out like a boatstone, in animal effigy form, perforated at small end.