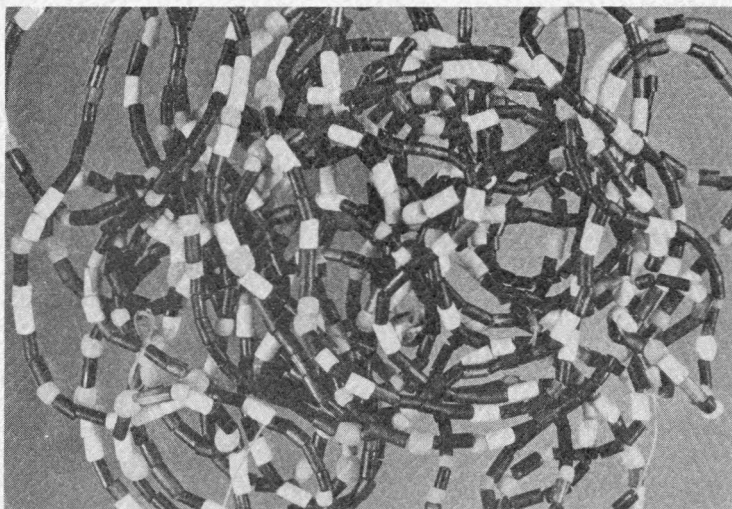


MISSISSIPPI
COLORED TRADE BEAD CHART

Volume VIII

A colored chart with descriptions of more than 65 trade beads from the northeastern area of Mississippi.



White, pale blue and deep cobalt blue straw beads and gray white round beads found in Lee County, Mississippi. The straw beads are from 2 to 3mm. in diameter and 4 to 7mm. in length. The round beads are 3 to 5mm. in diameter.

by
Gerald B. Fenstermaker

The beads pictured on the cover are from the collection of Mr. Charles A. Hester of Mississippi.

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The beads in this chart were furnished by Mr. Julian Ripley of Mississippi, and are from the locale of the once main town of the Chickasaw in Pontotoc County. This town served as a winter headquarters for a number of DeSoto's men in 1540. Subsequently, a dispute arose from which bloodshed resulted. Afterwards, the remaining Spaniards built a temporary village about a league away which they named Little Chicaca.

It is not possible to place a 16th century date on the beads in the chart using the above information because of the numerous unknown variables involved. However, the characteristics of the beads would suggest a very early time period.

ROW 1

BEAD NO.	DIAMETER (in mm.)	LENGTH (in mm.)	DESCRIPTION
1	3	2	Opaque/White
2	3.5	2	Opaque/White
3	3.5	2	Opaque/White
4	3.5	2	Opaque/White
5	3	3	Opaque/White
6	3	3	Opaque/White
7	3	5	Opaque/White
8	3	7	Opaque/White
9	3	5	Opaque/White
10	5	6	Opaque/White
11	5	7	Opaque/White
12	7	3	Translucent/Blue

The first six beads are "seed" beads. Nos. 10 and 11 resemble natural shell in appearance. The blue glass of No. 12 will appear again in row 4.

ROW 2

1	4	5	Opaque/White
2	6	7	Opaque/Gray white
3	5	5	Opaque/Gray white
4	5	6	Opaque/Gray white
5	6	6	Opaque/Gray white
6	6.5	7	Opaque/Gray white
7	7	8	Opaque/White
8	7	9	Opaque/White
9	9	8	Translucent/vaseline

Beads 1 and 2 are "bell" shape. The diameter at the small end of these beads is 2mm and 3mm respectively. Notice the wear on bead No. 9.



ROW 3

BEAD NO.	DIAMETER (in mm.)	LENGTH (in mm.)	DESCRIPTION
1	12	10	Translucent/Nearly clear
2	7.5	6	Opaque/White
3	9	6	Opaque/White
4	3	3	Translucent/Deep rose
5	3	3	Translucent/Deep rose
6	3.5	3	Translucent/Deep rose
7	3.5	2	Translucent/Deep rose
8	5	5	Translucent/Nearly clear
9	6	4	Translucent/Nearly clear
10	6	5	Translucent/Nearly clear

No. 1 is crudely faceted. Nos. 4, 5 and 6 are practically square in cross-section. Nos. 8, 9 and 10 are unevenly ground faceted.

ROW 4

1	6	5	Translucent/Blue
2	4	3	Translucent/Blue
3	4	2.5	Translucent/Blue
4	3	3	Translucent/Blue
5	3	3	Translucent/Blue
6	4	2.5	Translucent/Blue, 4 gray stripes
7	4	4	Opaque/Deep rose
8	4.5	4.5	Opaque/Deep rose
9	4.5	7.5	Opaque/Deep rose
10	4.5	8	Opaque/Deep rose

Notice the addition of stripes on No. 6. The last 4 beads appear black but, upon close examination of the ends under strong light a deep rose color was discerned.

ROW 5

1	3	1.5	Translucent/Turquoise
2	3	1.5	Translucent/Turquoise
3	3.5	2.5	Translucent/Turquoise
4	3.5	2	Translucent/Deep rose

BEAD NO.	DIAMETER (in mm.)	LENGTH in mm.)	DESCRIPTION
5	3.5	2.5	Opaque/Black, 2 earth red, 2 gray stripes
6	3.5	2	Translucent pale blue green center/ opaque earth red
7	3	2.5	Same as preceding.
8	3	2.5	Same as preceding.
9	2.5	5	Opaque/Deep rose
10	2.5	4	Opaque/Deep rose
11	3	7	Opaque/Deep rose
12	3.5	4	Opaque/Deep rose
13	3.5	5	Opaque/Deep rose

Notice the various shapes of deep rose specimens. No. 5 is one of three beads with stripes on this chart.

ROW 6

1	7.5	6	Translucent/Turquoise, 8 white stripes
2	9	7	Translucent/Turquoise, 8 white stripes
3	8	4	Opaque/Black
4	8	5	Opaque/Black
5	7.5	6	Opaque/Turquoise
6	7.5	7.5	Opaque/Turquoise
7	7.5	7	Opaque/Turquoise

Nos. 1 and 2 are an unusual translucent turquoise. Nos. 5, 6 and 7 are an old bead here in the east.

ROW 7

1	4	6	Translucent/Red violet
2	4	8	Translucent/Red violet
3	4.5	8	Translucent/Red violet
4	3	7	Translucent/Blue
5	3.5	8	Translucent/Blue
6	3.5	12.5	Translucent/Brown, 6 earth red, 6 white stripes
7	4.5	14	Opaque/Pale blue

The first three beads are almost garish in color. No. 6 is a very unusual bead both as to color and striping.