

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT THE
MARQUETTE MISSION SITE, ST. IGNACE
MICHIGAN, IN 1972

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GLASS BEADS

Only two glass beads were recovered by Stone from the 1971 excavations (Stone 1972a:19), both from Feature #2, the pit around the 19th century privy. They were necklace beads, one plain brown and the second purple with longitudinal white stripes.

During the 1972 season, we recovered 370 glass beads. All appear to have been cane beads. If any wire wound beads were in the sample they were extremely well finished. The typology used to describe these beads has been generated from the sample itself. There are a number of bead typologies which are more exhaustive (Stone 1970, 1971, Kidd and Kidd 1970) that could have been used as a starting point for a typology. Instead, they have been considered as tangential classifications and are referred to only when they apply directly to the sample from the Marquette Mission.

In general, the beads can be divided into those with simple structures (Stone 1971:76, Jelks, editor, 1966:98-99), or Kidd and Kidd's (1970:51) IIA type; compound beads, or Kidd and Kidd's IIB type (with one example of their IIIIf type); and complex beads with one example of Kidd and Kidd's type IVa. Using this basic typology, we have 365 simple beads, four compound beads, and one complex bead.

The most obvious need for further subdivisions is in the category of simple beads and these have been divided into three size categories with a residual class with three unique specimens. The first of these are small beads, or commonly known as seed beads. The majority of these are donut shaped (Stone 1971:76) occasionally varying to round or barrel shaped.

Seed beads account for 304 of the 370 beads or 82 percent of the entire sample. There is a wide range of color variation in this group including shiny black, dull black, brown, bronze, dark blue, light blue, blue-green, green, dull red, yellow, white, and a lustrous pearl form. The distribution of these seed beads, with the count for each color variant, is presented in Table 7.

A second group of beads has been placed in a medium size group. These medium beads include barrel, convex and round shapes (following Stone 1971:76). Medium beads range between .3 cm and .45 cm in length with a mean length of .43 cm. The modal length, with the mode accounting for 23 of the 37 specimens, is .4 cm. The bead diameters range from .3 cm to .65 cm with a mean of .54 cm. The modal diameter is .55 cm with eleven of the 37 specimens. In all, 28 of the 37 beads in this group have diameters between .5 cm and .6 cm.

The color range is limited and includes dull black, white (with

TABLE 7.

Seed Beads

MC, Mixed Fill Central Area; CLH, Central Area Lower Humus; WT, West Trench; NTLH, North Trench Lower Humus.

	Feature Numbers																					Total
	3	10	13	14	17	19	20	22	24	26	32	33	34	36	38	42	MC	CLH	WT	NTLH		
Shiny Black														1			1					2
Dull Black					11			7						2		8						28
Brown								2				2										4
Bronze								13					1									14
Dark Blue	1		1		6			9									1	5				23
Light Blue		1		1	16			48				1		3		9	7	4				90
Blue-Green								8									1			1		10
Green				1	2							1	2				10	3				19
Dull Red														1			1	2				4
Yellow																	2					2
White		1			23		2	45				1	4	6	1	9	5	2				99
Pearl								2						5			2					9
Total	1	2	1	2	58	0	2	134	0	0	0	5	7	18	1	26	30	16	0	1		304

a single round example) and a gradual range from brown through blue. This later range is found in a closely associated group of 30 beads from Feature #42. They are all patinated and scraping the patina from the brown and green forms suggests that they might have originally been dark blue like the unpatinated forms.

Large beads are predominately barrel to convex in shape with a single turquoise donut bead. They range in length from .4 to .1 cm with a mean of .58 cm. The mode is .6 cm with 7 of the 21 specimens having this length. A total of 12 of the 21 beads in this group range between .5 and .6 cm in length. The range of diameter is .5 cm to .95 cm with a mean of .67 cm. The modal diameter is .7 cm with ten of the 21 specimens ranging between .6 and .7 cm.

The colors include shiny black, dull black, bronze, dull red, dark blue, light blue, green and turquoise. The distribution and counts of this variant is presented in Table 8.

There are three other simple beads. One is a very large brown barrel shaped bead measuring .8 cm in length and .9 cm in diameter. It was recovered from Feature #42. There is one elongated white glass bead measuring 1.3 cm in length and .7 cm in diameter (Figure 21, A). It was recovered from Feature #19 and was the only bead found in this feature which was a filled-in pit from Father Jacker's excavations. A transparent orange glass bead, round in shape, was found while trowelling down to the post molds in the West Trench (Figure 21, C). It was .7 cm long and .7 cm wide.

The four compound beads are quite variable. One is a multifaceted bead of transparent blue glass with a core of opaque light blue glass (Figure 21, B). It is .7 cm long and .7 cm in diameter. This is an example of Kidd and Kidd's type IIIf2. This bead type is most popular in Quimby's Late Historic Period assemblage (1966:88) and has been found in 19th century context elsewhere in Michigan (Fitting 1965:67). It was recovered from Feature #26, the late 19th century buried barrel.

Three of the compound beads are of Kidd and Kidd's type IIb. Two are brown with longitudinal white stripes (Figure 21, E, F). One is .8 cm long and .8 cm in diameter while the second is .7 cm long and .6 cm in diameter. These belong to Kidd and Kidd's type IIb13. The third bead is green with longitudinal white stripes (Figure 21, D). It is .7 cm long and .7 cm in diameter. This is Kidd and Kidd's type IIb53. A single bead similar to the brown specimens was found at the Lasanen site (Stone 1971:80). They are all notably absent from both the Summer Island III component and the Gros Cap Cemetery.

The single complex bead is .6 cm long and .6 cm in diameter. It has a blue glass core, a middle layer of red glass and a bronze

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		Feature Numbers																				Total
		3	10	13	14	17	19	20	22	24	26	32	33	34	36	38	42	MC	CLH	WT	NTLH	
Simple	Dull Black		1																	1		2
	White								1													1
	Brown													1			16					17
	Green														1		8					8
Medium	Blue								1			1	1				6					9
	Shiny Black					1																1
	Dull Black					2													1	1		5
	Bronze								1								1				1	2
	Dull Red			1		1					1											3
	Dark Blue									1						2						3
	Light Blue								1													2
	Green					1													1			2
	Turquoise								1											2		3
	Others*						1										1			1		3
Com-pound	Blue Hex										1											1
	Brown/White														1				1			2
	Green/White																		1			1
Complex		1																				1
Seed Beads		1	2	1	2	58		2	134				5	7	18	1	26	30	16		1	304
Total		2	3	2	2	64	1	2	139	1	2	1	6	8	21	1	58	30	18	7	2	370

glass exterior (perhaps patinated white glass). While basically falling into Kidd and Kidd's IVa classification, it does not duplicate any of their illustrated examples.

The distribution of beads on the site followed a predictable pattern in some respects although there were some surprising elements. Feature #22, in the West Trench, contained 38 percent of the total sample and Feature #17 and #42 contained another 33 percent of the sample.

Feature #3, #13 and #14 all may predate the Mission. The samples from these features are too small to discern any statistical trend and there are no bead types unique to these features. It may be possible however, that both dull black medium size beads and dark blue seed beads are slightly earlier forms.

No beads were recovered from features associated with the Mission other than Features #17 and #42. Most of the seed beads came from the Feature #17 elements while most of the larger beads, indeed, almost half of the larger beads from the entire site, came from Feature #42. Feature #42 was marked by a very uniform sample of 30 medium beads with color variations which may simply be degrees of patination of the same dark blue bead type. One large barrel shaped bead was found in this feature as were four large tubular beads of catlinite. A large white columella bead was found in this feature as well.

Stone (1971:75) has described the normal complement of a rosary as containing 53 small circular beads, six medium circular beads, one large bead, two single jointed and a double jointed bead which form the cross element. We have 32 uniform medium sized beads, seven large beads and one very large bead. Rather than bone crucifix beads, the crucifix may have been formed by catlinite beads or by a combination of catlinite and shell beads. In other words, we seem to have recovered the better part of a rosary from the bottom of the cellar of the presumed Mission building without knowing it at the time.

All of the other features containing beads appear to be aboriginal features contemporary with the Mission except for Feature #10, #19, #26 and #34. Feature #10 and #19 have been interpreted as refilled pits from Father Jacker's excavations. Since these penetrated 17th century deposits, it is not surprising to encounter beads in his unscreened backfill. Feature #34 was a 20th century Feature in the West Trench. Since it was dug through a midden containing 17th century material, the inclusion of some of this material in the fill should not be surprising. One of the two beads, and perhaps both, from Feature #26, the buried barrel, is a 19th century form so the typological dating and stratigraphic placement are in agreement.

GLASS

General Statement

Over 1340 items of glass were recovered from the Marquette Mission site in 1972 in addition to the 370 glass beads discussed in the previous section (Tables 7, 8). In 1971, Stone had found 458 items of glass (including three glass buttons). In general the 1972 assemblage very closely parallels that from 1971 with parts of the same vessels, or at least vessels with the same pattern, being recovered in both seasons. Much of the glass sample consisted of very small fragments too small to provide specific information on form or manufacturing technique. These sherds are summarized in Table 9. The pressed glass, engraved glass, buttons and "other" items, including the complete objects of all classes, while listed in this table, will be described in greater detail.

The largest single category was that of clear window glass with 408 specimens, or approximately 30 percent of the sample. Window glass was not a large category in the 1971 sample but almost half of the 1972 sample came from Feature #26, the buried barrel. Several sherds of frosted window glass were also found in 1972.

Feature #26 and the surrounding mixed central fill contained 13 sherds of glass with a metal coated surface. This was part of a single broken mirror that had been dumped into this pit.

A large group of sherds have been characterized as bottle glass. These were curved or otherwise irregular surfaced glass of several colors which may include vase, pitcher and tumbler fragments as well as bottles. Given the small size of the sherds, exact forms could not be determined. In Table 9, these bottle glass fragments have been sorted by color into clear, amber, green, yellow and blue categories. These form a smaller group than Stone's categories (1972a:22) so it should be mentioned that there is a great deal of variation in them.

In the 1971 collections, Stone had categories of light green chimney fragments, very thin clear glass fragments and milk glass fragments. We did not find any light green chimney glass in 1972. However, we found a large enough sample of the clear thin glass to determine that these sherds also represented lamp chimneys as well. The same thing was true of the white milk glass fragments. These were also thin and some fragments were large enough to determine that they had been parts of lamp chimneys. We also found a small sample of opaque purple glass chimney fragments. In all, lamp chimney fragments accounted for another 30 percent of the 1972 sample.

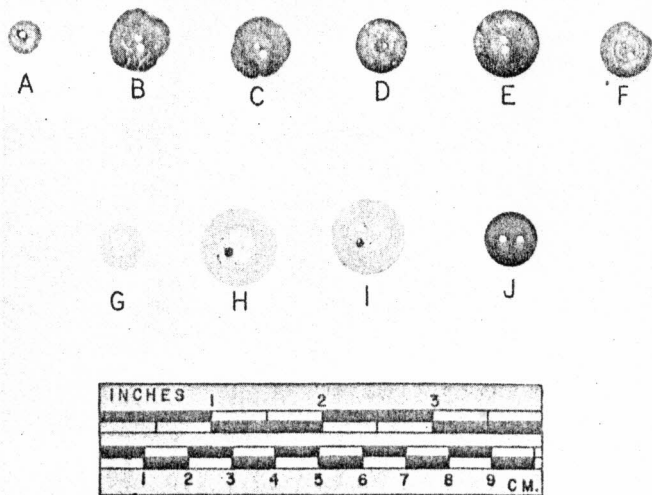


FIG. 20. Buttons. A, Glass Button; B-C, Shell Buttons; D, Glass Button; E, White Metal Button Back; F, Shell Button; G-I, Glass Buttons; J, Plastic Button.

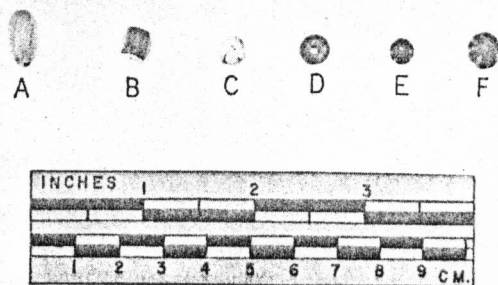


FIG. 21. Glass Beads.