

TRADE BEADS FROM OZETTE VILLAGE SITE  
(45CA24B70)

Preliminary Analysis

GERALD H. GROSSO

30<sup>th</sup> Annual

Presented at Northwest Anthropological Conference  
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

8 April, 1977

Gerald H. Grosso  
WSU/WARC  
Ozette Archaeological Project  
Neah Bay Laboratory  
Post Office Box 194  
Neah Bay, Washington 98357

ABSTRACT

Since the beginning of this phase of the Ozette Archaeological Project in April, 1970, approximately 1000 square meters of surface have been systematically excavated with resultant recovery of some 1,600 trade beads from the historic unit. Of these, all but one are made of glass; the odd one appearing to be made of amber. Ten major varieties of beads are included in the collection. The beads are categorized according to the Kidd and Kidd system.

More than 1,600 trade beads have been recovered from the Ozette Village Site (45CA24B70) during the current excavation period which began in April, 1970, and has been continued on a year-around basis since then.

During this period, approximately 1000 square meters of the surface of the north-central portion of the village were systematically excavated at least through the historic unit. Nearly all of the beads in the collection are from this area. A few (about 50) are from other parts of the village or from the beach area immediately adjacent to the village.

The archaeological investigation at Ozette Village by Daugherty et al indicates that the village had been occupied on a regular basis for more than 1,000 years and was occupied into the early part of the 20th century.

The village is located on the Pacific Coast of the State of Washington at Cape Alava, the westernmost point of the conterminous United States. According to Makah tradition, Ozette was the southernmost major village of the Makahs, and was an important whaling and sealing station. Archaeological evidence bears this out. The village extended from the northern extremity of Cape Alava southerly for nearly a mile along the beach. Photographs taken during the latter part of the 19th century show a concentration of houses at the location currently under excavation (as well as elsewhere.)

Examination of the photographs indicates that there was a row of houses close together and parallel to the beach in the late 19th century. This row was broken in one spot in the area excavated by what appears to be a corral. A house was set back from the general line of the row at that location. Information provided by a Makah who formerly lived at Ozette (Nora Barker) indicates that Charlie Weberhard lived at that location. Ed Weberhard lived in the next house to the north, according to the information provided by Mrs. Barker in 1963.

All of the structures shown in the old photographs had disappeared by the time the project began in 1970 but a few fragments of planks, boards, posts and fence rails were located. Beads generally were found in association with the wood fragments; though beads were found away from wood fragments and vice versa.

Distribution of beads and wood fragments is shown in Figure 1. It appears that the beads are concentrated at the house locations with few recovered from the area believed to have included the "corral."

The number of beads and the area excavated results in an average of 1.6 beads per square meter. This does not seem to be an especially heavy concentration. This circumstance may be explained by the fact that the village was abandoned in an orderly manner with inhabitants moving away and taking their valued possessions away with them. Stories by modern Makahs indicate that beads would have been considered among valued possessions.

The beads recovered, therefore, probably would have been those lost during occupation of the village. A quantity of melted beads have been recovered suggesting that they might have been in a house that burned. Melted bottles, fused metal and some charred wood recovered tend to bear this out.

Most common bead in the collection is round, blue, of clear glass and in Kidd and Kidd's "small" (2-4mm) category with 552 individuals represented. Of the same description but in the "large" size (6-10mm) are 125 individuals. Altogether, the spheroid beads number 947. They include beads from 1mm in diameter up to 20mm and are found in white, light blue, blue, dark blue, blue-green, green, yellow-green, yellow, grey-green, purple, brown, light brown, pink and black. Clear, translucent and opaque glasses are represented.

Second most common variety of bead found at Ozette is the faceted bead known locally as "Russian trade beads." These generally are of clear glass, were made of six- or seven-sided canes, and may or may not have several layers of glass. Most common of the faceted beads is blue on white on blue, clear glass, made from a six-sided cane and in Kidd and Kidd's "large" size with 119 individuals. Next, with 101 individuals is the clear blue bead made of six-sided canes. Most of these (63) are "large", with one "medium" (4-6mm) and 37 "very large" (10-14mm). Beads of the same description, but made of seven-sided canes, number 71, of which all but 5 are "very large," the balance being "large." Black beads (actually an intense, deep red) of clear glass, six-sided canes, include 40 "medium" and 51 "large." Other varieties include light blue glass, green, yellow and colorless on white and colorless on red. A few examples are found of blue on white on blue on white. None of the beads made of six-sided canes are as large as 11mm while none made of seven-sided canes are smaller than 7mm in diameter. Altogether, these number 464 specimens.

In addition to the clear, faceted beads, there are four beads made of unfaceted canes (six-sided): two black "small" and two blue "medium."

Opaque faceted beads, of the type sometimes called "Hudson's Bay trade beads", total 4: of which 3 are light blue on white and one is blue on white. All are made of seven-sided canes and of "large" size.

Red on white tubular beads, with a few of brown or orange outside color, number 152. This type, known as "Cornaline d'Aleppo," has 125 representatives of clear red glass on a translucent white center, of which 23 are "small," 89 are "medium" and 13 are "large." Also important in this category are translucent red on translucent white with 5 "small," 10 "medium" and 7 "large."

One "very large" bead of the type often called "chevron" is included in the collection. This specimen has six facets ground at each end.

Other beads in the collection include several "large" yellow faceted beads with spindle shape, some with seven-sided cross section and some with eight. Also included are several dozen "seed" beads, some "doughnuts" and some "ovals.") For details, see Table I.

The single bead which appears to be made of amber is tabular in shape, about 20mm in diameter, is about 4mm thick and has 24 facets around the thin edge.

Possible sources for the beads are through trade with other Indians, the fur trade and general trade in the region. So far, none of the modern residents of the Makah Indian Reservation have offered suggestions as to where their ancestors obtained beads. Considerable quantities of "old" beads have been handed down for generations on the reservation.

The Spanish came into the region in the 1770s, followed closely by the British, then the Americans. The Spanish established a fort at Neah Bay in 1792, which lasted for only a few months. American jurisdiction came to the Makah territory following the signing of the Treaty of 1855.

Some questions to be answered include why "Russian" trade beads are so called; with whom the Ozette Makahs traded their fur seal and sea otter pelts, and, of course, the various sources of the beads found at Ozette.

Figure 1

OZETTE INDIAN VILLAGE SITE - 45CA24B70

distribution of beads  
one square (■) = c.25

distribution of structural  
remains on the surface

F = wood fragments

P = posts

R = fence rails

B = boards or planks

SCALE ——— = 2 meters

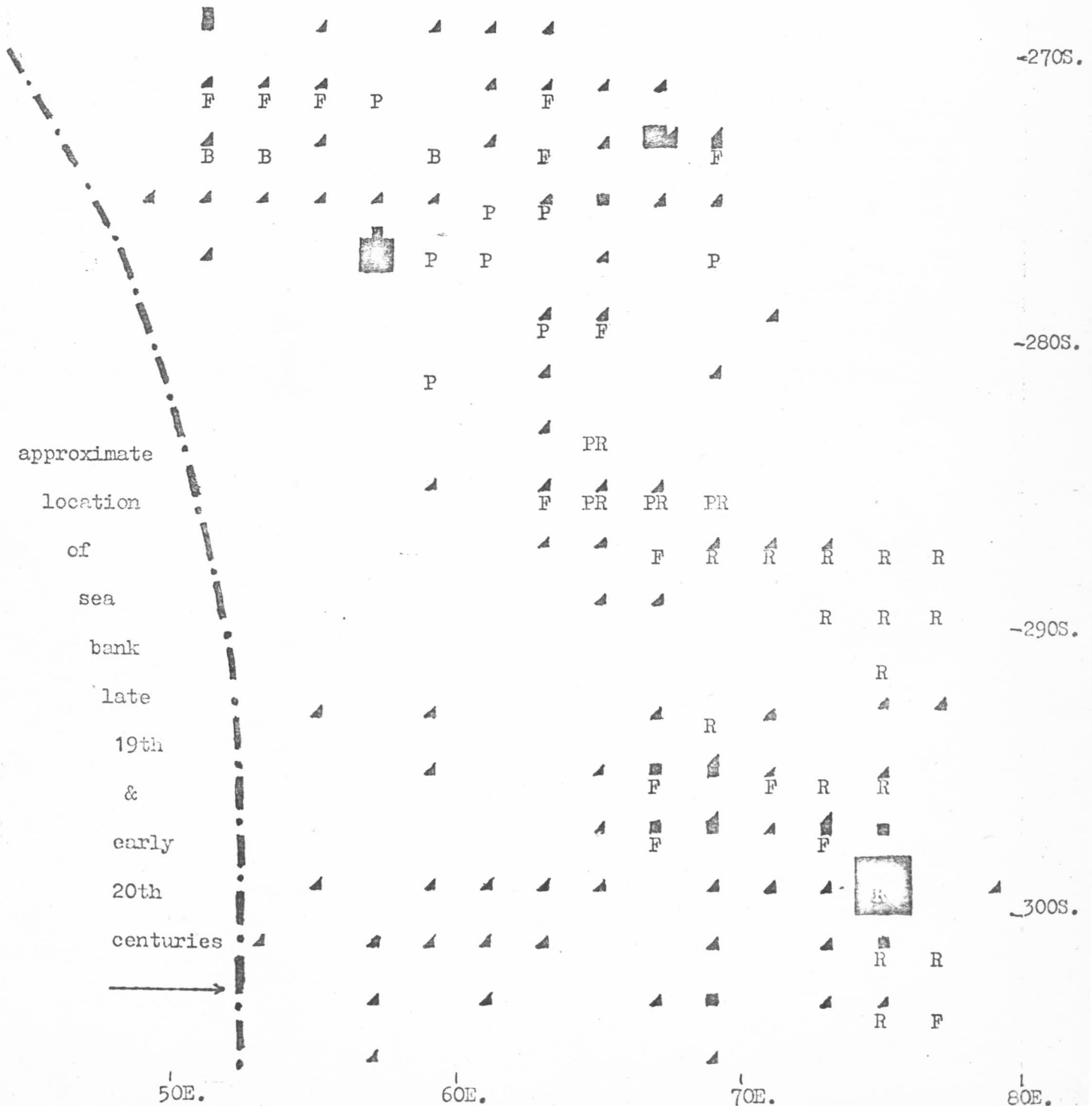


Table I

Tabulation of glass beads from Ozette Village Site (45CA24B70) 1970-1977

	Shape or no. of		(after Kidd and Kidd)		
Type	Sides	Size	Glass	Color	Number in Collection
Ic	6	S	Clear	Black	2
Ic	6	M	Clear	Blue	2
If	6	M	Clear	Blue	1
If	6	L	Clear	Blue	63
If	6	VL	Clear	Blue	37
If	7	L	Clear	Blue	5
If	7	VL	Clear	Blue	66
If	6	M	Clear	Black	40
If	6	L	Clear	Black	51
If	7	L	Clear	Green	3
If	6	M	Clear	Yellow	3
If	B	L	Clear	Blue	4
If	B	VL	Clear	Blue	50
IIa	C	S	Translucent	White	41
IIa	C	M	Translucent	White	6
IIa	C	L	Translucent	White	2
IIa	C	S	Clear	Blue	2
IIa	C	M	Clear	Blue	1
IIa	C	VL	Clear	Blue	1
IIa	C	S	Translucent	Blue-green	2
IIa	C	M	Translucent	Blue-green	1
IIa	C	M	Clear	Red-brown	1
IIa	C	L	Clear	Brown	1
IIIIf	6	M	Clear	Light Blue on White	1
IIIIf	6	L	Clear	Light Blue on White	2
IIIIf	7	L	Opaque	Light Blue on White	3
IIIIf	6	L	Clear	Blue on White	9
IIIIf	6	VL	Clear	Blue on White	1
IIIIf	7	L	Clear	Blue on White	3
IIIIf	7	L	Opaque	Blue on White	1
IIIIf	6	L	Clear	Blue on White on Blue	119
IIIIf	7	L	Clear	Blue on White on Blue	1
IIIIf	6	L	Clear	Lt. Blue on White on Blue on White	1
IIIIf	6	L	Clear	Blue on White on Blue on White	1
IIIIf	6	M	Clear	Colorless on White	2
IIIIf	6	M	Clear	Colorless on Red	1
IIIDcf	6	VL	Opaque	Green on White on Red on White	1
IVa	C	S		Clear Red on Translucent White	23
IVa	C	M		Clear Red on Translucent White	89
IVa	C	L		Clear Red on Translucent White	13
IVa	C	S		Translucent Red on Clear White	1
IVa	C	S	Translucent	Red on White	5
IVa	C	M	Translucent	Red on White	10
IVa	C	L	Translucent	Red on White	7
IVa	C	S		Opaque Red on Translucent White	1
IVa	C	S		Translucent Brown on Clear White	1
IVa	C	L		Clear Orange on Translucent White	2
Wib	R	L	Clear	Light Blue	4
Wib	R	L	Translucent	Light Blue	3
Wib	R	S	Clear	Blue	552
Wib	R	M	Clear	Blue	55
Wib	R	L	Clear	Blue	125
Wib	R	VL	Clear	Blue	26
Wib	R	XL	Clear	Blue	3

Wib	R	M	Opaque	Blue	2
Wib	R	L	Opaque	Blue	12
Wib	R	L	Translucent	Blue	1
Wib	R	VL	Translucent	Blue	1
Wib	R	L	Clear	Dark Blue	1
Wib	R	L	Clear	Blue-green	39
Wib	R	VL	Clear	Blue-green	3
Wib	R	M	Opaque	Blue-green	1
Wib	R	L	Opaque	Blue-green	3
Wib	R	S	Translucent	Blue-green	2
Wib	R	M	Translucent	Blue-green	10
Wib	R	L	Translucent	Blue-green	1
Wib	R	S	Clear	Green	1
Wib	R	L	Clear	Green	7
Wib	R	VL	Opaque	Green	1
Wib	R	S	Translucent	Green	1
Wib	R	S	Translucent	Yellow-green	4
Wib	R	L	Clear	Yellow	2
Wib	R	L	Translucent	Yellow	1
Wib	R	VL	Opaque	Grey-green	1
Wib	R	VL	Clear	Purple	1
Wib	R	M	Clear	Brown	1
Wib	R	L	Clear	Brown	1
Wib	R	VS	Clear	Light Brown	1
Wib	R	VS	Translucent	Pink	1
Wib	R	S	Clear	Black	72
Wib	R	S	Opaque	Black	4
Wib	R	L	Translucent	White	1
Wic	O	XL	Clear	Blue	1
Wic	O	L	Clear	Blue-green	8
Wic	O	M	Opaque	Blue-green	2
Wic	O	M	Opaque	Brown	1
Wid	DO	VL	Clear	Colorless	1
Wid	DO	L	Clear	Yellow	1
Wid	DO	VL	Clear	Yellow	3
Wid	DO	M	Clear	Blue	3
Wid	DO	L	Clear	Blue	9
Wid	DO	L	Clear	Light Blue	1
Wid	DO	L	Clear	Blue-green	1
WIIIf	S 7	L	Clear	Yellow	4
WIIIf	S 8	L	Clear	Yellow	1
WIIIf	S ?	L	Clear	Yellow	2
WIIIf	5	L	Clear	Colorless	1

(the following bead apparently is made of amber

--	TA	XL	Clear	Brownish Yellow	1
----	----	----	-------	-----------------	---

Abbreviations: (after Kidd and Kidd, with modifications marked\*)

Shape: *B = Burnt	Size: *XL = over 14mm diameter
C = Circular	VL = 10-14mm
DO = Doughnut	L = 6-10mm
O = Oval	M = 4-6mm
R = Round	S = 2-4mm
*S = Spindle	VS = 1-2mm
*TA = Tabular	
? = number of facets	
indeterminate (damaged)	

REFERENCES

Buchanan, James

- 1859 Treaty Between the United States of America and the Nukah Tribe of Indians. U.S. Document. Facsimile reprint, 2nd edition 1967, Shorey Book Store, Seattle.

Cook, James, et al

- 1790 A Voyage to the Pacific Ocean; Undertaken by Command of His Majesty, for making Discoveries in the Northern Hemisphere: Performed under the direction of Captains Cook, Clerke, and Gore, in the Years 1776, 1778, 1779 and 1780. Volume II. M. Brown, at The Bible, in the Flesh Market, Newcastle.

Kidd, Kenneth E., and Martha Ann

- 1970 A Classification System for Glass Beads for the Use of Field Archaeologists. Canadian Historic Sites: Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History--No. 1. Ottawa.

Wright, E.W., editor

- 1895 Lewis and Dryden's Marine History of the Pacific Northwest. Lewis and Dryden, Portland.