ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE BRYSON-PADDOCK SITE

An Early Contact Period Site on the Southern Plains

By
John D. Hartley
A. F. Miller

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT NO. 32

OKLAHOMA RIVER BASIN SURVEY

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA OFFICE OF RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

1977

Research Funded Under
National Park Service Contract
CX 1595-5-0435

Description: Three small bundles of a fine gauge copper wire were recovered from the Bryson-Paddock site. The wire is hair-thin but strong and is relatively well preserved. One bundle of wire is roughly 9.0 cm. in diameter and consists of tightly bunched filament. The other two masses are smaller and consist of coiled extended strands of wire.

Provenience: See Fig. 13.

Comments: This material is not dissimilar from the wire in a modern day scouring pad. Fine gauge wire such as this has not been recovered at Gilbert or other Norteno focus sites. Ethnographically, Indians have been known to weave such wires into fabrics to give them a metallic sheen. While this practice may account for the presence of copper wire at the Bryson-Paddock site, it is considered equally likely that it is intrusive from a recent occupation. Several electric poles have been put on the site near where this material was found, and it is possible that this wire could represent debris from the wiring of the poles.

Glass Items

This grouping includes European-manufactured glass items. The two classes of material recovered from the site which are discussed here are trade mirrors and trade beads. Glass items subsequently modified by the native inhabitants of the site, such as chipped glass tools, are included in the second overall group of Contact material.

Beads (Fig. 12: A)

Number of specimens: 30

Description: The trade beads recovered from the Bryson-Paddock site are classified with reference to a system adopted and utilized by R. K. and Inus Marie Harris (1967: 139) which classifies beads into descriptive categories based on size, color, shape, structure, and presumed use. Under the original system, colors were determined through the use of a standard color chart (Bustanoby 1947: 28-29), and sizes were sorted out following the basic pattern: extra small: 0 - 2.0 mm.; small: 2.0 - 4.0 mm.; medium: 4.0 - 6.0 mm.; large: 6.0 mm. and greater. Based on ethnographic analogy, all beads smaller than large were presumed to be garter beads, while the large beads were considered necklace beads (Harris and Harris 1967: 139). In reference to structure, beads were classified as simple (one homogeneous piece of glass), compound (made of two or more colors of glass), and complex (possessing definite design elements). Under this system, shapes are olive-shaped, barrel-shaped, donut-shaped, round, and tube-shaped. Manufacturing

techniques referred to include tumbled (broken sections of hollow canes rotated in a heated drum to round off broken edges), untumbled (sharp edges), and twisted (the hollow cane was twisted as it was drawn out).

This section includes only those trade beads recovered from the general excavation grid with the use of a quarter inch mesh. A large number of small garter beads were recovered from a pit through the use of fine mesh and water screening; these beads are described along with the rest of the material recovered from the features. All type numbers used for the beads recovered from the Bryson-Paddock site refer directly to those established in the Harris and Harris article.

Type 2: (5 specimens). These are large, opaque white, elongated olive-shaped necklace beads. They are tumbled and are of simple construction.

Type 3: (3 specimens). These are large, opaque white, round necklace beads. They are tumbled and are of simple construction. One bead has a frosted exterior, probably resulting from age and/or weathering.

Type 4: (3 specimens). These are large, opaque white, barrel-shaped necklace beads. They are tumbled and appear to be of simple construction. One specimen is frosted on the exterior.

Type 10: (11 specimens). These are large, opaque Peacock blue, barrel-shaped necklace beads. They are tumbled and are of simple construction. Several examples have frosted exteriors and many exhibit fine longitudinal lines.

Type 13: (1 specimen). This is a large, dark Bluebird blue, olive-shaped necklace bead. It is transluscent and is of simple construction. It is tumbled.

Type 23(?): (1 specimen). This bead is a fragmentary bluish-white necklace bead. It appears to have been olive-shaped and is of complex structure, exhibiting a single darker blue longitudinal stripe. Although incomplete, it is suspected that this bead is of Type 23.

Type 77: (1 specimen). This is a large, Bluebird blue, donut-shaped necklace bead. It is tumbled and is of simple construction.

Unidentified: (4 specimens). This is a residual grouping for those beads which could not be classed according to the Harris and Harris typology. Three are too fragmentary to allow meaningful classification. The fourth, while largely

complete, does not easily fall within an existing type. Two specimens are fragments of large, opaque white beads of some kind and the third fragment is from a transluscent, very large bead. The fourth bead is a medium-sized tube (bugle) shaped garter or necklace bead. The original color of the bead is indeterminate, as it appears to have been furnished with a reflective, mirror-like surface over light blue glass. The item exhibits swirls or reflected color such as that seen on trade mirror fragments. It is either of simple or compound structure and is either broken at each end or untumbled.

Melted Beads: (2 specimens). These items are irregular lumps of melted and fused glass. The colors exhibited in these globules are similar to those in beads, hence their inclusion under this category.

Provenience: See Fig. 13.

Comments: Bead Types 2, 3, 4, 23, and 10 were recovered from the 1974 test work at the Bryson-Paddock site. Three types established by Harris and Harris were recovered in 1974 that were not recovered in 1975. These include Types 5, 9, and 46. As has been mentioned previously, a large number of small garter beads were recovered by water-screening through fine mesh the fill of a bell-shaped pit excavated in 1975. These beads are discussed on page 199.

Flat Glass (Mirror) Fragments

Number of specimens: 6

Description: All of these items are flat, tabular fragments of glass. Three are transparent, 2 exhibit several swirled-in colors, and 2 specimens exhibit remnants of the reflective surfaces. With the possible exception of the completely transparent fragments, these items are suspected to represent fragmentary trade mirrors. An incised design element is apparent on one mirror fragment.

Dimensions: Maximum length/width: 0.9 - 2.1 cm.
Maximum thickness: 0.1 - 0.4 cm.

Provenience: See Fig. 13.

Figure 12

CONTACT MATERIAL

A: Glass Beads.
(Photographed at twice actual scale)

B: Triangular Brass
Projectile Point.

C: Triangular Iron
Projectile Point.

D: Stemmed Iron
Projectile Point.

E: Chipped Glass
Projectile Point.

F: Native-Made Bell.

G, H, I: Gunflints.

All except beads illustrated actual scale.

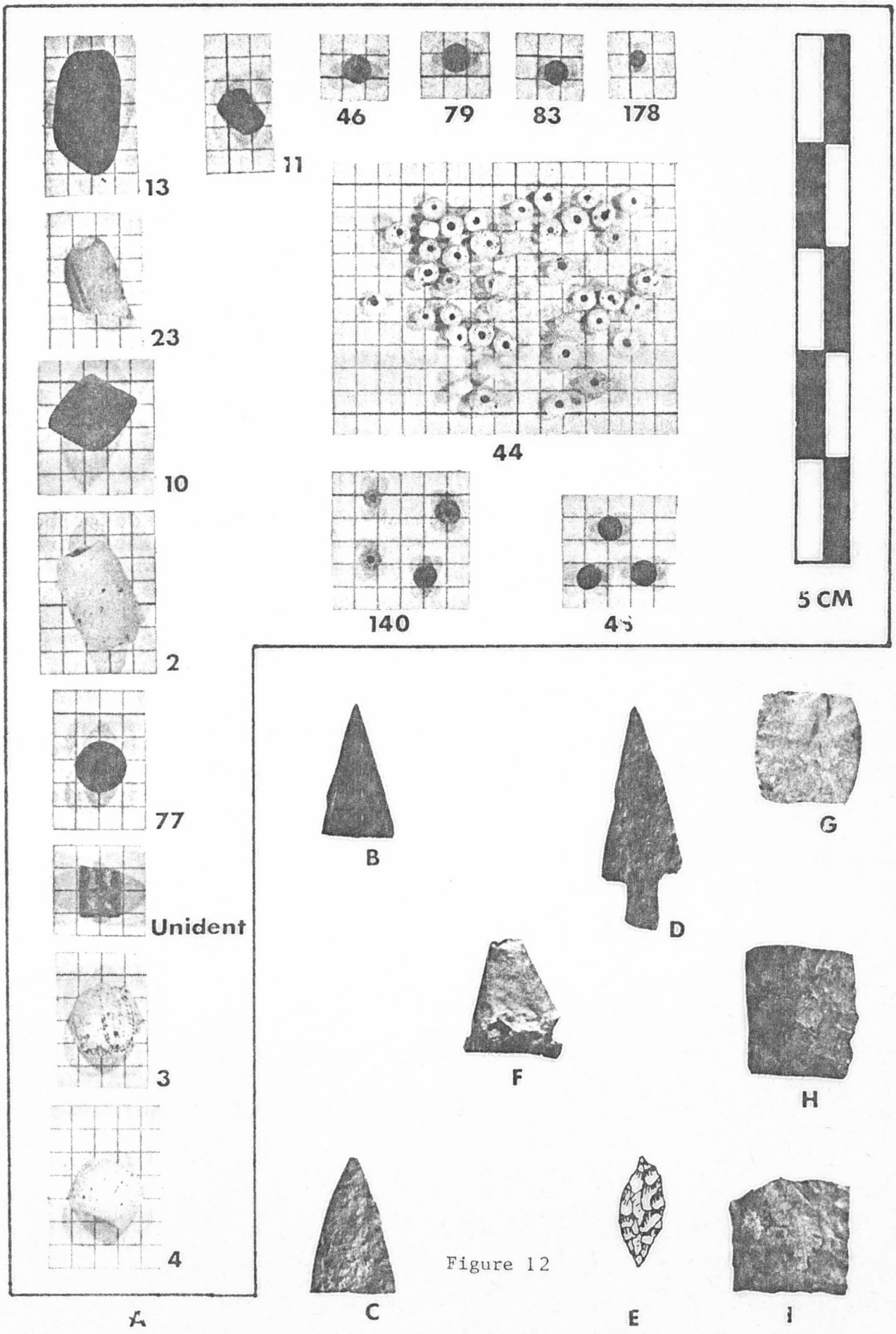

Figure 12

Description: The glass beads recovered from Feature 5 were obtained by fine mesh water screening. When, possible these beads have been described following the descriptive typology in Harris and Harris (1967: 129). Two beads were unidentified.

Type 11: (1 specimen), This is a medium, Peacock blue, opaque, barrel-shaped garter bead of simple construction. It has been tumbled.

Type 44: (41 specimens). These are small, white, opaque, donut-shaped garter beads of simple construction. Tumbled.

Type 46: (1 specimen). This is a small, Peacock blue, opaque, donut-shaped garter bead of simple construction. Tumbled.

Type 79: (1 specimen). This is a small, Sky blue, opaque, donut-shaped garter bead of simple construction. Tumbled.

Type 83: (1 specimen). This is a small, Emerald green, translucent, donut-shaped garter bead of simple construction. Tumbled.

Type 140: (4 specimens). These are small, turquoise, opaque, donut-shaped garter beads of simple construction. Tumbled.

Type 178: (1 specimen). This is an extra small, Sky blue, opaque, donut-shaped garter bead of simple construction. Tumbled.

Type 48: (3 specimens). These are small, dark Bluebird blue, translucent, donut-shaped garter beads of simple construction. Tumbled.

Comments: Although all beads recovered from Feature 5 were subjected to a cleaning solution of muriatic acid, the glass comprising the surface of these items can become discolored or frosted with age, leading to possible confusion in their identification. Consequently, some of the typological identifications made in this report may be in error.

Fossilized Tooth Enamel

Number of specimens: 1

Description: This is a rectangular fragment of fossilized tooth enamel. It would appear to be from an extinct elephant. Although its inclusion in the fill of Feature 5 may be accidental, "odd" items such as this are commonly collected by people for their curiosity value.

stretch of land in the Redbed Plains from northern Texas, through central Oklahoma to central Kansas. This "Whole body" of the Wichita tribe reacted in concert when faced with outside pressures. From this initial position straddling Oklahoma, the Wichita began a general movement to the south during 1770-1775, placing the northern subgroups (the Taovayas and Wichita proper) which had been in Kansas and northern Oklahoma, along the Red River in southern Oklahoma and Texas. The Waco and Tawakoni subgroups (who were traditionally located south of the Taovayas and Wichita proper) inhabited the Red River drainage when the other two groups were in Kansas, and moved into central Texas as the Taovayas and Wichita proper moved south. According to Lorrain (1967: 36) the four subgroups remained in this relative geographical position until after 1800, when they finally consolidated in northern Texas.

Part of the confusion which surrounds the nature of the Norteno focus and the presumed "southern group" of Wichita in general concerns the identification of several sites of the focus to historical tribal affiliations. Much of this problem revolves around the nature of the Kichai tribe, which is certainly the most poorly known of the Plains Caddoans. Following Newcomb (1961: 250) and others, the Kichai have been identified as one of the sub-tribes comprising the Wichita "confederation". As pointed out by Hughes (1968), the Kichai are most probably a completely separate tribe. The Kichai language is actually more closely related to Pawnee than Wichita and based on glottochronological evidence, Hughes (1968: 84) calculates that the Kichai divergence must have occurred 14 to 20 centuries ago. It is suggested here that the "southern division" of the Wichita mentioned by Sudbury are likely Kichai, and that the Kichai evolved in place along the Trinity and middle Red River headwaters out of the Henrietta-Washita River-Custer complex. The Norteno focus then, probably represents both the Kichai and Wichita at separate times in the past. Prior to 1750, sites attributed to the Waco and Tawakoni subgroups of the Wichita as well, After 1750, when the southward migration of the entire Wichita tribe was complete, all of the sites along the Red River drainage were probably Wichita. A change in the nature of Norteno focus sites after this migration would be difficult to pick up archaeologically, however, as Kichai culture was apparently very similar to that of the Wichita (Hughes 1968: 253-254).

Two radiocarbon dates have been recovered from the Bryson-Paddock sites, AD 1760 $\pm$ 60 (Tx-2359) and AD 1660 $\pm$ 70 (Tx-2360). Although the range of variation in the dates could place the occupation anywhere from AD 1820 to 1590, the midpoint of the two dates falls at 1700-1710, which differs somewhat from the presumed 1720-1760 period of the occupations at Bryson-Paddock and Deer Creek as deduced by Sudbury from trade beads and map evidence (Sudbury 1976: 78).

Since Sudbury's estimate of the period of occupation at the Bryson-Paddock site is based only on analysis of beads and artifacts recovered from the surface, there is the possibility that his frequencies are not at all representative of the actual importance of

certain artifacts at the site. What follows is a listing of the bead types recovered from the excavation grid and Features 1 and 5 at the Bryson-Paddock site in 1975 with their presumed temporal affiliations as deduced by Harris and Harris (1967: 129-135).

TYPE	NO.	PERCENT	P-1	P-2	P-3	P-4	P-5
2	6	7.6	xxx	xx	-	-	-
13	1	1.2	xxx	xx	-	-	-
3	3	3.8	xxx	xx	x	-	-
4	3	3.8	xxx	xx	x	-	-
10	11	13.9	xxx	xx	x	-	-
23	2	2.5	xxx	xx	x	-	-
11	1	1.2	xxx	xx	x	-	-
44	41	51.9	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	-
46	1	1.2	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	-
48	3	3.8	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	-
79	1	1.2	-	xxx	xx	-	-
83	1	1.2	-	xx	xxx	-	-
140	4	5.0	-	-	-	xx	-
178	1	1.2	-	-	-	xx	-

x low occurrence
xx moderate occurrence
xxx high occurrence
- type absent

P-1, Period 1, 1700-1740
P-2, Period 2, 1740-1767
P-3, Period 3, 1767-1820
P-4, Period 4, 1820-1836
P-5, Period 5, 1836-1850

Of the bead types recovered from the excavations at Bryson-Paddock, seven are most characteristic of the period 1700-1740. Three types occur equally often from 1700 to 1836, and somewhat surprisingly, four types were recovered from the Bryson-Paddock site which do not occur in 1700-1740 at all. No beads which are characteristic only of Period 1 were recovered. It is difficult to draw any substantitive conclusions from the above table. While it appears that the major part of the occupation of Bryson-Paddock occurred during 1700-1740, no beads were recovered from the 1975 excavation, which occurred solely in that period. Sudbury, however, reports finding three bead types which are limited to the period 1700-1740 (Sudbury 1976: 94). More troublesome than the lack of purely Period 1 beads, however, is the presence of several types which apparently post-date the Wichita occupation of Bryson-Paddock by as much as 50-75 years. According to most ethnohistorical sources, the Wichita had completed their southward migration long before 1800, meaning that the Bryson-Paddock and Deer Creek sites must have been abandoned no later than 1760-1780. Assuming that the late beads have been correctly typed, there may therefore have been an early historic occupation of the Bryson-Paddock site after it was abandoned by the Wichita. Some further indication of an early to middle nineteenth century occupation of the site is given by

Sudbury. Among the collection of items recovered from the surface of the Bryson-Paddock site is a Miraculous Medal bearing the inscription "O HOLY MARY EVER VIRGIN AND CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN PRAY FOR US WHO IMPLORE THY AID 1830" (Sudbury 1976: 94-95). Although these data may suggest the presence of a ca. 1820-1850 occupation at Bryson-Paddock, it appears to be of minor importance and certainly bears no impact on the major intent of this report. Nevertheless, it is hoped that future work at either the Bryson-Paddock site or the Deer Creek site will be able to clarify the possible existence and nature of the post-Wichita occupation of the region.

Before continuing to a discussion of the other artifacts at Bryson-Paddock, some mention should be made of what this writer sees as the difficulty in using trade beads as an absolute dating method. The dates given by Harris and Harris (1967: 129-130) for the occurrence of typed beads are derived, not by tracing each bead type back to its point of manufacture in Europe in order to determine when it was made, which is probably impossible, but by the detailed analysis of 106,354 glass beads recovered from 18 archaeological sites in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. Beads are "dated" by their relative prevalence at these sites, all of which are assigned a general temporal period of occupancy on the basis of ethnohistorical accounts and the presence of particular types of trade artifacts. Many of the sites included in the Harris and Harris article had not been subjected to scientific excavation, and chronometric dates were not available for any of them in 1967. In other words, since the temporal assignments of the archaeological and historical sites used in the analysis were,for the most part, based on inexact dating methods, the dates derived for the beads recovered from these sites are potentially incorrect. Another difficulty in using the Harris and Harris chronology is the fact that no sites pre-dating 1700 were taken into account by the authors. Over 100 glass beads were recovered during Wedel's research in the Great Bend Aspect in Kansas (Wedel 1959: 342). Since these sites probably date well into the sixteenth century, a survey of the bead types present there would serve to indicate if some of the types considered Period 1 or Period 2 by Harris and Harris were actually more prevalent at an earlier time frame. At the present time, therefore, this writer feels that bead chronology is not yet exact enough to make the technique useful for particular chronological problems such as the relationship of the Bryson-Paddock site to Deer Creek and to sites of the Norteno focus and Great Bend Aspect.

In attempting to determine the relationships among archaeological complexes, a study of artifacts manufactured and used within the native cultural tradition is probably more useful than the study of trade items. Among the native artifacts manufactured by the inhabitants of the Bryson-Paddock site, pottery is probably the best index of such relationships. This is not so much because pottery is in some way more "basic" to the culture than, say chipped stone