

1915 Expedition at a Munsee Cemetery near Montague, Pa. Indes.

Contributions to the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Tablets, 2 (1) 1-78. New York.

HEYE-PEPPER—EXPLORATION OF A MUNSEE CEMETERY 49

pieces of red ochre were mixed with the sand that surrounded the skull, the upper part of which was discolored by it. The crania of Skeletons 30 and 33 were each resting in a mass of red ochre, and small pieces of this material were mingled with the beads that encircled the neck of Skeleton 30.

Some of the crania and other bones were discolored by copper salts, but there was no indication of the use of paint as a means of decoration.

OBJECTS OF EUROPEAN ORIGIN

Although the first settlement of the Minisink region by white people was made during the last decade of the seventeenth century, the Munsee, living so near the coast, had been in touch with civilization from the earliest colonial times, hence it was not surprising to find various articles of foreign manufacture in the graves. Glass beads were among the first trinkets to be traded with the Indians, and many of these found their way to Minisink. In addition, there were found with the burials the following: brass kettles, bracelets, bells, a spoon, and beads; wire ornaments probably also of brass; a spoon of German silver; a copper chain; mirrors; fire-steels; pewter and clay pipes, and textile fabrics.

TRADE BEADS

The trade beads found with the bodies are all of glass, most of them black, white, or red, and such as were generally used in decorating wearing apparel as well as for necklaces. A few of these beads are spherical, and one, found with Skeleton 30, is cylindrical in form and blue-black in color. This last was found with wampum beads, and in size and shape is similar to those of native make.

Glass beads, unless of unusual type, have little value except from a historical point of view. With twelve of the sixty-eight burials glass beads were found: these were associated with Skeletons 6, 7, 8, 10, 17, 18, 29, 30, 33, 36, 51, and 53. The only beads of this kind worthy of special note were with Skeleton 17: these number eighteen and are of the form of kernels of corn. The skele-

ton with which they were found was that of a child, and these beads with others of glass and shell, were about the neck. In making these beads both the shape and the color of the corn were imitated. Glass beads of similar character are found occasionally in association with burials in the eastern part of the United States. In the Museum of the American Indian is a series found with a burial in an Iroquois site in western New York.

PEWTER PIPES

Buried with Skeletons 24, 31, and 57 were three pipes made of pewter. These were probably of European manufacture, yet it is possible that they were fashioned by the Indians. Beauchamp,¹ in writing of metallic pipes, says:

Roger Williams' statement has been given regarding the quickness with which the New England Indians learned to cast metals, even in the form of pipes. Though Hudson said he saw copper pipes in New York in 1609, none of these are known, nor are metallic pipes common. Those found on Indian sites were probably made by white men. Pewter and lead were easily melted, not so iron and brass. So bars of lead were often given to the Indians at treaties and are sometimes found on their village sites.

Comparatively little is known concerning early pewter and lead pipes among the Indians, but a sufficient number have been found to show that they were not uncommon. Beauchamp describes seven that had come under his observation to the year 1902, since which time many others undoubtedly have been found. Most of the known examples of pewter pipes are simple in form. Of the three found with the burials at Minisink, two are plain, but the third is unusually ornate.

The first pewter pipe unearthed was with Skeleton 24. As previously mentioned (page 24), it was found, with other objects, near the left shoulder, and had been broken at the point where the bowl and the stem meet. In general form this pipe (pl. XIII, c) is similar to certain early trade pipes made of clay. The bowl is irregular in form and is greatly corroded. The stem is slender and

¹ *Metallic Implements of the New York Indians*, Albany, 1902, p. 56.