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Excavations at Tes-haya The Indian Ranchería at Mission San Antonio de Padua (Mnt-100) By DONALD M. HOWARD

During the autumns of 1969, 1970 and 1971, excavations were carried out in four of the seven sites surveyed at Mission San Antonio de Padua (Mnt-100). These midden areas represent occupational debris discarded by neophyte Indians living in the adobe quarters approximately 200 yards southeast of the mission church. Today these structures may be noticed only by an "L" shaped linear mound of adobe which lies between the Matanza Oak and the Mill Pond. Posts have been placed in the approximate centers of some of the adobe rooms.

Since no previous archaeology had been done at the Indian ranchería site, valuable data pertaining to the Antoniño Salinan Indians were acquired. Unfortunately, little has been recorded about the mission Indians' transition from pagan to Christian. The Franciscan padres considered the Indians his wards and regarded them mentally as children. With this condescending attitude regarding the natives, little stimulus for doing ethnographic work on cultural trends developed.

From a stratigraphic study of artifacts and

debris, the author hoped a chronological sequence could be established with coroboration coming from the written reports of the mission. Dramatic events in the mission's history, such as concentrated building activity, population increases, and cultural changes, could be expected to show up in the general profile of the midden. Building activity, for example, might appear in the midden as a concentration of floor and roof tiles.

LOCATION OF MIDDEN SITES

Seven midden sites were mapped during the field sessions. Each site is characterized by ashy gray to black soil with marine mollusk remains, rocks and bone fragments. The following is a surface description of known sites at Mission San Antonio.

SITE I—Located 240 feet north of the Matanza Oak, this site is approximately 70 by 60 feet and has a maximum depth of 24 inches. The general matrix is characterized by a high percentage of gray ash. Surface indications show an abundance of California mussel (Mytilus californiamus) fragments, with Haliotis, Tegula and

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Acmaea chiefly comprising the balance of the molluscan fauna. Since most of the midden is located on the south side of the east-west wing of the ranchería adobe complex, it may be surmised the doors faced this direction.

SITE II—This is by far the largest and deepest of the sites tested on the mission property. Its approximate dimensions are 116 x 126 feet. The area encompassed by this site lies between the mill pond gate and a prominent bulldozed mound of earth adjacent to a series of stacked adobe bricks. This appears to be the most important archaeological site because of its thickness (52 inches maximum) and high artifact yield. Surface indications are similar to Site I but the coloration of the midden matrix is black with a high carbon content. Bone is more prevalent with dense lenses encountered around 24 inches.

It seems that Site II was the community kitchen for the entire ranchería, since no foundation structures were encountered, yet from the concentration and volume of debris it must be conjectured that heavy occupation occurred here. Fortunately, this site had been little disturbed since restoration activitics of 1948.

SITE III—Actually this site is a continuation of Site II. A small mound is to be seen 90 feet north of the Site II datum point. Surface characteristics are the same as at Site II.

SITE IV—This is certainly the longest of the sites surveyed, approximately 380 feet long. The original width is indeterminate, for construction of the Mission Creek Road has obliterated the eastern portion of the site. This deposit undoubtedly represents the garbage material from the north-south wing of the ranchería adobe complex.

- Surface indications are identical to Site I, but since the surface area is greater, more artifacts can be found on the surface. This site was not tested by the writer; however, future work is planned here.

SITE V—This is a very small site on the west side of the ditch, just south of the mill pond gate. Fragmented marine molluscan remains, bone, stone and ash were noted in the midden matrix. A concave base side notched projectile point was found on the

surface. Approximate dimensions are 50 x 15 feet.

SITE VI—This is the smallest site found. Dimensions are approximately 15×10 feet. Little shell or bone was seen in the soil, however ash was predominate. This site may have just been the trash area for one adobe house. This site is on the south side of the east-west wing nearly 150 feet west of Datum A.

SITE VII—Located on the south side of the east-west ranchería wing about 95 feet west of the fence which parallels the ranchería ditch, this is a decided mound somewhat larger than Site VI, and apparently represents the trash accumulation from one or two adobes.

ARCITECTURE OF THE RANCHERIA

The Indian adobe huts were simple in design and measured about 16 by 16 feet. Construction seems to have been packed mud, with no evidence of brick structure. Thirty-one adobes are mentioned as having been built in 1810. There were probably about 55 huts altogether.

METHODOLOGY

Site I was the first area tested. Datum A was a solid post 241 feet north of the Matanza Oak. The plotting of test units was accomplished by measuring to a given distance from the datum point in a magnetic north line and driving a stake in the area of the midden that looked promising. Five-foot square units were dug and leveling was done at six-inch intervals.

Samples of bone, shell and stone and all artifacts were saved for each level. At Site I all molluscan remains were saved for statitical dietary studies which will be brought forth in a later issue. Field notes were kept on the content of every level excavated, and in Unit N5E15 roof and floor tiles were saved and weighed to ascertain the quantity of tiles per level. Screening was accomplished with $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch mesh screen. Larger mesh could not be used, for many tiny glass trade beads would have been lost.

Datums B and C in Sites II and III, respectively, were stakes driven into the ground by hand. All measurements were made from these points.

All units were given a north-south orientation, thus each unit would have a compass the mission, but that heavy occupation did not start until the completion of the mill pond ditch in 1809. If the coin age ratios are correct, then 52 inches of deposition would represent nearly 110 years.

This age, of course, is not correct. We know the site was not occupied prior to 1772, and certainly very little was deposited at the site after 1845. This time period is 73 years, and probably even this age is excessive. This gives an average annual deposition rate of .71 inches. Famine, seasonal migrations and influxes of Indians could have radically changed the rate of deposition from year to year. There are too many variables to compose a true chronology, at least for the present.

Roof and floor tiles are useful for dating levels in a site. Certainly an abundance of tiles would indicate building activity. In checking back over mission records the periods of building activity at the ranchería were 1805, 1809, 1810, 1818 and 1829.

	ROOF & FLOOR TILES	NO. OF CERAMIC
LEVEL	(Weight in pounds)	SHARDS
0-6"	4.5	13
6-12"	18.5	12
12-18"	30.0	10
18-24"	37.0	13
24-30"	17.0	34
30-36"	12.0 -	- 11
36-42"		6
	CHART I	

Distribution of root and floor tiles and ceramic shards in Site II, by level. Tile sample is from Unit N5E15; shards are from Unit N5E5:

From the above weights one can see that the heaviest concentration is in level 18-24. Indications are that this level may be from the building activity of 1829, when 24 houses of the neophytes were repaired, according to Englehardt. This certainly would be rather close to the 1831 date on the tworeal piece found at 24 inches.

It is not known what year tiles were first manufactured at the mission, however, the second church of 1780 received a tile roof. Since roof tiles are found as deep as 48 inches, this level could precede 1780. Since tile fragments are scarce in Site I, it may be assumed that deposition was earlier or later than Site II.

DESCRIPTION OF ARTIFACTS

BEADS

Three major categories of beads are found in the ranchería: glass trade beads, shell beads and, very rarely, bone beads. *Olivella* saddle beads are the most abundant, then trade beads and whole *Olivella* beads (spirelopped and side-punched).

The saddle beads were acquired from the side of Olivella biplicata (purple olive snail), usually from the first whorl. Spirelopped beads are characterized by the spire of the shell being rubbed or cut off. This type of bead has been reported as common by Broadbent (1955) at the Carmel Mission ranchería, and recent excavations by the author at Mission La Soledad have revealed some Olivella saddle and spirelopped beads (see MCAS Quarterly, Vol. I, No. 3).

The variety of glass trade beads at the San Antonio ranchería is noteworthy. Glass colors are green, red, yellow, brown, black, striped amber and clear crystal. Shapes include spherical, hexagonal, pentagonal, fusiform, doughnut and barrel.

These beads were introduced by the Spanish for use as barter with the Indians, but it is not known whether they were used as currency.

Bone beads are the rarest kind. Only two were recognized: a flat disc and a long tubular bead which may be antler or ivory. The paucity of bone beads may be explained by the abundance of glass and shell, both preferable materials.

LITHIC INDUSTRY

The most characteristic artifact in the stone assemblage at San Antonio is the projectile point, or "arrowhead." Two primary types of points are found: side-notched with concave base and triangular with concave base. Leaf points with flat bases were collected, but rare. The distinct occurrence of side-notched points is entirely indicative of proto-historic and contact influences. No





MISSION SAN ANTONIO GLASS TRADE BEADS Analysis by Dr. Roderick Sprague, University of Idaho

Accession No.	Diaphaniety	Color	Munsell Code	Manufacture	Shape or Name
1	Transparent	Green	2.5 G-3/6	Tubular	Seed
26	Opaque	Tan	10 YR-5/6	Wound	Round Paste
170	Transparent	Amber	7.5 YR-4/8	Wound	Round
221	Transparent	Blue	5 PB-1 12	Tubular	Faceted .
336	Transparent	Green	5 G-1/8	Wound	Oval
-116	Transparent	Milky White	N 8/5	Compound Tubular	Faceted
448a	Opaque	Tan .	10 YN-7/6	Wound	Round
4186	Transparent	Green	7.5 G-1 6	Wound	Round
500	Transparent	Purple	2.5 RP-1.8	Tubular	Faceted
561	Translucent	Robin's Egg Blue	5 B-6/6	Wound	Round
580	Opaque	Tan Spiral on Red	10 YR-6/6 1 OR-3-8	Wound	Biconical Faceted
657	Opaque	BLack	N-L	Wound	Round
677	Transparent	Blue	2.5 PB 3/8	Wound	Round
700	Transparent	Amber	7.5 YR-1/8	Wound	Round
701	Opaque	Deep Blue	5 PB-2-6	Tubular	Pony
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NOTES: 416 and 500 are from the period 1815-1830; 561 is from 1805-1810.

side-notched points have been collected by the writer in any prehistoric sites in the Hunter Liggett area, nor have any been seen in the collections of Olive Wollesen or George Heinsen of Lockwood. Broadbent (1955) and Pilling (1955) both report side-notched points from the Carmel Mission and adjacent coastal areas. The primary type of stone used at San Antonio was Miocene Monterey chert. This chert generally occurs in two colors, beeswax and black. Some green jaspers were used, but rarely, and probably represent the Jurassic Franciscan cherts which abound along the Pfeiffer coast area. A noticeable lack of obsidian was observed at the



TWO PRAYER PIECES. Left is tabular piece of siltstone with incised cross. Right is fragment of kilned and burnished clay piece with incised cross and radial design. Opposite side also has cross.

appears that the arms were pierced with a tiny hole, the function of which may have been to attach sinew or wire. No known use of fired clay has been discovered in prehistoric adjacent sites, so the art of sculpturing may be assumed to be of historic origin.

Molded clay forms have been found at the Carmel Mission. One hand molded specimen has the Indian's fingerprints visible on the inside. A crude clay figurine depicting a Franciscan padre was found at Mission La Soledad during Oliver Pesch's restoration work in 1961, and is on exhibit in the Mission La Soledad museum.

Rounded clay spheres were common at the ranchería. It is speculated that they may represent gaming pieces, although I can find no mention of a game played with balls the size of marbles at San Antonio.

Another enigma which has arisen is the presence of disc-like pieces of roof tile with bi-conically drilled holes on either side. Harry Downie suggests that these were used on strings, and by tightening or loosening the torsion on the string, the disc could be spun. Many rounded pieces of roof tile have no central holes and may be the lids to "preservada" jars which contained perishable foods and would have been sealed with wax. Similar artifacts have also been found at Carmel and La Soledad Missions.

CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at the San Antonio ranchería reflect the complete domination of the pagan Indian by Franciscan concepts. Pottery technology, new weaving techniques in basketry, metal tools, introduction of beans, maize, wheat and barley, language changes, clothing, new types of housing and religion all completely inundated the primitive way of life.

Few aboriginal trends are evident in the artifact yield at the ranchería, although it is known through mission records that many of the neophytes were not easily converted to Catholicism and rebeled. Many adhered to their old ways, as witnessed by the reports of La Pérouse (1786) when he visited the Carmel Mission. He mentions that when the vermin got thick in their grass huts the Indians would burn the structures down rather than clean them. The *temescal* ot sweat house was a pagan ritual that extended to the decline of the missions. In fact, the padres discontinued the temescal at Carmel Mission with disastrous results; the Indians contracted skin maladies. Many of the neophytes continued to wear their old garb, covered by only a loin cloth.

Many pagan trends overlap with western tradition. Projectile points indicate that the bow and arrow were still in use during the mission period, and *Olivella* saddle beads and spire-lopped beads are from the prehistoric culture and continued in use.

Perhaps the greatest development for the Indian was the use of metal tools. With these he could do a host of jobs that were impossible with chipped stone. By forging metal any tool for any job could be manufactured, thus facilitating better ways of construction and new weapons.

The introduction of domestic animals by the Spanish provided the Indian with a new diet supplement, and the use of the horse and ox for work was one of the main developments that made construction of the mission complex possible.

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All drawings are by the author.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

"Dietary Trends of the Antoniño Indians," Donald M. Howard's analysis of the plant and animal remains in the ranchería midden, has been omitted from this issue because of space limitations, but will be published in a later issue.

This issue begins Volume II of the Monterey County Archaeological Society Quarterly, and a new publication schedule as well. Months of publication will be October, January, April and July.

Back issues of the Quarterly are available at one dollar apiece. Topics covered in Volume I are as follows:

NUMBER 1-September, 1971: "The Archaeology of the Hudson Mound," by Donald M. Howard and Dr. Sherburne F. Cook.

NUMBER 2-December, 1971: "Archaeological Investigation of the Royal Presidio of Monterey," by Donald M. Howard; and articles on Presidio of Monterey artifacts by Toni Graham, Vivian Kernohan, June Payne, Dawn Cope, Gary S. Breschini and Donald M. Howard.

NUMBER 3-March, 1972: "Archaeological Investigation at Mision Nuestra Senora de La Soledad," by Donald M. Howard; "Fish Remains From Mission La Soledad Cemetery," by W. I. Follett.

NUMBER 4—June, 1972: "Archaeological Excavations at Mnt-436 — the Ködani Site," by Gary S. Breschini, with related articles by W. I. Follett, Donald M. Howard and Toni Graham; "Monterey Peninsula Shell Mounds—Some General Remarks," by Peter Rashkin, with a Site Survey Map of the Monterey Peninsula.