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Arikara Archeology: The Bad River Phase

by

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BUFFALO PASTURE SITE

Cut Antler Tines (eight specimens):
Fragments of deer or elk antler
tines cut at one or both ends.

ORNAMENTS

Bone Pendant (one specimen, Pl. 17j): A
highly polished cruciform pendant (?)
broken at one end. The dimensions
are 56+ by 16.0 mm.

Shell Pendant (one specimen, Pl. 18h):
An elongated object made from the
shell of an unidentifiable bivalve. The
outer surface has been ground smooth,
but not entirely removed. Sides are
slightly convex; one end is slightly
convex, the other is rounded. Two
holes are drilled at the rounded end;
one is on the centerline; the other,
broken, is slightly off-center and near
the end of the piece. The object is
37.0 mm. long; maximum width 14.0
mm.; thickness 3.0 mm. The diam-
eters of the holes are approximately
1.0 mm.

Glass Beads (16 specimens, Pl. 18i-k):
Wire spun beads grouped on the basis
of form. These trade beads were ex-
amined by the late Glen A. Black in
1954. He felt that the entire sample
dated from the same period, about
1750 A.D.

Faceted Bead (one specimen): A trans-
lucent, white bead with irregular
facets over the entire surface. The
example is 8.0 mm. thick, maxi-
mum diameter 10.0 mm.

Ovoid Beads (13 specimens): Opaque
beads which include a brick red,
dark blue, blue-striped white, and
ten dull white examples. Lengths
range from 5.0 to 13.0 mm.

Spherical Beads (two specimens): A
small bead, 10.0 mm. in diameter,
and a fragment of a larger bead
with a diameter of 21.0 mm. Both
are opaque and white.

METAL

Arrow Points (eight specimens, Pl. 18

a-g): Four stemmed points made from
thin pieces of iron. The following
measurements are of the three com-
plete specimens. Lengths: 28.0, 29.0,
and 32.0 mm. Widths: 15.0, 17.0,
and 12.0 mm. Weights: 1.3, 2.0, and
1.1 gm.

One triangular and three stemmed
points cut from thin sheets of brass.
The measurements of the triangular
point: Length: 28.0 mm. Width: 10.0
mm. Weight: 0.9 gm. The dimen-
sions of the stemmed points: Lengths:
23.0, 32.0, and 39.0 mm. Widths:
14.0, 14.0, and 16.0 mm. Weights:
0.9, 0.7, and 2.9 gm.

Knife Blades (seven specimens, Pl. 18):

Two iron blades of European manu-
facture (Pl. 18s, t). Both apparently
are from fixed blade knives; neither
show rivet holes nor indications of
transverse pins. One is a long, nar-
row, tapering blade with an offset tang
approximately 23.0 mm. long. The
other is a tanged blade tapering grad-
ually to a blunt point. The tang is
formed by an inset on one side; the
inner edge of the tang is notched. Both
tangings appear to be broken. Lengths:
97+ and 85+ mm. Maximum widths:
18.0 and 21.0 mm.

Three examples cut from thin
sheets of iron appear to be blades of
native manufacture. One (Pl. 18x) is
roughly triangular with slightly convex
edges and a rounded base. One cor-
ner of the base is missing. The other
two blades are parallel-sided forms.
The point of one is formed by the sides
converging at different angles; a por-
tion of the butt is broken away, but it
was apparently rounded. The other
example is a basal fragment with a
rounded butt. It is possible that these
pieces were used as blades for L-
shaped antler fleshing adzes rather
than as knives. Lengths: 66.0, 58+,
and 90.0 mm. Widths: 38+, 25.0,
and 30.0 mm.

Two blades (Pl. 18p, q) are thin
pieces of sheet brass, probably hafted

LEAVITT SITE

Orientation: on left side, head to north-northwest.

Associations: glass seed beads: 25 white, one blue; ovoid glass beads: 32 white, four dark blue striped on a light blue; restorable Talking Crow Indented vessel; four brass or copper bracelets around left forearm, and two iron bracelets around right forearm. Extraneous skeletal materials; two mandible fragments.

Comments: copper staining on left radius and ulna, and the distal end of the right femur.

BURIAL 12 (Fig. 16a)

Field designation X1, F9
Age 2-3 years
Sex indeterminate
Burial type primary, flexed

Orientation: on left side, head to south.

Associations: the burial was located just outside the wall of House 1.

ASSOCIATED ARTIFACTS

The pottery associated with the burials include three complete or nearly complete vessels (one a miniature pot) and large portions of a fourth vessel.

One (Pl. 21b) appears to be a miniature version of a Colombe Collared Rim vessel. The collar is decorated with three cord impressed, horizontal lines bordered above and below by a row of punctations. The body is simple stamped and smoothed. Vessel diameter: 94.0 mm., height: 90.0 mm. The pot was found by the right forearm of an immature individual (Burial 4).

A second example (Pl. 21d) is a Stanley Tool Impressed vessel. The rim is decorated with oblique tool impressions on the brace. The lower rim is brushed, and the body is simple stamped and smoothed. The shoulder is undecorated. Vessel diameter: 170 mm., height: 167 mm. The pot was associated with adult remains (Burial 2).

A third vessel (Pl. 21c) is Stanley Cord Impressed. The rim is decorated with four horizontal, cord impressed lines which are interrupted by the two strap handles. The handles, adjacent brace area, and the interior of the rim below the lip are decorated with oblique cord impressions. Shoulder decoration consists of triangular plats of opposed diagonal incisions. The body is simple stamped and smoothed. Vessel diameter: 157 mm., height: 128 mm. The vessel was positioned by the right forearm of an adult (Burial 3b).

A fourth vessel (Pl. 21a), an example of Talking Crow Indented, was restored from fragments associated with an adult interment (Burial 11). The lip is decorated with oblique tool impressions; the rim exhibits horizontal wipe marks; shoulders are smoothed and undecorated; the body is simple stamped and smoothed. Vessel diameter: 161 mm., height: 125 mm.

Antler ice glider (one specimen, Pl. 21j): a very fragmentary specimen found beside the skull of Burial 3b. Length: 130 mm., maximum diameter: 27.0 mm.

Worked beaver tooth (one specimen): a highly polished, split beaver incisor. The inner surface of the tooth is cut away and the root end ground to a smooth, flat edge.

Seed beads (ca. 1,345 specimens): small spheroidal to slightly elliptical glass beads. They tend to fall into two size groups: one between 2.0 and 3.0 mm. in diameter, and a second group about 4.0 mm. in diameter. Colors: opaque white, ca. 1,280; opaque blue of various hues (possibly due to weathering), 46; opaque green, eight; opaque black, eight; and a translucent blue, three.

Ovoid beads (39 specimens, Pl. 21j): barrel-shaped to near cylindrical glass beads. They can be clustered into three groups based on length: four examples 7.0 to 9.0 mm. long; 27 speci-

mens 10.0 to 12.0 mm.; eight 14.0 to 16.0 mm. Diameters range from 6.0 to 10.0 mm. Color distribution: 33 white, four dark blue striped on a light blue, and one dark blue and a light blue specimen.

Shell beads (14 specimens, Pl. 21g, h): shells of Olivella (Callianax) biplicata [Sowerby] with the spires removed, presumably to allow for stringing. The specimens were large, all of them about 25.0 mm. in length.

Shell disc bead (one specimen): cut from the shell of an unidentifiable mollusk. Disc diameter: 12.0 mm., thickness: 2.0 mm., diameter of perforation: 3.0 mm.

Shell pendant (one specimen, Pl. 21n): an elongated, trapezoidal pendant drilled at the narrow end for suspension. Edges and surfaces are smoothed; the exterior surface of the shell is ground away to expose the pearly inner layer. The ornament is thinned in section toward the narrow end. Hole diameter: 3.0 mm.; maximum width: 17.0 mm., minimum width 8.0 mm.; maximum thickness: 5.0 mm., minimum thickness: 2.0 mm.

Shell gorget (one specimen, Pl. 21o): a disc-like ornament made by cutting off the top of a conch shell—Busycon contrarium (Conrad). The spire is cut off, and three small holes are drilled along the edge of the ornament. A small hole, about 3.0 mm. in diameter, is flanked by two larger perforations approximately 5.0 mm. in diameter. The edges of the piece are ground smooth. The specimen was found at the neck of a primary, immature burial. The perforations were toward the head, and the interior of the shell faced away from the skeleton. Maximum diameter: 62.0 mm.

Musket ball (one specimen): a corroded and encrusted musket ball, one face of which is flattened, presumably by

impact. It was found lodged in the left ilium of Burial 5a, and is estimated to have originally been .52 caliber.

Lead rings (two specimens, Pl. 21k, l): lead bands, one specimen 12.0 mm. wide and 2.0 mm. thick; the other 9.0 mm. wide and 3.0 mm. thick. The ends of both bands overlap to form slightly flattened rings. Maximum diameters: 23.0 and 24.0 mm.

Iron bands (two specimens): fragments of heavily rusted iron bands which may have come from bracelets. Widths of the fragments are 18.0 and 22.0 mm. Thicknesses are estimated to have been approximately 5.0 mm. If indeed the fragments are from bracelets, the diameters are estimated to have been approximately 100 and 75.0 mm. Both specimens were found lying over the bones of the right forearm of Burial 11.

Copper or brass bracelets (five specimens, Pl. 21e, f): four oval bracelets made from round copper or brass rods between 3.0 and 4.0 mm. in diameter, and a thin strand of copper between 1.0 and 2.0 mm. in diameter. Four examples are open-sided; the ends of the other specimen overlap. Three have maximum diameters of 56.0 mm., one 48.0 mm., and one 45.0 mm.

Copper or brass coil (two specimens, Pl. 21m): a section of a copper or brass coil retaining some resiliency. Maximum diameter: 12.0 mm. A small fragment, about 11.0 mm. in diameter, is probably from the same coil; both are from the same findspot.

Iron coil (one specimen): a section of tightly coiled, iron wire resembling a spring. Maximum diameter: 27.0 mm.

Unidentifiable iron fragment (one specimen).

INDIAN CREEK SITE

170 and 212 mm. Handle widths: 21.0 and 18.0 mm. Blade widths: 58.0 and 55.0 mm.

Arrow-shaft wrenches (three specimens):

Fragmentary rib tools; one has two holes; the others a single hole. Hole diameters: range 12.0 to 16.0 mm.

Spatula (one specimen): Length: 119 mm.

Whistle (one specimen): Fragment of a bird ulna; an opening is cut into the wall at one end. Length: 47.0 mm. Shaft diameter: 16.0 mm.

Bone tubes (three specimens): Made from the long bones of small mammals. One is constructed from a canid humerus. Lengths: 21.0, 58.0, and 96.0 mm. Shaft diameters: 6.0, 8.0, and 15.0 mm.

Shell bead (one specimen): A small disc bead cut from the shell of an unidentified mussel, 2.0 mm. thick; 8.0 mm. in diameter. The opening is 4.0 mm. in diameter.

METAL, GLASS, AND BASKETRY

✓ Glass beads (two specimens): Unavailable for the present study, although the late Dr. Glenn A. Black examined both in 1954. He described one as a white, opaque, elliptical bead; the other as a faceted, cobalt blue, transparent glass bead.

Iron awl (one specimen): A bi-pointed awl, square in cross section; 121 mm. long, and 5.0 mm. thick.

Copper ring (one specimen): An open-sided ring formed by rolling a small

piece of sheet copper into a tube. The tube was then bent into a ring. Ring diameter: 17.0 mm.

Tubular metal beads (four specimens):

Two small, and two large tubular beads made by rolling pieces of sheet brass or copper into cylinders. The smaller examples are 7.0 and 16.0 mm. long, and 4.0 and 5.0 mm. in diameter. The larger specimens are 16.0 and 32.0 mm. long, and are both 12.0 mm. in diameter.

Miscellaneous fragments (19 specimens):

Unidentifiable fragments of iron (eight) and brass or copper (11). Two of the brass or copper fragments have punched perforations between 1.0 and 3.0 mm. in diameter. One piece has two holes, the other four.

Military button (one specimen): A regulation U. S. Army brass uniform button with spread eagle and shield on obverse; on the reverse, a die-stamped legend: "SCOVILLS & CO. / EXTRA". Diameter: 9/16 of an inch.

Basketry (one specimen): A fragment of the wall and rim of a basket found in association with Burial 1 (Lehmer 1954b: Pl. 19c). The fragment appeared to have been laid over the face of the individual. The specimen was examined by L. S. Cressman in 1954. He described it as a fragment of coiled basketry with a three-rod vertical foundation, split stitch on both sides with an erratic slope of stitch. The height of the foundation is approximately 10.0 mm. The stitches average three per cm.

SUMMARY

The principal component at Indian Creek consists of a large, unfortified village and burial area. The burial pattern and the association of Stanley rims and metal artifacts of native manufacture

clearly relate this component to the Post-Contact Coalescent Horizon.

There is also some evidence of an earlier occupation. The presence of

PLATE 18

BUFFALO PASTURE ORNAMENTS
AND TRADE ITEMS

- a-g. Iron and brass arrow points.
- h. Shell pendant.
- i-k. Glass beads.
- l. Iron bracelet.
- m. Cruciform pendant (?).
- n. Brass bell.
- o. Gunstock side plate.
- p, q. Native-made knife blades.
- r. Serrated blade.
- s, t. Trade knife blades.
- u, v. Tinklers.
- w. Tubular brass or copper bead.
- x. Knife or flesher blade.
- y. Iron awl.
- z. Iron needle.

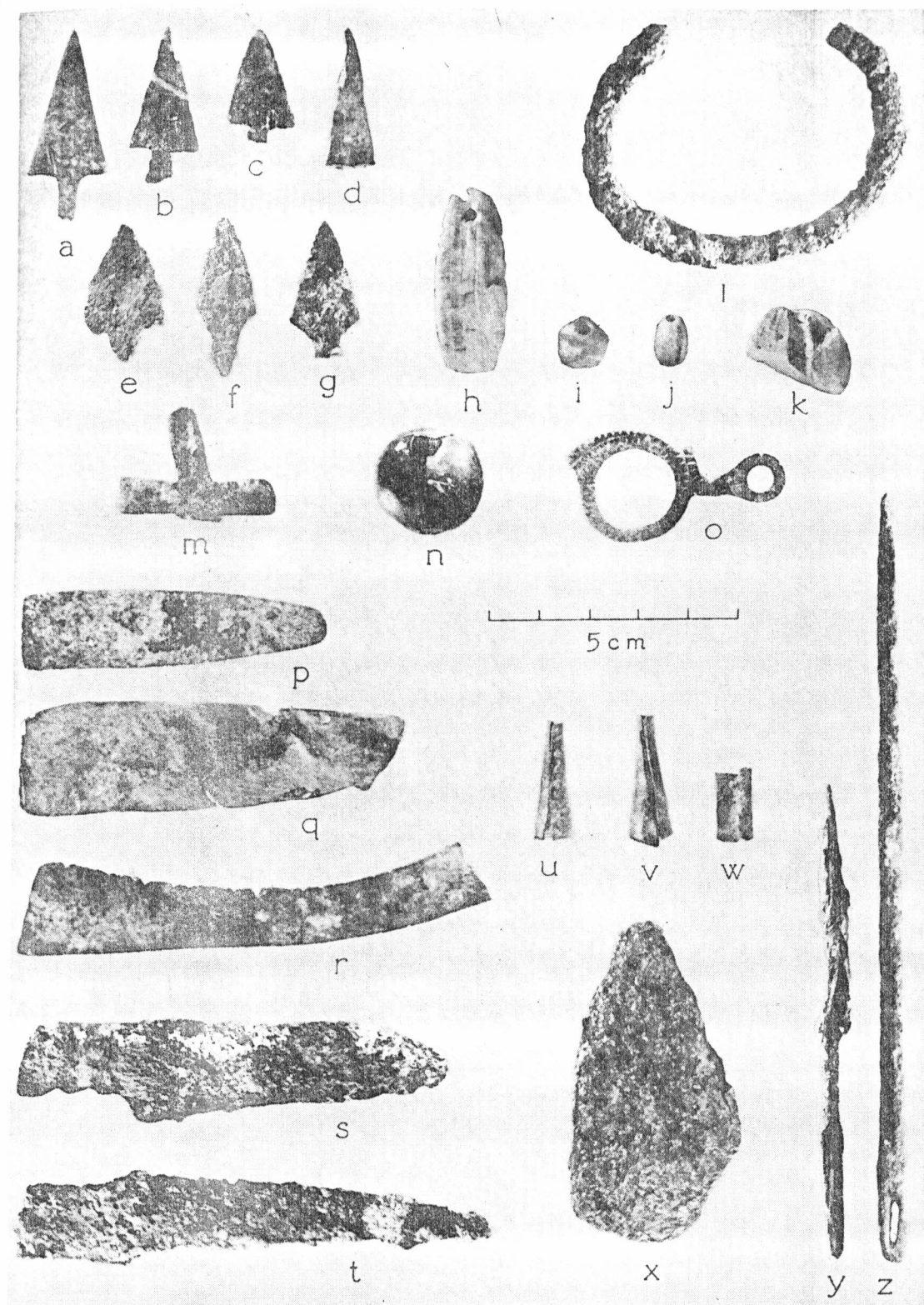
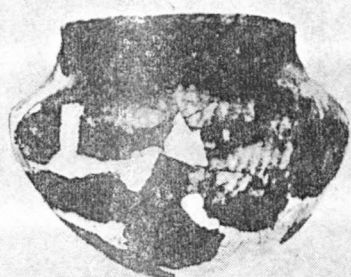


PLATE 21

ARTIFACTS FROM LEAVITT CEMETERY

- Talking Crew Indented*
a. ~~La Roche Decorated Lip~~
- b. Miniature Colombe Collared.
- c. Stanley Cord Impressed.
- d. Stanley Tool Impressed.
- e, f. Copper or brass bracelets.
- g, h. Olivella beads.
- i. Ovoid glass beads.
- j. Antler ice glider.
- k, l. Lead rings.
- m. Copper or brass coil.
- n. Shell pendant.
- o. Shell gorget.



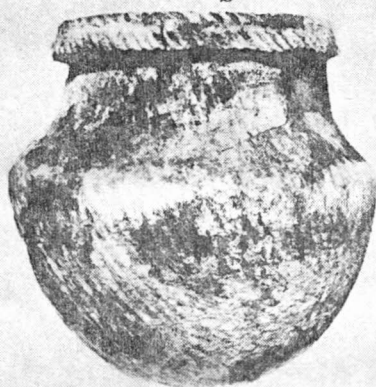
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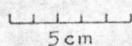
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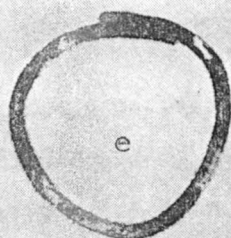
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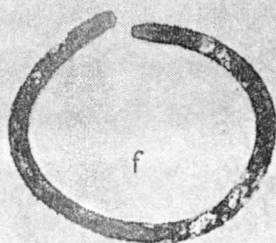
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5 cm



e



f



g



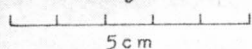
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i



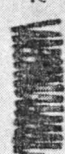
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5 cm



k



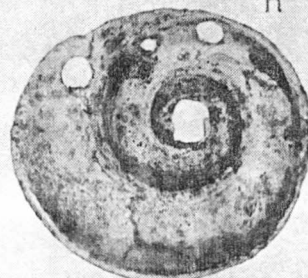
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