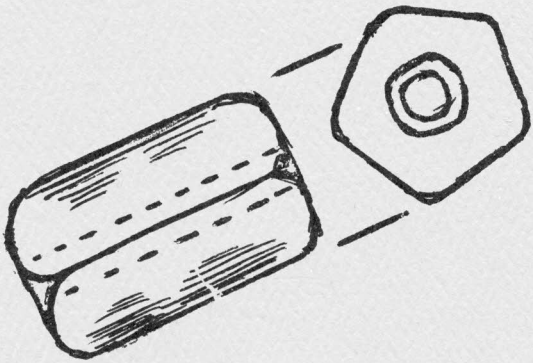
SEVENTEENTH CENTURY BEADS

FROM HOLLAND



VOLUME XIV

A color illustrated historical account of Dutch beads and glass-works.

We wish to thank the author, Herman van Made, for this highly pertinent paper on Dutch beads and glass-works. With his assistance, new and interesting facts are being presented. He feels very strongly that all of the beads in Volume XI, the Conoy chart, are of Holland manufacture. We tend to agree with his opinion.

Sincerely,

G. B. Fenstermaker - Publisher
N. C. Buckwalter - Editor

Introduction

In this small document I will furnish some data regarding the manufacture of beads in Holland in the 17th century, so that the bead student may have a general guideline on these beads.

Bead History

For a number of centuries the Dutch traders sailed the oceans all over the globe and brought back with them exotic goods such as spices and ivory. Furthermore, there was an active slave trade which caused much bitterness. The sly Dutch traders departed from their harbours with cargoes of cheap beads and mirrors. The beads and mirrors were exchanged for spices, ivory, and gold as well as silk and cotton.

The people in the far countries had never before seen such strange and attractive artifacts and therefore it was quite easy to exchange them for the precious goods. Later, slaves also became subject to this trade.

This happened in a period of Dutch history which has been called the golden age. In the beginning of this trade the Dutch merchants bought their beads in Venice, but soon they perceived that it was much cheaper to manufacture them in Holland.

Bead Industry

There were quite a number of glass-works in Holland, but only some of them manufactured beads. I will therefore only mention those glass-works of which there is strong evidence that beads were made there.

Middleburg

In 1597 Govaert van der Haghen established a glass-works near the Segeers-poort where long glass tubes were manufactured for the production of beads. Van dee Haghen died in 1605 and was succeeded by Antonio Miotti from Venice. In 1619 Miotti went to London and afterwards established some glass-works in Belgium. The glass-works in Middleburg were vacant by 1623 and a new factory was established in 1626 by Wilhelmus Wynants. However, it is not known if this last glass-works produced beads.

Amsterdam

Jan Jansz. Carel was a very active Dutch trader who participated in the equipping of ships for the trade with Indonesia and who was one of the founders of the Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie, an important Dutch trade-company for the East Indies. In 1602 he established a glass-works on

the Kloveniersburgwal which came under the management of his son-in-law Jan Hendriksz. Soop who was succeeded in 1623 by William Schryver. Beads were produced there between 1602 and 1620.

Amsterdam

In 1613 Abraham van Tongerloo established a glass-works on Muntplein. Although a lot of beads have been found in the mud of the neighboring canal it is not certain whether beads were manufactured there. The factory burned in 1619.

Amsterdam

The largest glass-works in Amsterdam was established by Claesz Rochusz on the Keizersgracht in 1621. The factory was sold to Nicolas Jaques in 1656 who removed it to the nearby Rozengracht, where the works was in operation until about 1680. Bead production was one of the most important activities in both factories.

Haarlem

In 1676 Anthony Le Maire bought the above glass-works on the Rozengracht and removed it in 1679 to Haarlem, where it was established on the Spaarne near a street called Coraelesteeg (bead street).

Trade beads

Most of the beads were produced for the trade and Dutch beads have been recovered in Indonesia (Bali and Flores), Southern and Western Africa, Madagascar, North America and the Antilles.

One must be very careful in earmarking specific beads as being manufactured in Holland, because many of those beads are of the Venetian type produced by Italian workers in the employment of the Dutch factories. There are however slight differences in shape difficult to describe.

Bead Findings

A great number of beads have been recovered in Holland on old sites, but again one has to be careful in labelling them Dutch, because beads were also imported into Holland from Venice before the Dutch glass-works were established. Only when combinations of specific types can be made or when more samples of the same bead type are found can one be sure of the origin of the bead. For example, I hesitate in stating that large chevrons were made in Holland, because until now no glass tubes of those beads have been found;

while of the little number of chevrons found in Holland almost all are bead pieces.

Van der Sleen mentions that chemical analysis may give evidence of the origin of beads, because he states in the Dutch glass-works only potash had been used for bead production, while in Venice soda had been used. However, in Middelburg f.i. soda also had been used instead of potash. So again nothing is certain and one can only give an indication of the past. Beads have been collected from many areas of Holland, but a concentration exists in Amsterdam. There beads have been found all over the old city, in cesspits of old houses, during the works for the underground and when dredging the canals at Keizersgracht and Amstel.

Also, in the 17th century the local refuse and canal mud was taken outside Amsterdam for fertilizing the gardens in f.i. Boerenweetering and 'sGraveland. Beads and glass tubes have been recovered from these places.

A remarkable point is that in the 17th century beads were used for gardening. Small "flower beds" composed of beads of various colors placed in white sand were popular. One beadgarden can still be seen at Broek in Waterland, just north of Amsterdam.

Sources: Das Glas by Ferrand W. Hudig, Wien 1923
Opgravingen in Amsterdam, Historical museum Amsterdam, 1977

	Type	Head No.	Diameter mm	Length mm	Description
WOUND BEADS					
1.	WIc-	1	20.5	29	Opaque/grey-blue
	WIc11	2	20	24	Opaque/blue
	WIc-	3	19	24	Opaque/grey-blue
	WIc-	4	18.5	25	Opaque/dark blue
	WIc-	5	20	27.5	Opaque/dark blue
	WIc-	6	18.5	26	Opaque/dark blue
	WIc11	7	20	25	Opaque/blue
	WIc10	8	19	25	Opaque/pale blue
2.	WIc3	1	18	24.5	Opaque/white
	WIc3	2	19	25	Opaque/white
	WIc-	3	17.5	24	Translucent/clear white
	WIIc2	4	17	23	Translucent/clear white
	WIIc2	5	22	23	Translucent/clear white
3.	WIIf-	1	17	27	Opaque/dark blue
	WIIf5	2	17	29	Opaque/blue
	WIIf-	3	17	27	Opaque/dark blue
4.	WIc-	1	10	11	Translucent/clear white
	WIc-	2	11	13	Opaque/blue
	WIc-	3	12	15	Opaque/dark blue
	WIb16	4	14	15	Opaque/dark blue
	WIb-	5	11	10	Opaque/black
	WIb3	6	15	16	Opaque/white
	WIc10	7	12	16	Semi opaque/pale blue
	WIb15	8	16	14	Semi opaque/cobalt blue
5.	WIb2	1	13	14	Opaque/white
	WIb2	2	15	16	Opaque/white
	WIb2	3	13	15	Opaque/white
	WIb1	4	20.5	20	Opaque/grey white
	WId-	5	13	6.5	Semi-opaque/grey white
	WId-	6	12	6	Opaque/white
	WId-	7	12	8	Semi-opaque/grey white
	WId-	8	19	9	Translucent/clear white
6.	WIIcc2	1	12	8.5	Translucent/clear white
	WIIcc2	2	11.5	11	Translucent/clear white
	WIIcc2	3	10	10	Translucent/clear white

PLATE I

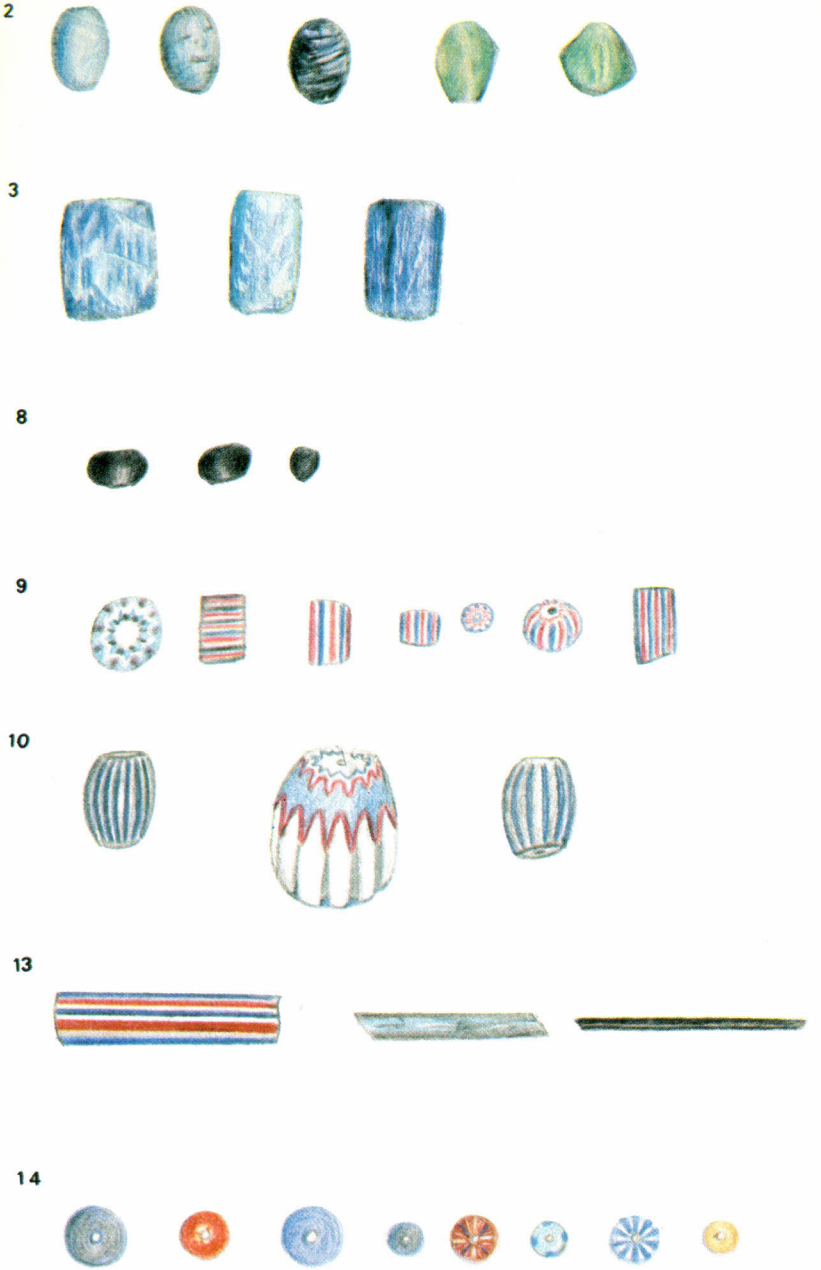


PLATE II

	Type	Head No.	Diameter mm	Length mm	Description
	WIIcc-	4	12	11	Opaque/white
	WIIe4	5	13.5	14	Translucent/pale brown
	WIId1	6	12	10	Translucent/clear white
	WIIcc-	7	10	12	Translucent/dark amber brown
	WIIcc6	8	12	9.5	Translucent/amber brown
7.	IVa6	1	8.5	8	Translucent pale green/ cover dark red
	IVa6	2	10	8	Translucent pale green/ cover dark red
	IVa7	3	8	9.5	Translucent pale green/ cover dark red
	IIbb-	4	8	9	Opaque/black with red and white stripes
	IVa-	5	10	10.5	Translucent pale green/ cover dark red with white-brown-white stripes
	IVa-	6	10	10	Same as nr. 5
	IIb'7	7	9	16	Opaque/grey white/ cover white with three blue stripes
	IVk-	8	8	8	Opaque/white/black/ white/cover dark and light blue stripes
	IIb18	9	8.5	8	Translucent/clear white with white stripes
	IIa56	10	9.5	9	Opaque/blue
	IIa41	11	9	9	Opaque/clear blue
	IIa12	12	9	11	Opaque/white/grey white cover
8.	IIb-	1	16	13	Opaque/stone red with dirty white stripes
	IIb-	2	13	12	Opaque/grey green with red stripes
	IIb-	3	9	10	Opaque/grey blue with red stripes

	Type	Head No.	Diameter mm	Length mm	Description
9.	IIIn-	1	21	8.5	Opaque/white/dark red/white with blue and red stripes
	IIIn-	2	21	12	Same as nr. 1
	IIIn-(tube)	3	13.5	17	Opaque/red/white/red/ white with red and blue stripes
	IIIn-	4	9.5	10	Opaque/white/dark red/white with red and blue stripes
	IIIn-	5	9.5	9.5	Same as nr. 4
	IIIm-	6	19	13.5	Translucent pale blue/ opaque/white/ red/ white with red and blue stripes
	IIIn-	7	11	21	Opaque/red/white with green and red stripes
10.	IVb-	1	15	15	Opaque/black blue/ grey white/black blue with white stripes
	IVb36	2	14.5	16	Opaque/dark blue/grey white/dark blue with white stripes
	IIIm1	3	25	29	Opaque/blue/white/ blue/white/dark red/ white/blue
11.	IIIa4	1	8.5	26	Translucent pale blue/ cover dark red
	IIIa3	2	8.5	25	Translucent pale green/ cover dark red
	IIIbb-	3	7	18.5	Translucent pale green/ cover dark red with white/brown/white stripes
	IIIa3	4	5	15	Translucent pale green/ cover dark red
	Ia16	5	5.5	11	Opaque/pale blue
	Ib4	6	5	13	Opaque/black with white stripes

	Type	Head No.	Diameter mm	Length mm	Description
	Ibb-	7	8	15	Opaque/black with dark red/white/dark red stripes
	Ia20	8	9.5	30	Translucent/cobalt blue
TUBES					
12.	Ib'-	1	7	20	Opaque/white with brown stripes
	Ib-	2	4.5	26	Opaque/white with red and pale green stripes
	Ib'-	3	6.5	32.5	Opaque/white with blue stripes
	Ib'-	4	6.5	24	Opaque/white with brown stripes
	Ib'-	5	6.5	33	Opaque/white with blue stripes
	Ib'-	6	7	30	Opaque/white with red and blue stripes
	IIIb-	7	6.5	45	Opaque/dark blue/dark red/dark blue with dark red stripes
	Ib'-	8	6.5	25	Opaque/pale blue with red stripes
	IIIbb-	9	6	13	Opaque/dark blue/ white/dark blue with white/red/white stripes
	Ia16	10	7.5	27	Opaque/blue
	Ibb-	11	5	20	Opaque/pale blue with red/white/red stripes
	Ib-	12	7.5	22	Opaque/pale brown/ translucent clear white with white stripes
13.	IIIn-	1	18	72	Opaque/red/clear white /red/white/red/white with red and blue stripes
	Ia4	2	11.5	63	Translucent/clear white

Type	Head No.	Diameter mm	Length mm	Description
IIIa-	3	4.5	73	Opaque dark red/translucent clear white/ opaque dark red/ translucent clear white

14. Selection of small tube beads.

Remarks:
- The bead types are from "A Classification System for Glass Beads" by Kenneth E. and Martha Ann Kidd / Canadian Historic Sites: Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History no. 1.
- all have been found in Amsterdam, please note that a lot of them are irised.

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