

MERCURY SERIES

COLLECTION MERCURE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
OF CANADA  
PAPER NO. 13

COMMISSION ARCHÉOLOGIQUE  
DU CANADA  
DOSSIER NO. 13

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE HECATE  
STRAIT - MILBANKE SOUND AREA OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BJORN O. SIMONSEN

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MAN  
NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF CANADA  
OTTAWA, JULY 1973

MUSÉE NATIONAL DE L'HOMME  
MUSÉES NATIONAUX DU CANADA  
OTTAWA, JUILLET 1973

segment of a purple hinged rock scallop shell (Hinnites multirugosus) with evidence of chipping along three of its four edges, the fourth edge appearing squared off by rough abrasion. The fragments of sea mussel probably represent portions of celts, cutting tools, or perhaps fleshers while the fragment of rock scallop probably represents a complete artifact. Its function, however, is difficult to determine. A pendant of this shell is known from the False Narrows Site in the Gulf Islands of the south coastal area (Mitchell pers. comm. 1970).

#### Miscellaneous Artifacts

##### Glass Trade Beads

Two; each 5 x 6 mm.  
(Not illustrated).

Although the dimensions are the same, the beads differ in form, one being oval while the other is tube-like with squared ends. Both beads are blue, the round one being glossy, the other dull in finish but slightly opaque. Based on Kidd's (1970) descriptions of trade beads, the round one best fits his No. IIa 39 (p. 56), while the other is most like his No. Ia 9 (p. 54). Similar trade beads have been found in many Northwest Coast sites having an historical component.

##### Copper Objects

Two.  
(Not illustrated).

In both cases the objects have been in contact with fire, and only one can be identified. This consists of a short piece of wire bent over with a loop at one end, the two ends having been twisted together. The copper wire fragment probably has no affinity with the aboriginal occupation of the site and was most likely associated with recent logging operations. The same is probably also true for the second specimen consisting of a piece of copper which was at one time molten. It is flat and roughly rectangular in outline. Both artifacts are included as part of the archaeological assemblage since they may be associated with the historic component of the site.

##### Miscellaneous Glass Fragments

One; Thickness = 2 mm.  
(Not illustrated).

This artifact is believed to be associated with recent logging operations on the site or its occupation within the contact period. The glass fragment is partially coated on one side with a paint-like substance and may represent a mirror fragment. It is possible that it could have been associated with the aboriginal occupation of the site during