Glass Beads from the Chieftains Site, 9 Fl 1

by MARVIN T.

SMITH

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In this paper, glass beads from "Chieftains", site 9 Fl 1, will be described. Since the Indian occupation by the Cherokee Chief Major Ridge is well dated as circa 1800 to 1837, no attempt to date the beads by comparison with other sites will be made. All beads in the collection are typical of beads from the first forty years of the 19th. Century, and none of the beads classified here are believed to be intrusive from later occupations. In order to make the descriptions more precise, the beads are compared to the Guebert site bead descriptions by Good (1972: 105-129), and the Wichita sequence descriptions by Harris and Harris (1967: 139-158). The type descriptions used by Good (1972) were liberally borrowed. Since a suitable color guide, such as the Munsell Color Guide could not be located, the color descriptions are unfortunately general.

All beads in the collection (28 specimens) were made by the hollow cane method. In this manufacturing technique, a large bubble of molten glass was pulled out to form a long hollow tube. This tube was broken into sections the length of the beads, which were either faceted by grinding, or were tumbled. Tumbling is a process for smoothing the fractured ends of the broken cane. Ash was placed in the perforations of the beads, and the beads were then heated and tumbled to obtain smooth, rounded ends. The ash functioned to keep the perforation from melting closed. For a further description of bead making, see van der Sleen (1973), or

UNPUBLISHED MS. HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES ATLANTA Kidd (1970).

Following Harris and Harris (1967:138), beads are further described as simple, compound, or complex. Simple beads are made of one structurally undifferentiated mass of glass. Compound beads consist of two or more concentric layers of glass. Complex beads have decoration, such as stripes, made from glass rods impressed into the surface. No complex beads were found at 9 Fl 1.

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Sizes given are diameters perpendicular to the perforation unless otherwise noted. It should be noted that due to the handmade nature of the beads, sizes will vary.

Provenience of all beads is given in Appendix A. Type Descriptions

(1) Translucent blue-green, faceted barrel shaped bead of compound construction. The inner core is opaque light blue. This bead is made from a hexagonal cane. Four to six facets were hand cut on each end of the bead, leaving six facets around the center of the bead.

4 specimens

5 mm. diameter

This is apparently a color variety of type 5 (below), but I was unable to locate it in any published source. (2) Clear, faceted, barrel shaped bead of compound construction. The inner core is translucent white. The bead is faceted with the same technique as number 1 (above). l specimen 5 mm. diameter This bead is similar to Good type 22, but the inner layer is not opaque. It is apparently # 132 in the Wichita ... sequence established by Harris.

(3) White seed bead

9 specimens

2-3 mm. diameter

Small tumbled white seed beads.

(4) Opaque red tumbled seed bead of compound construction. The inner core is opaque white. This is a later form of the Cornaline d'Aleppo.

1 specimen 3 mm. diameter This bead is number 130 at the Guebert site, and bead number 174 in the Wichita sequence.

(5) Translucent blue, faceted, barrel shaped bead of compound construction. The inner core is opaque light blue. It is faceted in the same manner as type 1 and 2 (above).
6 specimens 6 mm. diameter

This is type 11 at the Guebert site and type 129 in the Wichita sequence. This bead also appears at New Echota (Good 1972; 107). One of the 9 Fl 1 specimens was made from seven sided cane and has 21 facets.

(6) Translucent sky blue bead, elongated oval in shape, with 20-30 ground facets.

1 specimen 6 mm. diameter; 14 mm. long This bead is type 15 at Guebert.

(7) Translucent blue bead of compound construction, elongated oval in shape, with seven sides and 34facets. The inner core is light blue.

l specimen

6 mm. diameter; 11 mm. long

This bead does not appear in the Guebert or Wichita collections or in any other published source that I could locate. It is, however, obviously related to type 5 (above).

(8) Translucent royal blue, barrel shaped bead of simple construction. This bead was made from hexagonal cane and then faceted as in types 1, 2, and 5 above.

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3 specimens 6 mm. diameter This is type 10 at the Guebert site and type 130 in the Wichita sequence. This is called the "Russian" bead on the North-est coast (Strong 1965: 35)

(9) Translucent sky blue, barrel shaped bead of simple construction. This bead was manufactured by the same techniques as types 1, 2, 5, and 8.

l specimen 8 mm. diameter (10) Clear pony bead

1 specimen (not available for measurement) Thus, ten types of beads were found during excavations at 9 Fl l. It is unfortunate that the sample is so small. This is due largely to the lack of fine screening . All beads which can be located elsewhere in the literature fit the period of Indian occupation at the Chieftans site. Types l and 7 were apparently not previously described in the literature, but manufacturing techniques make it ap arent that they fit the Indian occupation of the site. Thus we have a well dated assemblage of beads suitable for comparison with other sites of this time period. Such comparison can be useful in dating unknown sites. Good, Mary Elizabeth

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