

been occupied over a long span of time will have a good many button types present in the soil, as for example, Fort St. Marks, Florida (1680-1875). The last button in Fig. 1 is included because it had its beginning during the Indian wars even though it is little changed from those worn in the 20th century (Fig. 1 I). It is of two-piece, stamped-steel construction with four stamped holes for fastening.

When makers' names appear on the backs of these various types of buttons, or when the button fronts bear military designs, it is an easy matter to narrow down the period of use.

Much more information is needed about these early plain buttons, particularly those worn before 1750. The writer will welcome any information that pertains to archaeological finds from this period.

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The courtesies extended me by Dr. Mendel Peterson in permitting me access to the collections in the U. S. National Museum of some civilian buttons taken from dated shipwrecks are deeply appreciated.

Militia uniforms having plain buttons are scattered throughout the museums of the United States. Some fine examples are preserved in the West Point Museum under the care of Col. F. Todd. A buckskin garment (collected by Lewis and Clark) with a full complement of plain buttons was examined at the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, through the courtesy of Dr. J. O. Brew. Some early buttons from a Seminole grave are in the collections of the Florida State Museum in Gainesville, Florida, and this material was generously lent by Dr. R. P. Bullen.

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COLUMBIA RIVER TRADE BEADS

by

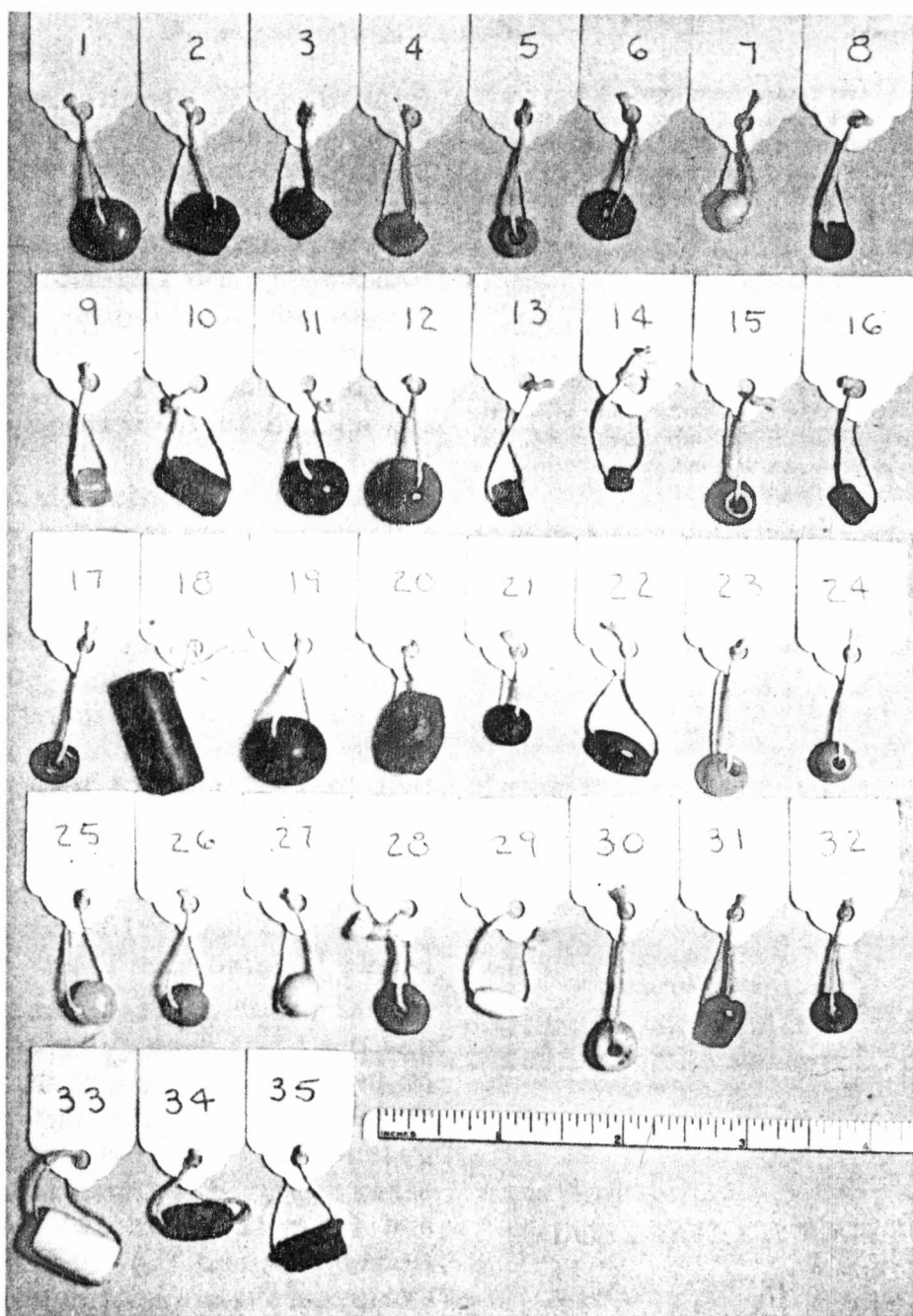
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Glass beads do not lend themselves very well to precise classification, description, or measurement. The varieties of color, size and shape are almost countless, and two specimens otherwise alike may be a different color, or one color may be found in several dif-

ferent shapes. Nevertheless, those glass beads most popular in the Indian trade do fall into several easily recognizable types, and the accompanying illustration shows those found along the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington. The rolled copper and the polychrome are not listed, being, I think, distinctive enough to be instantly recognized.

Some broad dating classification can be made from the excavations and collections I have examined, and from those I have found on old vault burial sites. Thus the type 2 is obviously the oldest of glass beads for it is found in sites where the transition from pre-contact to post-contact is apparent. It is the most plentiful type at the mouth of the Columbia, gradually being replaced by type 1 as one travels upstream. I believe it to be the "coarse blue bead" and the "Chief bead" of Lewis and Clark, and the "dark blue cut glass bead" of Swan. Type 1 is, I think, the "Canton" bead of the early traders by land for it is found in graduated sizes as listed in Company records and is most plentiful where the North West and the Hudson's Bay Companies were most active. The type 1 and type 2 combined total one third or more of all the trade beads found along the river, as estimated by the collections I have examined.

In the following description a "large hole" means large in proportion to the size of the bead and may be as much as three quarters of the diameter, as in type 2.



COLUMBIA RIVER TRADE BEAD TYPES

KEY TO TRADE BEAD TYPES



1. Robin's egg blue, opaque, small hole. Various sizes from seed bead up to one half inch in diameter.
2. Blue, light to dark, translucent, faceted, large hole, various sizes from one-eighth to one-half inch in diameter. Ends rough as though broken from a tube. Often misshapen. Sometimes called "Russian" bead.
3. Light blue, translucent, faceted, fairly large hole with two concentric layers of lighter blue around it. Fairly common.
4. Light blue, faceted, opaque, large hole surrounded with concentric layer of lighter blue.
5. Very light blue, faceted, opaque, large hole surrounded by concentric layer of lighter blue.
6. Light green, faceted, translucent, large hole. Late type.
7. White, opaque, almost globular with many smooth facets, fairly small hole. Types 7, 8, 24 and 26 are similar except for color.
8. Light blue, otherwise similar to type 7.
9. Clear, faceted, tubular, large hole, rough ends like type 2.
10. Dark blue, opaque, tubular, medium hole, ends rounded. Color and texture similar to type 1.
11. Green, translucent, globular, small hole, modern. Rare.
12. Blue, beautifully translucent, globular, small hole. Comes in graduated sizes and was probably sold already strung. Sizes up to five-eighths inch diameter. Corrodes easily. Modern. Probably after 1880.
13. Dark blue, opaque, cylindrical, large hole. Modern.
14. Brick red, opaque with translucent green inner lining. Comes in many sizes, large ones rare on the Columbia. This is the Cornaline d'Alleppe; see page 19. Types 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 are the later variations of this type.
15. Brick red, opaque, cylindrical, large hole surrounded by white opaque layer. Fairly rare on the Columbia.

16. Red, tubular, fairly small hole with white opaque lining.
17. Red, short barrel shape, nearly opaque, medium hole with yellow opaque lining. Easily broken.
18. Red, cylindrical, opaque, one inch or more long, medium hole with layer of yellow.
19. Red, cylindrical, opaque, small hole surrounded by yellow.
20. Red, barrel shape, small hole surrounded by yellow, common.
21. Brass shell, large hole, from late 19th and early 20th century sites. Next to rolled copper, this is the most common metal bead.
22. Red, translucent, barrel shape, small hole. Modern.
23. Very light blue, translucent, barrel shape, large hole.
24. Greenish grey, otherwise similar to type 7.
25. Milky white, translucent, faceted, small hole.
26. Blue grey, otherwise similar to type 7.
27. White, opaque, cylindrical.
28. Brown, translucent, short barrel shape, large hole.
29. White, opaque, long barrel shape, small size only.
30. White, opaque, misshapen, medium hole, obviously tumbled in a barrel while hot. Called "quartz" bead. From older sites.
31. Red with spiral pattern, slightly translucent, large hole.
32. Blue, translucent, large hole, misshapen. Not found on the Columbia. Tag on specimen reads "Hyshan, Mont." Some stone beads on specimen string.
33. White, opaque, cylindrical.
34. Round brass wire, wound.
35. Square brass wire, wound.