TIKCHIK VILLAGE

A NINETEENTH CENTURY RIVERINE COMMUNITY IN SOUTHWESTERN ALASKA

by

JAMES W. VANSTONE

Associate Curator, North American Archaeology and Ethnology

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marked "England" just as it is at the present time. In the Tikchik collection there are, in addition to the two fragments with potter's marks already described, eight basal sherds large enough so that parts of the marks would be visible if they were present. Thus it appears likely that much of the pottery used at Tikchik was unmarked. Unmarked pottery must have been made in America, imported before 1891, or brought into the country through other than the usual import channels (Ormsbee, 1959, pp. 16–17; Fontana and Greenleaf, 1962, p. 93; Godden, 1964, p. 11). Although it is impossible to say with any degree of certainty, there seems little reason to doubt that the Tikchik non-Eskimo pottery is both American and British and dates no earlier than the last two decades of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century.

In addition to the non-Eskimo pottery described above, the collection contains a single large, round, white bead of ironstone china.

Glass

With the exception of beads, objects of glass and even glass fragments are not common in the Tikchik collection. It seems certain, therefore, that glass, at least as a container material, was an unimportant aspect of the material culture.

Three complete and four fragmentary milk glass *buttons*, all of the four-hole shirt button variety, occur in the collection. They are molded in a bi-convex shape with a slight depression in one face. All are size 30 and have large holes. A single complete specimen is of the "calico" type and decorated with a series of tiny green rosettes (Pl. 8,5), while the others are plain. Such buttons were first made in France and introduced to the United States about 1860 (Fontana and Greenleaf, 1962, p. 98). In addition to the four-hole shirt buttons just described, there are two circular pieces of glass, one milk white and the other black, which are approximately 5 mm. in thickness and flat on one surface. These were presumably molds for fabric buttons, to the flat side of which would have been fastened an eye or small clasp. Such button molds, covered with the same material as that used in making the garment, were very popular in the United States after 1860 (Albert and Kent, 1949, p. 48).

Ten fragments of *window glass* also are included in the collection. All are approximately 2 mm. in thickness and two fragments have edges that are straight and smooth, suggesting the use of a glass-cutter. The most likely use for window glass at the site would

have been as covering for the skylights in the houses replacing the traditionally used gut or fishskin covering.

The number of *bottle* glass fragments recovered from the Tikchik site is extremely small and no complete specimens were found. There are 11 fragments, two of which have been retouched as scrapers and previously described. Of the nine remaining, four are neck segments, two from narrow, long-necked containers and the others from short-necked, wide-mouthed bottles. One of the narrow-necked specimens is virtually complete and is a light green color (Pl. 8,9), while the other, more fragmentary, is light brown. Of the wide-mouthed fragments, one is pale purple in color (Pl. 8,10) and the other clear. Four of the remaining five fragments are so small that it is impossible to say anything about the shape of the original bottle; three of these are thin and clear while the fourth is thick and dark brown. The fifth, however, is more interesting. It is recognizable as being associated with a bottle of the patent medicine type, tall with a rectangular body and "panels" on which the trade name would frequently appear. The panels of this particular specimen were apparently clear, but on one of the narrow sides the letters "—IN KILLER" can be seen. This, of course, suggests that the contents were a pain killer of some type.

The four neck fragments are from bottles with hand-finished necks, a fact that can be determined because seams from the molds in which they were made do not extend across the lip of the neck. Thus they can be said definitely to date prior to World War I. It can further be noted that the bottles from which these neck fragments came were made to receive cork stoppers, a characteristic of nearly all bottles made before about 1900 when metal caps were introduced (Hunt, 1959, pp. 9–10; P. and B. Ferraro, 1964, p. 79). These facts alone would tend to place the bottle fragments chronologically where we would expect to find them—at the end of the nineteenth century.

In addition to buttons, window glass and bottles, there is a single fragment of what appears to have been a barrel-shaped, flat-bottomed *drinking glass.*

Various types of glass *trade beads* were found in six of the houses, one *kashgee,* and two test trenches. They form an important group of artifacts whose structure, color, form, and size lend themselves to typological analysis. Their value as dating aids, however, is lim-

ited, and it will be possible to make only the most general statements about the chronological position of the Tikchik beads.

Four hundred and seven beads of the various types make up the collection. For study purposes these were first separated into groups based on color alone. The colors are given as they appear to me

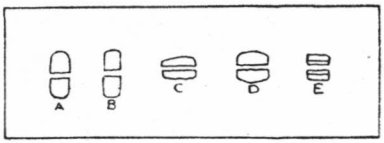

FIG. 19. Bead types according to shapes, showing cross-sections of each.

and not through comparison with a standard color chart. Gradations in color are often imperceptible, and some of the beads described also appear to be discolored because of changes caused by chemical actions of the soil. It was found that there were 267 white, 72 blue, 18 brown-lined red, 2 white-lined red, 7 dark red, 36 pink, 1 yellow, 1 yellow hexagonal, 2 clear, and 1 white with a pink painted design. Next the beads were separated according to shape within each color group, and it was found that five different types are represented (Fig. 19). Sizing came next and out of the total there are 69 of the "seed" form, those that do not exceed 2 mm. in diameter. However, there are a large number that average 3 to 5 mm. in diameter. White, blue, dark red, clear, and pink are the colors represented, and these beads are generally similar to those sold in tubes in stores in the general area today for sewing into beadwork designs.

Of the 267 white beads, 159 belong to type a, 107 to type b, and 1 to type c. The color varies from an extremely bright, hard whiteness that characterizes the 18 seed beads to a grayish white that is typical of this color category as a whole. The largest white beads belong to type a and one of these, approximately 1 cm. in diameter, exhibits the "wire wound" process of manufacture. The others have been cut from canes.

The blue beads are confined to two shapes, there being 43 of type a and 49 of type b. There are five seed beads of a very bright blue color, and the range of color in the others is from a light greenish blue to a deep marine blue and there is one bead that is almost purple. In fact, it can be said that the color range is greater in the blue beads than in those of any other color category. As with the white beads, the largest blue specimens belong to type a and there are four in the "wire wound" category. The largest of these, a translucent bead of deep marine blue color, is illustrated (Pl. 8,13).

Of the two white-lined red beads, one belongs to type a and the other to type c. They both have dark, translucent, orange-red exteriors and opaque, white interiors. This is a variety of the "Cornaline d'Aleppo" bead, the significance of which will be discussed presently.

There are 18 brown-lined red beads, 5 belonging to type a, 11 to type b, and 2 to type c. All have an opaque, dull, reddish-brown exterior and a translucent, dark brown interior which, on casual inspection, sometimes appears black. This is another type of "Cornaline d'Aleppo" bead.

The 36 pink, seven dark red, and two clear beads are all in the seed category and thus belong to type a. The dark red and clear specimens are translucent. A single yellow bead is too fragmentary to reveal its size and shape but it would appear to have been a rather large example of type a.

Two unique beads are of particular interest. One belongs to the type d shape, is 1.1 cm. in length, and is grayish milk-white in color with a pink and white wavy line painted around the middle. The other is hexagonal (type e) and may be a fragment of what was once a long, thin bead or bead separator. The glass is clear but the inside seems to be covered with gold paint or some similar material and thus the bead appears to be a yellowish-gold color.

The only bead type in the collection that has any diagnostic value at all is the form known to the trade as "Cornaline d'Aleppo," so named because it was associated in the Italian export business with the city of Aleppo in Syria. This type of bead is found widely distributed throughout the North American continent and in fact became known as the "Hudson's Bay bead" in regions covered by that company (Orchard, 1929, p. 87). The dark brown-lined red "Cornaline d'Aleppo" is apparently the earliest type and occurs extensively on sites of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in the eastern United States and Canada (Woodward, 1965, pp. 19–20). The white-lined red form is thought to be a more recent type and at least one authority believes that beads of this kind were confined to the northwestern trade (Orchard, 1929, p. 87). It seems likely, however, that both forms of "Cornaline d'Aleppo" bead were introduced into Alaska after extensive use elsewhere in North America, but the exact time of the introduction cannot, at present, be determined. As for the rest of the beads in the collection, they presumably represent a late nineteenth century assemblage of European and Syrian made trade beads, and they too were doubtless used extensively in the North American trade before being introduced into Alaska.