

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE MONO LAKE BASIN AND
EXCAVATIONS OF TWO ROCKSHELTERS, MONO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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The cordage was extremely well made. One specimen (#341-86, from the 0 to 6-inch level, Section A-3, Rockshelter Mno-455), is so fine and perfect that it had to be put under a 25 power microscope in order to make visible certain tiny imperfections and bits of foreign material in the twist which indicate native manufacture.

Finished Bone

A slender awl was recovered from the 30 to 36-inch level of Section B, Rockshelter Mno-455, and a scapula saw was found in Section A-2 near the surface. This implement resembles one from the Karlo site (Riddell 1960: Figure 15a and page 28). Such saws may have been used for grass cutting. The serrated edge is polished.

Beads

Shelter Mno-455 yielded one olivella bead with truncated spire, one unmodified olivella, one blue glass bead, several opaque glass trade beads (brown outside, with a white portion around the hole), one thin bone bead, 0.4 cm in diameter, and a long bead, 3 cm in length, made from a section of one of the long bones of a small mammal.

Charcoal

Coffee cans of charcoal were collected from the 6 to 24-inch level in Section B, Mno-455, and again in the 54 to 60-inch level. It would be desirable to have this material C14 dated, since the lower levels of Section B were undisturbed. Samples were also taken from Mno-472, Trench 2, 21-inch level, 24 to 36-inch level, 32-inch level, and 42 to 54-inch level. Flecks of charcoal occurred through the fill of both shelters. There were also large and small lenses. Charcoal samples were taken from the latter.

Faunal Remains

Bird and animal bone was found in all levels of all sections of Mno-455. The dryness of this shelter insured excellent preservation. The material which was identifiable has been sorted by Marcus Buchanan of the Department of Zoology, University of California, Los Angeles. A list of species and Mr. Buchanan's comments are included in "Appendix 3."

Plant Remains

Both food plants and utility plants were identified and are listed in "Appendix 1." Identifications were made by Mr. Lyle Pyatt, Department of Botany, University of California, Los Angeles.

TABLE 11. EUROPEAN-AMERICAN AND MODERN MATERIALS
ROCKSHELTER Mno-455, SECTION A-2

Number	Cat. #	Object	Level
1	341-20	Steel bullet jacket	0"-6"
5	" -21	China-ware vessel with handle	"
1	" -22	Piece of farm machine ?	"
1	" -23	Automatic pistol shell, .25 calibre (Post-1912 A.D.)	"
1	" -24	Frag. of glass	"
SECTION A-3			
1	341-80	Frag. of white china	"
2	" -105	Fragms. of white china	"
2	" -107	Glass and porcelain beads	"
1	" -108	1/4 x 1-1/2 inch steel screw	"
SECTION B			
1	341-120	Steel powder flask	6"-12"
3	" -128	Automatic pistol .25 calibre shells (Peters)	"
1	" -128A	Glass shirt button	"
1	" -129	Screw-cap lining, paper	6"-24"
1	" -142	Steel powder flask	24"-30"
3	" -147	Automatic pistol .35 calibre shells (Peters)	30"-36"
2	" -148	Square nails	"
1	" -149	Glass shirt button	"
1	" -150	Glass frag.	"
1	" -151	China vessel frag.	"

TABLE 11. EUROPEAN-AMERICAN AND MODERN MATERIALS
ROCKSHELTER Mno-472, TRENCH #3
(continued)

Number	Cat. #	Object	Level
1	354-52	Spam can	0"-6"
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Number	Cat. #	Object	Site
2	303-307	Blue glass beads	Mno-475
1	" -306	Mine claim in sardine can	"
4	" -313	Square nails	Mno-511
1	" -246	Thumbnail scraper, Wine bottle glass	Main St. Bodie
1	" -252	Crude glass scraper, Sagehen Mdw.	Mno-533
1	" -174M	Beer-bottle flake knife, Bodie R.R.	Mno-433
1	" -272	White glass scraper, Black Point	Mno-453
3	" -305	Scrapers, green wine bottle	Mno-510
1	" - "	Spokeshave, green wine bottle	"

TABLE 14. BEADS
ROCKSHELTER Mno-455, SECTION A-1

Number	Cat. #	Object	Level
1	341-7	Olivella shell bead	0"-6"
1	" -8	Brown glass bead, post-1850	"
SECTION A-2			
1	341-45	Opaque glass bead, post-1850	0"-6"
SECTION A-3			
1	341-73	Bead, Olivella biplicata	0"-6"
1	" -73	Blue glass bead	"
SECTION B			
1	341-152	Small bone bead	30"-36"