

KK 915.

EXCAVATIONS AT THE TUBAC PRESIDIO

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With Appendix by

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bottles and jars (Fig. 59:d). Most were produced in a cup-bottom mold, and they display continuous thread necks. This site has been open to disturbance for most of the 20th century.

#### Glass Beads

The vast majority of glass beads are extremely difficult to date, as they possess few distinguishing features. All are roughly globular in shape with hole diameters and colors varying. Only four glass beads were found in the Tubac excavation (Table 4). One possible reason for such a small sample is that beads may have passed through the screens without being seen; other explanations are not known.

Two spherical specimens have been included in a broad class of beads termed "fancy beads." These beads are described by Noël Hume (1972: 55) as tubular, lozenge, and globular forms inlaid with glass of a different color in random patterns of swirls and dots. "Fancy beads" date from 1775 to the early 19th century (DeJarnette and Hansen 1960: 57; Noël Hume 1972: 55).

Table 4

#### Glass Beads

Type	"Fancy"	"Fancy"	"Russian"	Costume
-----in centimeters-----				
Figure	60:a	60:b	60:c	60:d
Color	Red/white	White/red	Translucent clear	Translucent clear
Diameter	1.10	1.10	0.95	1.40
Length	0.90	0.90	0.75	1.40
Hole Diameter	0.20	0.23	0.28	0.20
Locus	Room 12 trash pit	Room 2 p.o.* room fill	Room/0 2 p.o.* room fill	Plaza sheet trash
Period	Late	Middle	Middle	Late

\*post occupational

The most common bead type of the first half of the 19th century was carefully faceted and made from pieces of glass tube, generally shorter than its diameter. The specimen from Tubac contains eight facets cut around each end, leaving the central sections untouched. These faceted beads are known in the Northwest as "Russian" beads because they were found on Russian sites in Alaska (Noël Hume 1972: 54).

The remaining bead is large and spherical. As this bead possesses no distinguishing features, it is impossible to classify at this time. The bead probably represents fairly recent costume jewelry.

For more detailed information on glass beads as they occur in archaeological contexts, refer to the following reports: De Jarnette and Hansen (1960); Gregory and Webb (1965); Smith (1965).

### Summary

The scant amount of Early-period glass recovered at Tubac was predictable. This was especially true for bottle glass. Very few dateable fragments could be placed before 1850. Tubac's remote position on the northern frontier precluded the availability of glass containers. Glass is not suited to long trips by mule or wagon train, and its procurement by local residents would likely have been an expensive matter. For this reason, liquids were shipped in sturdier vessels such as the Spanish "olive jars" and Mexican green-glazed wares. Ceramic storage-jar sherds are much more common in the earlier levels than fragile glass. As noted by Fontana (1968: 53), even mission inventories of Pimería Alta for the 18th and early 19th centuries are noticeably lacking in many glass items, especially bottles.

The archaeological evidence at Tubac further verifies this fact. Glass was a very rare item in settlements on the frontier of New Spain. Samples dated to this period show much evidence of basal wear, indicating their reuse over time and final discard when broken. It was not until after 1850, when American interests began to penetrate the area, that glass containers became more readily available from the north. The introduction of the railroad during the late 19th century would also have facilitated access to more fragile trade goods.

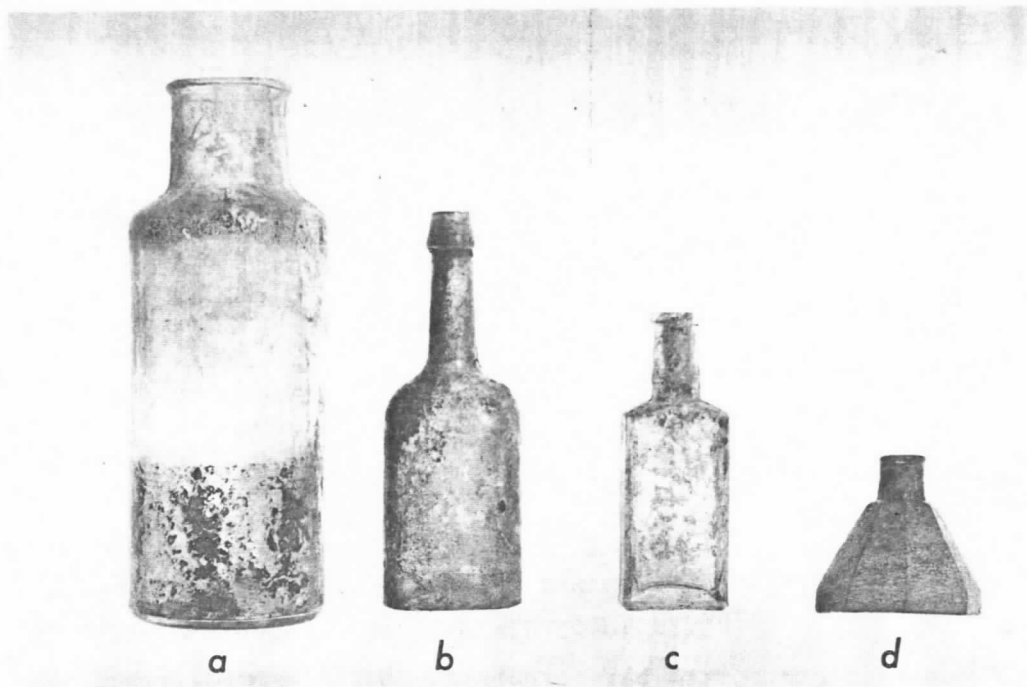


Figure 58. Glass bottles. Length of a, 210 mm.

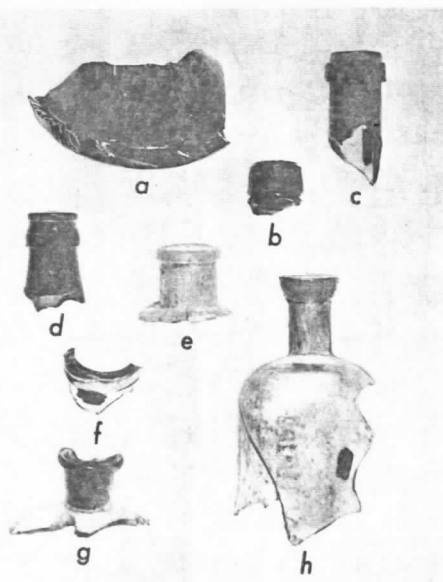


Figure 59. Glass bottle fragments. Length of h, 126 mm.

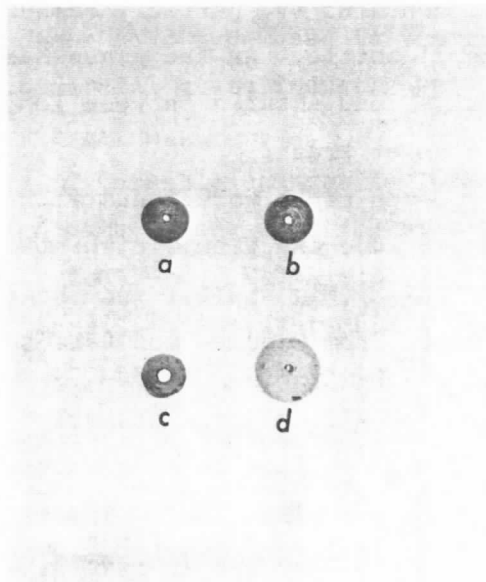


Figure 60. Glass beads. Diameter of d, 14 mm.

Chronological Summary, 1700 to 1864

- 1701 Spanish missionary contacts established.
- 1730s Spaniards living at Tubac supervise mission farm.
- 1751 Pima Indians revolt against Spanish authority; Pimas abandon ranchería at Tubac.
- 1752 Upper Pimería garrison founded under Captain Juan Tomás de Belderrain.
- 1753 Royal Fort of Saint Ignatius formally established at Tubac; presidio and town under construction during coming years.
- 1754-1757 Population at Tubac reaches 411.
- 1759 Captain Belderrain dies.
- 1763 Juan Bautista de Anza assumes command of the post and purchases the captain's quarters.
- 1766 The Marqués de Rubí inspects the Tubac garrison; Lieutenant Urrutia takes measurements for subsequent map.
- 1774 Anza leads first military expedition from Sonoran to Upper California.
- 1776 Saint Ignatius Company transfers from Tubac to Tucson; town population decreases to 150.
- 1779 Troop detachment at Tubac returns to Tucson post.
- 1783 Tubac abandoned.
- 1786 New Apache policy initiated.
- 1787 Saint Rafael Pima Indian Company transferred to Tubac.
- 1788 Great Offensive brings about surrender of the southern Athapascan; frontier is pacified.
- 1821 Mexican independence from Spain is achieved.
- 1824 Post at Tubac reestablished by Mexican government; Pima Company remains as infantry.
- 1830s Resurgence of Apache leads to troop desertions and a population decrease on the frontier; presidial system begins to deteriorate.
- 1840 Complement of 30 men on duty to protect 400 residents.

- 1846-1848 Apache raids increase.
- 1849 Full-scale Indian assault leads to abandonment of Tubac, as settlers move north.
- 1849-1851 Tubac serves as waystation for emigrants and surveyors.
- 1851 Mexican military colony established.
- 1852 Mormon commercial farming venture fails; Tubac forces repeatedly defeated by Apache.
- 1853 Peaceful Apache ranchería moved to Tubac.
- 1854 Gadsden Purchase Treaty ratified; few remaining Mexican troops withdraw to the south.
- 1855 Tubac again temporarily abandoned; Charles D. Poston visits town for mining interests; population of several hundred people gathers.
- 1856 Sonora Exploring and Mining Company established with Poston as superintendent; Tubac partially rebuilt.
- 1858-1859 First Arizona newspaper printed at Tubac; town population of 800.
- 1861 Federal troops withdraw; 25 to 30 people remain behind.
- 1864 J. Ross Browne and Poston visit deserted town of Tubac.