RESEARCHING THE WORLD’S BEADS:  
AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY  

Compiled by Karlis Karklins  
Society of Bead Researchers  

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AUSTRALIA AND PACIFIC  

The countries covered in this section include: Australia, Easter Island, Fiji, Guam, Hawai‘i, Kiribati, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. See also the two specialized theme bibliographies and the General/Miscellaneous bibliography as they also contain reports dealing with these countries.

Allen, J., S.G. Holdaway, and R. Fullagar  
Analyses of shell beads and stone drill points from Motupore Island, near Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, contribute to the debate about the specialized role of the site in a prehistoric exchange network as well as to theoretical discussions concerning the relationship between craft specialization and social stratification.

Amesbury, J.R. and R.L. Hunter-Anderson  
Over 400 Conus shell beads and bead blanks of the Pre-Latte period were uncovered at the Chalan Piao site, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Amesbury, J.R., D.R. Moore, and R.L. Hunter-Anderson  
Mentions the presence of Conus shell beads and bead blanks of the Pre-Latte period at the Chalan Piao site on Saipan, and the site of Unai Chulu on Tinian, Mariana Islands.

Ash, J., A. Brooks, B. David, and I.J. McNiven  
Three clear glass beads excavated at a late 19th-century missionary village in the Torres Strait area off the north coast of Australia are very briefly described in Table 3 and illustrated in Fig. 2, E-G.
Balme, Jane  
2000   Excavations Revealing 40,000 Years of Occupation at Mimbi Caves, South Central Kimberley, Western Australia. *Australian Archaeology* 51:1-5.  
Fragments of *Dentalium* shell found in the upper Pleistocene levels of the Riwi Cave deposit have smooth edges at the openings suggesting their use as beads.

Balme, Jane and Kate Morse  
Why did Paleolithic people wear shells and why was the practice so widespread in the world? Research in Western Australia shows that specific marine shells were targeted, subject to special processes of manufacture into beads and that some had traveled hundreds of kilometers from their source.

Beck, Stephen  
Several glass beads (p. 130) were recovered from the wreck of the *Foam* which sank in 1893 on the Great Barrier Reef of Australia.

Birmingham, Judy  
Illustrates and briefly describes one stone and 22 glass beads from the Aboriginal establishment on Flinders Island.

Burt, Ben  
In the Solomon Islands, laboriously fashioned shell beads served as ornament and “money,” as did porpoise teeth and, from the 19th century, glass seed beads traded from Europe.

Burt, Ben, David Akin, and Michael Kwa’ioloa  
The Kwara’ae and other peoples of Malaita island once wore shell ornaments of various kinds, including strings and straps of shell money-beads. This book describes the materials, techniques, and relationships by which ornaments were produced and exchanged, and then catalogs the great variety of ornaments worn throughout Malaita, fully illustrated in detailed drawings.

Campbell, Janet and Peter Gesner  
Describes the clear and amber-colored glass beads (p. 138) found on the wreck of a British ship that sank east of Cape York, Australia, in 1791.

Casella, Eleanore C.  
The Ross Female Factory operated in Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania, Australia) between 1848 and 1855 for the accommodation of transported female convicts. Seven red-on-white glass beads were found.

**David, Bruno et al.**


Cited in the archaeological literature as one of the oldest known pottery-bearing sites of the southern lowlands of PNG, the recovered artifacts include shell disc beads, worked cowries, and drilled mammal teeth.

**DeFant, D.G.**


Four $^{14}$C dates were obtained from *Conus*-shell-bead necklaces associated with the earliest burials and range from 2790 to 2330 B.P.

**Feary, Sue**


Dated to ca. 7000 years B.P., an Aboriginal site in southeastern Australia yielded 327 pierced kangaroo and wallaby incisors which presumably once formed part of a necklace. They are the first of their kind to be found in Australia.

**Godden Mackay Logan**


Excavations in a poorer neighborhood of Sydney produced about 1,500 glass beads (vol. 4, pp. 42-44). The principal occupation was during the 19th century.

**Haun, A.E., J.A. Jimenez, M.A. Kirkendall, and S.T. Goodfellow**


The site of Unai Chulu on Tinian, Mariana Islands, produced 70 *Conus* shell beads of the Pre-Latte period.

**Hicks, Dan, Sue Hamilton, Mike Seager Thomas, and Ruth Whitehouse**


The Routledge Easter Island collections contain ca. 38 European glass beads reportedly found with a female burial excavated in 1916.

**Intoh, Michiko**

Excavations on one of the Caroline Islands produced beads of shell and glass. Chemical analysis of the latter suggests some are of Chinese origin while others originated in Venice.

Irish, Paul  
Perforated black periwinkle (*Nerita atraemento*) shells recovered from a midden in southeastern Australia that was in use by ca. 1800 B.P. may have served as beads.

Liu, Robert K.  
Under Western influence, beads replace human hair in a traditional ornament.

McAdams, Leila E.  
The author has synthesised the beaded ornaments held in Australian museums and set up a classification system that has allowed her to determine spatial patterning of beads and to investigate current theories for explaining patterning.

Megaw, J.V.S.  
Among the aboriginal artifacts recovered from the Main Rock Shelter site at Curraurang Cove, Sydney, Australia, is a single European glass bead.

Monroe, M.H.  
Summarizes the beads and pendants found at 15 early sites (42,000-8000 B.P.) in Australia.

Over 400 *Conus* shell beads and bead blanks of the Pre-Latte period were uncovered at the Chalan Piao site, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Morse, Kate  
Modified shells, with wear suggesting they had been strung as beads, were among the finds from this Pleistocene site.
Nagaoka, Takuya

Presents a thorough analysis of the recovered shell beads. Two glass beads were also recovered.

Nicholls, Jean

An overview of pre-colonial bead finds in Australia and Tasmania. Materials include marine shells such as cone and dentalium, bone, and perforated kangaroo and wallaby teeth.

O’Connor, Sue and William R. Dickinson

The excavation of a rockshelter in Watinglo unearthed the unusual find of four stone disc-shaped beads such as have not hitherto been reported from Papua New Guinea.

O’Connor, Sue, Tim Maloney, Dorcas Vannieuwenhuyse, Jane Balme, and Rachel Wood

Two scaphopod beads are attributed to the early Holocene, suggesting movement of high-value goods from the coast.

O’Connor, S., M. Spriggs, and P. Veth

While the shell beads were recovered from levels dated to the Pleistocene, they themselves date to approximately 3500 BP and 4500 BP, respectively. The beads were vertically displaced downward or, alternatively, were part of the contents of an intrusive feature which was not discernable during excavation.

Perrette, Claire

This study of 324 shell ornaments (including beads and pendants) associated with the Lapita culture focuses on four major facets of shell artifact production and consumption: 1) raw material choice, 2) shellworking techniques, 3) curation, and 4) implications for value.

Pitman, Heidi T. and Lynley A. Wallis

The resin derived from spinifex grasses was primarily used as an adhesive by Indigenous Australians but was also formed into beads. Museum specimens date primarily to the late 19th century.
Salleh, Anna
Reports on the significance of 30 glass beads excavated from the Wellington Range in northwestern Arnhem Land, Australia, and attributed to the 18th century.

Sand, Christophe
Excavations in rockshelters on several islands yielded beads made of shell, urchin spines, greenstone, and glass.

Sinoto, Yoshihiko H.
The Fa’ahia site yielded two beads similar to “reel” beads in Maori ornaments. One is made of whale bone; the other, stone. The objects are attributed to the period A.D. 700-1150.

Smith, Claire and Heather Burke
Summarizes the finds of the earliest beads in Australia (p. 35).

Szabó, Katherine
Presents a detailed account of shell artifact production at various sites attributed primarily to the Lapita culture. The findings suggest widespread relationships in shell-working practices across the study area that have a considerable time depth. Beads were made principally from *Conus* shells.

The Lapita Cultural Complex denotes a tightly cohesive and distinctive culture that settled the area east of the Solomon Islands called Remote Oceania between 3400 and 2900 years ago. Among their ornaments were annular beads fashioned from *Conus* shells (p. 120-121). A single *Spondylus* bead from the early New Ireland site of Kamgot has also been identified with a further two beads of either *Spondylus* or *Chama* identified within recently excavated samples at St Maurice-Vatcha on the Isle of Pines, New Caledonia.

Valentin, Frederique, Matthew Spriggs, Stuart Bedford, and Hallie Buckley
2011  Vanuatu Mortuary Practices over Three Millennia: Lapita to the Early European Contact Period.  
Discusses the shell, stone, glass, and whale- and pig-tooth beads and pendants found at various sites in the Vanuatu island group. These generally comprised necklaces and bracelets.
Walth, Cherie K.
Conus and Spondylus shell beads as well as glass beads were found with Pre-Latte/Latte period burials.

Weisler, Marshall I.
The recovered ornaments include Spondylus and Conus shell beads, Golden cowrie (Cypraea aurantium) pendants, a Spondylus nose ring, ground bivalves (Cardium orbitum) possibly used as charms, and several styles of Conus shell rings. The material is broadly attributed to the 1st-11th centuries.

Wesley, D. and M. Litster
The recovery of an assemblage of glass and stone beads from six archaeological sites within the Manganowal estate in the Wellington Range, northern Australia, supports the case for the introduction of these items to Arnhem Land in the pre-Mission era context.

A preliminary analysis of the bead assemblage recovered from seven archaeological sites in western Arnhem Land, Australia, supports the case for the introduction of these items to indigenous communities starting with Southeast Asian trepang fishermen from Makassar, Sulawesi, before the European settlement of northern Australian in the 1820s.

Wright, Duncan et al.
2013 The Archaeology of Post Contact “Entanglement” on Mabuyag, Western Torres Strait. Manuscript report [Queensland Archaeological Research].
Ten glass trade beads were excavated at two villages on Mabuyag (Mabuyag) Island in western Torres Strait off Cape York, Australia. Attributed to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the beads are mainly small red-on-white specimens, along with white, light green, and dark blue.

Wright, Duncan, Michelle C. Langley, Sally K. May, Iain G. Johnston, and Lindy Allen
Detailed morphometric and use wear analysis is presented for a group of painted shark vertebrae beads, alongside Aboriginal oral traditions, and assessment of similar artifacts held in museum collections across Australia.