AUSTRALIA AND PACIFIC

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

Akerman, Kim
Discusses the organic ornaments used by the Aborigines based on archaeological and ethnographic sources.

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.

Allen, Lindy, Sarah Babister, Elizabeth Bonshek, and Rosemary Goodall
Presents the results of chemical analysis of a sample of beads on objects from the collections at Museums Victoria in Melbourne, as well as a comparative set of beads on objects from neighboring Papua New Guinea. Done to gain a broader understanding of possible pathways
along which beads and beaded objects made their way into the Pacific during the colonial and pre-colonial eras, and to consider the possibility of common origins with those found in Aboriginal objects.

**Allen, Lindy and Elizabeth Bonshek**  
2020 Creating a Sample Book of Glass Beads Used in the Western Pacific in the Colonial Era.  
This project provides a foundation for comparing the distribution of bead types within the Western Pacific and mapping their origins and distribution as part of global networks of colonial trade from the mid-19th century onward.

**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.

**Amesbury, J.R. and Cherie K. Walth**  
2016 Who Wears the Beads? 2,000 Years of Ornaments from an Archaeological Site on Guam.  
Surveys the various types of beads and pendants recovered from excavations at Naton Beach, Guam. They cover the period from Pre-Latte to post-contact. Materials include shell, shark teeth, and glass.

**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.
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**

2006  

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.

**Balme, Jane and Sue O’Connor**

2017  

Discusses the archaeological contexts and chronology of shell beads, with emphasis on scaphopod (tusk shell) specimens, as well as their uses in antiquity and in relatively recent times. Attention is also paid to how the use and value of the beads changed not only through time but also as the beads moved inland from the coast.

2019  

Reviews the raw materials used by Indigenous Australians to make beads. It includes beads recovered from archaeological sites, as well as beads collected before 1940 held in museum collections, and those that are described in pre-1940 literature and other archival material.

**Balme, Jane, Sue O’Connor, and Michelle C. Langley**

2018  

Postulates that the archaeological distributions of marine objects, including shell beads, may be interpreted as reflecting differences in social meaning across time and space.
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.

Bedford, Stuart  
2006  *Pieces of the Vanuatu Puzzle: Archaeology of the North, South and Centre*. Terra Australis 23.  
*Conus* beads as well as pendants made from various shell species and a sea-urchin spine were recovered from various sites.

Bedford, Stuart and Matthew Spriggs  
Sites in the study area yielded a variety of shell beads and pendants attributed to 3000-2000 BP.

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

Brumm, Adam, Michelle C. Langley, Mark W. Moore, Budianto Hakim, Muhammad Ramli, Iwan Sumantri, Basran Burhan, Andi Muhammad Saiful, Linda Siagian et al.  
Evidence for symbolic activity 30,000-22,000 BCE at Leang Bulu Bettue, a cave and rock-shelter site on the Wallacean island of Sulawesi includes disk-shaped bead blanks on a *Babyrousa* sp. (pig-deer) lower incisor and a perforated bone pendant fashioned from a bear cuscus phalange.

Brumm, Adam and Mark W. Moore  
This study finds that the pattern of change in the Australian archaeological sequence bears remarkable similarity to the pattern from the Lower to Upper Paleolithic in the Old World, a finding that is inconsistent with the “symbolic revolution” model of the origin of modern behavior. Beads and pendants enter into the discussion.

**Bulbeck, David, Fadhila Ariffin Aziz, Sue O’connor, Ambra Calo, Jack N. Fenner, Ben Marwick, Jim Feathers, Rachel Wood, and Dyah Prastiningtyas**

The excavation of several sites uncovered mostly glass Indo-Pacific beads, as well as several *Nassarium*-shell beads, an agate bead, and a bronze bead.

**Burley, David V. and Travis Freeland**

Test excavation of an early Lapita colonizing site encountered an abundant assemblage of *Anadara* shell disc beads and preforms, as well as lithic micro-drills for bead perforation. Radiocarbon dates place this assemblage in the interval 2490-2280 calBP.

**Burney, David A. and William K. Pila Kikuchi**

Ornaments include small cowrie shells drilled lengthwise for necklaces, as well as other drilled shells. A finely polished black basalt mirror, perfectly circular and drilled as a pendant, was found near a large carved bone bead and many drilled cowries, all of which may have comprised a necklace.

**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**
2009 *Body Ornaments of Malaita, Solomon Islands*. University of Hawai`i Press, Honolulu.

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.

Casey and Lowe Pty Ltd.  
Excavations conducted at Sydney harbor yielded a variety of glass beads and other ornaments, mostly from the 19th century. Descriptions and images are to be found in Vol. 1, Section 4; Vol. 3, Section 8.2; Vol. 5, Appendix 5.3; and Vol. 6.

Clark, Geoffrey, Michelle C. Langley, Mirani Litster, Olaf Winter, and Judith Amesbury  

Clark, Geoffrey and Katherine Szabó  
Describes the beads made of shell and fish vertebrae (probably shark) found at Natunuku and Votua.

David, Bruno, Jean-Michel Geneste, Ken Aplin, Jean-Jacques Delannoy, Nick Araho, Chris Clarkson, Kate Connell, Simon Haberle, Bryce Barker, Lara Lamb, John Stanisic, Andrew Fairbairn, Robert Skelly, and Cassandra Rowe  
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.

Davidson, Col
2016  Thirty Millennia of Dentalium Shellstrings in Australia.
Surveys sites in western Australia that have yielded dentalium beads.

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 BP.

Dixon, Boyd, Michael Dega, Darlene Moore, and Judith R. Amesbury
2022  Archaeological Research at the Early Pre-Latte Period Site of San Roque on Saipan (ca. 1500-1100 BC). The Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology 17; https://www.academia.edu/81110443/.
Ornaments include small shell disc beads and perforated cowrie shells.

Dixon, Boyd, Cherie Walth, Kathy Mowrer, and Danny Welch
Recovered ornaments include several Spondylus disc beads and a fossilized-coral bead.

Dupont, Constanze
On the Micronesian islands of Palau, the exchange of gifts, money, and food is still a lived tradition and a key part of life from birth to death. Most notably, Palauan bead money (udoud er belau) has kept its symbolic importance and is used for certain key occasions.

Feary, Sue
Dated to ca. 7000 years BP, 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.
Francis, Peter, Jr.
2002 *Asia’s Maritime Bead Trade: 300 B.C. to the Present.* University of Hawai’i Press, Honolulu.
A section of the book (pp. 189-190) is devoted to the beads of Palau, Micronesia.

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.

Haddow, Eve, James Flexner, Stuart Bedford, and Matthew Spriggs
Based on archaeological findings and ethnohistoric sources.

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.

Intoh, Michiko and Foss Leach
Finds include five disk beads and a possible ear pendant made from shell, as well as a single black glass seed bead.

Irish, Paul
2007  
Bundeena Bling? Possible Aboriginal Shell Adornments from Southern Sydney. 
*Australian Archaeology* 64:46-49.
Perforated black periwinkle (*Nerita atramentosa*) shells recovered from a midden in southeastern Australia that was in use by ca. 1800 B.P. may have served as beads.

Kerby, Georgia
2017  
Personal ornaments recovered from several Māori temporary camps occupied between the mid to late 14th century and the early 16th century include several forms of beads and pendants made of shell, stone, bone, and ivory.

Kirch, Patrick V.
1993  
Ornaments include several shell beads and an echinoid-spine bead. They are attributed to the first millennium BC.

Langenwalter II, Paul E. and Liana K. Meeker
2015  
Excavation of the Hālawa Cave Rockshelter, North Hālawa Valley, O’ahu, Hawai‘i. 
*Hawaiian Archaeology* 14:47-64.
Recovered artifacts include several shell beads and a dog-tooth pendant.

Langley, Michelle C.
2018  
While emu eggs were widely available and exploited across Australia for many thousands of years, experimentation with this raw material identified that the shells were simply too small, too thin, and too fragile to be useful in the production of beads and other items.

Langley, Michelle C., Chris Clarkson, and Sean Ulm
2019  
Symbolic Expression in Pleistocene Sahul, Sunda, and Wallacea. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 221, 105883; https://www.academia.edu/43014395/.
Provides an inventory of the beads and pendants found at Pleistocene sites in Australia. Items include *Dentalium* and *Conus* shell beads, perforated cowries, beads fashioned from macropod bone, and a perforated shark tooth pendant.

**Leach, Foss and Janet Davidson**  
2008  
*The Archaeology of Taumako: A Polynesian Outlier in the Eastern Solomon Islands.*  
New Zealand Journal of Archaeology Special Publication. Dunedin.  
https://www.academia.edu/1764847/.

Covering a 3000-year sequence of continuity, the sites investigated yielded a variety of ornaments including beads made of shell, ivory, shark vertebrae, cowries, bone, and glass, as well as pendants formed from shell, flying fox teeth, and small bird skulls. The presence of coral abraders suggests local manufacture for some of them.

**Leavesley, Matthew G.**  
2007  

Argues that a perforated tiger-shark-tooth pendant excavated in New Ireland, New Guinea, and dating between 39,500 and 28,000 BP, is the work of an anatomically modern human, implying the use of symbolic language not only across the former continent of Sahul, but also Eurasia.

**Litster, Mirani**  
2014  
https://www.academia.edu/66949470/.

Presents an overview of the subject.

**Litster, Mirani, Daryl Wesley, and Gretchen Stolte**  
2018  

This chapter advocates a suite of methods for developing an understanding of the glass bead record in Australia, which is slowly emerging as a significant and interesting area of contact research.

**Liu, Robert K.**  
1985  

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

**Maloney, Tim, Sue O’Connor, Dorcas Vannieuwenhuyse, Jane Balme, and Jane Fyfe**  
2016  
*Re-excavation of Djuru, a Holocene Rockshelter in the Southern Kimberley, North Western Australia. Australian Archaeology* 82(1):80-85;  
https://www.academia.edu/76100783/.
Two scaphopod shell beads are directly radiocarbon dated to ca. 8,000 cal. BP.

McAdam, Leila E.

McAdam, Leila and Iain Davidson

Megaw, J.V.S.
1987 Aboriginal Archaeology of the Sutherland Shire. Geography and Geology: Aboriginal Archaeology, pp. 9-12. Among the aboriginal artifacts recovered from the Main Rock Shelter site at Curracurrang Cove, Sydney, Australia, is a single European glass bead.

Monroe, M.H.

1992 Archaeology at Chalan Piao, Saipan. Report prepared for Jose Cabrera and the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan. Micronesian Archaeological Research Services, Guam. Over 400 Conus shell beads and bead blanks of the Pre-Latte period were uncovered at the Chalan Piao site, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Moore, Summer
Illustrates and briefly discusses the recovered glass beads which include monochrome seed beads and large, wound, red-on-white, cornaline d’Aleppo specimens.

**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 indigenous shell beads and dolphin-tooth pendants, including their elemental composition and production technology. Two glass beads were also recovered.

**Napolitano, Matthew F., Elliot H. Blair, Laure Dussubieux, and Scott M. Fitzpatrick**  
Analysis of 38 glass beads recovered from Chelechol ra Orrak revealed that most of them were manufactured in Europe, with many originating in Bohemia ca. AD 1830-1850.

**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**  
2014  Occupation at Carpenters Gap 3, Windjana Gorge, Kimberley, Western Australia. *Australian Archaeology* 78:10-23.  
Two scaphopod (dentalium) beads are attributed to the early Holocene, suggesting movement of high-value goods from the coast.
**Perrette, Claire**
2011  
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.

**Phillips, Caroline and Harry Allen**
2013  
A small group of blue and amber-colored glass beads was found at Opita in northern New Zealand. Associated bottles date to the 1860-1915 period.

**Pitman, Heidi T. and Lynley A. Wallis**
2012  
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.

**Przywolnik, Kathryn**
2003  
Shell Artefacts from Northern Cape Range Peninsula, Northwest Western Australia. *Australian Archaeology* 56(1):12-21; https://www.academia.edu/45166167/.  
Among the items discussed are shell beads and baler-shell pendants.

**Salleh, Anna**
2013  
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**
1998  
Excavations in rockshelters on several islands yielded beads made of shell, urchin spines, greenstone, and glass.

**Shaw, Ben**
2010  
Excavation of several sites yielded perforated *Conus* tops, as well as shell and bone beads. Other recovered drilled and ground shell items may have served as shell money.

**Shaw, Ben and Michelle C. Langley**

2017  
https://www.academia.edu/34091848/.

Shell beads and other objects from five prehistoric sites on two islands (Rossel and Nimowa) in the Louisiade Archipelago are analyzed to determine how they were manufactured and used.

**Sinoto, Yoshihiko H.**

1988  

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 AD 700-1150.

**Smith, Claire and Heather Burke**

2007  

Summarizes the finds of the earliest beads in Australia (p. 35).

**Smith, Ian, Angela Middleton, Jessie Garland, and Tristan Russell**

2014  

A variety of wound glass beads were recovered from a mission site in northern New Zealand. It operated during the 1814-1832 period.

**Spennemann, Dirk H.R.**

2006  

Many of the burials investigated were accompanied by necklaces and belt strings of plastic beads.

**Szabó, Katherine**

2004  

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.

Thangavelu, Anbarasu “Eddie”
Table 5.2 lists the various shellfish species used to produce the beads found at the Caution Bay site, as well as sites elsewhere in Papua New Guinea.

Valentin, Frederique, Geoffrey Clark, Philip Parton, and Christian Reepmeyer
Burials at the Talasiu midden site, dating to ca. 2650 cal BP, provide the earliest known evidence for Ancestral Polynesian mortuary behavior. Recovered ornaments include modified sea urchin spines, drilled Tridacna ornaments known as “long units,” and small Conus and Strombus beads.

Valentin, Frederique, Matthew Spriggs, Stuart Bedford, and Hallie Buckley
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.

Veth, Peter, Ingrid Ward, Tiina Manne, Sean Ulm, Kane Ditchfield, Joe Dortch, Fiona Hook, Fiona Petchey, Alan Hogg, Daniele Questiaux, Martina Demuro, Lee Arnold et al.
Archaeological deposits at Boodie Cave have revealed some of the oldest evidence for the Aboriginal occupation of Australia, including the early use of marine resources by modern peoples outside of Africa. Twenty-two tusk shell (Dentalium) fragments with edge notching and wear probably served as personal ornaments.
Conus and Spondylus shell beads as well as glass beads were found with Pre-Latte/Latte period burials.

Weisler, Marshall I.
A male burial attributed to the mid-15th century was accompanied by 147 red disk beads made from a large bivalve (Spondylus cf. varius), a shell species now believed to be extinct. The condition of the beads, from very well preserved to highly eroded, suggests that they were heirlooms and acquired over a long period of time.

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.

Wickler, Stephen
A variety of shell beads and perforated gastropods that could have served as ornaments were recovered.
Wiessner, Polly  
Provides a discourse on the “messages” embedded in the personal adornment of present-day hunter-gatherers and horticulturalists based on observations among the Ju/’hoansi bushmen of northwestern Botswana and the Enga of highland Papua New Guinea, respectively.

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 Mabuiag (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.

Wright, Duncan and Pamela Ricardi  
2015  Both Sides of the Frontier: The ‘Contact’ Archaeology of Villages on Mabuyag, Western Torres Strait. *Quaternary International* 385:102-111; https://www.academia.edu/40470577/.  
Briefly discusses the few glass beads excavated at Dhabangay village (extreme northern Australia) and isolates the problematic early phase of Islander-European negotiation through analysis of the beads.