



THE BEAD FORUM

Newsletter of the Society of Bead Researchers

Issue 72

Spring 2018

Beaded Shop Signs in Republican Beijing (1912-1949)

Valerie Hector

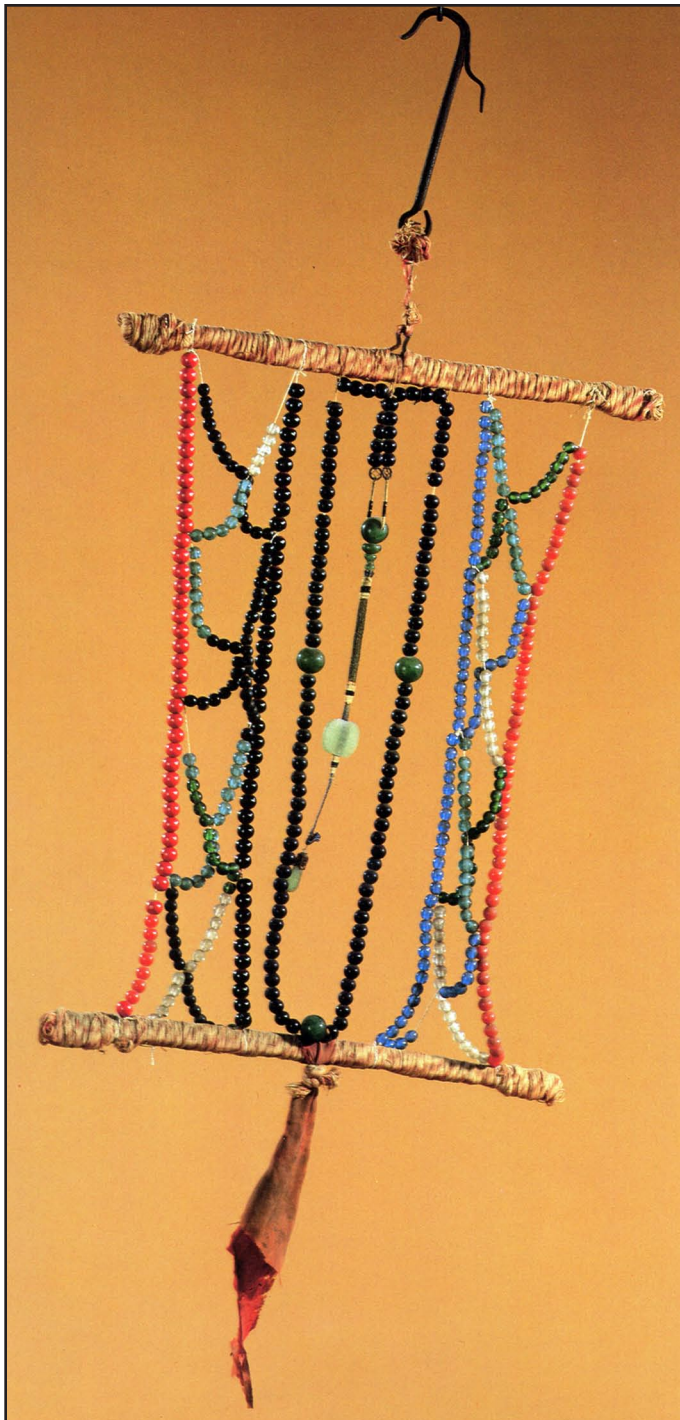


Figure 1. Sign for a bead shop collected in Beijing in 1939 (courtesy of Tenri University Sankōkan Museum, Tenri, Japan).

During China's Qing dynasty (1644-1911), an estimated 200-250 different kinds of shop signs enlivened the streets of Beijing (formerly Peking) (Feng Yi 2007). Suspended from long poles vaulting above the streets, many of these *huangzi* featured small, eye-catching depictions of the types of items offered for sale or their symbolic equivalents, making the items sell themselves, as it were (Feng Yi 2007). Although the depictions were standardized by Chinese trade guilds, shops could customize the depictions as they saw fit, adding distinctive touches here and there. An appealing sign could stimulate business, thereby bringing good fortune; shops owners refused to sell such lucky signs at any price (Tenri and Tenrikyō 1987:7-8). In Republican Beijing (1912-1949), bead shops displayed rectangular, beaded *huangzi* with three vertical registers attached at top and bottom to horizontal rods covered with rope or cloth.

As far as I know, only a single example of such a Republican beaded bead shop sign survives to this day (Figure 1). It was collected in 1939 in war-time Beijing – a year and a half after Japan invaded China – by Fukuhara Toki, a Chinese-language teacher employed by the Tenri School of Foreign Languages in Tenri, Japan. Following the instructions of his superior, Shozen Nakayama, who was intrigued by Beijing shop signs, Fukuhara located 146 old, seemingly neglected shop signs in the backyard of a Beijing curio shop whose owner apparently charged Fukuhara little or nothing for the lot (Tenri and Tenrikyō 1987:7-9). The owner also gave Fukuhara a list of the addresses formerly associated with the signs, but the list was subsequently lost. In the cache was one beaded shop sign.

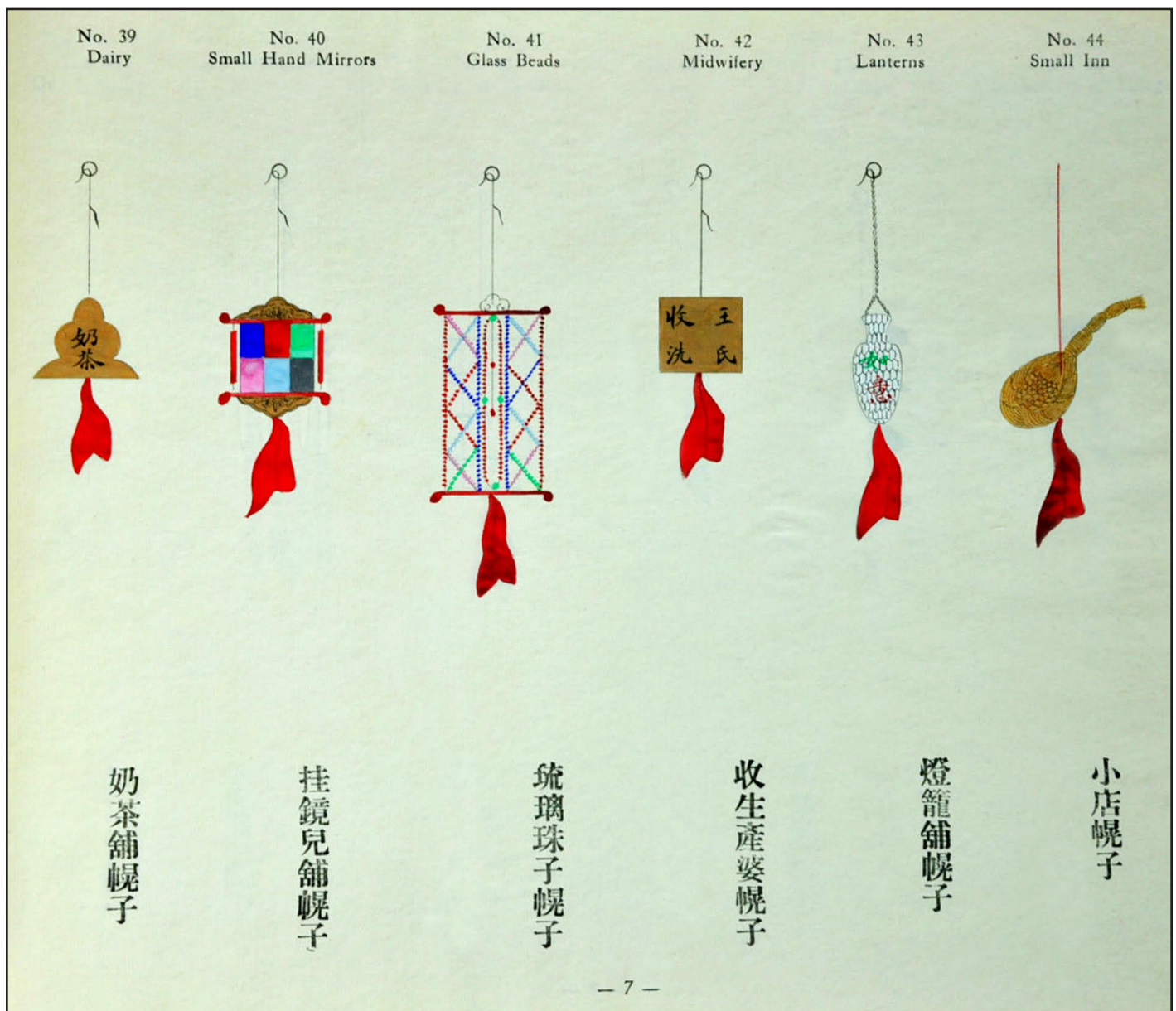


Figure 2. Page from *The Shop Signs of Peking* (Fêng 1931:7).

Already several illustrated books had been published on the general subject of Chinese shop signs, including *China in Sign and Symbol* (Crane 1926) and *The Shop Signs of Peking* (Fêng 1931), which offered color illustrations of 102 and 101 shop signs, respectively. In fact, Fukuhara may have used the 1931 work as a reference guide while in Beijing (Feng Yi 2007). Ultimately, the signs Fukuhara collected were shipped to Japan to be housed at the Tenri University Sankōkan Museum where 129 of them remain to this day, including the aforementioned beaded sign for a bead shop.

Color photos of this rare beaded sign have been reproduced in *Pekin no kanban*, a Japanese-language

catalog of the Tenri Museum's Beijing shop-sign collection (Tenri and Tenrikyō 1987: Plates 45-46). The catalog attributes the sign to a "glass bead workshop" (Tenri and Tenrikyō 1987:8, 184). Measuring 50 cm in height, the sign is made largely of round/oblate wound-glass beads in black, clear, red, green, and two shades of blue. The vertical registers at left and right consist of knotted (?) bead nets or plaits with diamond-shaped cells conjoined on either side with triangular cells. The vagaries of time and weather apparently loosened the threads, badly distorting the shapes of many cells. The sign's central register consists of an incomplete mandarin court necklace. As Peter Francis (1986: Figure 3) and others have observed, the collapse of the imperial Qing court in 1911 rendered such

status-marking necklaces obsolete. Strikingly similar bead shop signs are illustrated in Crane (1926: Figure 41) and Fêng (1931: Figure 41), suggesting what these engaging signs would have looked like when new, with taut threads and crisply-defined cells (Figure 2).

For a sense of what bead shop signs looked like in context, hanging in the streets of Republican Beijing, we turn to the work of German photographer Hedda Hammer Morrison (1908-1991) whose 5,000 photographs and 10,000 negatives are preserved at Harvard-Yenching Library (Feng Yi 2007). Morrison photographed several beaded shop signs still in use when she lived in Beijing in 1933-1946. Three of the images (Harvard-Yenching Library HM29.6108, HM29.6116, and HM19.6459) depict signs that are attributed to Beijing bead shops. Two of the three photos appear to show the same sign from different points of view. Morrison's bead shop signs differ from the ones described above in that the two vertical beaded registers at left and right, while still apparently constructed of beads netted or plaited in diamond patterns edged with triangles, flank a central vertical

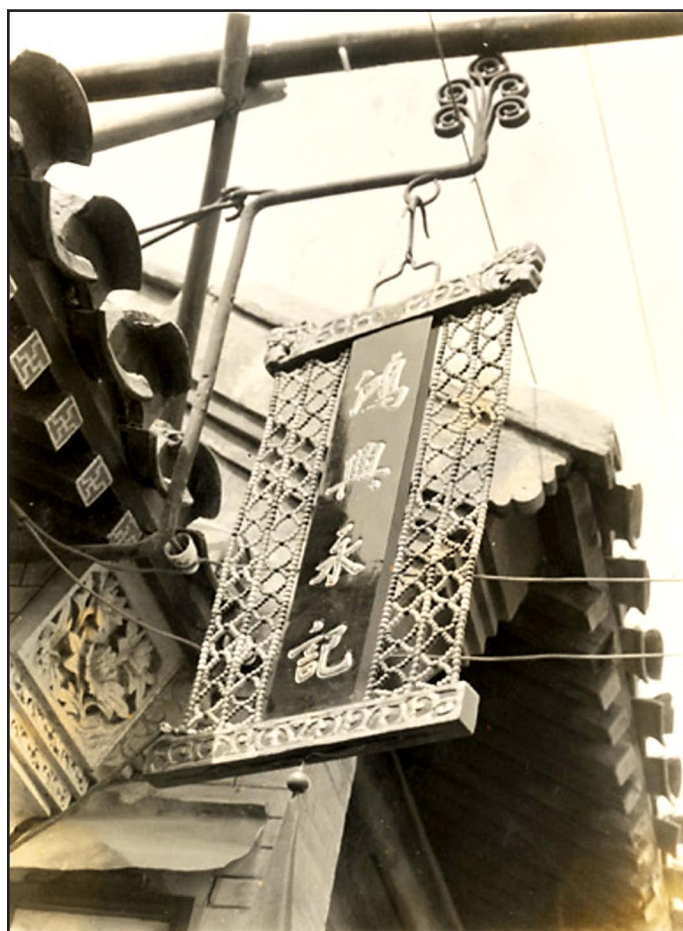


Figure 3. Sign for a bead shop (Harvard-Yenching Library; HM29.6116).



Figure 4. Sign for a cotton shop (Harvard-Yenching Library; HM19.6460).

register consisting of a wooden panel inscribed with four raised Chinese characters, one of which might be *zhu*, the character for “bead” or “pearl” (Figure 3). Since Morrison photographed in black and white, the beads’ colors and materials cannot be discerned, but in shape they are round or oblate, and look to be made of multicolored glass.

At least one other sign in Morrison’s archive – for a cotton shop – also appears to incorporate beads (Figure 4). It is made of long, tubular beads netted or plaited in diamond-patterned cells that together evoke an auspicious *panchang* or longevity knot. Although the tubular beads could be made of metal or another material, they call to mind the bamboo tube beads knotted with cotton or linen threads in late-19th-century China to create diamond-patterned bamboo bead jackets and vests (Hector 1995: Figures 5 and 15). Indeed, one wonders whether bamboo-bead garments were made at shops displaying signs of this nature.

The Bead Forum

No example of a beaded *panchang*-motif shop sign is preserved at the Tenri University Sankōkan Museum. It does, however, house examples of other signs attributed to cotton shops (Tenri and Tenrikyō 1987: Figures 73 and 123).

Another kind of beaded sign, for a soap shop, enlarges the category still further. Five chains, each containing nine oval wood beads, are suspended from a carved wood frame. The oval beads symbolize *feiji* or “*feiji jia*, the seeds of the leguminous deciduous tree... *Gymnocladus Chinensis*” (Tenri and Tenrikyō 1987:187). When crushed and soaked in water, the seeds yield a smooth, refreshing liquid for the bath; conventional wisdom would have led sign viewers to associate the seeds with soap.

Further research into the shop signs of Republican Beijing would surely continue to enhance our understanding of Chinese bead and beadwork culture, history, and technology. In the meantime, we salute the handful of visionary people named above for preserving evidence that would otherwise have perished with the passing decades.

Acknowledgments

I thank the members of the Bead Collector Network for referring me to the beaded shop sign in the Tenri University Sankōkan Museum collection and to the catalog of the collection contained in *Pekin no kanban*. I thank Patrick Kirby for meticulously translating passages from *Pekin no Kanban* and for helping obtain image rights. My gratitude goes to the Harvard-Yenching Library of the Harvard College Library, Harvard

University, as well as the Tenri University Sankōkan Museum for permission to reproduce their images.

References Cited

Crane, Louise

1926 *China in Sign and Symbol: A Panorama of China, Past and Present*. Kelly & Walsh, Shanghai.

Feng Yi

2007 Shop Signs and Visual Culture in Republican Beijing. *European Journal of East Asian Studies* 6 (1):103-128. <http://beijing.virtualcities.fr/Texts/Articles?ID=50>, accessed January 18, 2018.

Fèng, H.K.

1931 *The Shop Signs of Peking*. Chinese Painting Association of Peking, Peking.

Francis, Peter, Jr.

1986 *Chinese Glass Beads: A Review of the Evidence*. Occasional Papers of the Center for Bead Research 2. Lake Placid, NY.

Hector, Valerie

1995 Prosperity, Reverence and Protection: An Introduction to Asian Beadwork. *Beads: Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers* 7:3-36.

Tenri Daigaku and Tenrikyō Dōyūsha

1987 *Pekin no Kanban* (Peking Shop Signs). Tenrikyōdō Yūsha, Tenri, Japan. Unpublished partial English translation by Patrick Kirby.

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Beads in Weapons of War

Karlis Karklins

Beads have been used for various purposes over the centuries, generally ornamental. During the first half of the 20th century, however, one specific type played an important role in two World Wars. No, I'm not writing about rosaries or prayer beads which certainly were a common soldier's possession, but those beads that were a component of the German *Stielhandgranate* or stick grenade, often referred to as a “potato masher” (Figure 1).

Developed by the Germans in 1915, the stick grenade consists of a cylindrical metal head encas-

ing an explosive charge set at the end of a hollow wooden handle (Figure 2). A double length of cord extends down the cavity from a friction igniter set in the charge to the end of the handle. When the cord is pulled, the grenade is activated and thrown. Since the exposed cord could get snagged on brush, causing the grenade to explode on the belt of a soldier, a porcelain bead (*Abreißknopf* or pull-cord ball) was attached to the end of the cord in 1916 and the handle was equipped with a screw-on cap to seal it (Military Intelligence Service 1943:41-42; Wikipedia 2017). The pull bead was used throughout WWI and also



Figure 1. WWII German machine gunner with two stick grenades, pull beads exposed, ready for action (Bundesarchive, Bild 1011-274-0498-15, Foto: Ernskötter - 1942/1943).

during WWII, and hundreds, if not thousands, have been recovered from battlefields far and wide, wherever German troops were present.

These unimposing beads are oblate and composed of white unglazed porcelain (Figure 3). Measuring 1.4-1.8 cm in diameter, they usually have a distinct mold seam around the middle indicating they were formed in two-piece molds. It is likely they were made at one or more of the German porcelain factories that made the similarly shaped but larger porcelain cabinet knobs.

A smaller lead bead (*Bleiperle*) about one-third the size of the pull bead was situated at the opposite end of the pull cord and was part of the friction-igniter-detonator system. While the pull-cord bead remained the same through the years, the *Bleiperle* changed over time from lead to glass to iron (Figure 4) (Bergflak's Lounge 2017).

References Cited

Bergflak's Lounge

2017 Construction of the Stielhandgranate 24. <http://www.bergflak.com/m24constr.html>, accessed 24 May 2017.

Bureau of Ordnance

1946 *German Explosive Ordnance. OP 1666*. War Department, Washington, DC.

Military Intelligence Service

1943 *German Infantry Weapons*. War Department, Washington, DC. Special Series 14.

Wikipedia

2017 Stielhandgranate. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stielhandgranate>, accessed 23 May 2017.

KARLIS KARKLINS

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Canada

You can help keep *The Bead Forum* vital by sending us your news items, short articles, and interesting tales from the bead world.

Next Deadline: September 1

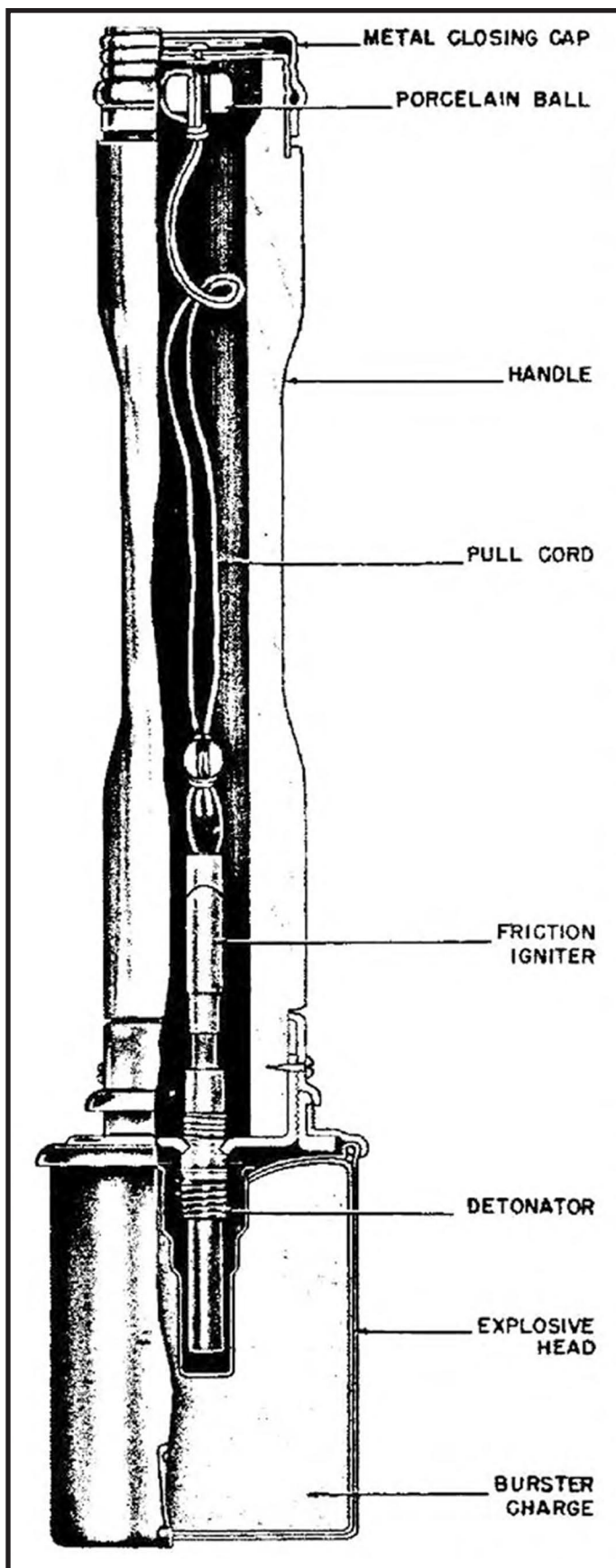


Figure 2. Cross-section of a stick grenade showing the location of the retaining and pull beads (Bureau of Ordnance 1946:320).

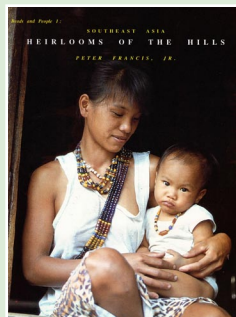


Figure 3. A group of WWII porcelain pull beads (courtesy of Matt Dinger).



Figure 4. Several pull cords showing different retaining beads (Bergflak's Lounge 2017).

Have you visited our page
of Peter Francis publications?



<https://beadresearch.org/cbr-publications/>

Society News

SBR 2018 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The SBR's annual business meeting was called to order at 9:45 A.M. MT on 1 February 2018 in Tucson, Arizona, by President Jonathan M. Kenoyer. In attendance were Editor Karlis Karklins and Secretary/Treasurer Alice Scherer.

OLD BUSINESS

President's Report

The principal task of the president has been to promote the Society whenever and wherever he can. On a recent visit to China, he was assured by several serious bead collectors that they would join. Here's hoping they follow through.

Editor's Report

The journal for 2017 was printed and distributed in late December. The two digital newsletters were also produced and distributed in a timely manner. Karklins mentioned that 2018 will mark the 30th issue of the journal and Kenoyer hoped the editor could solicit some papers that highlight the progress that has been made in bead research around the world during that period.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Secretary/Treasurer Scherer reports the SBR had 200 paid members in 2017; up from 172 in 2016, for a gain of 18 members. Our members are mostly from the U.S. (148) and Canada (11), but 29 are from Europe, 2 each from Africa and the Middle East, 6 from Asia, and 4 from Australia. Institutions make up 14 of our members and bead societies 1. There were also 10 comp'ed memberships. Total revenues for 2017 were \$9,142.50 and total expenditures \$7,466.85.

As of 31 December 2017, the balances in the various SBR accounts were:

U.S. Bank Checking Account	US\$ 3,991.73
PayPal Account	US\$ 159.71
Petty Cash	US\$ 192.65
Vanguard Account*	US\$21,046.67
TD-CT Account (CD\$5,883.20)	<u>US\$ 4,597.33</u>
Subtotal	US\$29,988.09

Outstanding TD-CT check -US\$ 3,825.35

Total **US \$26,162.74**

* The amount as noted in the previous column for our Vanguard account does *not* include \$366.69 in *unrealized* loss; as per the 12/31/17 noted Vanguard statement balance of \$20,679.98. A full accounting of Vanguard monies is available upon request.

Summary Report

Balance End of 2016 US\$24,505.65

Vanguard math correction -US\$ 21.52

Subtotal US\$24,484.13

2017 Income +US\$ 9,142.50

Subtotal US\$33,626.63

2017 Expenses -US\$ 7,466.85

Subtotal US\$26,159.78

Credits, Reimbursements
(+\$123.67 and - \$121.00) +US\$ 2.67

Foreign currency translation +US\$.29

Total Monies at end of year **US\$26,162.74**

SBR Websites and Social Media

It was noted that the SBR website isn't getting the visitation that was hoped for and discussion centered on what might be done to attract and hold visitors. New pages have and will continue to be added while existing ones will be reworked and updated.

It is also hoped that the SBR Facebook page will also help to increase interest in our Society. The page exists (as does one for *The Bead Forum*) but has not yet been activated due to a lack of ready-to-post content. Karklins said he would start the ball rolling and Kenoyer will have his students compose some posts.

New Business

Dues Increase: Karklins noted that the current membership dues now barely cover the expense of printing and mailing the journal. While making the journal digital, like the newsletter, would certainly take care of this problem, a questionnaire sent to the membership a few years back revealed that, of the 43 individuals who responded, 16 desired a hard copy, two wanted the journal in a digital format, while 24 wanted both formats. In response, we have made the

articles in most issues available in a digital format on several internet sites, but we also need to continue printing a paper copy to satisfy our members' requirements. Consequently, the SBR executive is proposing a modest \$5.00 increase in the annual dues for the individual/institutional level to take effect in 2019. This requires the approval of the membership and ballots will be emailed to current members in the near future.

Student Conference Travel Award: Kenoyer noted that one way to increase student interest and participation in the Society would be to hold an annual competition for students planning to present a paper on some aspect of bead research at an accredited archaeological or related conference anywhere in the world. The winner – who will receive \$500 – will be chosen based on the originality, scholarship, and relevance of the presentation. The details will be worked out over the next few months.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M. MT.

— Respectfully submitted, Alice Scherer,
Secretary/Treasurer, 16 April 2018

New SBR Website Resource Pages

We recently created a page devoted to the Publications of the Center for Bead Research (click [here](#)). Operated by Peter Francis, Jr., an avid bead researcher and one of the founding members of the Society of Bead Researchers, the Center produced several publication series prior to Pete's untimely death in 2002, including *The World of Beads Monograph Series*, *Occasional Papers of the Center for Bead Research*, *Contributions of the Center for Bead Research*, and the *Beads and People Series*. Since the titles in these series are not readily available and contain much useful information, it was decided that it would be beneficial to researchers if PDFs of them could be made available. This was made possible thanks to the efforts of Lorann S. Pendleton and Diana Rosenthal-Roberson of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, with a minor assist from Karlis Karklins.

Another new page relates to our journal. Since its inception in 1989, *Beads* has published articles on a wide range of topics related to the study of beads and beadwork. Since the topics are quite diversified, an Author and Subject Index (click [here](#)) was deemed appropriate and has been prepared by the editor with the

help of several volunteers to aid researchers find articles and information relevant to their field of interest. The author index is up and running while the subject index is in the final production stage. While the latter is not all-inclusive, listing only topics that are dealt with in some detail, it will still allow the user to locate a wide range of information.

SBR Editor Election Results

Ninety-four ballots were cast in the recent election and incumbent Editor Karklins was unanimously re-elected for the period 2018-2020.

Erratum *Beads* 29

The following item was omitted from the References Cited section of Chris Prussing's article on "Antique Cloisonné Japanese Beads" in *Beads* volume 29. The editor apologizes for this oversight.

Irvine, Gregory

2011 *Japanese Cloisonné Enamels: The Seven Treasures*.
V&A Publishing, London.

Proposed SBR Membership Dues Increase

While printing and mailing costs have steadily increased over the past 20 years, the Society of Bead Researchers membership dues have remained the same since 1997. The current dues now barely cover the expenses incurred. This being the case, the SBR Executive is proposing an increase in the annual dues to \$25 US from \$20 for Canada and the United States and to \$35 US from \$30 for other countries for the individual/institutional level starting in 2019. This increase requires the approval of the SBR membership and ballots will be emailed to current members in the next few weeks.

If the Society is to continue to serve the bead research community and implement some new programs and scholarship awards that have been proposed, we need the dues increase and hope that when the time comes, you will vote YES.

Secretary/Treasurer's Position Up for Election

Alice Scherer's term as Secretary/Treasurer ends 31 December 2018. She has agreed to run for an additional three-year term. To submit a nomination, please contact the President, Dr. Mark Kenoyer. The nominee must be a member of the Society in good standing. Ballots for the Secretary/Treasurer election will be emailed with the Autumn issue of *The Bead Forum*.

Continued on page 11

SBR Treasurer's Summary Report for 2017

OPENING BALANCE AS OF 1 JANUARY 2017	\$24,505.65
INCOME.....	\$9,142.50
Annual Dues	
Individual-North America	2,800.00
Individual-Overseas.....	1,085.00
Sustaining	990.00
Patron	600.00
Benefactor	750.00.....6,225.00
Publication Sales	
Journal	1,875.00
Investment Income.....	555.50
Donations	60.00
Miscellaneous	
Prepaid Postage	427.00
EXPENSES	\$7,466.85
Journal Production (Volume #29)	
Layout.....	490.00
Printing.....	3,825.35.....4,315.35
Newsletter Printing (Issues #70-71).....	134.00
Postage/Shipping	
Journal	1,177.23
Newsletter	49.42
General	582.79.....1,809.44
Website (Domain Names, Web Hosting, Site Building)	314.09
Office Expenses (Stationery, Supplies, PO Box Rent, Phone)	
Secretary/Treasurer	175.80
Editor.....	59.73.....235.53
Miscellaneous	
SHA 2018, CAA Book Room Tables	337.56
Bank, PayPal and Square Charges, Cost of Selling.....	250.88
Oregon Corporation Filing Fees	70.00.....658.44
Preliminary Closing Balance as of 31 December 2017.....	\$26,181.30
Vanguard error correction (counting realized capital gain twice)	(\$21.52)
Credits, Refunds, & Reimbursements	\$2.67
Foreign Currency Translation Gain	\$0.29
FINAL CLOSING BALANCE AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017	\$26,162.74

Proposed Budget for 2018

OPENING BALANCE AS OF 1 JANUARY 2018\$26,162.74

INCOME.....\$10,300.00

Annual Dues

Individual-North America	3,200
Individual-Overseas.....	1,250
Sustaining	1,000
Patron	700
Benefactor	800
	6,950

Publication Sales

Journal	1,750
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Investment Income600

Donations500

Miscellaneous

PrePaid Postage	500
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EXPENSES\$8,600.00

Journal Production (Volume #30)

Layout.....	500
Printing.....	4,500
	5,000

Newsletter Printing (Issues #72-73).....140

Postage/Shipping

Journal	1,200
Newsletter	100
General	600
	1,900

Website (Domain Names, Web Hosting).....250

Office Expenses (Stationery, Supplies, PO Box Rent, Phone)

Secretary/Treasurer	200
Editor.....	100
	300

Grant to a Student Conference Presenter.....500

Miscellaneous

SHA 2019 Book Room Table.....	165
Bank, PayPal and Square Charges, Cost of Selling	275
Oregon Corporation Filing Fees	70
	510

CLOSING BALANCE AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018\$27,862.74

— Respectfully submitted, Alice Scherer, Secretary/Treasurer (18 April 2018)

Continued from page 8

Herewith We Express Our Gratitude

A special thank you to those members who've helped ensure publication by their Sustaining, Patron, or Benefactor membership monies. We are grateful for your help. Our list below runs from 30 September 2017 through 31 March 2018.

Sustaining (\$45) — Julia Costello, Marion Hamilton, Janet Walker-Goldsmith, Elizabeth Chapman, Megan Cifarelli, Joseph Mellin, Junona Jonas, Rainshadow Beads, Gregory Waselkov, Floor Kaspers, Timothy Mincey, and Joyce Diamanti.

Patron (\$75+) — Julia Lobotsky, David Ebbinghouse, Karen King, Rosanna Falabella, Lori Pendleton Thomas, Rochelle Marrinan, Carrie Swerbenski, and Chris DeCorse.

Benefactor (\$150+) — The Los Angeles Bead Society (both in 2017 and 2018), Joan Eppen, Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, Jeff Mitchum, and Sindi Schloss.

A Special Thank You

We also extend our deep appreciation to Valerie Hector who donated ten copies of out-of-print Volume 25 of *Beads* that she had previously purchased so that we could offer them once again to interested persons. Thank you, Valerie!!

Recent Publications

Agbe-Davies, Anna S.

2017 Where Tradition and Pragmatism Meet: African Diaspora Archaeology at the Crossroads. *Historical Archaeology* 51:9-27.

An analytical strategy inspired by pragmatism is applied to beads recovered from Tidewater Chesapeake slave quarters occupied in the 18th and early 19th centuries in order to demonstrate that tradition is only part of the story.

Babalola, Abidemi Babatunde

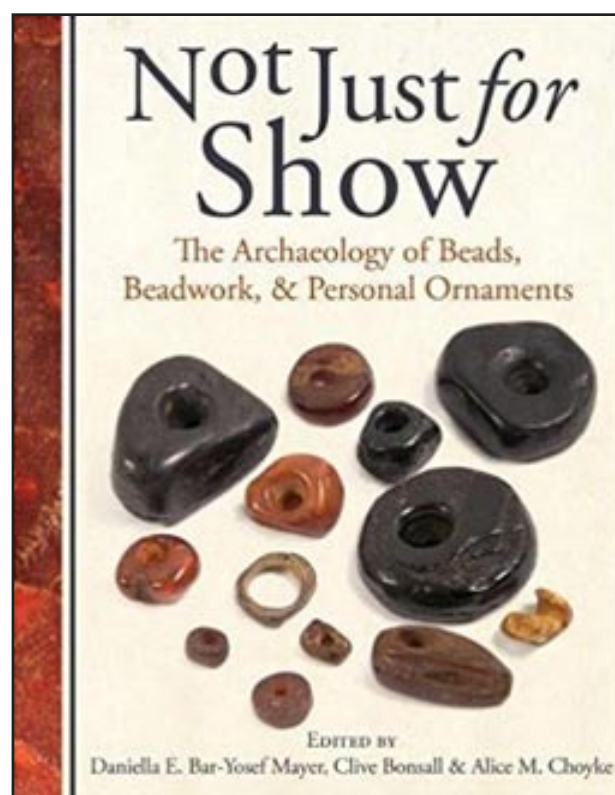
2017 Ancient History of Technology in West Africa: The Indigenous Glass/Glass Bead Industry and the Society in Early Ile-Ife, Southwest Nigeria. *Journal of Black Studies*; <https://www.academia.edu/35776288/>.

Drawing from archaeological and historical evidence from Ile-Ife, in tandem with the result of compositional analysis, this article examines the first recognized indigenous Sub-Saharan African glass technology dated to early 2nd millennium A.D. or earlier.

Bar-Yosef Mayer, Daniella E., Clive Bonsall, and Alice M. Choyke (eds.)

2017 *Not Just for Show: The Archaeology of Beads, Beadwork and Personal Ornaments*. Oxbow Books, Oxford and Philadelphia.

Contains 11 articles grouped into four sections: 1) socio-cultural reflections, 2) audio and visual social cues, 3) methodological approaches, and 4) experimentation and technology.



Bursalı, A., H. Özbal, R. Özbal, G. Şimşek, B. Yağcı, C. Yılmaz Akkaya, and E. Baysal

2017 Investigating the Source of Blue Color in Neolithic Beads from Barcın Höyük, NW Turkey. In *The Exploitation of Raw Materials in Prehistory: Sourcing, Processing and Distribution*, edited by Telmo Pereira, Xavier Terradas, and Nuno Bicho, pp. 492-505. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Bead Forum

Reports on the analysis of turquoise-blue beads found at the 7th-millennium Neolithic site of Barcın Höyük in northwestern Anatolia (Turkey), and explores the way in which the social desire for ownership of the color blue in the seemingly egalitarian and homogenous Neolithic period may have functioned.

Connaway, John M.

2018 Shell Beads from Mississippian Sites in the Northern Yazoo Basin, Mississippi. *Southeastern Archaeology*; DOI: 10.1080/0734578X.2018.1440464.

Uses data from 33 archaeologically investigated major sites as examples to illustrate an unexpected paucity of shell beads and other shell ornaments at some of the most heavily populated Mississippian sites in the Lower Mississippi Valley.

Delvaux, Matthew C.

2017 Viking-Age Bead Classification System (Callmer 1977). Harvard Dataverse; doi:10.7910/DVN/RODUZG, accessed 27 November 2017.

Since Callmer's classification system has long been out of print and is not widely available, this online spreadsheet presents the system with updated terminology, reorganized for digital use, and incorporating chronological information.

Green, Richard

2018 Gifts of Sun and Stars: Early Styles of Mohawk Souvenir Beadwork (Part One). *Whispering Wind* 46(1):6-14. Also in the *Bead Society of Great Britain Journal* 126:8-9.

Coverage of Mohawk beadwork from the mid-19th century from the area of Montreal, Quebec, discussing historical usage, stylistic variations, related styles, bags, moccasins, pin cushions, and pectorals, with many color photographs.

Harrell, James A.

2017 A Preliminary Overview of Ancient Egyptian Stone Beads. *Palarch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology* 14(2).

This survey builds on the work of Nai Xia (2014) and offers summaries on two aspects of stone beads: 1) the relative amounts of rock and mineral varieties used during each period of Egyptian history; and 2) the changes in bead form, perforation, and polish through time for broad categories of stone.

Langley, Michelle C.

2018 Explaining the Lack of Emu Eggshell Material Culture in Australia: Experimental Working and Archaeological Implications. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 17:155-162.

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.

Liu, Robert, Sage Holland, and Tom Holland

2017 Ancient Nubian Face Beads: The Problem with Suppositions. *Ornament* 40(2)34-39.

A deep dive into figural mosaic images on beads (primarily Medusa/Gorgon), how they were made and traded, who might have made them, how they went from being a larger fat cane into tiny mosaic pieces to be melded into glass beads, and a clarion call for more chemical testing of said beads in various collections, preferably with XRF spectrometry. Includes an extensive bibliography.



Mărgărit, Monica, Valentin Radu, Adina Boronean, and Clive Bonsall

2017 Experimental Studies of Personal Ornaments from the Iron Gates Mesolithic. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*; <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12520-017-0522-5>.

Analysis of ornaments from five sites in Romania revealed they were made from the shells of several gastropod taxa and at least one species of dentaliid scaphopod, as well as the pharyngeal teeth of cyprinids, the teeth of several species of terrestrial mammal, fish vertebrae, and pieces of antler and bone. Information is provided concerning the durability of the ornaments and how they were utilized.

Mucci, Robert

2017 A Shaman's Breastplate: Beadwork from Siberia. *Bead Society of Great Britain Journal* 126: 36-37.

An examination of three beaded pieces from eastern Siberia of glass seed beads stitched to reindeer hide, likely dating to the 19th century.

Needham, Andy, Aimée Little, Chantal Conneller, Diederik Pomstra, Shannon Croft, and Nicky Milner

2018 Beads and Pendant. In *Star Carr. Volume 2: Studies in Technology, Subsistence and Environment*, edited by Nicky Milner, Chantal Conneller, and Barry Taylor, pp. 463-477. White Rose University Press, York.

Chapter 33 discusses the small group of ornaments recovered from the important Mesolithic site of Star Carr in North Yorkshire, England, United Kingdom. They include shale disc beads, a possible bird-bone bead, a perforated amber fragment, perforated red deer teeth, and a unique, engraved shale pendant which represents the earliest form of Mesolithic art in Britain. Also recovered were a number of flint awls which were likely used to perforate the shale ornaments. Insight is provided regarding the manufacture of the ornaments.

Opper, Marie-José and Craig Eady

2017 Is the Hand Quicker than the Eye?: A Czech Amulet Bead. *Bead Society of Great Britain Journal* 126: 8-9.

Triangular Czech beads with Hamsa hand motifs and crescent moons in the Musée de l'Homme in Paris, found in the Aures region of Algeria.

Pitarch Martí, Africa, Yi Wei, Xing Gao, Fuyou Chen, and Francesco dErrico

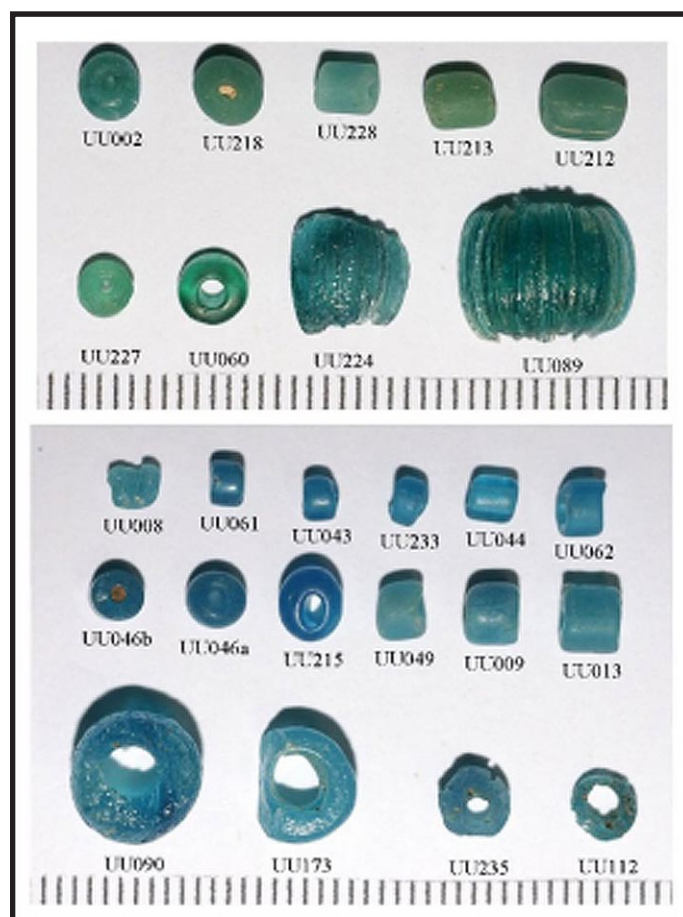
2017 The Earliest Evidence of Coloured Ornaments in China: The Ochred Ostrich Eggshell Beads from Shuidonggou Locality 2. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 48:102-113.

Analysis of six beads dated to ca. 31 kyr cal BP which exhibit well-preserved red pigment residues indicates that they are intentionally colored body ornaments. This is the earliest evidence from East Asia of a communication technology that has allowed humans to further complexify the messages conveyed by personal ornaments, and associate, to some extent, the performance characteristics of beads and pigments.

Wood, Marilee, Serena Panighello, Emilio F. Orsega, Peter Robertshaw, Johannes T. van Elteren, Alison Crowther, Mark Horton, and Nicole Boivin

2017 Zanzibar and Indian Ocean Trade in the First Millennium CE: The Glass Bead Evidence. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 9(5):879-901; doi: 10.1007/s12520-015-0310-z.

A sample of the beads recovered from the 7th-10th-century sites of Unguja Ukuu and Fukuchani on Zanzibar Island was analyzed by LA-ICP-MS to determine the origins of the glass, and potential trade relationships are considered.



From Zanzibar and Indian Ocean Trade in the First Millennium CE: The Glass Bead Evidence

To find other publications related to bead research, visit the SBR's extensive *Researching the World's Beads Bibliography* (<https://beadresearch.org/resources/researching-the-worlds-beads-bibliography/>).

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The Society of Bead Researchers is a non-profit corporation, founded in 1981 to foster research on beads and beadwork of all materials and periods and to expedite the dissemination of the resultant knowledge. Membership is open to all persons involved in the study of beads, as well as those interested in keeping abreast of current trends in bead research. The Society publishes a biannual newsletter, *The Bead Forum*, and an annual peer-reviewed journal, *BEADS: Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers*. The Society's website address is www.beadresearch.org.

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ISSN: 0829-8726 (Print) and ISSN: 2469-8555 (Online and Electronic)

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