

Welch, E.S.,

1964 "Archaeology of the R.M. Site" [Plymouth, MA.] ...

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N.A. ARC.

W 442a Case 8

Solier III

GLASS BEADS: DETAILED BREAKDOWN AND DESCRIPTION

No. of Specimens	Colors of specimens	Diameter in 1/1000 of an inch	Length along Axis of Hole in 1/1000 of an inch	Approx. Wgt. per Bead in Grains	Misc. Data	No. square recovered from
3	Very dark blue; translucent.	352 372 415	275 323 220	9 11 9	Badly corroded & broken.	1016 1013 918
2	Yellow, blue & white stripes longitudinally, reddish ends; opaque.	339 369	323 369	11 16		919 None given
1	Medium blue with three longitudinal white stripes.	348	326	11		1119
6	Blue, greenish-white, opaque.	258 Broken " " " "	281 289 282 273 288 304	4 1 1 1 1 1	Five specimens are half beads, or less, split longitudinally.	919 919 1019-10110 1012-1013 1111 None given.
1	Light blue; translucent	286	225	3		None given.
1	White; opaque	267	262	4	Turned slightly opalescent.	None given.
2	White; opaque	237 174	222 192	1- 1-		1115 10-0
1	Light blue; opaque	183	187	1-	Corroded.	1012-1013
2	Medium blue; translucent, originally.	185 165	131 132	1- 1-	One is now opaque because of corrosion.	1113 1113
1	Color of pipe clay.	233	364 apparently a fragment only.	3	Tubular, ringed, a clay bead, one end broken off	None given.

20 Total No. of Specimens.

Objects of Personal Adornment:

Since classic times, items of dress and fittings of personal adornment have almost always been most plentiful in tombs and graves. Generally, besides the heavier bones of the skeleton such as the jaw, the femur, and parts of the pelvis, among the most durable objects in any grave are the inorganic objects related to the ceremonies, or those classified as grave goods, having been buried with the remains for one or another magico-religious reason. Different viewpoints are taken with respect to the validity of inferring the material culture of a people by analyzing their burials. Some archaeologists argue that burial costumes and grave goods would be either more or less ornate than those actually used by the culture, it all depending upon how the particular culture regarded its dead. We have no problems of this kind at the R. M. Site; there have been found no colonial burials which could be profitably excavated without a fervor being raised by one heritage conscious group or another. All of the items found at the R. M. Site and illustrated in Plates XXXI and XXXVI, and listed in Tables IX and X are doubtlessly objects of everyday wear by the living.

The glass beads found at the R. M. Site numbered twenty, according to Fernstrom's analysis and breakdown of the data (Table X). Of these, only eleven were found in the collection when the author assumed responsibility for it in the fall of 1963. The distribution of these eleven, when compared with the total number of beads recovered, showed that four different types were missing from the collection. By way of description of those beads which were found by the author, we shall rely on the accurate picture

provided by Fernstrom (Table X), supplementing it with photographic representation whenever possible.

Possibly used as trade goods with the Indians were the four tubular copper beads listed in Table IX, but unfortunately not photographed. Cotter (1958:7) illustrates a set of glass beads which are similar to those from the R. M. Site, and which he attributes to Indian trade. Of equal interest in the same illustration are two pairs of scissors and a bell - the former being similar to those illustrated in Plate XXXIII of this paper, and the latter being in one piece and, though severely crushed, resembling closely in size and shape the small bell from the R. M. Site (Plate XXXV). We have no way of knowing whether the beads illustrated in Plate XXXVI were destined in whole or in part for the Indian traders (the same may be said for the scissors and the bell). A more extensive survey of Indian graves and their bead remains will be necessary before any conclusive results are to be had. It is not unreasonable to speculate however, that a merchant vessel carrying among its cargo beads from Venice (Cotter 1958:102), and, knowing that the Indians in Jamestown were a good market, would attempt to dispense with some of its goods among the Indians of the New England Colonies.

Kidd (1949:140) reports a total of 65 glass beads from his Ste. Marie I Site. Of these, twenty a large, mostly dark blue, badly weathered, spherical glass beads - very similar, it would seem, to beads D and E in Plate XXXIV. He also reported 45 beads of similar size and shape to the blue ones, but of red glass. None like this were recovered from the R. M. Site.

Maxwell and Binford (1961:89), working at a site more recent than R. M., report a predominance of long, ovoid, white glass beads

Table X

Fernstrom's analysis of beads

GLASS BEADS: DETAILED BREAKDOWN AND DESCRIPTION

No. of Specimens	Colors of specimens	Diameter in 1/1000 of an inch	Length along Axis of Hole in 1/1000 of an inch	Approx. Wgt. per Bead in Grains	Misc. Data	No. square recovered from	Bead Fragments
3	Very dark blue; translucent.	352 372 415	275 323 220	9 11 9	- - Badly corroded & broken.	10L6 10L3 9L8	D, E II a 55 ?
2	Yellow, blue & white stripes longitudinally, reddish ends; opaque.	339 369	323 369	11 16		9L9 None given	C IV n 2
1	Medium blue with three longitudinal white stripes.	348	326	11		11L9	none II b 50
6	Blue, greenish-white, opaque.	258 Broken " " " "	281 289 282 273 288 304	4 1 1 1 1 1	Five specimens are half beads, or less, split longitudinally.	9L9 9L9 10L9-10L10 10L2-10L3 11R1 None given.	F, G, H, I II a 40
1	Light blue; translucent	286	225	3		None given.	none II a 3
1	White; opaque	267	262	4	Turned slightly opalescent.	None given.	none II a 13
2	White; opaque	237 174	222 192	1- 1-		14L5 10-0	A
1	Light blue; opaque	188	187	1-	Corroded.	10L2-10L3	B II a 35/3
2	Medium blue; translucent, originally.	185 165	131 132	1- 1-	One is now opaque because of corrosion.	11L3 11R3	J, K II a 39 43
1	Color of pipe clay.	233	364 apparently a fragment only.	3	Tubular, ringed, a clay bead, one end broken off	None given.	none ?

Total No. of Specimens.