

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
AND NORTH-ERN DEVELOPMENT

DEC 8 1973

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES INDIENNES
ET DU NORD CANADIEN
BIBLIOTHÈQUE

179

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF

FORT TOULOUSE : 1972-73

by

Donald P. Heldman

A Research Project Jointly Sponsored by the Alabama Historical
Commission and the National Park Service, United States
Department of the Interior (Grant Number 1-01-72-00021)

September, 1973

French Trade Goods

Fort Toulouse (French): 1717-63

132.

brass, the fasteners which held the kettle to the iron mount, survive.

In the collections of the University of Alabama in Birmingham is a complete French brass trade kettle. Identified only as having been found near Montgomery, Alabama, the kettle probably was traded to the Alabamas at Fort Toulouse, then placed as grave furniture with an Indian burial. Brass trade kettles were in such demand by the Alabamas that apparently the Indians tried to duplicate them in clay.

Glass Trade Beads; total sample of 18 complete specimens (Fig. 55C, D, and E)

To judge by private collections of Indian artifacts in the Montgomery, Alabama, area, great numbers of glass beads were traded to the Alabamas from Fort Toulouse. Recent research has resulted in the classification of certain bead types into one of three chronological periods (Quimby 1966 : 81-90; Kidd and Kidd 1970 : 45-89). French trade items throughout eastern North America, glass beads included are generally standardized (Quimby 1966 : 85; Heldman 1973).

The three chronological periods characterized by distinct bead types more or less parallel the history of French colonization in America. The first, termed "Early Historic" by Quimby and dating to c. A. D. 1610 to 1670, is that of initial French settlement. The second spans the century from 1670 to 1760, and is that best represented by beads from Fort Toulouse; Quimby terms this the "Middle Historic" period. The third, distinguished by altogether different types, dates from the end of the French and Indian War (c. 1760 in most regions of North America) to c. 1820. The latter is known as the "Late Historic" period.

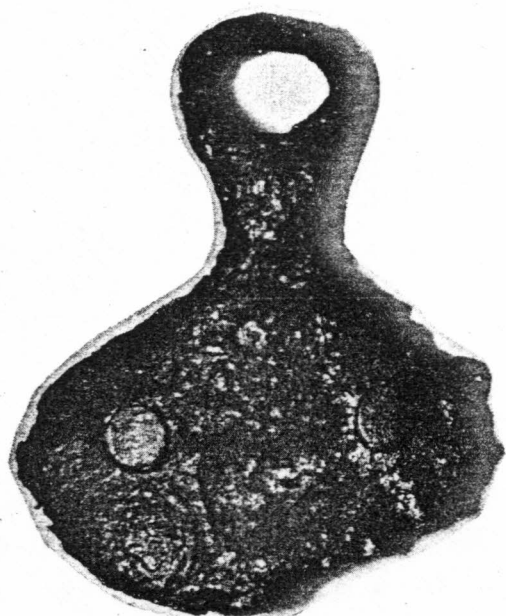
Blue and white (wire-wound) monochrome elongate spheroid forms are most common in the small sample from Fort Toulouse; they were found on all areas of the site (0/350, levels 3 and 4; 0/360, level 1; 10L/370, level 1; 10R/360, level 1; 240R/470, level 3; 250R/490, footing ditch; 280R/460, level 1; 300R/490, level 2). Monochrome elongate spheroid beads date to the Middle Historic period of c. 1670 to 1760 (Quimby 1966 : 86 and Fig. 17).

White "seed" beads often are so small that they can be seen only with difficulty. Alabamas used small seed beads to decorate clothing, bags, and in the making of beadwork of various kinds (1966 : 88-90). Seed beads probably were traded throughout the period of French presence at the mouth of the Alabama River. Six white seed beads found during the 1972-73 excavations of Fort Toulouse came from the southeast bastion area (0/350, level 3; 10R/300, level 1; 10L/370, level 3; 10R/340, level 3).

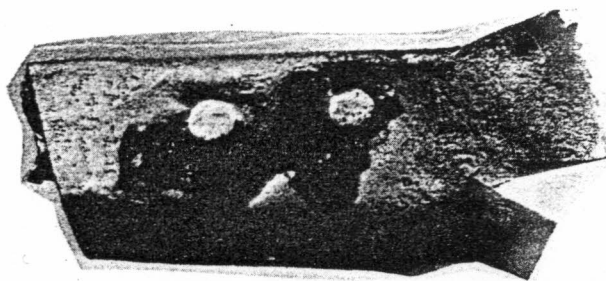
Black tubular beads, imitation of the shell beads known as wampum, apparently were introduced to Fort Toulouse in c. 1760 because, despite some overlap, they characterize the Late Historic period (1966 : 88). Black tubular beads measure $3/16$ and $3/8$ of an inch throughout North America; the two specimens recovered from Fort Toulouse are precisely those measurements (both are from 10L/340, level 2).

Brass and Iron Spangles; total sample of 6 (Fig. 55F and G)

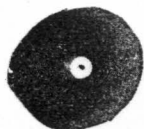
Used by the historic Alabamas as decorative elements on clothing, spangles are little more than rolled cones of sheet brass or iron, the former usually made from dis-



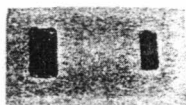
A



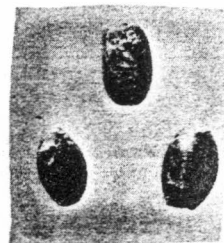
B



C



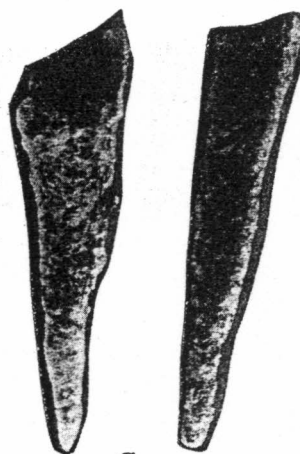
D



E



F



G

Fig. 55 French Trade Goods : A. Iron Kettle Mount; B. Kettle Fragment; C. White Glass "Seed" Bead; D. Tubular Black Beads; E. Blue Monochrome and White Wire-Wound Elongated Spheriod Glass Beads; F. Brass Spangle; G. Iron Spangles