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The Archaeology of the Uriah Ray Rockshelter No. 1 (Mnt-483)

By DONALD M. HOWARD

The Ray No. 1 rockshelter is located in southern Monterey County, near the northern extremity of Sapaque Valley along the Turtle Creek drainage. It is in the NW¼ Section 21, T.24S, R.8E, Bryson Quadrangle. The site is within the Forest Hills Properties, and access is through the Wollesen and Wood Ranches. Ray No. 1 is located near the 1280-foot contour interval along with Ray No. 2, which is positioned on the south flank of the spur opposite Ray No. 1. The site is within the boundaries of the Antoniño dialect of the Salinan tribe.

GEOLOGY

Ray Nos. 1 and 2 are erosional recesses in the Vaqueros-Temblor sandstone equivalents. The formation is composed of arkose consolidated sand with dacite, quartzite and porphyritic pebble inclusions. The geologic age of the formation is Lower to Middle Miocene, and the formation was deposited along the strand line of an embayment under marine conditions. The inclusions within the arkose matrix are water worn, and it is possible that these pebbles were brought to the area by an ancient river source. The arkose sands seem to have been derived from the Santa Lucia granodiorites, and the porphyries from the metamorphic Sur Series located west of the Nacimiento River. No marine fossils were collected in the vicinity of the Ray rockshelters, but it is well known that the Vaqueros Formation at the type locality in Reliz Canyon on Divide Ridge is rich in invertebrate marine fossils.

The pockets forming the rockshelters were probably formed by erosion of a soft concretionary carbonate rock within the harder matrix. Water and wind were the primary mechanical wearing factors; however, organic acids from the rains acted as the chemical agents to affect disintegration of the cement around the sand grains.

The size of the rockshelter is 31 feet wide and 21 feet deep; thus it is an exogene rockshelter rather than a cave.

HISTORY

The Ray rockshelters were named by the author for Uriah Ray, who was a pioneer settler in the Sapaque Valley area. Ray was born in Illinois and settled in Reedley,

From the total collection, it is clear that the outer coast was the most important collecting niche. *Mytilus californianus* is the most abundant mollusk in the site and was found in all units excavated. It was an important food item to supplement terrestrial game and the seed harvest. Several of the faunal elements probably do not represent food items but were transported to the site via clumps of mussels wedged off the rocks by the Indian. *Littorina, Crepidula, Balanus,* some of the tiny *Acmaeas* and small Amphineurans were not used for ornamentation, or at least not found as ornaments in the Ray site. Therefore, they must have been non-functional intrusions. Certainly larger *Mytilus, Haliotis, Lottia, Tegula, Cryptochiton* and the larger limpet genera were consumed. A few terrestrial gastropods were found in the midden, but seem to be natural occurrences.

The abundance of molluscan forms in the site brings up the point of collection of these animals. Geographically, Ray No. 1 is east of the upper drainage of San Carpojo Creek and Lizard Ridge, which would seem to be the logical path to follow in the descent from the crest of the Santa Lucia Mountains.

SHELL ARTIFACTS

Certainly the most common shell artifacts were the *Olivella biplicata* beads, including spire-lopped, saddle and barrel specimens. The spire-lopped bead is the simplest to make, and is widespread in California historic and prehistoric sites. The bead typologies referred to in this report follow those established by Edward Gifford, and his number for the spire-lopped bead is F5b. Other types are X2b, X3bI, X3bII (saddle beads) and GIa (barrel beads). All of these types are widespread in California, being found from Mendocino County through the delta region of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River confluence to the Santa Barbara area, including both mainland and Channel Island sites.

Also found in the site were shell disc beads. It is not known at present which mollusk was used for drilling these, although it is my opinion that *Saxidomus nutallii* was used for some of the beads.

The last category found in the site includes blanks and pendants. In unit C-5 (6-12") a *Haliotis* disc incised on the periphery was found, and in unit A-3 (6-12") a triangular blank was located. It may be assumed that these were for pendants but never completed and no holes drilled, or there is the possibility that these were used for trade blanks or as a form of currency. In unit D-2 (12-18") a beautiful tear drop pendant was found, and no exact correlatable pendant could be found in Gifford's *California Shell Artifacts*. This form is very close to his U15a, altough one of the ends is truncated. U15a is an artifact that has been found in the Sacramento River delta area Johnson mound, and it would appear from Gifford's thorough treatment that the Ray pendant specimen is unique to California. Excavations at the Church rockshelter yielded two pendants of different form which were more triangular, with one specimen having peripheral incisions; in fact, Gifford's class Z2bII comes very close.

SHELL ARTIFACT SUMMARY

Five *Haliotis cracherodii* pendants were found with Burial No. 9 at Mnt-12 and

Mnt-483, Ray Rockshelter No. 1
Quantitative Analysis of Invertebrates

(Weights in grams, accurate to .1 gram)

	0-6"	6-12"	12-18"	Total
Mytilus californianus	4048.9	2218.8	103.3	6371.0
Septifer bifurcatus	2.8	6.4	....	9.2
Hinnites giganteus	....	6.0	....	6.0
Cryptochiton stelleri	61.7	44.4	....	106.1
Ischinochiton sp.	20.4	10.2	.1	30.7
Acmaea sp.	.7	2.1	....	2.8
A. asmi	.2	....	....	.2
A. digitalis	.2	....	....	.2
A. mitra	.8	.1	....	.9
A. pelta	1.8	6.8	....	8.6
A. scabra	.2	....	....	.2
Crepidula adunca	4.2	1.4	....	5.6
Haliotis cracherodii	90.0	17.1	....	107.1
H. rufescens	1.1	....	3.0	4.1
Littorina scutulata	4.7	3.5	.1	8.3
Lottia gigantea	1.1	....	....	1.1
Olivella biplicata	4.5	6.9	....	11.4
Tegula brunnea	.6	7.6	....	8.2
T. funebralis	131.5	152.0	7.8	291.3
Trivia californiana	1.0	.3	....	1.3
Mitella polymerus	5.4	3.2	.1	8.7
Balanus sp.	6.8	4.1	....	10.9
Strongylocentrotus purpuratus	.2	.1	....	.3
TOTAL PER LEVEL	4388.8	2491.0	114.4	6994.2

NOTE: Those forms listed in the check list and not on this chart showed a total weight less than .1 gram.

show overall morphology similar to the Z2bII Church Creek specimen, size being the difference. An incised *Haliotis* disc found with a burial at Mnt-12 is very similar to the Ray specimen, and may show that the manufacture of these discs was a tradition among the Costanoan, Esselen and Salinan tribal groups. An unusual artifact found only at the Ray site was an *Acmaea mitra* limpet with the apex of the spire ground off to produce a hole. Although limpets such as *Fissurella* and *Diodora* have been used at the Kodani site (Mnt-436), it was the natural excurrent hole that was isolated to make beads. A *Haliotis* disc bead found in Unit B-2 (0-6") was the only form found, and is similar to beads found at Mnt-101 and Mission San Antonio (Mnt-100).

The quantity of well-formed *Olivella* saddle beads at Ray No. 1 is small compared to the tremendous abundance at the mission. The X3bI type, although rare at the Ray site, was common at Mnt-350, a large village site in the upper Carmel Valley which may be within Esselen territory.

Of particular interest in the bead category is the discovery of one *Hinnites giganteus* violet hinge bead in unit D-3 (6-12"). Among the Chumash such beads must have been fairly common, judging from the abundance of these types in graves. To the inland Yokuts and Miwok these beads were extremely valuable as a form of currency. This is the only known occurrence of this bead in Monterey County.

According to Gifford's bead typology, the *Hinnites giganteus* or *multirugosus* bead from Ray No. 1 belongs to his VIaVI with one surface showing violet or purple tint from the hinge, found at the Johnson mound between Sacramento and Stockton.

Of particular malacological interest was finding of eight *Trivia* (Pusula) *californiana* gastropods, one of which (from unit B-4, 6-12") had the anterior side split to produce a hole for a bead. The occurrence of this form in the intertidal is unique, for it is found only under rocks at low tide, tion of this form to the invertebrate variety shows a special selection by the Indian for ornamental purposes. Slit *Trivia* beads were found only at the San Antonio Mission rancheria, and may represent an entirely historic artifact function.

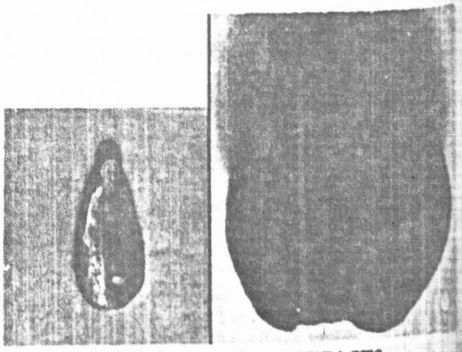
WOOD ELEMENTS

Wood may have been the most common artifact material used by the Indian, but it would have disintegrated in the damp midden. Since only the rear units of the rockshelter remained dry, it was not expected the midden would yield many wooden artifacts. However, two definite worked wood pieces were found. A possible arrow shaft fragment in unit B-3 (0-6") was polished and rounded. In unit A-4 (0-6") there was a piece of wood with a rectangular hole which had been carved into a concave piece of wood. Undoubtedly many wooden pieces were used in the Indian's daily activities, including fire sticks, digging shafts, darts, animal traps, weirs, bow and arrow and planking for temescals.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTIFACTS

GLASS TRADE BEADS

Of special importance to the historian are the three glass trade beads found in the rockshelter. These were found in units B-3 (6-12"), B-4 (0-6") and C-1 (0-6"). There is a possibility that the Don Gaspar de Portolá expedition of 1769-70 may have traded with the Ray No. 1 people; however, it is also possible that Mission San Antonio was the source of the beads. It is well known that the Portolá route was taken up the San Carpojo Creek drainage on the coast, surmounted the crest north of Burnett Creek, and probably descended



TWO MNT-483 ARTIFACTS
Haliotis Pendant D-2, 12-18" Sandstone Pipe Bowl D-3, 0-6"

down Lizard Ridge to the Nacimiento River. From this point the Ray rockshelters are about two miles from the river.

These beads were examined by Dr. Roderick Sprague of the University of Idaho. His suggestion that the three Italian Cornaline d'Aleppo beads predate 1800, as well as the paucity of this style at the San Antonio Mission rancheria, tend to support the hypothesis that these are Portolá beads.

Dr. Sprague's analysis of the beads is as follows:

Diaphaniety—opaque
Color—red
Munsell code—7.5 R-4/8
(Over transparent light green
7.5 GY-8/2)
Manufacture—compound tubular
Name—seed bead (Cornaline d'Allepo)

STEATITE BEADS

In units B-4, C-4, C-5 (0-6") and D-3 (6-12"), five soapstone disc beads were recovered. It has been reported by Mr. Wood of Bryson that soapstone occurs in natural outcrop in the Santa Lucia Mountains near Chalk Peak, although the author has not seen the deposit; however, soapstone has been found on the surface of sites on Partington Ridge, Pacific Valley, San Antonio Mission and the site of the Royal Presidio of Monterey.

Local steatites do not have the carving quality that the Santa Catalina material possesses, and local soapstones are generally gray compared to the greenish hue of the Chumash material. Upon examination with a microscope, the beads appear biconically drilled, polished and more of a dark green cast. If no green steatite is found in Monterey County, then the possibility arises that the Antoniño Salinan were trading with the Obispoeño Chumash.

A similar steatite bead was found in the Church Creek rockshelter excavations, but was about twice as large as the Ray specimens. Lithological examination of so-called local steatites shows a prismatic-fibrous texture, but the beads examined from Ray No. 1 seemed to have a fine groundmass.

DENTALIUM BEAD

A section of a *Dentalium* shell with beveled edges was retrieved in unit B-5 (0-6"). This is the only Scaphopod bead ever found in the archaeological context within Monterey County. Its occurrence is unique and it may have been introduced by the Pomo or Yurok peoples who valued Dentalia for currency and dance regalia. The specimen may be *Dentalium pretiosum*, which has been found in bead form among the Chumash and within sites at Mescalitan Island and the Santa Barbara area. Since the Dentalia require a sandy near-shore benthos, it is probable that the highly prized shell came from the northern Chumash coast.

SANDSTONE PIPE (?) BOWL

Found in unit D-3 (0-6") this reddish sandstone piece is unique to the Ray site. Near the bottom of the bowl is a small hole punched into the side which may have been a suction vent for a smoking pipe bowl. It is known that during the mission period the Salinans would smoke the native *Nicotiana* tobacco, and it is known that the Rumsen Costanoan would show reverence to the occult powers by blowing a puff of smoke toward the sun, moon or sky. The idea that smoke may appease the supernatural indicates that fear engendered their devotions. No definite stone pipes are known in the archaeological context in Monterey County; however, hollow pelican bones with incised and beveled edges found at Mnt-12 may have served this purpose.

Since the steatite pipe is a common artifact in Canaliño sites, it may be assumed that they were a southern introduction into Monterey County.

TOOTH BEAD

In unit B-4 (0-6"), four beads were found which have a shiny porcelaineous texture and may be tooth enamel. Two more such beads were found in unit C-3 (0-6").

VERTEBRATE REMAINS

Through the courtesy of Dr. Charles Repenning of the US Geological Survey, the skeletal elements of the Ray No. 1 rockshelter were reviewed. Fourteen types of mammals were identified, including an enigmatic occurence of a prenatal human humerus. Since this bone was found in very shallow midden (B-4, 0-6"), and no in situ burial was found, it seems possible that Indian miscarriages or the bones of deceased