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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY

BULLETIN 166

Inter-Agency Archeological Salvage Program

RIVER BASIN SURVEYS PAPERS

No. 8.—EXCAVATIONS IN THE McNARY RESERVOIR
BASIN NEAR UMATILLA, OREGON, by
DOUGLAS OSBORNE

WITH APPENDIXES

By MARSHALL T. NEWMAN, ARTHUR WOODWARD, W. J. KROLL
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ally; only a few irregular pendants would interfere with the three regularly proportioned groups.

One specimen, 154 a (pl. 30, 4), is 4 mm. thick and weighs 1½ ounces. It has been hammered into two blades or bits and the shape is roughly that of an elongate double-bitted ax. One of the ends is perforated. The object is heavy; it could easily have been hafted and would have made an excellent, light, woodworking celt.

Copper objects were decorated with short filed ticks along the edges (pendants, pl. 29, b, 3 and 4), drilled holes (pl. 29, b, 2), corrugating (pl. 30, 8, 9), bossing (pl. 30, 6, 7) and raised punch marks (pl. 30, 13, 15). The edges of all have been ground smooth. Most intriguing are the square, chisel-cut holes on such heavy objects as plate 29, b, 11 (butt plate of a firearm) and 17 and the rivets on 12. Of interest, too, are the conical copper objects (pl. 29, b, 7) (similar objects of iron were found, pl. 31, 4), the brass spoon (?) handle (pl. 29, b, 20), the thimble tinkler and hollow hemisphere of brass (29, b, 1 and 4, respectively). A few beads with one end folded back and rolled along the body of the bead were found (see Smith, 1910, fig. 74, p. 89). This was presumably an advanced technique.

Glass Beads

Glass beads were rare in the burial associations; only 10 are listed in this category. All in all, 642 beads were found. Of these about 75 percent were blue; the remainder were largely white beads with a few red, brown to black, and greenish beads. One unusual glass bead found (B46/670, pl. 29, a, 8) is made of flawed, translucent blue glass. Such beads were used as keepers for the draw ribbons of old Chinese spectacle cases. It is flat, 1.9 cm. long, 2.3 cm. wide × 5 mm. thick. This peculiar object may aid in outlining trade relationships and in formulating some of the chronologic relationships of the site. Only a few of the beads of this site are the tiny seed beads that became popular later. Unfortunately, even the types found at BN-3 (often called Hudson Bay beads) were made over long temporal and spatial spans. They are not good guide fossils.

Iron Objects

In contrast to much of the preceding, the objects of iron are more varied and, as tools (often of European make) rather than decorative objects, would seem to offer more hope of identification. Therefore, I will employ plate 31 as the basis for a discussion of all iron objects found. This section may then be considered a lengthy caption.

As with all other plates the number tags are 1-inch squares of coordinate paper ruled 10 to the inch. As most of the objects are fragmentary it does not appear necessary to give measurements of

APPENDIX 2

REPORT ON TRADE GOODS

By ARTHUR WOODWARD

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Beads.—In general all of the beads submitted fall within the same period, i. e., the 1790's to the 1830's. Beads of a similar type have been found in the Yokuts Indian cemetery at Elk Hills, Kern County, Calif. The small white and blue beads from McNary fall into the same category as those from burials G-60 A from Elk Hills dating around 1806-21. The small blue, barrel-shaped bead (pl. 29, a, 1) at the end of the strand 45 BN 3/727 should fall a trifle earlier, say around the 1790's to 1800. However, there were lags in certain types of beads, hence this particular style bead may well have carried over into the 19th century. The larger blue glass beads may well fall within the 1820's, 1830's, and even later into the 1850's.

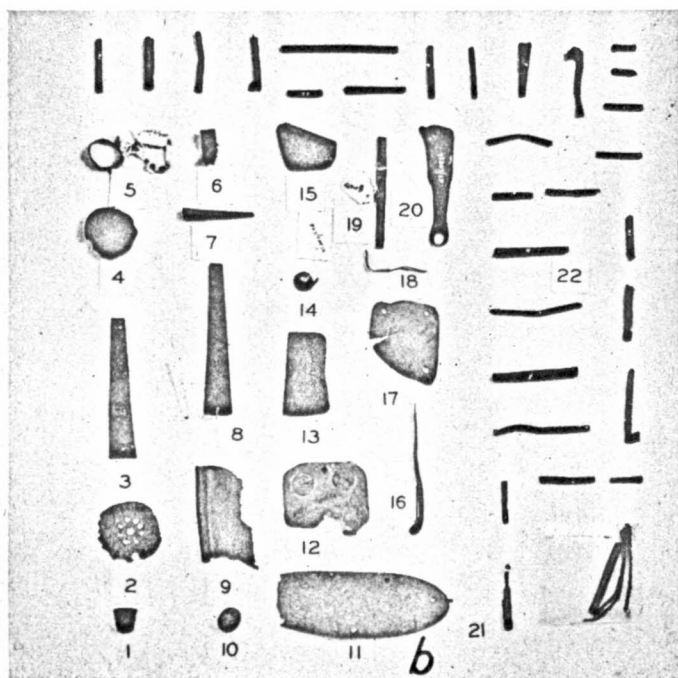
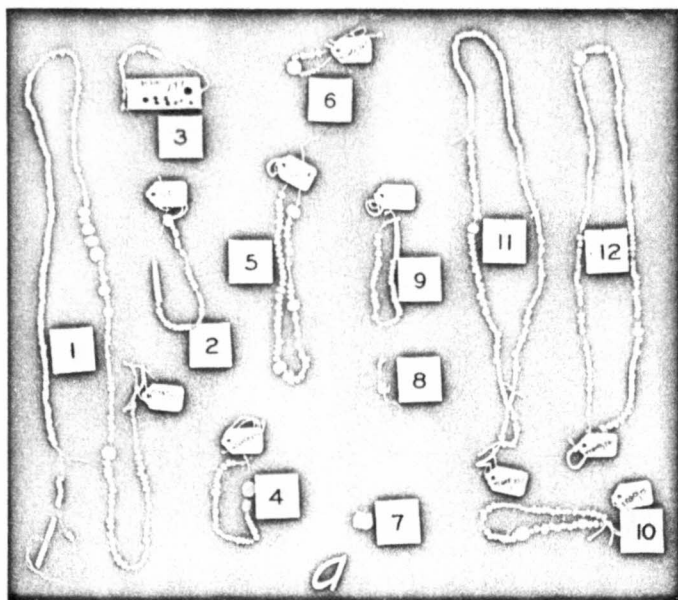
The large flat glass bead (pl. 29, a, 8) is one which I have not encountered and until I can get more corroborative evidence I would hesitate to date it. My feeling is that it falls within the period 1810-30.¹

Flint lock hammer.—This is a portion of a lock used on a hunting rifle, not military. It may be English or American ca. 1780-1810. (Pl. 31, 30.)

Iron blade.—This is listed 473, knife blade. It may well have been used as a knife blade, but it appears to be the broken tip of a sword reworked as a knife. The date is uncertain. (Pl. 31, 27.)

Buttons.—The large flat brass button with a stamped design on the surface (pl. 32, b, 9) is of a type which I would catalog as the omega or O-type button following D. F. Johnson's description, or possibly late A-type. In this instance the button was machine stamped (hand machine) and the face apparently die punched. I would say it was probably late 18th century, about 1790-1800 or perhaps even a trifle later. The other two buttons (pl. 32, b, 6, 11) are of the trombac or T-type and although these came in during the latter half of the 18th century, certain ones have been known to persist as late as 1830. Apparently these buttons are of the metal known as white copper (arsenic added to the brass gave it a pseudo silver appearance). Again the dates for these two buttons would probably be 1790-1810.

¹ See Osborne's observation on this item (p. 98).



Trade goods; 45-BN-3.
(For explanation, see pp. 248-249.)