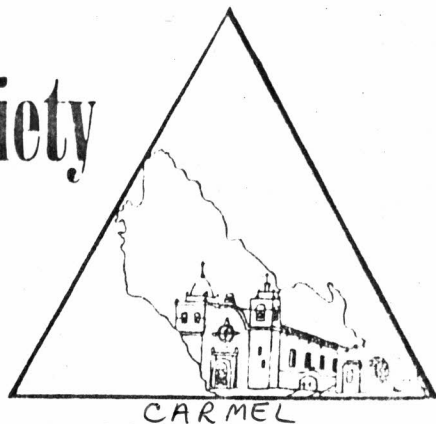


Monterey County Archaeological Society Quarterly

JAN 17 1975



Volume IV, Number I

October, 1974

Eight Historic Artifacts from 4-Mnt-12

By ARNOLD R. PILLING

* Mnt 12, "The Hudson Mound," is situated near the mouth of San Jose Creek, on the south shore of Carmel Bay, about 2½ miles south of Carmel. It is located on a small knoll which rises on what since prehistoric times must have been a treeless coastal plain, on property now owned by Thomas Hudson.

This was the site of a large and important prehistoric Rumsen Costanoan village, and also of some historic occupation, discussed in the following article. The prehistoric occupation of Mnt-12 is the subject of "The Archaeology of the Hudson Mound," by Donald M. Howard and Sherburne F. Cook (1971).

HISTORICAL DATA

About 1948, Mnt-12 was first formally noted as a site of prehistoric habitation in the records of the University of California Archaeological Survey (now the Archaeological Facility of the Robert H. Lowie Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley). By that date, Harry Downie, diocese archaeologist for the Monterey-Fresno

Diocese of the Catholic Church, had already suggested that the locality was the Costanoan Indian village of Ichxenta-ruc. Indian occupation of Ichxenta-ruc had terminated at some unrecorded time, but probably during or after 1782, when the locality was last mentioned in the records of nearby Carmel Mission (Sorri, 1968).

The surface of Mnt 12 revealed no artifacts of the type commonly associated with early historic Indian occupation, such as glass trade beads or sherds of early glazed Majolica earthenware. However, roof tiles of Hispanic tradition were located on the surface of the site.

During 1967 and 1968, Donald M. Howard of Pacific Grove excavated portions of Mnt 12. Before excavating the part of the site which yielded roof tiles, he attempted to establish the nature of the building which once was roofed by these tiles.

Howard has so far been unable to locate any printed reference to the building. His only data on it have come from oral tradition. He noted that Charles Lackenthal of Carmel

Valley recalled some early reference to a whaling cantina at the site.

The other shred of oral tradition came from the late Anne Fisher, who told of a trip she took with the late Isabella Meadows in the 1930's, when Miss Meadows was in her eighties. Miss Meadows, on passing within sight of the mouth of San Jose Creek, was reminded that as a child she was once frightened by the growling of grizzly bears about dawn, when the bears could be heard from Carmel Mission as they fought for whale leavings on the beach at the mouth of San Jose Creek. Miss Meadows did not mention a cantina, but did mention this beach as a whale butchering locality. This account from Miss Meadows suggests a date in the 1850's for the whale butchering on San Jose Creek Beach.

Howard's early 1968 excavation yielded evidence of an adobe building, 40 by 40 feet, at Mnt-12. In addition to the artifacts reported in the discussion below, Howard recovered: 1) a small clasp knife blade; 2) a rectangular-headed, rectangular-cross sectioned shaft nail; 3) an irregular-headed, irregular-shafted nail; 4) miscellaneous bottle fragments; 5) a buckle fragment; and 6) a harness ring.

EIGHT ARTIFACTS

The following report attempts to answer a few questions about the eight small artifacts from Mnt-12 submitted to me for discussion: From what period do these pieces date? With what cultural tradition are they affiliated? What do they tell us about life at Mnt-12 during the period when they were deposited?

Each class of artifacts is described in turn. As precise a date as possible is assigned each piece. Its function and cultural affinities are considered. After this discussion of individual artifacts, the conclusions reached are used to produce a brief social history of the relevant era at Mnt-12.

The comparative material cited consists of the Mnt-12 items, submitted by Howard and numbered 1 through 8; collections from

Huron (Hu-), Macomb (MB), and Wayne (WH-) Counties, Michigan, numbered in 1W- series; and specimens from Mnt-371 and Mnt-373, made available by Robert K. Evans of UCLA and numbered in 475- and 477-series. The availability of both Evans' collection and his preliminary report (1967) on Mnt-371 through -373 have proved especially important for comparison, and his cooperation is appreciatively acknowledged.

Ceramics

Three classes of fired clay objects are present in the material submitted from Mnt-12, represented by fragments of the following: three unglazed, white-paste pipes; one hard, grey-paste, salt-glazed jug; and one small, white-paste, blue-transfer-printed pitcher.

WHITE CLAY PIPES

Artifact 1: A fragmentary pipe bowl, with a spike (or horn) projecting from its bottom, and the stem adjacent to the bowl present. Length of stem present to rear of bowl: .73 cm. Molded pattern raised on each side of basal spike of bowl: left side, Roman numeral I (note that this numeral reads the same when inverted); right side: Roman numeral IV (bowl of pipe must be held downward for this numeral to be read in normal position). Bowl is heavily coated on interior with charcoal.

Artifact 2: Fragment of pipestem, immediately adjacent to bowl. Length of fragment: 2.87 cm. Letters are impressed on both sides of stem. One side reads: "GOW;" legend on other side was revealed clearly in a pencil rubbing by my colleague, Gordon L. Grosscup: "78 WW..." The end of this stem segment away from the bowl has been rounded by shaving, probably with a knife blade; the proximal end of the smoke-hole has been enlarged, apparently by using the tip of a knife blade as a drill.

Artifact 3: Fragment of pipestem, immediately adjacent to bowl. Length of fragment is 3.14 cm.

Dating of these pipe fragments rests heavily on a limited comparative sample available

Glass

Two artifacts of glass were submitted for analysis. Apparently other glass fragments were recovered, but not submitted. The form of such fragments could tell us more about the bottles represented by the glass sherds, no matter how few sherds are represented.



ARTIFACT #6: Glass Bead

GLASS BEAD

Artifact 6: Color: translucent, canary yellow, with whitish iridescent or opalescent sickening. Length, 2.53 cm.; diameter, .71 cm. by .80 cm., with elongation of outer measurements on same axis as elongation of bore. Bore: not center, nor circular; .30 by .24 cm. Possible manufacture technique: tube of glass was cut or broken; then ends were melted to produce a smooth-ended finished product.

Dating: No sufficiently similar bead is known to aid in dating this piece.

CLARET BOTTLE SEAL

Artifact #8: Color: medium olive drab. Bottle form: strongly shouldered, with glass seal immediately adjacent to neck. Thickness of glass: .26 cm. Dimensions of seal: 3.22 cm. by 3.66 cm. Thickness of glass and seal combined: .69 cm. Lettering on seal: across middle, "VALLETTE"; arching around upper edge of seal, "CHATEAU"; arching around lower edge, "HAUT-BRION."

Identification: A long and detailed analy-

sis of liquor connoisseur publications provides useful data on Artifact #8. The "CHATEAU HAUT-BRION" name is not obscure to the gourmet. Oscar A. Mendelsohn, in his *Dictionary of Drink and Drinking*, says:

Haut-Brion, Ch.: Celebrated French vineyard of 125 acres generally accepted as amongst the finest wine-growing estates of the whole country ... (1965: 161).

Andre L. Simon (1936: 121) notes that "Chateau Haut-Brion" is one of the "Chateau Bottled" wines, a statement which becomes significant when we consult Mendelsohn's definition of "Chateau Bottling": "The process of bottling French wine on the actual estate where it was made ..." (1965: 85). Walter James (1960: 51) states that chateau bottling is a pattern of bottling on the estate its "exceptionally good vintages." To this William S. Leedom (1963: 11) adds:

In general, however, the great estates sell only their best wines under the chateau label. If the wine of a certain year is really poor, it will in all probability be sold off in bulk to be used in blending by a shipper in Bordeaux...

From this we may assume that Artifact #8 was attached to a Chateau Haut-Brion wine of high quality.

Simon indicates that "in 1855 the wines of Haut-Brion were the only Graves wines to be included in the *Classifications des Chateaux du Medoc*" (1936: 121). The importance of this statement becomes clear when one refers to discussion of the Medoc and the 1855 classification:

Medoc: An important part of the French wine-growing region generally called the Bordeaux country or Bordelais, and consisting of a narrow strip of land along the left bank of the River Gironde, about 50 miles long and 6 miles wide. Here is produced much of the truly fine red wine of the world.

In 1855 the French Chamber of Commerce asked the Bordeaux Syndicate of Winebrokers to draw up a list of the best Medoc wines, in order of merit.

Monterey County Archaeological Society Quarterly

SANTA CRUZ

MAR 1 1975



Volume IV, Number 2

Winter, 1975

Eight Historic Artifacts from 4-Mnt-12

By ARNOLD R. PILLING

Continued from preceding issue

Some idea of the prestige of Chateau Haut-Brion can be gained by its modern price at a wine and liquor store in Michigan (Miner's of Bloomfield Hills, 1968):

Chateau Haut-Brion, 1959, a fine vintage; supply exhausted in May, 1968	\$22.00
Chateau Haut-Brion, 1962, a good vintage; only Chateau Haut-Brion actually available in early June, 1968	11.50
de Luze & Fils claret; the lowest-priced Bordeaux red wine carried	2.25
Ingelnook cabernet sauvignon, cask; highest-priced California red wine carried	4.39
Charles Krug claret; lowest-priced California red wine available at Miner's	1.89
Petri zinfandel; lowest-priced red wine available at a lower-economic-level wine outlet in Detroit (Henry's Drug Store, Forest and Third)99

Some idea of the comparative cost of Haut-Brion in the period of relevance is provided by the following list of highest prices in francs paid for a tonneaux (tut):

	1835	1840	1844
Premiers Crus	1600	2500	4500
Graves (other than Haut-Brion)	450	400	700

(Simon, 1957: 40; after Franck, 1853)

Unfortunately, it is not clear whether the years listed above are years of production or years of sale. The high price of the 1844 lot coincides with a "very fine vintage" year, suggesting that the years listed are production, not sale, years. It should also be mentioned that Chateau Haut-Brion is today in the "Premiers Crus" category. It is well-known that a hundred years ago the Graves wines other than Haut-Brion were much less prestigious than they are today (Simon, 1957: 39).

Let it suffice to say that Chateau Haut-Brion seems to reflect a different social level than that usually associated with clay pipe smoking.

However, one cannot automatically assume that the glass seal of Chateau Haut-Brion at Mnt-12 represents the consumption of that wine. Bottles of wine can be stolen.

of musket balls, and 125 pounds of "patent shot" (Russell, 1957: 247)

The "bar lead" and "pig lead" would have been used for "Columbia" local-made balls; the musket balls and buckshot were probably manufactured in the United States, possibly at Harper's Ferry Arsenal (Russell, 1957: 177); while the "patent shot" was probably made by the shot tower method in the United States.

The first U.S. Army compression-made lead ball machine was installed at Frankford Arsenal, in Bridgeburgh, Pa., in 1846. Similar machines were also added to the St. Louis and Watervliet Arsenals (Lewis, 1956: 168), apparently rapidly, under pressure of the hostilities of the Mexican War. During the Civil War, musket balls, probably compression-made, were shipped to the troops in large quantities, possibly because the Union forces were using outmoded equipment (Lewis, 1956: 169).

In summary, it seems clear that Artifact #7 must have been made in 1846 or later.

☆

DATING

In conclusion, let us note that our best data for dating the historic use of Mnt-12 comes from Artifact #7, for it actually came from the foundation. Its 1846 or later date firmly establishes the first possible date for the historic occupation of the site. The clay pipe data suggest a date in the 1840's; Pipe #1 most closely approximates the measurements of a pipe from the 'terminal 1840's. Only

Artifact #6 among the datable pieces might come from an earlier era, and even this specimen could be consistent with a late 1840's date.

Needless to say, small samples, such as this from Mnt-12, do not allow precise dating of a site. The conclusions on dating reached above are, perforce, tentative.

SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION

Mnt-12 was probably a site of drinking and carousing during a relatively short part of the era between 1846 and 1860. Its users, who probably were no more than casual visitors, included lower economic or working class men, plus their employers or other persons of higher social class. Other activities possibly occurring at or near Mnt-12 were food consumption (as suggested by the presence of the small pitcher) and line fishing (although the occurrence of the fish weight in the foundation may associate line fishing with the builders of the adobe, and not with its users).

The users reflected a British and/or American cultural tradition, not an Indian or Hispanic background. Their garbage documents importation of goods from the major manufacturing centers of the world, both in the United States and in Europe, with only the simplest local modification of these goods to fit local needs.

The location and artifact inventory of the historic debris at Mnt-12 is consistent with information from oral tradition: that for some brief period between 1846 and 1860 it was the site of a sailors' or whalers' drinking place.

Charts and photos accompanying Dr. Pilling's article
are by Mildred Waltrip

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allen, H. Warner: 1961. *A History of Wine*. London: Faber and Faber; 304 pp.
- Binford, Lewis R.: 1962. "A new method of calculating dates from kaolin pipe stem samples," *Southeastern Archaeological Conference Newsletter* (Cambridge, Mass.), IX, No. 1, 19-21.
- Boyd, Doris; with Mrs. Nellie Wilbur and Letha Cooke: (no date). *Bottles, Glass and Antiques*. n.p. (probably Cave Junction, Ore.); 32 pp.
- Bressie, Wes; with Ruby Bressie: 1966. *Ghost Town Bottle Price Guide*, 7th ed., revised, enlarged. Yreka, California: News-Journal Print Shop; 85 pp.