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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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Pomo and <u>Promyshlenniki</u>: Time and Trade Goods at Fort Ross

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree Master of Arts in Archaeology

by

Janice Christina Smith

Ceramic Beads

There are only two examples of modified crockery.

- Undecorated cream-colored ceramic bead.
 14mm diameter, 6mm thickness, 4mm perforation (Fig. 17 L).
- 2. Undecorated cream-colored ceramic bead blank. 14mm diameter, 3mm thickness (Fig. 17 R).

Trade Beads

The 1972 excavation of Meteni yielded 37 trade beads, including six bead fragments (#1159 and #1438 are fragments of the same bead, but were found at different levels). The beads are described and classified in Table 3. Analysis of the beads was provided by Lester A. Ross of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Vancouver, Washington. Ross also compared the Fort Ross (Russian-American Company, 1812-1841) beads with bead varieties from Fort Vancouver (Hudson's Bay Company 1824-1860). Correspondences with Fort Vancouver (FOVA) bead types are noted in column 7 of Table 3.

The beads have been classified according to the taxonomic scheme set forth in Kidd and Kidd (1970). In the past, the absence of a universally valid frame of reference for trade bead classification has greatly hindered intersite comparisons of bead assemblages. In many archaeological reports, color and shape (as they appear to the

TABLE 3

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TRADE BEADS

Item

	Me the Manu:	od of facture	Decoration	Diaphaneity	Color	Catalog Number
1 2 3 4 5	Wire "" ""	wound " " "	Plain " "	Opaque " Translucent Clear	White Black White Lt. Amber	1977 3058 523 2530 1159
6 7 8 9	" " Tube	" " Simple	" " Plain	n n Opague	Dk. " Purple White	2962 1702 1191
10 11 12	11 11 11	11 11	11 11	11 11	Cream Black	2953 61 3292
13 14 15	11 31 21	11 17 12	11 11 11	Clear	Blue Green	2015 1949 2233
16 17 18	87 87	99 99 99	88 89 89	87 87 87	Bluish Purple Ruby "	2232 1436 3388
19	**		Striped	83	Bluish Purple	3554

TABLE 3 (Cont.)

TRADE BEADS

Item**

	Kidds' ID No.	FOVA No.	Diam.	Length	Comments
1 2 3 4	Wlb "	2041 " 2016	4.0mm 6.0 11.0* 8.0	6.0mm 4.0 10.0* 6.0	Fragment
5	ę ; ę ;	2038	(10.0)	(7.0)	Fragment (of same bead
7 8 9 10	" IIa "	2035 2007 1003	6.5 6.0 3.5 4.0	4.0 4.0 3.0 3.0	
11 12 13 14	11 11 11	1050	* 4.0 8.0 3.0	* 2.0 5.0 3.0	Fragment
15 16 17	11 11 11	1047	3.0 3.0 3.5	2.0 2.0 2.0	
18 19	" IIb	1029	3.07.0	2.5 9.0	26 opaque white

*Measurement incomplete or unobtainable due to fragmentary nature of specimen

**Correspond to same items on page 54

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TABLE 3 (Cont.)

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Item

	Method of Manufacture		Method of Manufacture		hod of Decoration		Diaphaneity		Color	
20	Tube	Compound	Plain	Opaque,	Opaque	Cream/Cr	ream	736		
22	11	**	11	81	11	11		863		
23	*1	**	11	"	11	.0		1116		
24	11	*1	**	**		**	17	1399		
25	**	tt	11	11	11	11	**	1437		
26	**	11	**	**	11	**	11	1510		
27	11	11	31	11	11	17	11	1551		
28	67	.11	**	11	11	69	17	1748		
29	**	11	11	**	19	11	11	2234		
30	14	11	11	**	11		11	2318		
31	**	**	ti .		11		11	3041		
32	**	11	11	88	11	11	11	3247		
33	87	11	11			11	11	3740		
34		11	11	Opaque,	/Clear	Brick Re	ed/Green	3291		
35	17	e1	67	11	**	11		3293		
36	44	87	**	11	**	11		3781		
37	?		11	Clear		Purple		596		

TABLE	3	(Cont.)	
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Item**

	Kidds' ID No.	FOVA No.	Diam.	Length	Comments
20	IVa	1040	5.0	5.0	
21	11 .	82	4.0	4.0	
22	**	97	7.0	5.0	
23	11	87	4.0	3.0	
24	**	11	3.0	2.0	
25		29	4.0	3.0	
26	11	**	3.0	2.0	
27	11	**	4.0	3.0	
28	39	17	3.0*	3.0	Fragment
29	**	f t	4.0	3.0	
λÓ	**	**	3.0	3.0	
31		**	3.0	3.0	
32	11	**	3.0	2.5	
22	**	**	3.0	2.5	
34	**	1038	2.0	1.5	"Cornaline d'Aleppo"
35		11	3.0	3-0	11 11
36	11		3.5	2.0	t1 ft
37	?	?	*	*	Fragment/Not analyzed

* Measurement incomplete or unobtainable due to fragmentary nature of specimen

** Correspond to same items on page 56

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archaeologist) have often been the principal determinants of trade bead types. Adding to an already ill-defined system of classification and nomenclature, are terms (usually ambiguous) such as "quartz," "pony," "pound," "China," or "Russian." Although some beads are fairly well defined (notably, the Chevron and the Cornaline d'Aleppo), there is a need for a standard reference guide which is worldwide in applicability, and which is free of abstract or subjective terminology.

While the Kidds' system may not be perfect (for criticisms, see Sprague [1971]), it is probably the best classificatory scheme now in existence, and with time, its imperfections will probably be ironed out.

The method of bead construction is of primary importance in the Kidds' classificatory system. Physical attributes--glass layering, surface decoration, diaphaneity (degree of light transmittal), and color--are also utilized in the analysis. Color, however, is not a particularly reliable gauge for classifying beads, since burial in the ground may result in extensive discoloration of the specimens. The criteria used in the classification, and the terms in Table 3, are defined below.

Method of Manufacture

Tube drawn beads are made by rapidly drawing hollow molten glass into tubes or canes, which are then broken

into shorter lengths. They are frequently tumbled in a hot drum to round out the sharp edges. Such tumbling changes some of the cylindrical tubes into oblate spheroidal and globular forms (Sleen 1973: 25). Simple tube beads (Fig. 18) are monochrome and consist of a single layer of glass. Compound tube drawn beads (Fig. 19) have two or more layers of glass and can be monochrome or multicolored. Both simple and compound beads may have extrinsically added surface decoration (#3554, a simple, single-layered, striped bead [Fig. 20], is the only such example in this collection).

Wire wound beads (Figs. 21 and 22) are produced by winding a thin ribbon of molten glass around an iron rod, which is later removed. Traces of this method of manufacture are usually visible as heliacal threads in the internal structure of the beads. Wire wound beads are also characterized by the presence of globular air bubbles, whereas tube beads possess elongated air bubbles (#2530 is an example of the former). Tube beads are--in a sense-mass produced, because hundreds of beads can be made from a single long cane. Wire wound beads, on the other hand, are made individually.

Decoration

Although many types of surface decoration are possible (inlaid, raised designs, flower and gold leaf



Figure 18.

Plain simple tube beads. Top left opaque black #3292; top right - clear blue #2232; bottom left - clear green #2233; bottom right - opaque white #2953. Scale in cm



Figure 19. Compound tube beads. Left - Cornaline d'Aleppo #3781; right - cream-on-cream #863. Scale in cm



Figure 20. Striped simple tube bead #3554. Bluish purple with 26 white stripes. Scale in cm



Figure 21. Wire wound beads. Top left - clear purple #1702; top right - translucent white #2530; bottom left - opaque white #3058; bottom right - opaque white #1977. Scale in cm



Figure 22.

Amber wire wound beads. Left fragments of same light amber bead (top - #1159; bottom - #1438) Right dark amber bead #2962. Scale in cm decoration. . .), all but the one simple striped bead in this collection have plain, smooth, monochrome surfaces.

Diaphaneity

In this column in Table 3, beads are classified according to the degree of light transmitted. Opaque beads do not transmit any light; translucent beads transmit some light; and clear beads (also called transparent) readily transmit light. In the case of multi-layered beads, the diaphaneity of the outside layer is recorded first and the core layer last (i.e. opaque/clear indicates a bead having an opaque exterior and a transparent core).

Color

Because bead colors are susceptible to change in the archaeological context, complete reliability with color as a guide is virtually impossible. For this reason, the beads are not classified according to a standard color chart, although the Kidds' have done so in their classification. With regard to the compound beads, it is customary to list the colors starting with the outside layer (i.e. brick red/light green indicates a two-layered bead with a brick red exterior and a light green core).

Kidds' Identification Number (Kidds' ID #)

The letter and number codes in column 6 of Table 3 are taken from Kidd and Kidd (1970: 50-53). A simplified

version of their tube bead chart is presented below.

Compound Rounded	IV	II	Simple Rounded
Compound Tube	III	I	Simple Tube

The tube beads at Fort Ross belong to the upper two guadrants -- they are tube drawn beads which have been modified in form by tumbling and reheating. "Basically, all [Class II beads] are theoretically, and probably in practice. derived from Class I types. The essential difference is that, instead of being left in the tube shape, they have been subjected to rounding by reheating" (Kidd and Kidd 1970: 53). Thus, the ten IIa tube beads are simple monochrome tube beads (Class Ia) which have been rounded by tumbling and reheating. Similarly, IIb is derived from Ib, a monochrome tube bead to which stripes have been added. Beads in quadrant IV are rounded compound beads and are derived from Class III compound tube drawn beads. Class IVa beads are analogous to IIa varieties (simple, undecorated, monochrome), but are double-layered rather than single-layered (monochrome).

Kidd and Kidd have given all wire wound beads the identifying letter W. The designation Wl indicates

monochrome wire wound beads with simple shapes (tubular, round, oval, doughnut-shaped). All of the Fort Ross wire wound beads belong to the round, monochrome group, which has the designation W1b (Kidd and Kidd 1970: 53).

Fort Vancouver Identification Number (FOVA #)

The numbers in this column in Table 3 are designations for bead varieties at Fort Vancouver, the Hudson's Bay Company's Northwest Coast headquarters from 1824-1860. One hundred fifty trade bead types have been identified at Fort Vancouver. Twelve varieties also occur at Fort Ross.*

*Lester Ross 1974: personal communication.