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AKULIVIKCHUK:
A NINETEENTH CENTURY ESKIMO VILLAGE ON THE NUSHAGAK RIVER, ALASKA

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to any great extent by the interior Eskimos of southwestern Alaska even at the end of the nineteenth century.

It has been possible to identify seven small pieces of glass as *window glass* fragments. The thickness of these fragments varies from 2 to 3 mm. with the narrower measurement being more common. The four thinnest fragments are clear, while the thicker ones are of a slightly greenish color. It has sometimes been considered that thin, colorless window glass, when recovered from historic sites in the midwest and western United States, is earlier than the thicker, slightly greenish glass which was first manufactured during the latter part of the nineteenth century (Miller, 1960, p. 67). The number of recovered fragments from Akulivikchuk is, of course, much too small to provide meaningful information along this line. We know, however, that window glass was highly prized by the Eskimos of southwestern Alaska at least as early as 1842 (Zagoskin, 1967, p. 255). It would seem, nevertheless, that such glass could not have been available to the inhabitants of Akulivikchuk except in the very smallest quantities.

The number of *bottle* glass fragments recovered is not great, there being altogether 57, three of which were retouched as scrapers and have been described previously. Of the remaining 54, four are recognizable as being associated with bottles of the patent medicine type, tall with a rectangular body, round neck and "panels" on which the trade name was sometimes impressed. No such names occur on these fragments.

The other bottle fragments are all very small and not particularly revealing as far as size and shape are concerned. Twenty-four are of a thick, dark green glass frequently associated with liquor bottles and one of these is the deeply-recessed base of such a bottle that measures 7.8 cm. in diameter. Two fragments are apparently from colorless bottles with a varied corrugated design on the neck, while two others are from flat-bottomed, hexagonal containers of undetermined size. It is interesting to note that recovered bottle fragments at Akulivikchuk are fewer and less revealing than those from either Crow Village, the Glacier Bay sites (Ackerman, 1965), or Kijik, but somewhat more numerous than at Tikchik.

In addition to buttons, window glass, and bottle fragments, there are two small pieces of what appear to be round, flat-bottomed *drinking glasses.*

A comparatively small number of glass *trade beads* of various shapes, sizes, and colors were found in all the structures and the test trench. These will be analyzed typologically and then minimal comparative statements will be made with reference to bead collections from other historic archaeological sites in southwestern Alaska. It can be stated at the outset, however, that the value of trade beads as dating aids is limited, and that in spite of the relatively large amount of comparative material, it will be possible to draw only the most general conclusions about the chronological position of the beads from Akulivikchuk.

A total of 537 beads and bead fragments were recovered from the site. For study purposes these were first separated into groups based on color alone. The colors are given as they appear to the author and not through comparison with a standard color chart. Variation in the basic colors listed is often considerable and some beads appear to be discolored as a result of exposure or chemical action of the soil. An attempt will be made to indicate the range of variation within each color category.

The collection contains 360 white beads, 145 blue, 16 black, 4 green, 4 brown-lined red, 2 white-lined red, 2 polychrome, 1 blue faceted, 1 clear, 1 red, and 1 white painted bead. Next the beads were separated according to shape within each color category, there being five different shapes represented (Fig. 14). With reference to size, there are 76 of the "seed" form, those beads less than 2 mm. in diameter. All belong to the type a shape, and all are very light blue in color with the exception of one white-lined red specimen. These "seed" beads are identical to those sold in tubes in stores throughout rural Alaska today for sewing into bead work designs on cloth or skin garments.

Of the 360 white beads, all but one are complete enough to indicate shape with 190 belonging to type a, 142 to type b, and 28 to

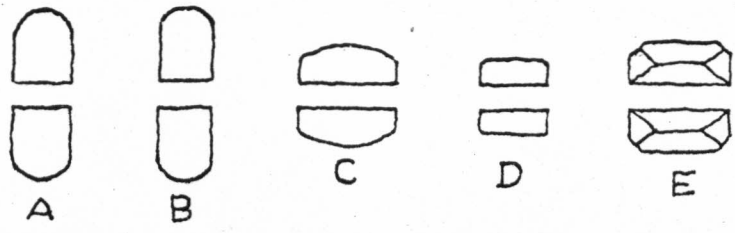

FIG. 14. Bead types according to shapes, showing cross-sections of each.

type d. The color is relatively uniform, but a large number of those beads belonging to type a and b shapes exhibit a variation between exterior and interior color. Both are opaque, but the interior is whiter than the exterior. The white beads are also fairly uniform in size, only eight specimens exceeding 5 mm. in diameter.

Blue beads are represented in only two shapes, there being 123 of type a, including 75 of the "seed" category; the remaining 22 belong to the type b shape. The color range of the blue beads is great; from very light blue to a deep marine color. Size range is also considerable, particularly among the beads belonging to type a. There are eight light blue specimens with diameters in excess of 8 mm. and another fragmentary specimen of the same type which has a diameter of more than 1.2 cm. Three sizeable translucent beads, two complete and one fragmentary, are of a deep marine blue color. The largest of these is illustrated (Pl. 14, 13). A sizeable blue faceted bead (type e) is also translucent and of a similar shade, although not quite so dark.

Of the 16 black beads, all but one belong to type a, the single exception being of the type b shape. These and the four green beads, all belonging to type a, are uniformly of small size, being no more than 4 mm. in diameter, and are opaque. A single red bead is a translucent wine color and belongs to type a. There is also one colorless bead of the type b shape.

The two polychrome beads are basically white, of type a, and with the same variation of exterior and interior colors noted for the white beads. On the outside of these beads are alternate red and green lines, two of each, running parallel to the stringing hole. Both specimens are approximately 3 mm. in diameter.

The single bead belonging to type c is translucent white with a wavy pink band running around the middle at right angles to the threading hole. This bead is large, being 7 mm. in diameter at each end and 1.7 cm. long.

Two forms of the well-known "Cornaline d'Aleppo" bead were recovered. Four specimens have a dull reddish exterior and a translucent, dark brown interior. Three of these belong to type a and one to type b. Two additional beads have bright red semi-translucent exteriors and opaque white cores; both are the type a shape, one being a seed bead. The "Cornaline d'Aleppo" bead derives its name from the fact that it was associated in the Italian export business with the city of Aleppo in Syria. This type of bead was widely dis-

tributed among Indians of North America in the nineteenth century and has been recovered from all historic sites so far excavated in southwestern Alaska.

None of the beads described above is unique for the Akulivikchuk site and if there is one thing notable about this bead assemblage as a whole, it is the small number recovered. As noted elsewhere (VanStone and Townsend, 1970, pp. 96–97), only the "Cornaline d'Aleppo" and deep marine blue faceted beads have any diagnostic value at all, the latter being frequently referred to in the literature as "Russian" beads. It has not been possible, however, to isolate this type as belonging exclusively to the Russian period at Crow Village, Tikchik, Kolmakovski (Oswalt, personal communication) or Kijik. Unfortunately, therefore, it is not possible to say anything more definite about the Akulivikchuk beads than was said about a much larger and more varied assemblage from Kijik; namely, that they presumably represent "a nineteenth century assemblage of European and Syrian made trade beads which . . . were used extensively in the Plains and in other parts of North America prior to being introduced into Alaska where, for some uses, they have persisted down to the present time" (VanStone and Townsend, 1970, p. 97).

Metal

Objects of metal are not numerous in the Akulivikchuk collection, particularly when compared with the large number of such artifacts recovered from other historic sites in the general area. The small number of actual types represented is especially noteworthy.

Of the five *nails* in the collection, four have their heads missing and are so badly corroded that nothing definite can be said regarding their size or shape. The single complete specimen is a 12d common, square-cut nail (Pl. 14, 9). There are also four *cut spikes*, all incomplete and, with one exception, badly corroded (Pl. 14, 1).

Metal tools in the collection include a single, well-made *planing adz blade* constructed from a rectangular iron bar. It is flat across the proximal end and tapers slightly near the working edge (Pl. 14, 16). Two additional specimens are much shorter, being only 7 cm. in length, of approximately the same width, and badly corroded. An adz blade fragment consists of approximately 3 cm. of the distal end of a specimen like that just described.

A small *file* is triangular in cross-section and broken at the proximal end (Pl. 14, 3). It is machine made as were all files manufac-

tured in the United States after 1850 (Fitch, 1883, p. 724). There are also two very fragmentary and badly corroded fine-tooth *saw blades*, presumably of the type used in cross-cut saws. A tentatively identified *drill bit* (Pl. 14, 8) completes the inventory of true metal tools from the site. A single *iron ring* is flat along one side and almost certainly was attached to a strap of some kind, perhaps a dog harness (Pl. 14, 7).

The only object in the collection that can definitely be associated with trapping is a fragment of an iron *trap jaw* (Pl. 14, 10). There is also a single copper or brass *pendant* or *earring*. It is small and light and tapers sharply at one end to which is attached a small wire eyelet (Pl. 14, 6).

Among household articles of metal are fragments of six cast iron *kettles*, four of which include sections of the rim. One of these fragments is from a kettle with a constricted neck, slightly everted rim, a diameter of approximately 19 cm., and a cast loop handle (Pl. 14, 17). The other three are from vessels with simple everted rims. Two are from kettles whose diameters were slightly in excess of 36 cm., while the third is from a much smaller kettle with a diameter of about 9 cm. No handles or lugs are indicated on these fragments, but one does have part of a raised design in the form of a shield with crossed swords in the center. Across the top of this shield and inside it is some illegible lettering (Pl. 15, 14). A kettle fragment of this latter type was also recovered from the Tikchik site (VanStone, 1968b, p. 298, pl. 9, 5).

The four *lugs for kettle handles* are of the type that were riveted to the kettle rim on opposite sides just below the lip (Pl. 14, 2, 4–5). All would appear to have come from large sheet iron kettles, none of which were recovered. There is also a fragmentary copper or brass *kettle handle*, but since both ends of this specimen are missing, the identification should be considered tentative (Pl. 14, 11).

Cutlery from the site includes one complete *tablespoon* (Pl. 15, 12) and tablespoon bowl, as well as a complete *teaspoon* (Pl. 15, 13). A single fragmentary *kitchen knife* (Pl. 15, 11) had a handle with wooden fittings which were held in place with brass pins. A medium-sized pair of *scissors* (Pl. 15, 7) were recovered along with a fragment from a much larger pair.

A significant feature of the Akulivikchuk collection of imported goods is the virtual absence of artifacts associated with the use of firearms. Only five spent *cartridge cases* were recovered, four of which

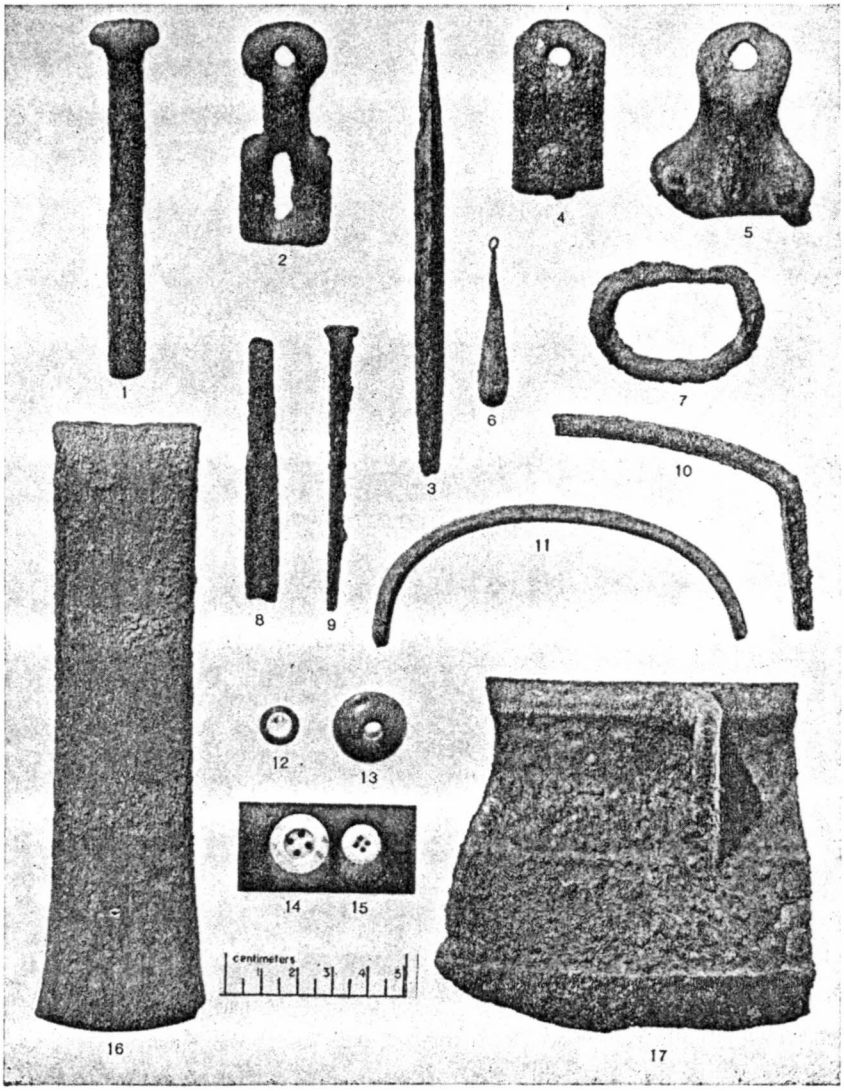

PLATE 14. Artifacts of Metal and Glass. 1. Cut spike (p. 85); 2. Lug for kettle handle (p. 86); 3. File (p. 85); 4–5. Lugs for kettle handles (p. 86); 6. Pendant or earring (p. 85); 7. Iron ring (p. 86); 8. Drill bit (?) (p. 86); 9. Nail (p. 85); 10. Trap jaw (p. 86); 11. Kettle handle (?) (p. 86); 12. Button (p. 81); 13. Bead (p. 84); 14–15. Buttons (p. 81); 16. Planing adz blade (p. 85); 17. Kettle fragment (p. 86).