

WHERE EAGLES FLY: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SURVEY OF LAKE NIPISSING

by

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### European Trade Goods

The European trade goods are itemized in Table .  
A sample of 77 glass beads from Frank Bay is the largest known for an Algonkian site in northeastern Ontario. It is by the seriation of glass beads that most Contact sites are dated. The range and value of metallic items retrieved indicate the strong middleman position that characterized the Nipissings during the early Contact period. It is the middleman role that perhaps personify the Nipissing Indians through time and across space..

### Glass Beads

During the 1978 field season 26 glass trade beads were recovered from the contact stratum. This total, added to the 51 beads Kenyon (1969) has analyzed from the Ridley collection , makes the Frank Bay sample the largest recovered for an Algonkian site in northeastern Ontario. The beads are described following Kidd's (1970) (see Table 50 ) classification scheme, while a date derived for each bead type follows Kenyon's of beads from Iroquoian sites (see Table 51 ). Of all the beads recovered none were wire wound.

Table 50 : Trade Beads

Description	Classification (Kidd 1970)	Frequency	Length Range $\bar{X}$	Width Range $\bar{X}$	Diameter Range $\bar{X}$
Round Turquoise Opaque	IIa -	13			4-5 4.8
Red Round Opaque	IIa1	2			6-7 6.5
Opaque Red Pound Green Clear Core	1Va5	1			6
Black Round	IIa6	4			3-10 6.5
Red Flattened with Blue/ White Stripes	IIbb2	1	12	8	4
White Football Opaque	IIa15	1	7		5
Opaque (Indigo) Round	IIa46	1			4
Blue Oblong/Round with Red/White Stripes	IIbb25	1	7		
Rose Wine Football Clear	IIa60	1	11		4
Clear Blue/Round	IIa	1			7
Total		26			

Table 51: Date Seriated for Glass Trade Beads

Description	Ridley Collection	1978 Sample	Pratt	Kenyon
Tr. Turquoise Blue <sup>(Tur)</sup>	6	13	1625-1710	1580-1650 ESP. 1635
Tr. Indigo Blue <sup>(Ind)</sup>	1	0	1570-1670	1620 ±
Op. White Round <sup>Op</sup>	2	0	1637-1642	1600-1630
Dark Indigo Round <sup>Dark</sup>	2	1	-	1600-1620
Op. White Football <sup>Op</sup>	<del>1</del> 17	1	-	1600-1620
White Op. Tubular <sup>Op</sup>	11	-	-	1600-1620
Op. Red with White And Blue Stripes <sup>Op</sup>	0	1	1570-1595	1620-1635
Op. Red Round <sup>Op</sup>	0	2	1625-1637	1600-1650 ESP. 1630
Clear/Op. Red/Cl. Core <sup>Op</sup>	0	1	1640-1710	1600-1650 ESP. 1630
Op. Black Round <sup>Op</sup>	0	4	1570-1670 1710-1745	1635-1650 1670-1700
Intense Blue (CL) <sup>Op</sup>	0	1	1570-1595	1620-1635
Blue Round with Red/White Stripes <sup>Op</sup>	0	1		
Rose Wine Football <sup>Op</sup>	0	1		

\*Key to abbreviations: Tr - Translucent  
 Op - Opaque  
 Cl - Clear  
 / - Over  
 ESP - especially

↑  
 ?  
 How did he figure these out?

Within the Frank Bay collections, two trends are noticeable. First, the most popular colours among the Nipissing are white and blue. These colours appear to be popular types for other Algonkian groups as well. This impression is augmented by Sagard's reference <sup>where</sup> when he states:

"for when we tried to give them red glass beads in exchange they took no interest in them, quite unlike other kinds."

Second, if Kenyon's seriation of bead types is correct, then glass beads were first introduced to Lake Nipissing circa A.D. 1600 and persisted up to A.D. 1650.

From A.D. 1650 to A.D. 1670, no recognized bead types appear at Frank Bay. Eighteen glass beads analyzed by Kenyon (1969:14) and one <sup>more than that surely!</sup> from the 1978 collection characterized the period from A.D. 1670 to A.D. 1700.

Before accepting these absolute <sup>expressed</sup> dates, certain weaknesses within Kenyon's analysis should be exposed. First, <sup>that is</sup> his analysis has yet to be tested with new comparative material from other Algonkian and Iroquoian sites. Second, the selection of beads recovered from sites was biased for three reasons: (1) surface collections were presumed to be

*is this assumption incorrect?*

*when is this not the case,*

representative of a site; (2) in some cases sample sizes were small; (3) beads from burials or ossuaries were included in the sample.

The problem presented is that on one hand the seriation of the Frank Bay beads supports the ethnographic record concerning the historical events of the 17th century on Lake Nipissing, but on the other hand, the technique of analysis may be in doubt.

#### Copper and Brass Artifacts

The metal artifacts appear to be reworked fragments from worn kettles. Recovered from the site were five copper tinkling cones, two brass Christmas tree shaped arrow heads, one copper bead, and one brass strip. The copper tinkling cones can be subdivided into two varieties based on the difference in length. Three cones range in length between 14cm and 16cm and have a mean of 15cm. Their mean diameter is 5.3cm. The remaining two cones are 44cm and 50cm in length and have an average diameter of 7.5cm. All edges of the cone were smooth suggesting that the final process in cutting the copper was sanding or abrading and then polishing.