

THE BRICKELL STORE AND SEMINOLE INDIAN TRADE

Robert S. Carr

This article will discuss the Brickell Store; a major site of Seminole Indian trade during the last three decades of the nineteenth century in South Florida. This paper will discuss a history of the store, trade patterns and artifacts, and the role of Miami's traders as unofficial liaisons between the Indians and the Federal government.

The patterns of trade that developed between the Seminole Indians and whites in nineteenth-century Florida represent one of the few forms of Seminole-American cooperation before the twentieth century. The American acquisition of Florida in 1819 led to few attempts to retain the normal avenues of trade that had been fostered by the English and Spanish with the Florida Indians. An attack by Chikika and his "Spanish Indians" upon a trading post on the Caloosahatchee River in 1839 was a principal incident towards the inception of the Second Seminole Indian War. After the cessation of hostilities of the Third Seminole Indian War, an estimated 200-400 Indians remained in the interior of South Florida.

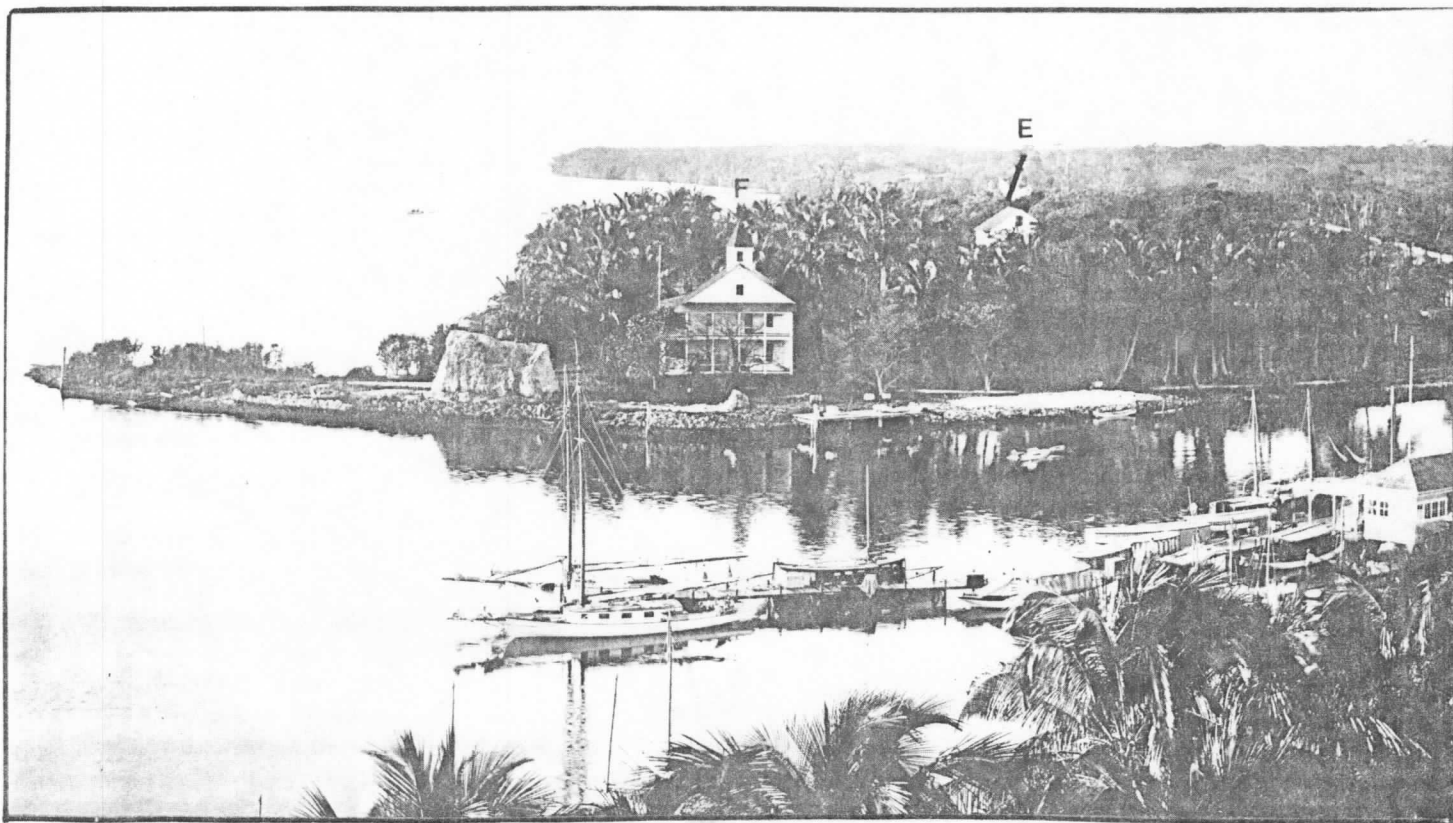


Figure 1. View of the mouth of the Miami River and Brickell Point, looking south, ca. 1904. E is the Brickell Store, F is the Brickell warehouse built in the 1890's. Photo courtesy of the State of Florida Photographic Archives.

In 1969, the house was razed and the cellar filled with rubble. The site was used as a parking lot until 1980, when the Holiday Inn began constructing a hotel on the site. For three months of that year during the early phases of construction, the Dade County Historic Preservation Division directed salvage excavations of the prehistoric (Da98) and historic components of the site (report currently in progress). Fortunately, much of the cellar is still preserved beneath a landscaped "island" within the driveway to the hotel entrance.

Artifacts

It would be a pleasant task for this writer to report that all of the artifacts recovered from the Brickell site neatly fit into a chronological range of 1871-1900, which is roughly the time span of the existence of the Brickell store. However, the mouth of the Miami River has been a major focus of human activity since prehistoric times, and both prehistoric and historic artifacts were generously mixed together in the shallow soil beneath the house. There have been a number of occupants on the Brickell site during the nineteenth century previous to the arrival of the Brickells, and thus it is reasonable to assume that some of the historic artifacts recovered during this investigation are of pre-Brickell associations. This could easily be the case with some of the beads, particularly those classified as type 24, and the T.D. pipe bowl fragment.

This discussion will concentrate on those artifacts associated with Seminole Indian trade, particularly the beads. Other artifacts from the Brickell store are listed in Table 1. Many of these items represented types of merchandise that were purchased by both Indian and nonIndian customers, but undoubtedly, articles such as thread, thimbles, and the iron gig were favorite types of acquisitions by the Seminoles.

Some of the most interesting artifacts associated with the Brickell site are the kaolin pipes. A total of 42 pipes and pipe fragments were recovered. Excavations within area D produced a type with a curved stem, a type unlike any found elsewhere on the site. Three distinct styles were represented, one with the stem represented as a human arm with the hand holding the base of the bowl (Fig.9,B), a second style with the pipe depicted as a bird's leg with the talons supporting the bowl (Fig.9,A), and finally, the same curved type without any decorations. Similar pipes have been recovered from Ft. Laramie, Wyoming, dating from a pre-1877 context (Wilson 1965:121). Other designs represented on the Brickell pipes are a bowl with a harp and "Erin" [Ireland] embossed on one side (Fig.9,E), a bowl fragment with a floral design (Fig.9,D), a stemmed bowl fragment with the letters "T.D." inscribed on the back (not pictured), and a stem with "The Meerschau . . ." embossed upon it (Fig.9,C). All of these pipe fragments were recovered from beneath the house.

The popular use of kaolin pipes amongst the Seminoles is doubtful. Pipe fragments are rarely reported from nineteenth-century Seminole Indian sites. It seems probable that the Brickell pipes were intended principally for non-Indian clients and that those pipes recovered from area D were probably used by Mr. William Brickell.

A total of 654 glass and ceramic beads were recovered during this investigation. Most of these were recovered from the cellar, and areas beneath

the house near the cellar. Area C produced beads of types not found elsewhere on the site. No beads were recovered from area D, which is to be expected since this feature is a household trash pit and probably contained mostly items that had been used by the family.

The Brickell beads have been classified using Kidds' typology (1970) into thirty types. The Kidd taxonomy is based on the distinctions in bead manufacture, such as the wire wound technique and cut class tubes, but Kidd does not create a category for molded beads, a type that represents 13.2% of this collection. This author observed that the molded beads are indicated by a seam along the bead axis. Unlike Kidd, I was unable to use the Munsell color dictionary, and instead, I have used the Maerz color dictionary (1950).

Types of manufacture represented in this collection are tube beads (52.8%), molded (13.2%), and wire wound (26.4%). Beads of undetermined manufacture represented 6.6% of the sample. It is possible that this ratio of types might prove to be a more valuable tool for the chronological placement of an archaeological assemblage of glass beads than the occurrence of any particular type, since many beads were probably available to traders or long in use well after their date of manufacture.

A large number of seed beads were also observed and collected, but because of the difficulties of analyzing and classifying these tiny beads, they are not discussed here. However, the recovery of a glass bottle filled with black seed beads (Fig. 8) from beneath the house was a singular and unusual find. The bottle is 9 cm high and has a pewter cap, and like a salt shaker, the beads were dispensed individually through a small 2 mm hole in the cap.

This assemblage of beads was compared with several other bead collections made at the Brickell site. A small collection made by Mark S. Greene during the same time period as the author's investigation contained no types not represented here. Several collections of Brickell material have been donated to the Historical Museum of South Florida (HMSF). Two of these donations included beads. One of these donations had twelve types represented by 29 beads, of which eight types were represented in the author's collection. A second donation was a necklace that incorporates only two types, numbers seven and twenty, of the beads discussed in this paper. Comparisons were also made with Seminole beads collected by John Goggin in the 1930's and 1940's from "old villages" in South Florida. Unfortunately, no better provenance was indicated in this collection which now reposes at the State of Florida Museum in Gainesville. Of the fifteen types represented in the Goggin collection, twelve of them are types identical to those in the author's sample.

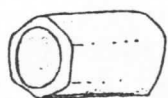
The thirty types are described as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 1 | (82 specimens) | Kidd 1a |
| | Simple tube, glass clear, interior of bead painted Maerz empire yellow (plate 9, k-3), length 5-8 mm, diameter 4.5-5 mm, sampling area C. | |

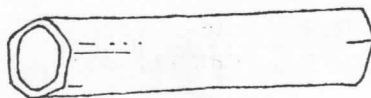
- 2 (4 specimens) Kidd 1a
Simple tube, glass clear, interior of bead painted Maerz rose (plate 2, J-3), length 4-5 mm, diameter 5 mm, sampling area C, same construction as type one above. This bead is represented in the Goggin collection.
- 3 (37 specimens) Kidd 1a
Simple tube, glass clear, interior of bead painted white, length 5-7.5 mm, diameter 5-6 mm, sampling area C, same construction as type one above. This bead is represented in the Goggin collection.
- 4 (40 specimens) Kidd 1a
Simple tube, glass clear, interior of bead painted Maerz lichen green (plate 26, A, A-4), length 4-5 mm, diameter 5 mm, sampling area C, same construction as type one above.
- 5 (4 specimens) Kidd 1a
Simple tube, glass translucent Maerz Sea green (plate 19, K-6), specimens vary from round to slightly hexagonal in cross section, length 31 mm, diameter, sampling area A.
- 6 (1 specimen) Kidd 1a
Simple tube, glass clear, length 19 mm (incomplete specimen), diameter 4 mm, sampling area A.
- 7 (4 specimens) Kidd 1f
Simple tube, five sided, translucent Maerz ultramarine (plate 35, G-12), length 6 mm, diameter 5 mm, sampling area A. This bead is represented in Goggin collection, and is one of two beads on a necklace in the HMSF collection.
- 8 (11 specimens) Kidd 1f
Simple tube, six sided, barrel shaped, ground facets, translucent Maerz ultramarine (plate 35, G-12), length 6-9 mm, diameter 6-8 mm, sampling area A.
- 9 (3 specimens) Kidd 1f
Simple tube, seven sided, barrel shaped, ground facets, translucent Maerz ultramarine (plate 35, G-12), length 7-9 mm, diameter 8-9 mm, sampling area A.
- 10 (12 specimens) Kidd 1f
Simple tube, six sided, barrel shaped, ground facets, clear Maerz opal green (plate 28, K-5), length 9-12 mm, diameter 8-10 mm, sampling area A.
- 11 (6 specimens) Kidd 1f
Simple tube, six sided, barrel shaped, ground facets, translucent Maerz amber glow (plate 12, H-10), length 6-8 mm, diameter 8 mm, heavy patination, poor preservation, sampling area A. This bead is represented in the Goggin collection.
- 12 (12 specimens) Kidd 11lf
Layered tube, seven sided, barrel shaped, ground facets, exterior layer is translucent Maerz ultramarine (plate 12, G-12), interior layer is opaque Maerz light blue (plate 34, C-9), length 4.5-9 mm, diameter 6-9 mm, sampling area A.

- 13 (21 specimens) Kidd 11f
Layered tube, six sided, barrel shaped, ground facets, exterior layer viewed from end is clear, interior layer viewed from end is translucent Maerz sky grey (plate 34, B-2), bead view from side through layers is Maerz light blue (plate 34, C-6), length 9-12 mm, diameter 8-10 mm, sampling area A. Bead is represented in the Goggin collection.
- 14 (4 specimens) Kidd 11lf
Layered tube, six sided, barrel shaped, ground facets, exterior layer is translucent Maerz gull grey (plate 36, A-3), interior layer is translucent Maerz bluish white (plate 34), length 7.5 to 9 mm, diameter 6 mm, sampling area A. Bead is represented in the Goggin collection.
- 15 (1 specimen) Kidd 11a
Simple tube, doughnut shape with rounded edges, opaque Maerz peach [pink] (plate 9, A-5), length 6 mm, diameter 6 mm, sampling area B. The HMSF collection has two specimens; one amber and one clear.
- 16 (346 specimens) Kidd 1Va 3
Layered tube, doughnut and barrel shaped, rounded edges, two color variations, color variation type 1: exterior layer is opaque Maerz cardinal (plate 5, L-5), interior layer is white grey, color variation type 2: exterior layer is translucent Maerz flamingo (plate 2, I-11), interior layer is white, length is 2-7 mm, diameter is 3-7 mm, sampling area A and B. Bead is represented in Goggin collection and in the HMSF collection.
- 17 (1 specimen) Unknown
Clay bead, round, white, length 7 mm, diameter 9 mm, sampling area A. Similar beads in the HMSF collection indicate that this type originally had monochromatic exterior paint. The painted colors observed in the HMSF collection were red and gold.
- 18 (1 specimen) Individually Molded
Molded, round, clear glass, length 11 mm, diameter 11 mm. This bead appears to have been molded as an individual bead. The circumference has a seam across its length suggesting a two piece mold. Sampling area A.
- 19 (3 specimens) Individually Molded
Molded similar to type 18, round, translucent Maerz ultramarine (plate 35, G-12), length 7 mm, diameter 8 mm, sampling area A.
- 20 (1 specimen) Kidd Wlb 8
Wire wound, round, translucent Maerz cardinal (plate 5, L-5), length 8 mm, diameter 9 mm, sampling area A. Bead is represented in Goggin collection.
- 21 (10 specimens) Kidd Wlb
Wire wound, round and doughnut, opaque black, length 8 mm, diameter 10 mm, sampling area A. The HMSF collection contains two specimens.

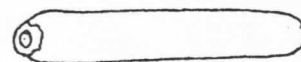
- 22 (4 specimens) Kidd Wlb
Wire wound, round, opaque brown, length 8 mm, diameter 8 mm, sampling area A, poor preservation; cracked and heavy patina. Bead is represented by a specimen in the Goggin collection.
- 23 (5 specimens, 19 fragments) Kidd Wlb
Wire wound, round, translucent Maerz green (plate 18, L-7), length 7-10 mm, diameter 11 mm, sampling area A, very poor preservation, cracks easily. Bead is represented by 2 specimens in Goggin collection.
- 24 (1 specimen, 20 fragments) Kidd Wlb
Wire wound, round, opaque Maerz cobalt blue (plate 34, L-7), length 12 mm, diameter 13 mm, sampling area A, very poor preservation, cracks easily.
- 25 (2 specimens) Kidd Wlb 16
Wire wound, round, translucent Maerz ultramarine (plate 35, G-12), length 15-22 mm, diameter 16-24 mm, sampling area A and B.
- 26 (1 specimen, 2 fragments) Kidd Wlc
Wire wound, elongated oval, opaque white, length 28 mm, diameter 15 mm (at widest point), sampling area A, poor preservation; cracking. Similar in form to number 100 in Pratt's Oneida Iroquois Glass Trade Sequence (1961).
- 27 (9 specimens) Kidd Wlc
Wire wound, elongated oval, translucent Maerz cardinal (plate 5, L-5), length 11-22 mm, diameter 4 mm, sampling area B. Bead is represented by 3 specimens in Goggin sample.
- 28 (3 specimens) Unknown Manufacture
Polished, round, faceted opaque black, method of manufacture difficult to determine because of color and reflectivity, length 6-9 mm, diameter 7-9 mm. Bead is represented by one specimen in Goggin collection and three specimens in the HMSF collection.
- 29 (2 specimens) Individually Molded
Molded similar to type 18, five sides, faceted, clear Maerz yellow (plate 10, F-2), length 5 mm, diameter 5 mm, sampling area A.
- 30 (6 specimens) Individually Molded
Molded similar to type 18, however, seam is parallel to direction of string hole, raised lip around holes, clear glass, length 13 mm, diameter 11 mm, sampling area C.



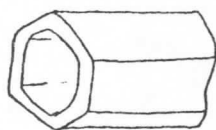
1, 2, 3, 4



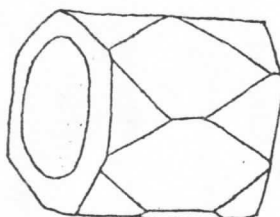
5



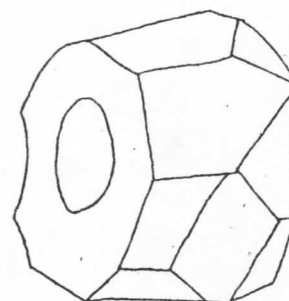
6



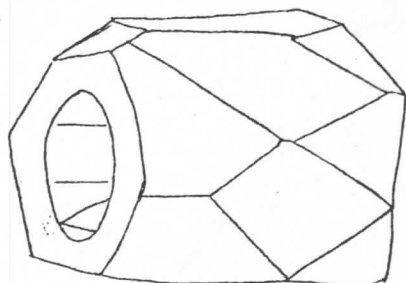
7



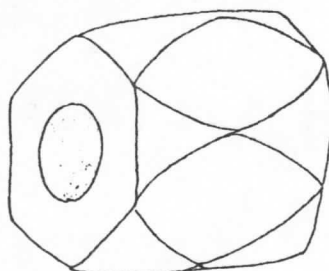
8



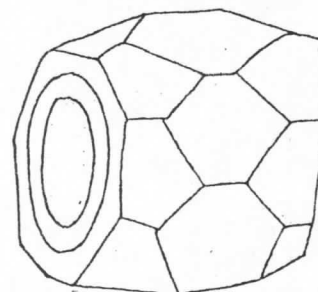
9



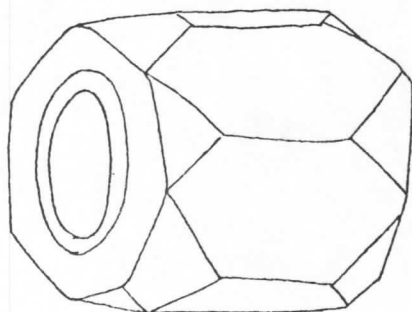
10



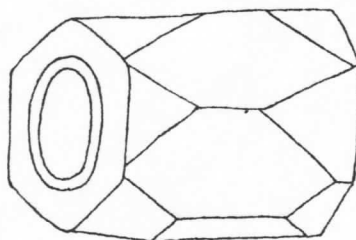
11



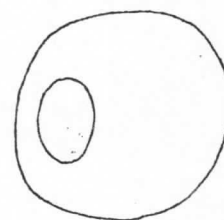
12



13

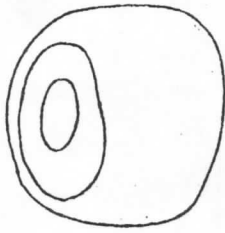


14

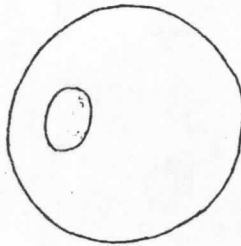


15

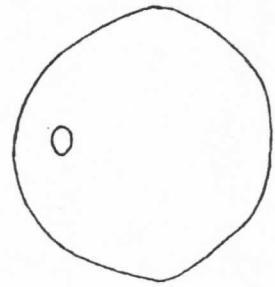
Figure 4. Bead types from the Brickell store. See text for descriptions.



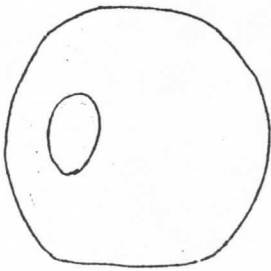
16



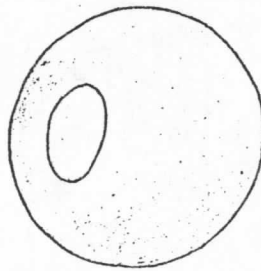
17



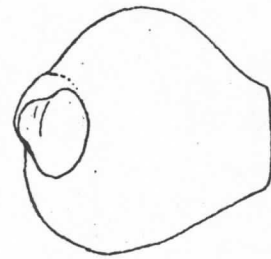
18, 19



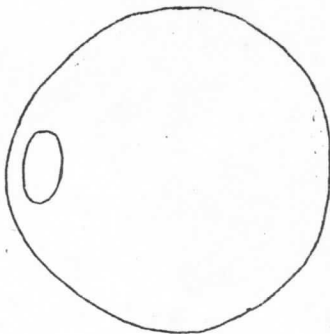
20



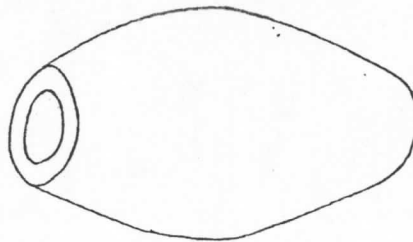
21, 22



23, 24



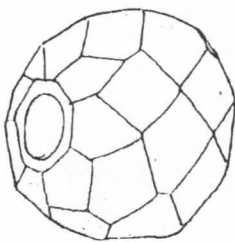
25



26



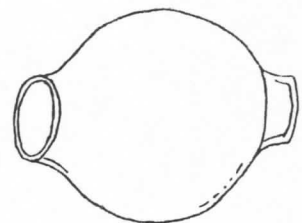
27



28



29



30

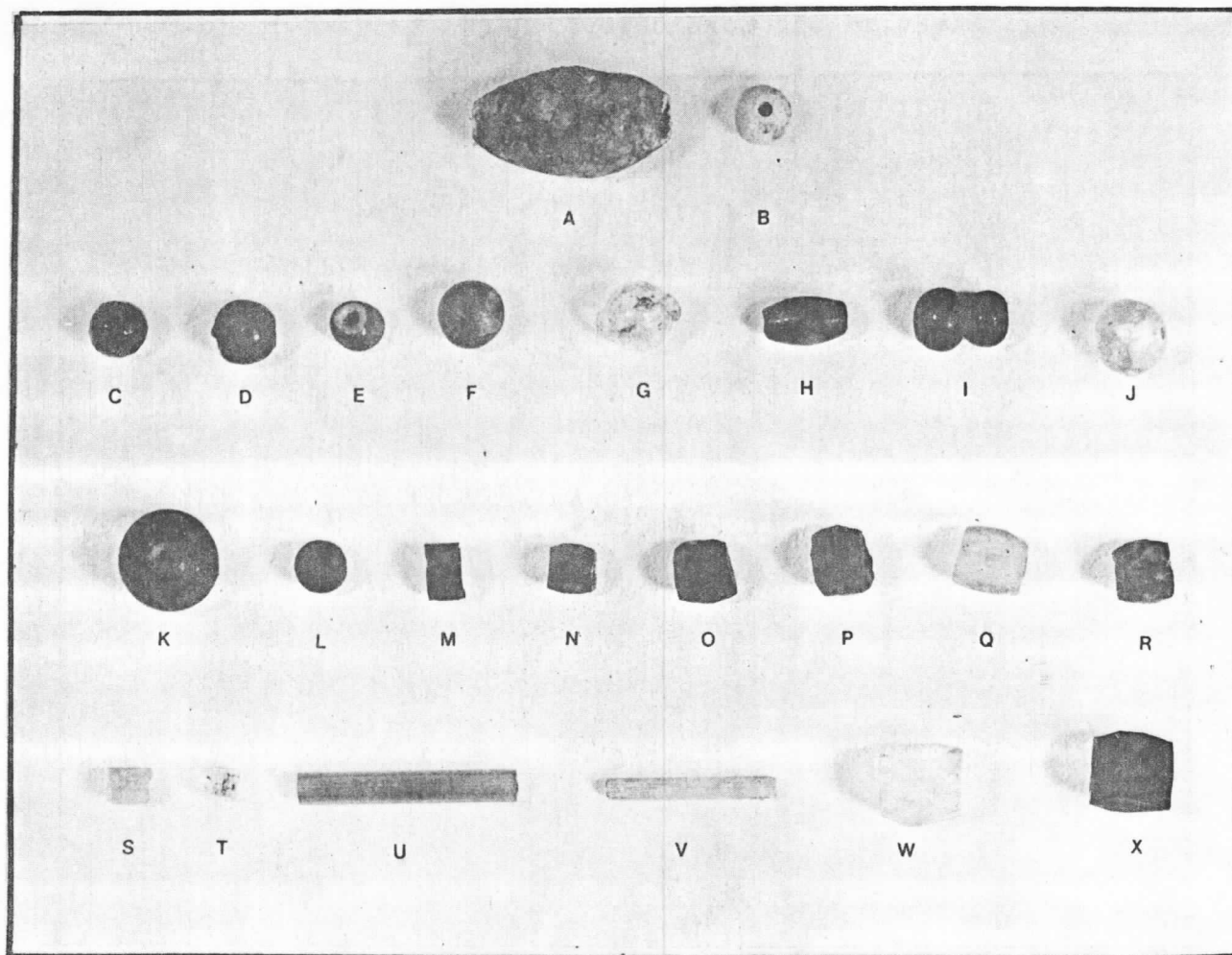


Figure 6. Beads from the Brickell Store.

A (#26); B (#17); C (#28); D (#20); E (#16); F (#23);
 G (#30); H (#27); I (#21); J (#18); K (#25); L (#19);
 M (#8); N (#12); O (#8); P (#9); Q (#14); R (#11);
 S (#7); T (#1,2,3,4); U (#5); V (#6); W (#13); X (#10).

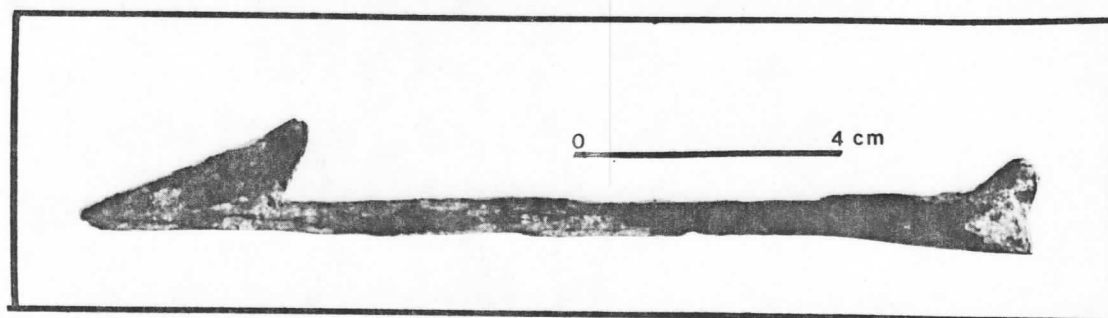
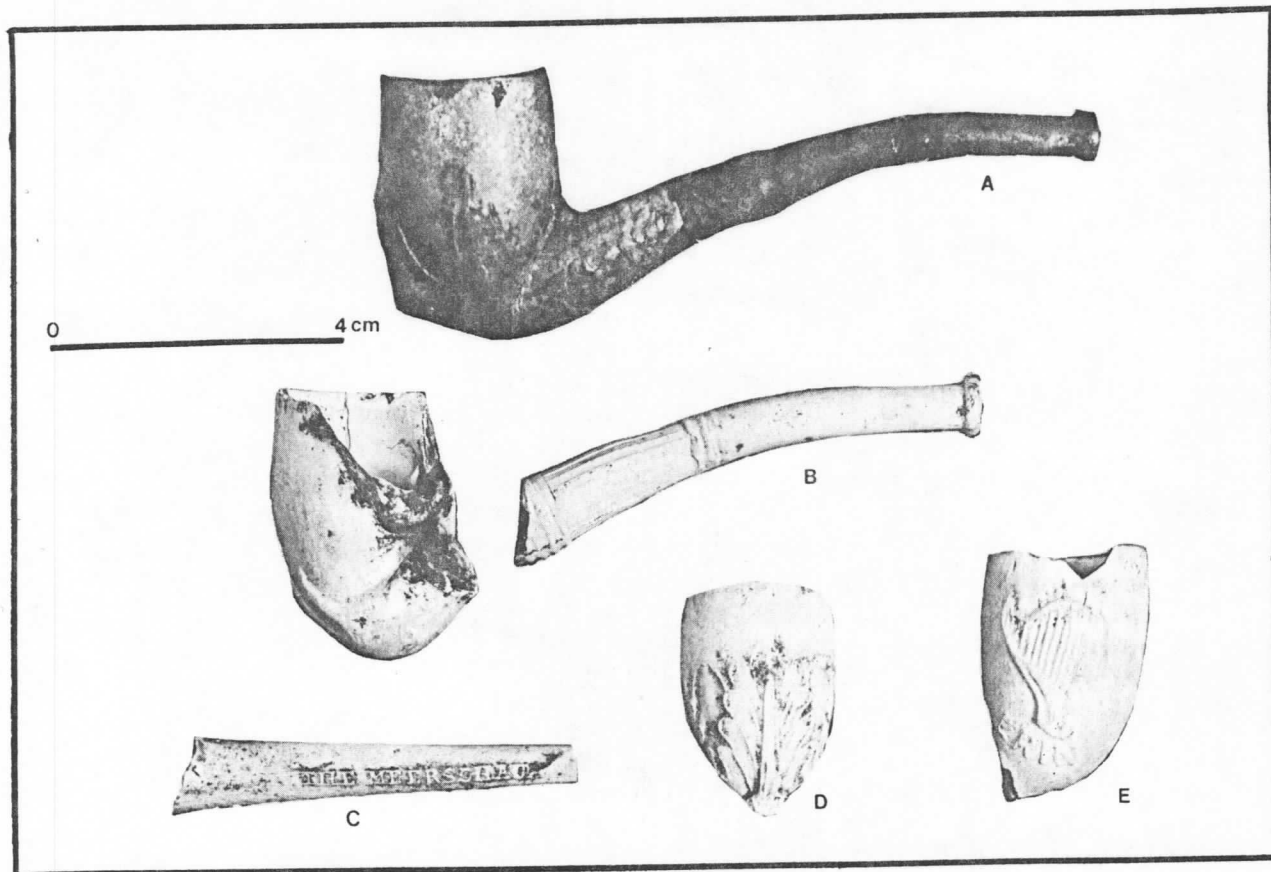


Figure 7. Iron gig.

Figure 8. Right. Glass bottle filled with black seed beads, actual size.



Figure 9. Below. Clay pipes from the Brickell Store.



Conclusions

The Seminole Indian trade that occurred in South Florida during the last half of the nineteenth century represented the first major Seminole-white cooperation since the Indian Wars, and set the pace for avenues of cooperation that were to become more common during the twentieth century. This paper attempts to discuss this trade and trade patterns by using historic, ethnographic, and archaeological data relative to the Brickell store and other Miami traders. Interestingly, some of the archaeological data confirms the historical documentation relative to certain trade items, such as the recovered beads and the alligator teeth. Obviously, organic material such as animal skins and plumes would normally not survive the humid soil conditions of South Florida. The material recovered from the Brickell store, when compared to the historical and ethnographic documents, indicates that the archaeological record provides a very limited sample of the total types of material involved in the trade process. Reconstructions of Seminole trade patterns fare considerably better when the written documents are used.

If there is any contribution that trading-post excavations can provide for Seminole archaeology, it is that of providing an assemblage of material items that one might expect to recover from Seminole camp sites in the South Florida's interior, research that has, of yet, not been attempted, particularly in regards to a multi-data anthropological and historic approach towards reconstructing Seminole camp patterns as suggested by Kersey (1981). Excavations of other trading posts could also provide pertinent reference collections, particularly of bead types, which could prove useful as a dating tool for Seminole camp sites. Brown's trading post in the Big Cypress has already been heavily vandalized by treasure hunters and collectors, but other sites such as Smallwood's on Chokoloskee, and Stranahan's in Ft. Lauderdale, have the potential for yielding useful data if carefully excavated and recorded.

Acknowledgements

I am very much indebted to Arva Parks for her editorial comments and review of the original version of this paper. Both she and Margot Ammidown shared historical documents that greatly increased the scope of this paper. Dr. John Reiger edited this version, and I greatly appreciate his time and effort. Becky Smith and Linda Williams of the Historical Museum of South Florida, and Joan Morris of State of Florida Photographic Archives, provided many of the resources that were necessary for the background research. Mark Greene and Louis Koufakis made available to me artifacts from the Brickell site. Sonny Cooper shared his thoughts and knowledge of the Brickell family. Others who provided help on this project were Dr. Harry Kersey, Melinda Maxwell, who did the drafting, and Esther Nedelman, the expert typist.

References Cited

Ammidown, Margot

- 1981 Untitled typescript on the history of Brickell Point. To be published as part of report on Historical and Archaeological Investigations of Brickell Point, by Dade County Historic Preservation Division.