

527.

PRELIMINARY EXCAVATIONS  
AT THE  
SUPPOSED SITE  
OF  
ST. MARIE II

CHRISTIAN ISLAND, ONTARIO  
1965

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ONTARIO ARCHIVES  
TORONTO

## Beads

A good sample of beads was recovered from the site in quantities that suggest many more may be found. The specimens can be divided into seven main types on the basis of colour, shape, and mode of formation.

### Red Beads:

#### (1) Droplet

30 (5) R

These were the most numerous of all the types, there being a total of thirty recovered. They were uniformly a dark red in colour, some glossy, some duller, and they varied in size from above .2" in diameter to about .1". Due to their mode of formation, their shapes varied from spherical to irregularly elliptical and some were wider at right angles to the bore than along the bore. They seem to have been formed by the dropping of molten red glass into a cooling element like water in a manner similar to that used in the production of lead shot. It is not known how the holes were put into the individual beads.

#### (2) Red Spherical Beads with Black Centres

This was the next most numerous bead type with nine examples. The core of the head, i.e. the area surrounding the bore is clear and cylindrical with a regular bore through it. Around the exterior circumference of this transparent cylinder is a thin layer of bright red glass with a gloss similar to that of some of the droplet beads. Finally, a layer of clear glass is applied to the red glass to round out the bead into a sphere.

9 (5) R

II 1	— Red "droplets"	30	65.2	}	69.6
II 1	— Red Round - Green	9			
II 1	— Red Tubular	2	4.4		
	Facetted Red	1			
II 2	— Blue Round	3			
II 3	— Blue Ovoid	1			
		<u>46</u>			

In cross section this appears colourless, but on looking at it directly, the red from the middle layer shows through dully. Thus a three-coloured effect is produced, black, bright red and dull red.

One of these red and black beads was found in unit 500 E 498, imbedded in the oxidization deposit around a nail at a depth of 9". The association of the two proves relative contemporaneity for the two artifacts.

(3) Tubular

2. 

Two red tubular beads were found. These are snapped from long cylindrical tubes of red glassy material and can likely occur in any length. Length, therefore, is not a definitive characteristic in this case. The tubular beads themselves can be divided into two size classifications, the one found in the vicinity of Feature III, however, having a greater diameter in cross section (.15") than the example found in Feature I (.1"). The larger one appears to be lighter in colour as well.

(4) Faceted

Only one example of this type was found, this being in the upper horizon of Feature III in unit 500 E 422 and this one is split in half. The diameter at right angles to the bore is .37" and along the bore it is .31". The bore itself has a diameter of .1". Coloured a slightly lighter red than the drop-let bead, it has a dull finish to it, probably due to design rather than patination. On the complete artifact there are probably six facets, those opposite one another being similar, each pair being of different size and shape to conform to the

three-dimensional trapezoidal shape of the bead and all of them defined by rounded rather than sharp borders. The bead is of red glass and of uncertain mode of formation.

Blue Beads:

(1) Spherical - light blue

3



Three beads of this type were found; one, with a diameter of .22" in unit 500 E 500 of Feature I at a depth of 1' 3", was associated with destruction debris on the east side of the construction trench. Another with a diameter of .1" was outside Feature I in the unit 500 E 484 in the upper disturbed horizon. This was the smallest and was slightly disk shaped, being thicker in diameter across the bore than along it. The third light blue bead, heavily patinated, was located in the upper disturbed horizon as well, just north of Feature II in unit 500 E 472. With a diameter of .16" it had a fracture groove running parallel to the bore on the outer surface.

(2) Elliptical - dark blue

1



One example of this type occurred in the upper level of Feature I in the most northern unit of the test trench. This bead, with a slightly patinated surface due to weathering, is a dark blue in colour. Its shape is elliptical with flat ends due to the entrance and emergence of the .06" diameter bore. Its diameter at right angles to the bore is .2" and its length is approximately .35", the approximation being necessary because of chippage at the ends.

Shell:

Only one example of possibly non-European bead-work was found. This was a disk-shaped, medially perforated shell bead