

ARCHAEOLOGY AT SPALDING

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by

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The two buttons are very good examples of the statistically insignificant artifact which carries as much interpretative weight as hundreds or thousands of artifacts with a less obvious message. We had previously never seen anything to suggest that the U.S. Indian Department was in any way distinguished as a uniformed service.

The other button group of especial interest is the "Levi Strauss" one which indicates that Levis were probably stocked here. Virtually all of the Levi Strauss buttons occurred in the lower half of the historic stratigraphy, suggesting that they were an item stocked in the sutler's store or else kept there in storage by the Indian Department when it had custody of the building.

The cased ammunition is listed in Table 21. While it is not possible to research the dates of the headstamps, our impression is that nearly all of the ammunition post-dates 1880 and that a substantial portion is of the twentieth century. Horizontal data place nearly all of the ammunition to the west of the buildings, in the backyards, suggesting trial shooting rather than trade or Indian Department inventory.

Bottle finishes are catalogued in Table 22. While lip finishes are not always sure guides to the contents of bottles, one can with fair confidence say that liquor bottles are notably under-represented in this component. Secondly, there is so much evidence of drug containers that one is forced to think that a dispensary or medical storage facility is indicated (Fig. 61). The sutler's store may have stocked drugs. The 1882 price lists (Appendix 5) do not include pharmaceuticals, hence we may be dealing here with sutler's store goods. There is a dearth of dark-olive-green glass, except in Assemblage A. That would be caused by a low frequency of liquor bottles, or by a general shortage of material from the 1860s, or both.

Beads are categorized in Table 23. The dominant classes in this component, "molded-with-facets," and "Prosser-molded," are both of the late nineteenth century. The second category is characterized by a band or belt around its equator and was defined by Roderick Sprague (personal communication). Sprague (1984) is also of the opinion that these classes were made in Czechoslovakia. In the Kanaka Village sequence (Storm 1982) the "mandrel-wound," "molded-with-facets," and "Prosser-molded" beads first appear in the record in the 1850s or 1860s, apparently in the order just listed. The molded beads directly reflect the rapid trend toward mass-production in the second half of the last century.

In Table 24 the horizontal assemblages are re-ordered to provide axes along which to look for horizontal activity trends. Assemblages D through E reflect an east-to-west arrangement across the site of the sutler's store. Assemblages H and A reflect a more incomplete but similar east-to-west axis just to the south of the sutler's store, lying to some extent across the site of historic structure "B." Assemblage F is off by itself to the west of both the axes and should, in cases of increasing or decreasing horizontal trends, most resemble assemblages E and A.

TABLE 23

Listing of glass and brass beads from Spalding 10-NP-108

Type	Color	Munsell Color Chart	Size (mm)	Total
DRAWN				46
Drawn and tumbled				41
	White	2.5R 9/N	1.5-2.6	11
	White	5Y 8.5/1	2.4-3.2	3
	White translucent	2.5R 8/N	1.4	2
	Pink	7.5RP 7/6	1.8	1
	Red	5R 5/12	1.5-3.1	5
	Yellow	7.5YR 7/6	2.8	1
	Green translucent	2.5BG 4/8	2.6	1
	Turquoise	10BG 5/4	1.5-1.7	3
	Turquoise translucent	10BG 5/6	5.2	1
	Light Blue	2.5B 5/6	1.9-2.6	2
	Light Blue	2.5B 7/6	1.5-2.7	6
	Medium Blue	7.5B 5/8	2.3	1
	Medium Blue	5PB 6/10	1.2	1
	Dark Blue	7.5PB 2/10	1.1	3
Drawn and ground				3
	¹ White translucent	2.5R 8/N	4	1
	Dark Blue	7.5PB 2/10	5.4	1
	Black	10B 2/1	4.9	1
Drawn with die (cane)				2
	Yellow	2.5Y 7/8	3.4	1
	Dark Blue	5PB 2.6	4.4	1
WOUND ON MANDREL				13
	Red	5R 4/12	7.7-11	4
	Turquoise translucent	10BG 7/4	5.2	2
	Light Blue	7.5B 7/8	5-10.1	3
	Medium Blue	2.5B 4/8	5.9	1
	Medium Blue translucent	5B 5/8	5.2-7	2
	Dark Blue	5PB 2/8	6.9	1
MOLDED-WITH-FACETS				247
	White	2.5R 9/N	3.1-4.4	3
	Light Blue	5PB 6/6	7.2	1
	Medium Blue	5PB 5/8	3.4-3.8	13
	Medium Blue	5PB 4/8	7	1
	Medium Blue	5PB 4/10	3.4-3.8	94
	Dark Blue	5PB 2/6	4.6-5.1	129
	Dark Blue	5PB 2/6	7.3	5
	Black	10B 2/1	4	1
"PROSSER-MOLDED"				455
	White	7.5Y 8/4	4.9-5.1	2
	White	2.5R 8/N	3.1-4.4	2
	White	10YR 8/1	3.1-4.4	38
	White	10YR 8/2	3.1-4.4	15
	White	10YR 8/4	3.1-4.4	10
	Grey	2.5PB 7/2	3.1-4.4	4
	Grey with Light Blue base			3
	Pink	2.5R 5/4		63
	Red/Pink	10RP 4/4		152
	Red/Pink with Light Blue base			19
	Turquoise	10BG 4/6		65
	Light Blue	10B 5/4		2
	Medium Blue	5PB 4/10		75
	Dark Blue	7.5PB 2/10		5
BRASS			6.4-7.4	4

¹Unable to make positive identification.