

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF
THE KIOWA AND COMANCHE INDIAN AGENCY COMMISSARIES,
34-Cm-232

by

Daniel J. Crouch

Submitted in partial fulfillment of
Contract No. DACA63.76-C-0256
Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District

Contributions of the
Museum of the Great Plains
Number 7
Lawton, Oklahoma
1978

(Figure 10-1a). The neatly drilled hole through its length is of 0.09 inch (2.3 mm.) diameter. Its surface is a smoothly polished white (Figure 10-1a). Its presence on the site is not surprising.

Although termed a "hair pipe" it may have been used as jewelry, suspended from the ears or in a necklace, or part of a larger item such as a breastplate, bandoleer, or on a container. According to Ewers (1957:62-65), bone was first used in hair pipes some time around 1880. The bone corncob pipestems offered by a man named Sherburne licensed to trade with the Poncas in eastern Oklahoma were in such demand for their stems alone that he asked his New York supplier for cylindrical bone beads. The latter, a man named Frost, had them made to order then sold them not only to Sherburne but to other Indian traders as well. They were made from the metacarpals of cattle supplied by Armour & Co. of Chicago and perhaps later by others. Possibly as a result of this new supply of cheaper and more durable bone hair pipes, the manufacture of those from shell ceased in 1889.

b. Glass Beads

Three black glass, wire wound beads were found as follows:

Provenience	Size	
	in.	mm.
R72	0.28	7.2
Q72	0.36	9.2
Trench 4	0.28	7.2

While their point of manufacture is not known, similar beads had for many years been made in Venice. A description of the production of these in Venice is quoted in Orchard (1975:96).

Spherical and barrel shaped beads are made from a solid rod of glass. The extremity of the rod is melted in a blow flame and a thread of the viscid glass is laid over a revolving iron bar. The motion of the bar draws the glass around it until the bead has assumed the desired dimensions. The size of the perforation conforms to the diameter of the iron bar.

Beads such as these are commonly associated with the Indian trade and indeed were likely carried as a common item in the stores in the

area. While use by whites cannot be denied, Indian presence in the area both while the Indian Agency was active and after, allows ample opportunity for these to have been lost.

11. Miscellaneous Hardware

a. Belt Slips

This consists of a flat sheet of brass from square P63, used for the containment of straps (Figure 10-1e). The two small rivets through it were probably to fasten it to a hard body of some sort as the small diameter heads of the rivets would have easily pulled through pliable material such as leather. The smaller loop of the device was made to accommodate a strap of up to 0.52 inches (13.3 mm.) in width while the larger of up to 1.50 inches (38.0 mm.). The precise use of the item is unknown although its application to military equipment is possible. The significance of the riveting in relation to its use is not presently known.

An object with certain similarities to that above was found in square V75. It also is made of brass and was likely a juncture or fastening of some sort. While distorted, is also is complete. It is decorated (Figure 10-1c) suggesting civilian manufacture and making less likely government issue. Certainly it is not field equipment although certain quartermaster items may have been so adorned. Because of the nature of the piece, it probably is an item of apparel, either male or female.