

MAMMOTH CREEK CAVE, MONO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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Haliotis square beads occur in a roughly contemporaneous shell bead complex at the following sites: Early-Transitional occupation levels of Lovelock Cave, Nevada, Ch-18; Karlo Site, Las-7, where the type probably represents the Early Lovelock period; Berkeley facies of Central California thought to date from about 1500 to 500 B.C. and this bead type is not known to persist into later cultural phases and appears to reflect a widespread temporal horizon (Bennyhoff and Heizer 1958:63-64).

Olivella Bead: Type 3d. Small disk bead (Number 38). One specimen: diameter 4 mm and inside diameter 1.2 mm.

Olivella small disk beads were recovered from the Type Site for the historic and protohistoric Owens Valley Paiute, Iny-2 and from Tommy Tucker Cave, Las-1. The type lacks specific temporal significance since it was used throughout Middle and Late times in Central California and for a long time period in Southern California (Bennyhoff and Heizer 1958:67, Table 3).

Bone Beads. A total of two bone beads were excavated from Mammoth Creek Cave, one each from Levels V and IV.

Mammal bone beads are ring-shaped, smoothed and polished, with drilled conical perforations; diameter varies from 3.5 to 3.9 mm, with the inside diameter being 1 mm.

Glass Beads. A total of 27 glass beads were excavated from Mammoth Creek Cave: 18 from Level V, 5 from Level IV and 4 from Level III.

Type 1. Cylindrical red opaque glass bead with transparent green centers. Size variable: length 4.5 mm, diameter 5.5 to 8 mm and inside diameter 2 to 3.5 mm. A total of six beads: four from Level V and two from Level III.

Type 2. Sub-spherical red opaque glass bead with pinkish-white center. Length 4.5mm, diameter 6 mm and inside diameter 1.5 mm. One bead from Level V.

Type 3. Torus-shaped red translucent glass bead with yellow center. Length 4 mm, diameter 8 mm and inside diameter 2 mm and 2.5 mm. Two beads, one each in Levels V and IV.

Type 4. Cylindrical white opaque glass beads. Size variable: length 4 to 7 mm, diameter 6 to 8 mm and inside diameter 1.5 to 3 mm. A total of 18 beads: 12 from Level V, 4 from Level IV and 2 from Level III.

Discussion. Types 1, 2 and 3 are so-called "Coeur d'Aleppo" beads and used from the 16th century to modern times. Type 4 occurs in over 30 sites of varying ages in California. While these beads lack chronological significance, California sites occupied after 1850 A.D. usually contain additional bead types characteristic of this later historic period. Their apparent absence in Mammoth Creek Cave suggest its possible abandonment by the mid-nineteenth century (Clement W. Meighan, Personal Communication).