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THE CONEJO ROCK SHELTER:  
AN INLAND CHUMASH SITE IN VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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circumference, 3) spiral portions of the shell, the lower portion and spire tip having been cut or abraded off (one example of this type only), 4) complete shells with the spire tip abraded off.

Clam shell beads are all discoidal, and although over-lapping in size range with the small mammal longbone. The three serpentine beads are squat cylinders, with rounded edges which make the shape nearly globular for this type. The glass beads are also globular in shape. Their color is a dark but translucent blue. Two abalone shell pendants are thin, rectangular slabs with a small, circular hole at one end. The other is evidently an undrilled blank of the same type.

TABLE 1

SPECIFIC DESCRIPTIONS OF BEADS AND PENDANTS FROM VEN-69

Type	Material	Quantity	Diameter	Other
Large Discoidal Bead	<u>Olivella biplicata</u>	7	0.8-1.3 cm	0.05-0.3 cm thick
Small Discoidal Bead	<u>Olivella biplicata</u>	125	0.3-0.9 cm	0.05-0.3 cm thick
Small Thick Discoidal Bead	<u>Tivela stultorum</u>	15	0.3-0.8 cm	0.20-0.4 cm thick
Complete Olivella Bead	<u>Olivella biplicata</u>	7	0.5-0.9 cm	0.60-1.6 cm high
Half Olivella Bead	<u>Olivella biplicata</u>	1	0.9 cm	0.5 cm high
Tubular Bone Bead	unknown	1	0.4 cm	1.5 cm long
Stone Bead	serpentine	3	0.4-0.6 cm	0.4 cm thick
✓ Glass Bead	glass	2	0.4 cm	0.2 cm thick
Pendant	<u>Haliotis</u> sp.	3	length: 1.8-2.5 cm, width: 1.0-1.3 cm, thickness: 0.1-0.2 cm	

DISCUSSIONS AND COMPARISONS OF ARTIFACT TYPES

An attempt is made in this section to place the artifact types previously described into a cultural framework of functional, areal and temporal relationships. In this discussion, the periods or horizons defined by Wallace (1955) will be used. These are, earliest to latest: the Millingstone Horizon occupying several thousand years before about 1000 B. C., the Intermediate Period from about 1000 B. C. to about 1000 A. D., and the Late Horizon beginning about 1000 A. D. and lasting into the historic period.

Function of artifacts to their prehistoric users is often neglected in archaeological reporting, and in many instances unduly so. Particularly in the Late Horizon of Southern California, as opposed to earlier time periods, it is often possible to say at least something about the functions of artifacts. Admittedly, there are many gaps in our knowledge, mainly due to the very scant ethnographic record, so for many of the artifact types of Ven-69, no function can be ascertained.

The olivella discoidal beads are the most common of all the bead types in Late Horizon sites. They predominate at the Arroyo Sequit site (Curtis 1963:62), the Soule Park site (Susia 1962:173), and the Deer Canyon site (Wissler 1958:81). Rogers (1929:412) reports great quantities of these beads from Canaliño sites of the Santa Barbara coast. The Small Thick Discoidal beads of Ven-69, referred to as "clam-shell" beads by Kroeber (1925:564), have a distribution at Late Horizon sites similar to olivella discoidal beads. Kroeber indicates that the clamshell beads probably served as money for the historic Chumash, while the olivella discoidal beads, although more numerous in Chumash grave offerings, did not (1925:554-556).

The two glass beads from Ven-69 are chronologically the most important single artifact type of the assemblage since they confirm the historic occupation of the site at least as late as 1600 A.D. and likely as late as the late 1700's. The two beads are identical and are like ones reported from other historic sites, the closest being Arroyo Sequit site where 15 such beads were reported by Curtis (1959:96). A study of glass trade bead distribution and origin is badly needed in Southern California. It is likely that certain glass bead types are quite sensitive to specific periods of Spanish occupation of the region.

The two pendants and blank found at Ven-69 appear to be all of the same type which correlates with type Q1a1 of Gifford's taxonomic system (1947:24). Abalone, perhaps because of its iridescence, was popularly used in ornamentation by Late Horizon peoples in Southern California, although the forms which the ornaments take are diverse. Abalone ornaments are reported as coming from Arroyo Sequit site (Curtis 1959:66), the Deer Canyon site (Whissler 1958:83) and the Soule Park site (Susia 1962:174).

## SOURCES OF ARTIFACT MATERIAL

### Stone

A wide variety of lithic materials are represented in the Ven-69 collection, and most are obtainable from the general region around Ven-69 which includes an area inland at least to Fillmore, California, and the broad area of the Santa Monica Mountains bordering the coast. The nearest lithic sources is the range of basalts, occurring as large angular cobbles in the volcanic breccia under which the Conejo Rock Shelter lies. These basalts are either dense and homogeneous or vesicular. Quartzite, of a wide range of colors, is abundant in the form of cobbles in the alluviums of the Conejo Valley below the shelter. Cherts (chalcedoneys or cryptocrystalline quartzes) are to be found in the Santa Monica Mountains and are brown to black in color, or opaque. Sandstone is in the form of cobbles and tabular blocks throughout the Santa Monica Mountains, and granite can be found in the form of cobbles in streambeds or alluviums of the region. Small quartz crystals are often associated with the above-mentioned cherts, having formed inside geodes.

Fused shale, both of a red and gray color, is found in the Grimes Canyon area near Fillmore, California. (The author has personally checked this source.) The red color is in lesser quantities than the gray, both at Ven-69 and in the source area. Grimes Canyon is