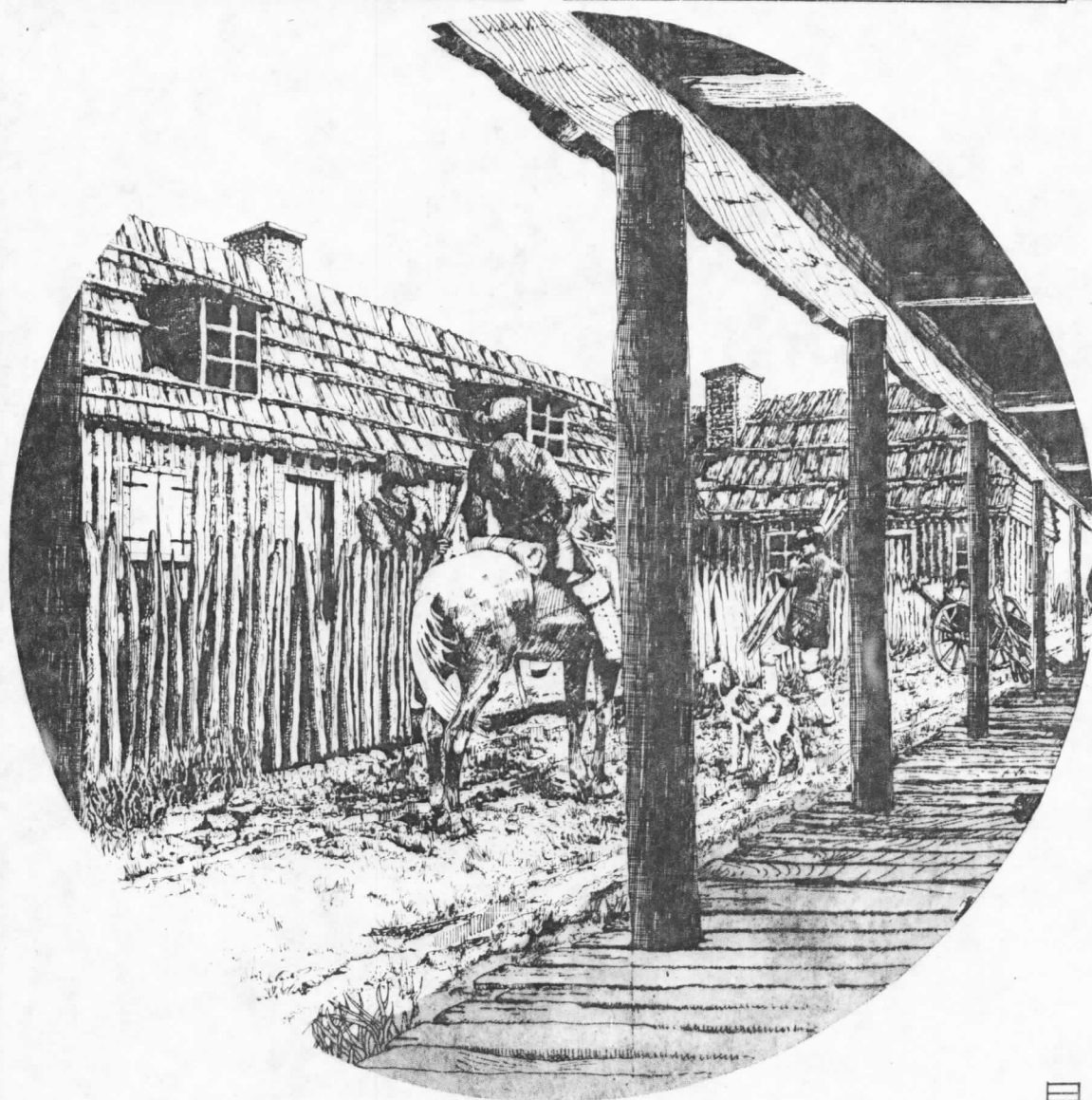


Excavations at Fort Michilimackinac: 1978 - 1979

The Rue de la Babillarde

by
Donald P. Heldman
and
Roger T. Grange, Jr.



1981

Archaeological Completion Report Series, Number 3
Mackinac Island State Park Commission, Mackinac Island, Michigan

Iron Wedge, both French and British, 1730s-1781 (Ibid.): 1
 Brass Apothecary Weight, probably British, 1761-1781 (Ibid. : 298): 1
 Lead Apothecary Weight, date and cultural origin unknown: 1
 Flat Lead Strip, date and cultural origin unknown: 1
 Lead Wire, date and cultural origin unknown: 2
 Lead Disc Fishing Weights, date and cultural origin unknown (Heldman 1977 : Figure 64A): 4
 Lead Scraps, date and cultural origin unknown: 5
 Unidentified Lead: 2
 Iron Hook, date and cultural origin unknown: 1
 Thin Iron Tubing, date and cultural origin unknown: 6
 Slag: 3
 Iron Rods, dates and cultural origins unknown: 8
 Unidentified Wire: 2
 Unidentified Iron Fragment with Brass Plating: 1
 Unidentified Iron Objects: 32

Glass Trade Beads

Necklace Beads (Stone 1974 : 88-107)

CI, SA, T1, Va, French, 1700-1750: 1
 CI, SA, T1, Vd, French, 1700-1750: 3 (Heldman 1977 : 71)
 CI, SA, T1, Ve, French, 1700-1750: 2 (Ibid.)
 CI, SA, T2, Va, French, 1710-1750: 12
 CI, SA, T2, Vb, probably French, 1710-1750: 3
 CI, SA, T3, Va, French, 1710-1750: 1
 CI, SA, T3, Vd, French religious bead, 1710-1750: 2
 CI, SA, T4, Vc, French, 1710-1750: 1
 CI, SA, T5, Va, date and cultural origin unknown: 1
 CI, SA, T6, Vc, date and cultural origin unknown: 2

| | |
|--|----|
| CI, SA, T6, Vd, date and cultural origin unknown: | 1 |
| CI, SA, T6, Ve, date and cultural origin unknown: | 1 |
| CI, SA, T7, Va, date and cultural origin unknown: | 2 |
| CI, SA, T8, Va, French, 1630-1760: | 1 |
| CI, SB, T1, Va, French, 1730s-1761 and possibly as late as 1781: | 16 |
| CI, SB, T2, Va, French <u>Cornaline d'Aleppo</u> , eighteenth century: | 8 |
| CI, SB, T3, Va, French, 1670-1781: | 1 |
| CI, SC, T1, Vc, French, 1700-1750: | 1 |
| CI, SC, T3, Ve, date and cultural origin unknown: | 2 |
| CI, SC, T7, Va, probably French, but dates unknown: | 1 |
| CI, SD, T1, Va, French <u>Cornaline d'Aleppo</u> , 1650-1750: | 3 |
| CII, SA, T1, Va, French, 1730-1781: | 2 |
| CII, SA, T1, Vb, French, 1730s-1781: | 1 |
| CII, SA, T2, Va, French, 1690-1761: | 2 |
| CII, SA, T2, Vb, French, 1690-1761: | 1 |
| CII, SA, T2, Vc, French, 1609-1761: | 1 |
| CII, SA, T3, Vb, date and cultural origin uncertain: | 1 |
| CII, SA, T8, Va, French, 1700-1750: | 1 |
| CII, SA, T11, Vb, French, 1700-1760: | 2 |
| CII, SA, T11, Ve, French, 1700-1760: | 2 |
| CII, SC, T1, Vc, date and cultural origin unknown: | 1 |
| CII, SC, T2, Vf, date and cultural origin unknown: | 1 |
| CII, SC, T2, Va, date and cultural origin unknown: | 4 |

Discussion of Necklace Beads

Necklace beads recovered during the 1978-1979 excavations are of French or unknown origin, according to Stone (1974 : 107). The specimens are listed in Table 11 by period.

Table 11. Distribution of Necklace Bead Types

| <u>Period</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Origin</u> |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| 1730-61 | CISAT6Vc | 2 | Unknown |
| " | CISBT2Va | 1 | French Cornaline d'Aleppo 18th Century |
| " | CISCT1Va | 1 | French 1700-1750 |
| " | CISDT1Va | 1 | French Cornaline d'Aleppo 1650-1750 |
| " | CIISAT2Va | 2 | French 1690-1761 |
| 1760s | CISAT2Va | 4 | French 1710-1750 |
| " | CISAT3Vd | 2 | French religious bead 1710-1750 |
| " | CISAT4Vc | 1 | French 1710-1750 |
| " | CISAT10Va | 1 | French 1670-1750 |
| " | CISCT7Va | 3 | Probably French, unknown |
| " | CIISAT11Ve | 1 | French 1700-1760 |
| " | CIISCT1Vd | 1 | Unknown |
| " | CIISCT2Va | 1 | Unknown |
| 1770s | CIISAT1Vc | 1 | French 1700-1750 |
| Privy | | | |
| 1700s | CISAT1Ve | 1 | French 1700-1750 |
| " | CISAT6Ve | 1 | Unknown |
| " | CISAT7Va | 1 | Unknown |
| " | CISAT8Va | 1 | French 1730-1760 |
| " | CISBT1Va | 10 | French 1730-61, possibly to 1781 |
| " | CIISAT2Vb | 1 | French 1690-1761 |
| " | CIISAT8Va | 1 | French 1700-1750 |
| " | CIISCT2Va | 1 | Unknown |
| Black | | | |
| Sandy | | | |
| Loam | CISAT1Vd | 2 | French 1700-1750 |
| " | CISBT1Va | 1 | French 1730-1761 |
| " | CIISAT3Vb | 1 | Unknown |
| " | CIISCT1Vf | 1 | Unknown |

Stone (1974 : 88-107) determined necklace bead dates on the basis of stratigraphic and distributional associations at Fort Michlimackinac. Data from the 1978-1979 excavations along the Rue de la Babillarde may be used to revise some of these period associations.

Seed Beads (Stone 1974 : 107-114, explains no dates nor cultural origins are known for seed beads)

CI, SA, Tl, Va: 209

CI, SA, Tl, Vb: 6

CI, SA, Tl, Vc: 6

CI, SA, Tl, Vd: 3

CI, SA, Tl, Ve: 144

CI, SA, Tl, Vf: 25

CI, SA, Tl, Vh: 2

CI, SA, Tl, Vi: 59

CI, SA, Tl, Vj: 48

CI, SA, Tl, Vl: 27

CI, SA, Tl, Vm: 15

CI, SA, Tl, Vn: 452

CI, SA, Tl, Vo: 31

CI, SA, Tl, Vp: 107

CI, SA, Tl, Vq: 12

CI, SA, Tl, Vs: 3

CI, SA, Tl, Vt: 5

CI, SA, Tl, Vv: 25

CI, SA, Tl, Vw: 10

CI, SA, Tl, Vx: 4

CI, SA, Tl, Vy: 479

CI, SA, Tl, Vz: 6

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| CI, SA, T2, Va: | 48 |
| CI, SA, T2, Vb: | 54 |
| CI, SA, T2, Vc: | 3 |
| CI, SA, T2, Vd: | 1 |
| CI, SA, T3, Va: | 12 |
| CI, SA, T4, Va (Wampum): | 37 |
| CI, SA, T4, Vb: | 10 |
| CI, SA, T6, Ve: | 1 |
| CI, SB, T1, Va: | 3965 |
| CI, SB, T2, Va: | 66 |
| CI, SB, T2, Vb: | 7 |
| CI, SB, T3, Va: | 288 |
| CI, SC, T1, Vc: | 1 |
| CII, SA, T1, Vc: | 3 |
| CII, SA, T1, Vd: | 16 |
| CII, SC, T1, Vc: | 1 |

Discussion of Seed Beads

Seed beads are by far the most common of the trade goods recovered in the 1978-1979 excavations, in no small part because of systematic water screening recovery methods. Stone (1974 : 107) indicates that seed beads in his sample were systematically collected during one field season only. His sample therefore was skewed and he concluded that it was pointless to do a horizontal distribution analysis of seed beads in the western half of the fort, as he did for some other artifact categories.

More recent excavations (Heldman 1977 : 10; Heldman 1978 : 14) employed water screening recovery methods but contexts in these excavations

were largely features with redeposited contents or disturbed layers rather than occupation deposits. Thus the 1978- 1979 excavations in the Rue de la Babillarde provide one of the few opportunities to examine the distribution of seed beads in undisturbed occupation contexts. The frequency data and period percentages for seed bead types found in occupation deposits of the three periods of occupation are shown in Table 12. The table also includes comparative data from the black sandy loam layer found in the 1978-1979 excavations. As discussed earlier, this is a layer disturbed in 1933 and therefore has mixed content, although it is primarily of the late British period (1774-1781). Table 12 also includes Stone's data (1974 : 112-116) for comparative purposes.

The seed beads also are grouped by color, form and structure, and these data are presented in Table 13 in the form of percentages by period.

Stone's (1974 : 88) Class I beads are made by the Hollowcane method while Class II beads are of the Mandrel wound method. With the exception of one specimen from the disturbed black sandy loam layer and others from mixed deposits or redeposited fill, only one Class II type specimen was recovered from occupation deposits in the Rue de la Babillarde. This probably is not a significant variation in view of the relative rarity of these specimens in Stone's large bead sample, but it could indicate some supply or chronological variation.

The three types of construction, simple, compound, and complex represented by the Series element in Stone's classification are summarized in Table 13. Complex construction is rare and compound construction is most common. There is a slight decline (of 1.0%) in compound construction in the three periods of occupation deposits along the lane but the relative frequency of these construction types is identical to that in Stone's sample. The

Table 12. Distribution of Seed Beads by Period

| Seed Type | 1730-61 | | 1760s | | 1770s | | Black Sandy Loam | | Stone's Sample | |
|-----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| ISAT1Va | 6 | 01.97 | 17 | 02.00 | 13 | 02.74 | 38 | 12.97 | 252 | 05.25 |
| ISAT1Vb | 0 | - | 2 | 00.24 | 2 | 00.42 | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISAT1Vc | 0 | - | 1 | 00.12 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 7 | 00.15 |
| ISAT1Vd | 0 | - | 0 | - | 1 | 00.21 | 0 | - | 122 | 02.54 |
| ISAT1Ve | 4 | 01.31 | 24 | 02.83 | 11 | 02.32 | 12 | 04.09 | 29 | 00.60 |
| ISAT1Vf | 0 | - | 3 | 00.35 | 4 | 00.87 | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISAT1Vg | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISAT1Vh | 1 | 00.33 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISAT1Vi | 4 | 01.31 | 6 | 00.71 | 3 | 00.63 | 0 | - | 20 | 00.42 |
| ISAT1Vj | 0 | - | 8 | 00.94 | 0 | - | 5 | 01.71 | 4 | 00.08 |
| ISAT1Vk | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISAT1Vl | 0 | - | 0 | - | 3 | 00.63 | 0 | - | 6 | 00.12 |
| ISAT1Vm | 0 | - | 2 | 00.24 | 1 | 00.21 | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISAT1Vn | 13 | 04.26 | 42 | 04.95 | 33 | 06.95 | 8 | 02.73 | 53 | 01.10 |
| ISAT1Vo | 0 | - | 2 | 00.24 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 274 | 05.71 |
| ISAT1Vp | 6 | 01.97 | 13 | 01.53 | 5 | 01.05 | 14 | 04.78 | 191 | 03.98 |
| ISAT1Vq | 0 | - | 0 | - | 1 | 00.21 | 0 | - | 62 | 02.19 |
| ISAT1Vr | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 2 | 00.04 |
| ISAT1Vs | 0 | - | 2 | 00.24 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 2 | 00.04 |
| ISAT1Vt | 0 | - | 0 | - | 2 | 00.42 | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISAT1Vu | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 2 | 00.04 |
| ISAT1Vv | 0 | - | 6 | 00.71 | 7 | 01.47 | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISAT1Vw | 0 | - | 0 | - | 1 | 00.21 | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISAT1Vx | 0 | - | 2 | 00.24 | 1 | 00.21 | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISAT1Vy | 34 | 11.15 | 71 | 08.36 | 38 | 08.00 | 17 | 05.80 | 19 | 00.40 |
| ISAT1Vz | 6 | 01.97 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - |
| ISAT2Va | 0 | - | 4 | 00.47 | 2 | 00.42 | 11 | 03.74 | 25 | 00.52 |
| ISAT2Vb | 0 | - | 8 | 00.94 | 9 | 01.89 | 2 | 00.68 | 61 | 01.27 |
| ISAT2Vc | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 10 | 00.21 |
| ISAT2Vd | 0 | - | 0 | - | 1 | 00.21 | 0 | - | 0 | - |
| ISAT3Va | 0 | - | 2 | 00.24 | 1 | 00.21 | 0 | - | 2 | 00.04 |
| ISAT3Vb | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 5 | 00.10 |
| ISAT4Va | 6 | 01.97 | 10 | 01.18 | 2 | 00.42 | 1 | 00.34 | 77 | 01.60 |
| ISAT4Vb | 0 | - | 3 | 00.35 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 10 | 00.21 |
| ISBT1Va | 217 | 71.15 | 568 | 66.90 | 290 | 61.05 | 150 | 51.19 | 3365 | 70.13 |
| ISBT2Va | 3 | 00.98 | 8 | 00.94 | 1 | 00.21 | 0 | - | 24 | 00.50 |
| ISBT3Va | 5 | 01.64 | 43 | 05.06 | 42 | 00.84 | 31 | 10.58 | 142 | 02.96 |
| ISCT1Va | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISCT1Vb | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 1 | 00.02 |
| ISCT1Vc | 0 | - | 1 | 00.12 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - |

Table 12 continued

| Bead Type | 1730-61 | | 1760s | | 1770s | | Black Sandy Loam | | Stone's Sample | |
|-----------|---------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| CIISATIVa | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 5 | 00.10 |
| CIISATIVb | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 2 | 00.04 |
| CIISATIVc | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 3 | 00.05 |
| CIISATIVd | 0 | | 1 | 00.12 | 1 | 00.21 | 4 | 01.36 | 5 | 00.10 |
| CIISATIVe | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 1 | 00.02 |
| CIISATIVf | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 1 | 00.02 |
| CIISATIVg | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 1 | 00.02 |
| CIISATIVh | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 1 | 00.02 |
| CIISATIVi | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 1 | 00.02 |
| Totals | 305 | | 849 | | 475 | | 293 | | 4798 | |

Table 13. Seed Bead Color and Structure Group Percentages by Period

| Color | 1730-60 | 1760s | 1770s | Black Sandy Loam | Stone |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| White | 84.21 | 80.99 | 81.00 | 67.58 | 75.14 |
| Black | 01.97 | 02.95 | 03.27 | 15.02 | 06.79 |
| Blue | 11.18 | 12.04 | 12.01 | 15.70 | 15.40 |
| Green | 01.32 | 01.89 | 01.31 | 01.71 | 01.87 |
| Red | 01.32 | 00.94 | 00.22 | 0 | 00.68 |
| Yellow | 0 | 01.18 | 02.18 | 0 | 00.13 |
| Purple Wampum | 00.55 | 01.18 | 00.43 | 0 | 01.63 |
| Light Colors Grouped | 98.02 | 95.16 | 94.76 | 79.52 | 92.42 |
| Dark Colors Grouped | 01.97 | 04.84 | 05.24 | 20.48 | 07.64 |
| <u>Shape</u> | | | | | |
| Doughnut | 94.74 | 91.73 | 89.08 | 83.28 | 92.80 |
| Tubular | 05.26 | 08.26 | 10.92 | 15.36 | 06.78 |
| <u>Construction</u> | | | | | |
| Simple | 25.99 | 26.80 | 27.07 | 38.22 | 26.26 |
| Compound | 74.01 | 73.08 | 72.93 | 61.77 | 73.70 |
| Complex | 0 | 00.11 | 0 | 0 | 00.04 |

notable exception is in the black sandy loam, a disturbed layer where the ratio of simple construction specimens is much higher than in the undisturbed occupation layers.

Seed beads are either doughnut shaped, the most common form, or tubular. The frequency data in Table 13 shows that there is a decrease in doughnut shapes and an increase in tubular shapes through time in the occupation deposits in the Rue de la Babillarde.

At the variety level of the taxonomy, color of beads is varied. White is most common, though considerably larger proportions of white seed beads were recovered in the lane than in Stone's sample. The disturbed black sandy loam layer varies in that there is a much larger proportion of black beads, a color which increases slightly in the occupation deposits when both the 1770s and 1760s are contrasted with that of the 1730s to 1761. In general, dark colors appear to increase and light colors decrease with the passage of time. Dark colors are far more common in the black sandy loam layer. If that layer does in fact represent the content of the late 1770s (despite its loss of contextual relationships), it could represent a change in seed beads in the latest period of British occupation. Other explanations may be possible but data from a good sample of very late 1770s deposits is clearly needed.

Several seed bead types have restricted distributions in the Rue de la Babillarde sample of 1978-1979, and these may represent cultural or supply changes or preferences. However, most of these variations are represented by very few specimens and it is probably premature to draw far-reaching conclusions from this sample.

Purple "wampum" shell seed beads (CI, SA, T4, Va) reach the peak of their popularity in the 1760s, while white "wampum" shell beads (CI, SA, T4, Vb) are found only in the 1770s deposits.

By far the most common bead in all periods is CI, SB, Tl, Va, a hollow cane, compound structure, doughnut shape, two layer white opaque bead. However, there appears to be a systematic decline in relative frequency of this type. It is 71.38% of the seed beads in the 1730s-1761 deposit, 67.22% in the 1760s, and 63.54% in the 1770s. If black sandy loam does represent the 1774-1781 period, then this type continues to decline in relative popularity to 51.19% in the late British period.

Several types of seed beads have restricted distribution in Rue de la Babillarde sample. Given the low numerical frequencies involved these differences may not be significant but are presented as an initial step in attempting to discover a bead chronology for Fort Michilimackinac.

Seed beads only present in the 1730s-1761 deposits:

CISAT1Vh
CISAT1Vz

Seed bead types present only in the 1760s deposits:

CISAT1Vc
CISAT1Vj
CISAT1Vo
CISAT1Vs
CISAT4Vb
CISCT1Vc

Seed bead types present only in the 1770s deposits:

CISAT1Vd
CISAT1Vl
CISAT1Vq
CISAT1Vt
CISAT1Vw
CISAT2Vd

Seed bead types present in 1760s and 1770s deposits:

CISAT1Vb
CISAT1Vf
CISAT1Vm
CISAT1Vv
CISAT1Vx
CISAT2Va
CISAT2Vb

CISAT3Va
CIISAT1Vd

Seed bead types present in all three periods:

CISAT1Va
CISAT1Ve
CISAT1Vi
CISAT1Vn
CISAT1Vp
CISAT1Vy
CISAT4Va
CISBT1Va
CISBT2Va
CISBT3Va

Two seed bead types found in the Rue de la Babillarde sample were not present in Stone's sample. These are CI, SA, Tl, Vz and CI, SC, Tl, Vc.

Several seed bead types in Stone's (1974) sample from the west half of the fort were not present in the Rue de la Babillarde sample. Many of these are Class II, Mandrel wound method of manufacture types. They are as follows:

CISAT1Vg
CISAT1Vk
CISAT1Vr
CISAT1Vu
CISAT2Vc
CISAT3Vb
CISCT1Va
CISCT1Vb

CIISAT1Va
CIISAT1Vb
CIISAT1Vc
CIISAT1Ve
CIISAT1Vf
CIISAT1Vg
CIISAT1Vh

Jewelry

Rosary Beads, French, 1730s-1781 (Stone 1974 : 117): 15

Rosary Chain, French, 1730s-1781 (Heldman 1977 : Figure 64B): 5

Cufflinks (op. cit. : 69-76)

CI, SA, Tl, Vb, date and cultural origin unknown: 3

Discussion of Trade Goods

The chronological associations of seed bead types have been discussed in some detail earlier in this section of the report. Table 14 includes seed bead totals along with frequency data for all other trade goods. The table also includes the percentages of each as a proportion of the period assemblage.

Taken as a single group, trade goods decline in relative frequency from about 7% of the total in the French period of the 1730s to 1761 to less than 3% of the total in the the 1770s. A similar decline is apparent if seed beads are included in the trade goods total. Taken alone, seed beads increase slightly in the 1760s, then decline in the 1770s.

The general decline in relative frequency of trade goods during British hegemony at the site is what would be expected in view of the increased military importance and military presence, particularly along the Rue de la Babillarde during the British period.

Some fluxuations in the relative popularity of specific trade items may be seen in Table 14. Tinkling cones and vermillion decline in relative percentage through time while some other items, silver pendants, metal projectile points, for example, are present only in 1770s deposits. The numbers of specimens involved in these samples as individual trade goods are low and it is probably not advisable to draw conclusions about changing trade goods inventories without a larger sample from the Rue de la Babil-larde. The general decline in trade activities does seem supportable, however.

Building Materials

Bricks, probably both French and British, 1730s-1781: 2325

Worked Red Sandstone, unknown dates and cultural origin: 17

General Chronological Conclusions

use during the British period. Clear glass bottles increase in frequency, particularly during the 1770s.

The frequency of shot also increases during the later years of British occupation. In the 1760s and 1770s a bimodal curve of small shot is evident with sizes clustering around .13" and .19" calibres. Spall gun flints decrease in frequency but are present in both French and British periods, while the blade form first appears in the 1760s.

The use of white kaolin or ball clay smoking pipes increases markedly during British hegemony.

Rosary beads, military braid (termed "Fabrics"), and jewelry decline in relative frequency in the occupation deposits while the use of straight pins seems relatively constant throughout colonial occupation of the site.

Necklace beads of French origin are found in all occupation deposits. Based upon the data from the Rue de la Babillarde excavations of 1978-1979 some hitherto unknown examples of beads may be associated with a particular period of occupation at the site.

Among seed bead types, a few are found only in occupation deposits of a single period, while other more common types are present in all periods. In general, dark colors tend to increase in relative frequency with the passage of time. There is also a decline in the relative frequency of doughnut shape and in those of compound construction. As a percentage of all artifacts, seed beads decrease, particularly in the 1770s, and more significantly this is paralleled by a decrease in the percentage of trade goods as a category.

As a category architectural artifacts also show some changes through time. The use of nails and window glass appears to increase, as does the use of interior wall plaster, Bouzillage declines and is absent altogether