



# THE BEAD FORUM

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KARLIS KARKLINS, Editor

PARKS CANADA, 1600 LIVERPOOL COURT, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, K1A 1G2 CANADA

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## SUMMARY OF HURON BEAD SEQUENCE, AD 1590-1650

The Huron confederacy consisted of four distinct Indian nations which occupied a small geographical area adjacent to the southeastern corner of Georgian Bay in what is now south-central Ontario.

Each nation within the confederacy was responsible for its own commercial relations and would act independently from decisions made by the confederacy. As a consequence, each of the four nations, represented by twenty-two contemporary villages, acquired trade goods from European traders at roughly the same time; i.e., between 1590-1600 (the start of formalized trading into Huronia) and around 1649 (the destruction of the Huron confederacy by the Iroquois).

Of 26 samples from village and burial sites in Huron country, only 15 contained more than 30 glass beads. The sequence, showing approximate date ranges, and the three to five most popular Kidd (1970) varieties and their frequency at each site or group of sites, is as follows:

Ball Village (1590-1600): 10, Ia5; 7, IIa31; 2, IIa10; 1, frit-cored bead; 1, IIg4.

Warminster North Village, Warminster South Village and Warminster Ossuary  
(1600-1610): 169, Ia5; 119, IIa15; 57, IIa49; 27, Ia19; 22, IIa14.  
Auger (1610-1620): 17, IIa15; 16, Ia5; 14, IIIbb3; 7, Ia19.  
Peden (1620-1630): 107, IVa5; 30, IIa31; 7, IIa51; 3, IIa1.  
Santimo (1630-1640): 171, IVa1; 43, IIa31, 21, IIa1; 6, IVk3; 6, IIbb1.  
St. Louis (1630-1640): 11, IVa1; 4, Ia1; 4, IIa43; 4, IIa5; 2, Ia20.  
Ossossane Village (1630-1640): 32, Ia1; 14, IIa33; 8, IVa5; 7, IIa1.  
Ossossane Ossuary (1636): 79, IVa5; 37, IIa34-40; 41, IIa53; 16, Ia1; 16, IIa13.  
Maurice Ossuary (??): 42, IVa5; 12, Ia1; 6, IIa31; 6, IVk4.  
Orr Lake (1640-1650): 41, Ia1; 15, Ic1; 11, Id1; 8, Ic1; 8, IIa33.  
Train (1640-1650): 23, Ia1; 23, IIa23; 21, IIa1-3; 12, IVa1-8.  
Thompson Walker (1640-1648): 57, IIa4; 6, IIa33; 1, Ic1.  
Sainte-Marie I (1639-1649): 73, IIa33; 63, IIa5; 16, Ia1; 6, IIa9; 5, IVa1.

When compared to the Neutral bead sequence (Kenyon and Kenyon 1983), the Huron assemblage exhibits close similarities. For example, the Neutral Sealey site bead assemblage is virtually identical to that from the contemporary Peden site. It is hoped that this system will provide researchers with a fairly clear chronological sequence of trade bead styles for the early French fur trade period in the St. Lawrence River-Great Lakes Basin. It is also hoped that the sequence will be further refined to allow more precise dating of Huron village sites and for determining European bead styles and varieties as they changed through time.

For further information write James R. Hunter, Director, Huronia Museum, P.O. Box 638, Midland, Ontario L4R 4P4.

## References

### **Kenyon, Ian T. and Thomas Kenyon**

1983 Comments on 17th Century Glass Trade Beads from Ontario. In "Proceedings of the 1982 Glass Trade Bead Conference," edited by Charles F. Hayes III. Rochester Museum and Science Center, Research Records 16: 59-74.

**Kidd, Kenneth E. and Martha A. Kidd**

1970 A Classification System for Glass Beads for the Use of Field Archaeologists.  
Canadian Historic Sites: Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History 1:45-89.

-- James R. Hunter

### **SHELL BEAD CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS**

The 1986 "Shell Bead Conference," sponsored by the Arthur C. Parker Fund for Iroquois Research, will be held at the Rochester Museum and Science Center on November 15-16, 1986.

The overall theme of the conference is that shell beads, according to growing numbers of archaeological and ethnographic studies, represent important aspects of the material culture of many societies through time and space. Rather than simple ornaments, the beads may be viewed as evidence for a culture's social, political, and economic structure, its belief systems and technology, and often far-flung trade relationships. The data, however, are commonly scattered among regional specialists and reports are unavailable. It is therefore appropriate now to focus on shell beads in a special conference in order to bring together scholars to consider new evidence and old, and to examine patterns of cultural activity from many current perspectives.

During the conference, the RMSC shell bead collection, particularly strong in examples from Iroquoian archaeological and ethnographic contexts, will be available for viewing.

Individuals wishing to present a paper at the conference should contact: Shell Bead Conference, c/o Charles F. Hayes III, Research Director, Rochester Museum and Science Center, P.O. Box 1480, Rochester, New York 14603.

Speakers are asked to submit no more than a 200-word typed abstract to the RMSC's Research Division by **July 1, 1986**. Prior to the conference abstracts of all contributed papers will be reproduced and made available to all registrants. A final copy of a speaker's paper should be submitted before or at the meeting. It is the intent that the contributed papers be published by the RMSC through