

Archaeological Investigations  
at Molpa, San Diego County,  
California

By

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with appendix by Smiley Karst

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

BERKELEY • LOS ANGELES • LONDON

1973

## Worked sherds (1) (Not illustrated)

A single modified sherd was recovered. It is circular, biconically drilled in the center of the disc, and has the appearance of a spindle whorl. Its use in this context is not known. It may have been an ornament. Shaped sherd fragments are not common in the San Luis Rey territory but are often found in the adjacent Diegueño sites (True 1966).

## Historic Artifacts

Five artifacts representing post-contact influences were recovered during the investigations at Molpa. All were surface finds or excavated from the uppermost level (0 to 6 inches).

## Knives (2) (Not illustrated)

Two fragments of iron or steel knives were recovered. One had a fragment of wooden handle still attached to its tang. This suggests the possibility that it was deposited on the site after the village was abandoned since preservation in this region is poor. The second knife included only a portion of the steel blade without a tang or handle.

## Trade beads (2) (Not illustrated)

Two blue glass beads were recovered from the surface. Two different forms are represented: one is disc-like, the other more tubular. These are not uncommon bead types in southern California, occurring in association with Spanish mission-period sites dating prior to 1830.

## China and glass (3) (Not illustrated)

Two china and one glass sherds were recorded. One is a handle fragment probably from a cup. The others were nondiagnostic as to form. None were recognizable as to the kind of ware. The glass was amber to brown

in color and could have come from any number of sources either during the latter stages of the Indian occupation or after the village was abandoned.

#### ARTIFACT DISCUSSION

The artifact assemblage described above is an adequate sample for the purpose of delineating the tool inventory of the ceramic-bearing component of the San Luis Rey Complex. It is probably a fair inventory of San Luis Rey I, as well, since many of the elements are the same. However, the line between the two components in this sample is not clearly defined. On the basis of the available sample we cannot say much about activities or activity areas within the village, nor can we talk about developments through time in detail.

The functional tool categories outlined above are reasonably well defined on the basis of ethnographic data, and except for multipurpose usage of individual classes of implements, the categories are probably valid. They were further substantiated, in part at least, by detailed microscopic examination of the artifacts with functional criteria in mind.

For the most part the traditional uses (projectile points, drills, knives, scrapers and related tools) were revealed by the microscopic examination, but there was some deviation from the expected distribution of use classes based on formal characteristics alone. Re-examinations of the projectile point sample using a binocular microscope, suggests that many artifacts designated as projectile points may have served as multipurpose tools or may have been artifacts other than projectile tips. For example, in this sample, the tips of several artifacts previously classified as projectile points were marked by abrasion and wear and had a worn or rounded cross section. Most of the artifacts are made of crystalline quartz and unfortunately, this is the most difficult material for this kind of examination because quartz does not show wear facets or abrasion marks under light use. This means that our observations must remain tentative, especially in any quantitative sense. However, wear facets were clear

## APPENDIX B. ARTIFACTS FROM SDi-593

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK, CALIFORNIA

by  
Smiley Karst

Excavations at SDi-593 were carried out in 1961 by a field class from the University of California, Los Angeles, under the direction of C. N. Warren. Seven test pits were excavated and features associated with the site were mapped (see appendix A for the location of SDi-593 and general data on the area). The midden at SDi-593 ranges in depth from a few inches near the margins of the site to about 42 inches in the deepest areas. Pottery was recovered to a depth of 24 inches. This suggests a multiple component site with San Luis Rey II material overlying a San Luis Rey I component. Except for the ceramics, however, the midden appeared to lack stratification. There was some indication of soil color change below the 35-inch level and much of the 36 to 42-inch level was sterile. The deposit itself is a fine textured sandy loam that seems to be mostly outwash deposition from an adjacent knoll. This basic soil has been modified through time as a result of the occupancy of the site. It now includes substantial amounts of charcoal, humus, and other indications of other organic materials generally associated with late sites in this region.

The excavated sample was dug in 6-inch levels and all material was passed through a 1/4-inch mesh screen. The seven excavated units, plus a surface-collected sample made during the original park surveys, yielded 306 artifacts. Suggested types and artifact frequencies may be seen in appendix tables 8 and 9. Appendix table 10 adjusts these types to those used in the text to facilitate comparisons. Some additional comment on the recovered specimens follows:



of this type were found at SDi-593, averaging 2.1 cm. in length and 1.3 cm. in width. Only one example of my Type 6 was found. Precise serrations along the upper edges of the point and incipient side notching near the base distinguish Type 6 from Type 5. The single type point is 2.5 cm. long and 1.5 cm. wide. My Type 6y is represented by six specimens. This form is different from those described above in that it is narrow relative to its width along most of its length and flares outwardly sharply at 140 degrees, forming a deeply indented fishtail base. Three of these forms are serrated. Forms similar to this from other collections in this area sometimes have rounded cross sections near the tip and some indication that they may have been used as a drill. Type 7 points average 1.7 cm. in width. No whole specimens are included in the present sample.

The projectile points from SDi-593 average 2.3 centimeters in length. Quartz is the material most frequently used in the manufacture of these points. Of the forty-three identifiable specimens 79 percent are made of quartz. Three artifacts are made of black obsidian, two are basaltic, two a local chert, and one is an unidentified beige-colored stone.

#### BEADS

Two beads were found at this site. One was a shell disc made from a side section of an Olivella. The other was a blue glass trade bead.

#### POTTERY

Two hundred and twenty sherds were found at SDi-593, all but two of them on the surface or within the two upper levels of the excavation. The pottery here is the type designed Palomar Brown (Meighan 1959; Euler 1959). The few rim sherds present have both direct and re-curved forms.

APPENDIX TABLE 8 (continued)

Artifact type	Total	Material	Average size
Chips and flakes	86	quartz (53) basalt (11) obsidian (3) chert (15) jasper (1) ? (3)	
Cross-hatched stone slab	1	limestone (2)	5.8 cm. x 5.6 cm.
Beads			
trade bead	1	blue glass	0.6 cm. diam. 0.5 cm. length
disc bead	1	<u>Olivella</u>	0.5 cm. diam. 0.1 cm. length
Pipe fragment	1	pottery	8.1 cm. length 3.35 cm. diam.
Worked bone cylinder	1	bone	7.3 cm. length 2.0 cm. diam.