



NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER,
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



MAY 1985

85-5

IN THE PROVINCIAL OFFENCES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF: THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
Section 69(1).

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

against

PARKIN, George
RICHER, Gary
JACKSON, Gordon

SENTENCING

Given by His Worship, R. Robins, Justice of
the Peace, at the Provincial Offences Court,
32 James Street South, Hamilton, Ontario, on
Wednesday, May 1st, 1985.

APPEARANCES:

D. Katzman, Esq.	Counsel on behalf of the Crown
B. DeRubeis, Esq.	Counsel on behalf of the three accused.

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A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE MISNER CEMETERY GLASS BEADS

Ian Kenyon

Introduction

In what follows the glass beads from the Misner Cemetery (AhHa-27) will be described according to the Kidds' (1970) typological system (further developed by Karklins, 1982). The quantities of the bead varieties are listed in Table 1, where each of the 28 varieties is given a line number for ease of cross reference with the written descriptions provided below. For varieties that can not be matched in the Kidds' system, an asterisk is suffixed to the class designation in place of the variety number (e.g. IVa*). In some cases formally separate varieties are lumped together if at Misner their attributes intergrade (e.g. IVa6/IIa2). Where native modification of glass beads by grinding is frequent (as with varieties IIbb1, IIIk3), the unmodified and modified beads are listed on separate lines with the suffix "(gr)" added to the ground beads. Descriptions of size class diameters follows that of the Kidds: very small, under 2mm; small, 2-4mm; medium, 4-6mm; large, 6-10mm; very large, over 10mm.

In Table 1 the beads are listed according to their general provenance, including the 1037 beads that were looted from the site and formerly in the Parkin (P), Richer (R) and Jackson (J) collections. The table also lists the 733 glass beads recovered in the November 1984 excavations by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. These excavations centred on the looted area, which had a figure-eight outline about 6 metres long and 3 metres wide. In this report the beads recovered from the ploughzone and looting fill are listed in Table 1 according to whether they came from the north or south (N and S in Table 1) parts of the looted area, the S3 line of the grid being used as the dividing line. The only significant collection of glass beads from an undisturbed portion of the cemetery are the 158 specimens recovered from Grave 2 (G2 in Table 1). In addition there are 22 beads found in "other" (O in Table 1) contexts within the cemetery. The beads recovered from the north and south parts of the looted area are listed in Table 1 according to whether they were recovered from general excavation ("Exca."), where the soil was dry-screened with a 1/4" mesh, or water-screened ("Washed") through a 1/16" mesh.

Bead Descriptions

- (1) Ia14: The robin's egg blue tubular bead in the Richer collection displays some grinding.
- (2) IIa13: This category includes small white opaque round beads as well as some distorted specimens that have an oblong shape. These oblong beads are from the same units as the normal round beads and thus the former likely represent a "deviant" form accidentally produced during the manufacture of the "normal" round beads.
- (3) IIa40: The round robin's egg blue beads range in size from medium to large. Beads of this type are very common on early historic sites throughout Eastern North America.

Table 1. Glass Beads from the Misner Cemetery.

		<u>Looted Coll.</u>			<u>MCC Excavations, 1984</u>						
Bead Variety	P	R	J	Looted Cemetery				G2	O	TOTAL	
				Exca.		Washed					
	N	S	N	S							
(1) Ia14	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	
(2) IIa13	1	2	-	2	1	3	10	-	-	19	
(3) IIa40	10	9	-	3	1	-	-	15	-	38	
(4) IIa42	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	
(5) IIa*	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
(6) IIa46	-	-	-	2	-	3	3	-	-	8	
(7) IIa55/56	260	247	-	18	24	39	79	-	3	670	
(8) IIa57	49	51	-	7	-	10	3	-	-	120	
(9) IIa*	7	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	12	
(10) IIbb1	10	5	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	23	
(11) IIbb1(gr)	7	7	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	20	
(12) IIIb*	2	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	
(13) IIIbb*	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	
(14) IIIk3	158	114	29	44	81	2	55	-	17	500	
(15) IIIk3(gr)	2	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	7	
(16) IVa5/6	10	10	-	-	-	1	-	128	-	149	
(17) IVa6/IIa2	-	-	-	1	-	-	122	-	-	123	
(18) IVa7	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	
(19) IVa*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8	
(20) IVa*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7	
(21) IVa*	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
(22) IVb34	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
(23) IVb*	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	
(24) IVbb8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
(25) IVk3/4	3	4	6	3	6	-	-	-	-	22	
(26) IVn2	8	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	14	
(27) IVn4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
(28) IVn*	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	
TOTAL	531	463	43	98	119	64	272	158	22	1770	

(4) **Ila42:** Aside from their ovoid shape these beads are similar in size and physical properties to the previous category; both were recovered from the northern part of the looted area.

(5) **Ila*:** The Richer collection contains two large rounded beads of robin's egg blue glass that have been ground. These may simply be modified versions of the Ila40 beads, but the three ground facets on one of these specimens suggests that it may have been produced by removing the three stripes from a Iib56 bead (round robin's egg blue with three white stripes), although no beads of this type have been found at Misner.

(6) **Ila46:** A medium-sized shadow blue bead is present in both the north and south parts of the looted area.

(7) **Ila55/56:** The most frequent bead type at the Misner cemetery is a round to circular (doughnut-shaped) dark blue bead. The majority of these are of a small size class although there are some medium size examples. Beads of this size and colour are difficult to spot during exavation, and the majority of the specimens from the MCC excavation were recovered by washing soil through a fine screen.

(8) **Ila57:** These are ovoid versions of the previous class, and the Ila57 are likewise mostly of a small size although a few are medium size. There is a tendency for the round Ila55 beads to intergrade with the ovoid Ila57 beads. The ovoid beads, however, are almost entirely from the north half of the looted area in contrast to the round ones which mostly come from the southern half.

(9) **Ila*:** This variety consists of distorted ("deviant") oblong beads similar in diameter and glass type to the previous two categories.

(10) **Iibb1:** A large round red bead with three blue on white stripes is the most common type of striped bead at Misner. All five specimens found in the MCC excavation were from the north part of the looted area.

(11) **Iibb1 (ground):** Examples of Iibb1 beads ground on three sides to remove their stripes are almost as common at Misner as the unmodified beads.

(12) **IIb*:** These are tubular beads of a compound, three layer body (dark blue/ white/ dark blue) with white stripes. The 5 specimens from the Parkin and Richer collections have 8 white stripes, whereas the single example from the MCC collection, although lightly ground, originally bore about 14 white stripes. A heavily ground example in the Jackson collection resembles the IIIa12 bead (compound blue tube with no stripes) but this specimen is likely a IIb* bead with its stripes deliberately removed.

(13) **IIbb*:** The two examples in this category are ground, probably to remove their blue on white stripes, of which only a trace remains. The beads have a cored red body and originally were likely similar to the Kidds' IIIbb1-5 types.

(14) **IIIk3:** The second most popular bead type at Misner is a star bead with facettted ends. At Misner the size range of these beads is enormous, ranging from small to very large in diameter although the majority are medium (4-6mm) sized. Some of the larger specimens are egg-sized beads 20 to 25mm in diameter. In the MCC excavation, IIIk3 star beads tended to be concentrated in the southern portion of the looted area, particularly Units S4W0 and S6W0.

(15) IIIk3 (ground): Only half a dozen star beads had their exterior blue and white layers removed by grinding to reveal the underlying red of the third layer.

(16) IVa5/6 (small/medium): These beads are round to circular in shape with a translucent core and a red exterior; many have a clear exterior coating of glass although in some examples this has split off. Most range between 3 and 5.5mm in diameter. Although over a 100 specimens were recovered, most come from Grave 2, where it was the dominant type.

(17) IVa6/IIa2 (small/very small): These circular beads have a red body and range in diameter from 1.7 to 2.5mm. Beads of this category are with one exception restricted to the south part of the looted area, specifically Units S4W0 and S6W0. All but one of these tiny beads were recovered from fine-screen washing, and none are represent in the Richer, Parkin and Jackson collections. In later centuries beads of this size were usually used for embroidery work and it is tempting to regard the Misner specimens as such, but owing to the despoliation of the cemetery we will never know their context. The cores of these tiny red beads vary from translucent apple green (IVa6), to translucent glass mixed with swirls of opaque red, to entirely opaque red (IIa2). Although IIa2 and IVa6 beads are formally separate varieties in the Kidds' typological system, at Misner these two varieties intergrade and are found in the same units.

(18) IVa7: These beads are similar in structure and colour to the IVa5/6 beads only they have an ovoid shape.

(19) IVa*: These are circular, small diameter beads with a shadow blue body and translucent interior and exterior layers. They were found only in Grave 2.

(20) IVa*: Similar in size, shape and structure to the previous category, they differ only in colour, which is a robin's egg or turquoise blue. They likewise were found only in Grave 2.

(21) IVa*: This medium-size ovoid bead is of compound construction with three layers as follows: an inner core of translucent glass, a middle layer of milky white glass, and a thick exterior covering of navy blue glass. The only known glass bead from the nearby Fonger village site is of this rare variety.

(22) IVb34: The single example of this type is a dark blue bead of large size with about 16 white stripes.

(23) IVb*: These two medium sized specimens are similar to type IVb2 in that they have a translucent core, a red exterior and thin black stripes. One bead has 9 stripes and the other 10.

(24) IVbb8: An medium-sized ovoid red bead with a translucent core has three blue on white stripes.

(25) IVk3/4: This category is composed of large-sized rounded star beads and, as typical for Ontario, they are much less common at Misner than the facettted IIIk3 form.

(26) IVn2: These are large-sized rounded star beads with a white outer layer and alternating blue and red stripes.

(27) IVn4: Similar in size and shape to beads of the previous category, this star bead differs in that it has alternating yellow and blue stripes.

(28) IVn*: Another large-sized rounded star bead type has blue stripes only. It, like the IVn2 beads, comes from the north half of the looted area.

Discussion

In evaluating the date of the Misner Cemetery, two similar but separate questions must be asked: What is the date range of the cemetery as a whole and what is the date range of the material recovered? If the Grimsby site can be taken as a guide, there is no reason to believe that the beads so far recovered at Misner are representative of the cemetery as a whole. At the Grimsby site (W. Kenyon, 1982) there is good evidence that the cemetery developed over some length of time (Kenyon and Fox, 1982), so that the findings from one portion of the site are not necessarily of the same type or period as those from another part. It is uncertain whether the complex pattern found at Grimsby is typical of Neutral cemeteries in general, for most of the other known cemeteries have long ago been dug like potatoes. The MCC investigation at Misner indicates that the cemetery probably consisted of a number of mass and individual burial pits, much like Grimsby, and hence it is quite possible that these interments may have been made over the course of a decade or more. The extant artifact sample from Misner, however, derives from only a restricted area of the cemetery, but even so there is some suggestion that Grave 2 is later in date than the looted burial pit only a few metres to the south.

The pre-1650 Ontario glass bead sequence has been divided into three numbered periods, each characterized by certain glass bead varieties (Kenyon and Kenyon, 1983; Fitzgerald, 1982 and 1983). Curiously, the available glass bead assemblage from Misner can not be precisely fitted into this scheme -- surely not owing to any deficiency in its original formulation! As a whole, the Misner collection is neither very early nor very late. It lacks, for instance, the "frit-core" beads characteristic of Period 1 (Kenyon and Kenyon, 1983) and it also lacks the red tubular (Ia1) and medium-size solid red round (IIa1) beads that are the two dominant types on sites of the 1640's (Kenyon and Fitzgerald, 1984). Misner, then, is a site of intermediate date, spanning Periods 2 and (early) 3 in the numbered sequence. Typical Period 2 beads at Misner are dark blue ovoid beads (IIa57), the white rounds (IIa13) and usually the dark blue round beads (IIa55/56). Also typical of Period 2 are many of the polychrome beads found at Misner: the white striped blue tubes (IIIb*), the blue-on-white striped red tubes (IIIbb*), and a similar striped bead of ovoid form (IVbb8). Found in all three periods are the faceted star beads so common at Misner. The most frequent striped bead at Misner, the blue-on-white striped round red bead (IIbb1), is found in Periods 2 and 3. Characteristic of Period 3 are red circular and round beads (IVa5/6) and robin's egg blue round beads (IIa40), although the latter type are also common in Period 1. Interestingly, aside from the tiny red circular beads found in the southern portion of the looted area, these "classic" Period 3 bead types were concentrated in Grave 2 rather than in the looted burial pits, suggesting that Grave 2 might be slightly later in date. Oddly, certain key Period 2 types are entirely absent, notably the white ovoid and tubular beads, which are so common on earlier sites.

In sum, the beads from Misner indicate that it dates to the Period 2/3 transition. I have suggested (1984) that this transition may have taken place between 1616 and 1624, although Fitzgerald (1982; 1983) proposes 1628-32. Regardless, the Misner cemetery, at least as represented in the extant collections, should date sometime between circa 1615 and 1635.

The Misner cemetery excavations raise questions concerning recovery rates of beads. At Misner the glass beads range in size from mote-like specimens less than 2mm in diameter to the egg-sized star beads 20 to 25mm in diameter. Table 1 reveals some evident differences in recovery rates, which would have been even more revealing if the beads were further subdivided by size classes. Almost all of the egg-sized star beads were found by the looters and all of the very small red beads (IVa6) during the MCC excavation -- perhaps not surprising results. Yet, the "scientific" MCC excavations using the 1/4" screen probably had a recovery rate little better than that of the "unscientific" pothunters. It was only when the fill was fine screened with the 1/16" mesh that anything like an adequate and representative sample of beads was obtained. It follows that in any future excavations of intact or looted historic Neutral burials the utmost care should be taken in fine-screening backdirt. It is distressing to realize that most of the extant collections of glass beads from Neutral cemeteries (with the notable exception of Grimsby) were excavated with archaeological techniques little better than that of Parkin and Co. This would certainly suggest that studies based on quantitative comparisons of glass bead frequencies from sites that have excavated with vastly different procedures may very misleading. One wonders, then, whether quantitative studies such as Kenyon and Fitzgerald's (1984), with its mock-scientific sheen, are measuring any real aspect of the past or merely the differing levels of incompetency with which sites have been dug.

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