

Occasional Paper 3

ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY DIVISION
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

✓ WALTER KENYON *The Swan Lake Site*

WALTER KENYON &
NANCY S. CAMERON *The Brock Street Burial*

1961 THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

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MISCELLANEOUS STONE FRAGMENTS

In addition to the chipped stone tools listed above, and a large quantity of chipping detritus, the following fragments of both chipped and polished stone tools were located: two fragments of large choppers, chipped from a heavy igneous rock, probably diabase; two polished fragments of grey slate, rectangular in cross section, and 7 and 5 mm. thick respectively; one rim-*sherd*(?), tapering from 9 to 7 mm. at the lip, from what was possibly a steatite vessel; and one gun-flint chipped from a nodule of local flint.

ANTLER ARTIFACTS

A single antler specimen (Plate VI, 13), was excavated. This, a unilaterally barbed harpoon, is 63 mm. long, 13 mm. wide, and 6 mm. thick. In cross-section, it is a flattened oval. A line-hole, 7 mm. from the base, was drilled from both sides, tapering from 5 mm. at the surface to 2 mm. at the middle of the perforation.

TRADE GOODS

In addition to a few badly oxidized fragments of iron which cannot be identified, the following objects of European origin were excavated: two copper bangles, 16 and 26 mm. long, of which one is illustrated (Plate VI, 12); the top jaw of a flint-lock gun (Plate VI, 14); one brass button and six glass beads. Five of the beads are almost perfectly round, with diameters between 2 and 3 mm. The sixth is a faceted cylindrical bead of red glass about 2 mm. in diameter, and 6 mm. long.

CERAMICS

The hard, sand-tempered pottery from the Swan Lake site is predominantly a mousey grey. At one end of the colour range, sherds are a dull, metallic black; at the other, they are a pale, salmon pink. It is probably significant that the pinkish sherds were all from the body of the vessel. Rim-sherds were invariably either grey or black. This would indicate that the bodies of the vessels were fired more thoroughly than the upper portions, suggesting that the pots were inverted on the ground, and a brush (?) fire built around them. In this way the rim and neck areas would be at the lower, less exposed part of the fire, where they would be less thoroughly oxidized.

In cross-section, the sherds exhibit the flaky, laminated structure usually associated with the paddle-and-anvil method of manufacture. The presence of a very few coil-breaks, however, shows that at least some of the vessels were constructed by coiling. It is possible, of course, that the coil method was used throughout, but that structural evidence of this process was obliterated in a later paddling process designed to weld the coils together.

Vessel shapes are largely unknown, as only small portions of any one pot could be reconstructed. In general, however, they were probably small, globular vessels, rarely exceeding 20.4 cm. in diameter, with sharply constricted necks, and rims which sloped outward at from 30° to 45°. Lips were usually flat, and at right angles to the rim.

Sherd thickness varied in different areas of the pot. A random sample of