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EXCAVATION OF TWO MONONGAHELA SITES:
LATE WOODLAND GENSLER (36GR63) AND
HISTORIC THROCKMORTON (36GR160)

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Eighteenth Century Trade Artifacts

That the locus was utilized during the Historic Period is attested to by the presence of European trade goods dating to the first quarter of the 18th century. Though not abundant at the Gensler site, there were seven items which are believed to have been associated with a refuge Indian occupation (probably Delaware or perhaps Shawnee). Three of these items were found on the surface of the site but are included in the following discussion because of their obvious cultural associations with the excavated sample of 18th century trade goods.

GLASS BEADS

Three of the 18th century artifacts are glass beads (Figure 27e-g). They are all of Kidd's types W2C11 and W2C12 (Kidd 1970) which are described as multifaceted mandrel, wire wound (Kidd 1982). Accordingly these bead types were traded to native peoples between A.D. 1690 and 1750 (Pratt 1961). Recent excavations conducted at 18th century Indian sites in the Lower Susquehanna Valley support this approximately 60 year time span for their use (Kent 1983); they are clearly hallmark bead types for that period.

PENDANTS

Two pendants are included in the 18th century trade goods inventory from the Gensler site. One is glass; the other is

brass. Both are triangular in shape but the glass pendant has two damaged corners. In transverse section the glass pendant is plano-convex with the convex site showing a semi-vitreous finish (Figure 27c).

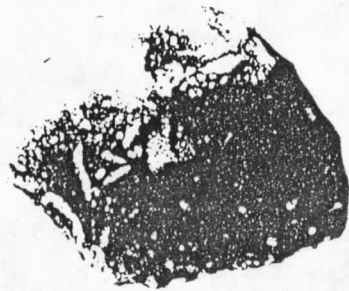
The color of the glass pendant is cobalt blue with two horizontal white stripes - one at the distal end and another medially located. There are numerous air bubbles and other impurities intermixed in the glass matrix which leads Barry Kent (1983, pers. comm.) to believe that the pendant was native-made by melting glass beads (?) into a triangular shaped mold, most likely carved into a flat stone. A hole for suspension was made at the artifact's apex.

The brass pendant, which is also perforated at its apex, was made by punching through one side of the sheet brass. The opposite side shows the ragged edge of the perforation (Figure 27d).

GUNFLINTS

There were two gunflints recovered from the general area where the glass beads and pendants were found. They are both of the spall or wedge type as defined by Witthoft (1966) and Kent (1983). In cross-section they are plano-convex with the spall side (bulb of percussion) on the convex side of the gunflint.

The Gensler site gunflints are made from a European variety of blond-colored flint, probably of French origin. The material is semi-vitreous and contains numerous microscopic inclusions of unknown identity. One gunflint was definitely utilized as a "fire striker" (Figure 27a). Evidence for the other being utilized as



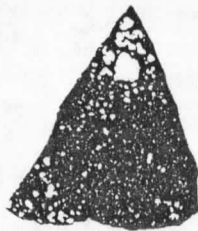
a



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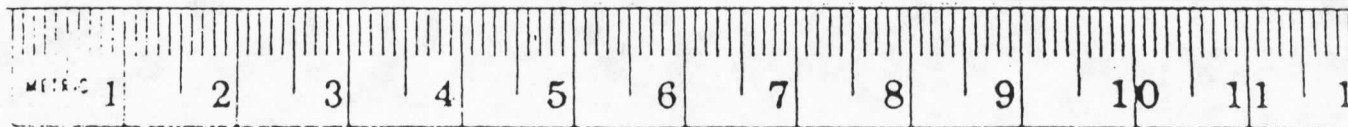


Figure 27. Eighteenth century artifacts from the Gensler site: a-b, wedge gunflints; c, triangular glass pendant remade from trade beads; d, triangular metal pendants; e-g, wire wound faceted glass trade beads.