

AN OVERVIEW OF INVESTIGATIONS AT 45SA11:
ARCHEOLOGY IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

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GLASS

More than 26,000 items of glass were recovered from 45SA11. Aside from unspecified and molten glass, the largest identifiable categories of glass items are bottle glass and glass beads (Table 10-9). Glass buttons (Figure 10-12,a-k) and window glass also comprise sizable categories.

In addition to bottle glass fragments, several unbroken glass bottles were recovered (Figure 10-10). A large proportion of the bottle glass appears to have been from bottles which contained alcoholic beverages, primarily wine and ale. Numerous patent medicine bottles, hair oil containers, sauce bottles, and vessels for preserved fruits and vegetables also were found (Skinner 1980:230).

More than 6,000 glass beads were recovered from 45SA11 (Figure 10-11). A list of the types as they are identified in the computerized artifact inventory is presented in Table 10-10. A sample of the beads from 45SA11 were classified according to the typology developed for the beads from Fort Vancouver (Ross 1976) and the results were contained in the final project report (Skinner 1980:228, Table 13-2). This sample, which consists of beads recovered from the Historic House and the Historic Midden, includes about 82% of the total glass beads from 45SA11.

The sample from 45SA11 was found to contain a slightly greater number of bead classes than occurred at Fort Vancouver. This situation was attributed to the fact that the occupants of 45SA11 were probably in contact with bead sources from the late 1700s until the mid-1800s, whereas the Fort Vancouver beads only span the period from 1829 to 1860 (Skinner 1980:229).

METAL

An incredible range of items is represented among the more than 40,000 metal artifacts from 45SA11. These are listed in Table 10-11 according to major categories such as hardware, tools and farming implements, guns and shot, kitchenware, personal items, and miscellaneous metal. Iron is the most common material represented, followed by lead, brass, and copper.

Aside from nails and other hardware items, one of the largest and most interesting groups of metal artifacts is buttons, most of which are military (Figure 10-12). Some of these buttons, notably Phoenix buttons, were probably obtained by the aboriginal inhabitants of the site as trade items (Strong 1960, 1975). Most of the military buttons, however, probably relate to the presence of the U.S. Army at the

Table 10-10. Descriptive summary of catalogued glass beads from 45SA11.

Description	Glass Color *													Total
	Uns	Mlt	Clr	Wht	Yel	Org	Red	Brn	Grn	B-G	Blu	Lav	Blk	
Conical bead	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Disc-shaped beads	1	11	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	19
Tear-shaped beads	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Grooved beads	-	1	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Seed beads	1028	528	29	588	77	13	212	2	150	18	279	2	6	2932
Faceted beads	6	2	10	9	1	-	3	-	10	13	220	2	11	287
Tubular beads	6	115	1	206	-	-	23	-	8	77	379	-	3	818
Mandrel-wound beads	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Spherical beads	-	15	-	8	-	-	14	1	5	7	68	-	5	123
Globular beads	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	14	-	-	15
Wire-wound beads	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	-	11
Venetian beads	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Undescribed beads	214	432	8	311	8	3	98	3	45	50	603	21	18	1814
Total	1258	1109	48	1135	86	17	352	7	219	166	1570	26	43	6036

* Color Key:

Uns = unspecified
Mlt = multi-colored
Clr = clear
Wht = white

Yel = yellow/amber
Org = orange/rust
Red = red/pink
Brn = brown
Blk = black

Grn = green
B-G = blue-green/aqua
Blu = blue
Lav = lavender/purple

Figure 10-11.

Beads from the 45SA11 collection (shown approximately actual size).

Stone Beads:

a. M105-83S (soapstone) b. U107-89S

Cane Tube Beads:

c. K141-59G e. B79-262G g. T102-57G
d. A80-157G f. Q104-74G

Hot Tumbled Tube Beads:

h. T100-30G l. B83-196G p. T95-25G
i. T105-8G m. Z78-99G q. no number
j. M129-01G n. I137-17G r. Q101-131G
k. T105-205G o. N115-73G s. Surf-865G

Mandrell Pressed Beads:

t. V95-26G v. T96-29G w. Z82-337G
u. S105-92G

Wire-wound Beads:

x. U107-103G dd. S106-168G ii. V107-14G
y. U99-68G ee. V101-29G/30G jj. A83-400G
z. V95-33G ff. B79-679G kk. B83-207G
aa. T106-62G gg. S101-93G ll. R98-66G
bb. U96-238G hh. M115-436G mm. U96-251G
cc. V101-202G nn. V95-151G

Ceramic Bead:

oo. V94-63P

Metal Beads:

pp. V88-88M rr. T105-9G tt. M91-49M
qq. V88-52M ss. F110-211M

