ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON

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EUGENE

ARTIFACTS FROM FANNING MOUND
WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON

BY

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1975

EUGENE

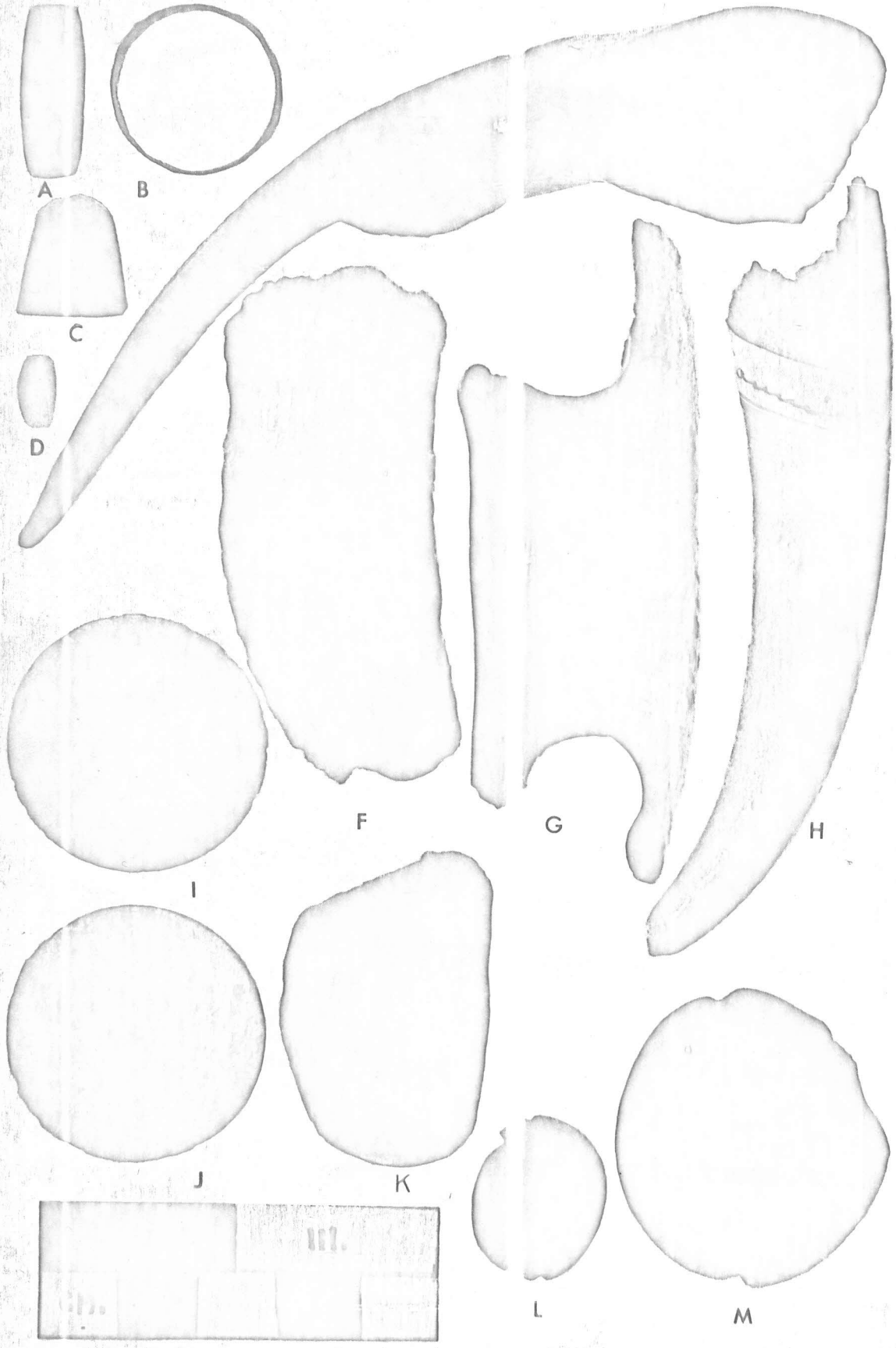

Fig. 6. Miscellaneous Artifacts. a b, Brass Finger Rings; c, Brass Thimble; d, Glass Bead; e, , k, Antler Wedges; g, h, Antler Camas-Digger Handle Fragments; i, j, Brass Buttons; l, m, Incised Pebbles.

Twenty-one fragments of broken bone include four from small animals; the others are splinters or fragments from larger bones.

Two small fragments of antler were found, one worn into a smooth cylinder before breakage.

TRADE GOODS FROM FANNING MOUND

METAL

Two brass buttons 3.3 cm. in diameter. The face of one is plain, that of the other bears a circle of shallow dots. Both have brass loops soldered on the back. These buttons are similar to those from historic sites in the Southeast labelled Type 9 by South (1963). They probably date from the late 1700's (Fig. 6, i, j).

Two brass finger rings are 2.2 cm. in diameter and about 0.5 cm. wide (Fig. 6, a, b).

A brass spike, roughly square in cross-section, is 2.7 cm. long.

A brass thimble, 1.3 cm. in diameter, is pierced for suspension at the top (Fig. 6, c).

One crumpled copper strip, originally about 4.5 by 2.0 cm., is perhaps the remains of a tubular copper bead.

BEADS

One opaque white glass bead is shaped like a small Olivella or cowrie shell. Length is 0.9 cm., diameter is 0.4 cm. (Fig. 6, d).

One small opaque light blue bead is about 0.5 cm. in diameter.

One transparent aqua bead is about 0.7 cm. in diameter.

One opaque blue bead with rough surface is about 0.8 cm. in diameter.

One dark blue bead which is almost transparent, was faceted while hot. It measures 0.8 cm. in diameter.

Dating the entire mound occupation to the period indicated by these trade goods would be unwarranted, since the exact provenience of

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a Proposed Typology of Willamette Valley Sites. pp. 17 - 140

Period V (1700 - 1850 A.D.)

These dates include the protohistoric and historic periods. European intervention in the Northwest was not a direct and dominant influence until after 1750 but prior to that time, sporadic contacts between non-Indian and Indian in Northern California and along the Northwest Coast seem to have given an impetus to increased trade along the Columbia River. Pre-18th century expeditions by Gabrielle (1542), Maldonado (1588), and Fonte (1640) were made to the Northwest Coast area, though the first verified contact and trade took place during the Bering-Chirikov Expedition of 1741. The Bering expedition found coastal Indians who already had a working acquaintanceship with smelted iron (Averkieva 1971:322). Historian T.A. Rickard (1939:25-50) in a study of early iron use by Indians in northwestern North America, cites documented proof that numerous trade vessels (Japanese, Spanish, and Russian) were swept to their graves along the northern coast of North America. Wreckage could have added great amounts of finished iron, and other trade items to the aboriginal inventory.

The latter occupation levels of Period IV witnessed an increase in the number of traits thought to be extra-valley in origin. Sites occupied during Period V, but prior to 1800, continue this trend, and contain even larger percentages of exotic aboriginal traits. After 1800, distinctly European goods such as copper buttons, bottle glass, trade beads, and iron appear in site inventories.

Artifacts and traits specifically diagnostic of Period V occupation include:

1. Copper ornaments and bangles.
2. Copper trombac buttons.
3. Bottle glass scrapers (one was found at 35 LA 118).
4. Trade beads.
5. Iron nose plugs.
6. Iron knives.

This list includes only items actually found in archaeological sites; obviously the finding of any European artifact in situ would indicate occupation in this time period.

Period V occupations are demonstrated by the uppermost levels at Fuller, Fanning, and Spurland Mounds, and to a lesser extent at the Gettings Creek Sites and 35 LA 118. A radiocarbon date of 1850 + 100 A.D. (modern to 200 B.P. [Gak-3116]) for 35 LA 70 falls within this