

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST INVESTIGATIONS AT 1Su7:  
THE FORT TOMBECBE SITE

by

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### Buttons

Two of the buttons are brass, two pewter, and one bone (Figure 28A-D). The bone piece was cut from an animal bone and was pierced by a single hole. This type button was usually used on common items (Stone 1974: Fig. 32, Q).

One 1.65 cm (.65 in) diameter pewter button is dome shaped with two large holes in the back. No parallels were found in Stone. Powell (Personal communication 1981) attributes it to French infantry. The second pewter fastener was cast and has lost its wire loop. The domed button has a casting seam at the outer edge of the face and five rings inside the base to the top of the dome.

Brass buttons are of three styles. One is a crown from a compound button. The back was probably bone or brass with filler material inside (Stone 1971:60-61). The second brass button also has a plain face but the height of the dome is less and the fastener is not complete. A stamped ring encircles the dome base. A U shank was soldered to the back.

### Cuff Links

A single set of copper alloy cuff links or buttons bears a stamped raised geometric design. The buttons were held together by a link band that passed through drilled wedge shaped loops (Figure 28E).

### Beads

European produced glass beads were a mainstay of the trade exchange between all the occupants of Site 1Su7 and the Indian population. The Indians used the items for personal adornment in many ways from clothing decoration to use in hair braiding (Brain 1980:96-97).

There were two types of techniques used in making beads. Drawn beads were made by taking a tube of glass and drawing it out in length until the desired diameter is accomplished. In most cases the tubes were of a single color, but if additional

colors were desired two processes were used. Stripes were produced by the introduction of solid rods of glass on the edges of the molten mass to be drawn.

The other way in which color or surface different from the main bead was effected was through the process of layering. To produce these beads, the molten glass attached to the blowing or drawing implement was dipped into another batch of glass, making the layers.

After the tube was drawn, it was allowed to cool and was then broken into smaller pieces. Some beads were considered finished at this point and are commonly called canes. The rounded beads were made by heating and rolling the pieces.

The other style of manufacture was to take individual pieces of glass and wind them around a metal mandrel. These beads were individually made (Kidd and Kidd 1970:47-50).

The beads recovered from Fort Tombecbe were classified using the form classification established by Kidd and Kidd (1970) and an adaptation by Brain (1979:98). Descriptions were based on size classes and morphological descriptions established by Kidd and Kidd (1970:66). Brain's study of the Tunica treasure contains an excellent bibliographic and distributional section. General comments have been made about the Fort Tombecbe assemblage but the Tunica treasure data has not been replicated.

The following size classification was used for the beads: small, 2 to 4 mm; medium, 4 to 6 mm; large, 6 to 10 mm; very large, more than 10 mm.

Class I: Tubular or cane beads without rounded end surfaces. Length exceeds diameter.

Variety 1A1: (1) Small white. Distribution, two sites.

Variety 1A7: (2) Small turquoise blue. Distribution, unknown.

Class II: Monochrome beads similar to Class I but with rounded end surfaces.

Variety IIA1: (3) Small rounded white beads. Distribution, numerous sites throughout North America.

Variety IIA6: (20) Rounded dark blue bead: 14 small, 2 medium, and 4 very large. Distribution, wide spread.

Variety IIA7: (12) Opaque turquoise: 2 small, 1 medium, and 9 large. Distribution, wide spread.

Variety IIA12: (2) Small amber beads. Distribution, unknown.

Class IVA: Drawn beads with compound layers of glass. Rounded heat effected ends.

Variety IVA1: (13) White beads with an opaque white core and a glossy white veneer: 11 small and 2 large. Distribution, wide spread.

Variety IVA2: (4) Cornaline de'Aleppo bead made up of an inner layer of translucent green and outer layer of brick red: 1 small and 3 large. The small example string hole has collapsed and the bead would not have been usable. Distribution, wide spread.

#### Wire Wound Beads

Variety W11F: (1) Dark blue pentagonal wound bead. The color not noted by Kidd nor were parallels found by Brain.

The bead collection Fort Tombecbe was not overwhelming in diversity of color or types. Beads were made in Italy and Holland for all of the trading nations and a few were made in

the respective countries themselves. The common sources make it difficult to assign national affiliation for the assemblage and they are probably a mix.

### Personal Group

#### Earring

A single earbob of silver was part of the collection. The engraved piece was an item usually distributed part of the trade goods. These objects are commonly associated with French sites (Brain 1979:163, Stone 1974:136-137).

### Tobacco Pipe Group

#### Tobacco Pipes

Of 114 tobacco pipe fragments, 109 were measurable. The Harrington-Binford formula was used to calculate a date of 1753.8. The mean of the Franco-British occupation was 1753 and mean date of total occupation, including the twenty-five year gap between British and Spanish, is 1765. Most of the remains probably were the product of the longer occupation. The sample of forty six stems from the pot hunter area was included in the gross calculation. The date for these stems alone was 1754.7.

Two pipe stem pieces bore impressed designs. Decorated stems occur on pipes from the British Isles and Holland. The combination of points and circles is commonly attributed to Dutch manufacture (Walker 1971:Figure 29).

Four pipe bowls each bore different markings. Dutch manufactured pipes were present in two styles. One bowl fragment is marked on the spur beneath the bowl. Each side of the protrusion was marked with the embossed arms of the city of Gouda surmounted by an S signifying ordinary or common manufacture (Walker 1971:62-64, Figure 5). The base of the heel has a cross. The other Dutch bowl did not possess a heel. Instead it was marked at that spot with an impressed oval with a crowned 16 (Walker 1971:71, Figure 12).