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European Glass Trade Beads of the
Spanish Mission Period, Florida

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May, 29, 1972

Manuscript on File, Division of
Archives, History and Records
Management, Bureau of Historic
Sites, Tallahassee, Florida.

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For several years, studies have been done on sixteenth and seventeenth century glass trade beads. Chronologies have been established in the east, particularly in northeastern North America (Pratt, 1961). However, few regions of North America offer such a wealth of information as the area of the Southeast that was once occupied by Spanish missionaries. The mission chains were established in north Florida and south Georgia, and are well documented. These sites are so well recorded that a time period for the Spanish of about 1633 to exactly 1704 has been established in Boyd Smith and Griffin (pp. 6, 12).

Four of these Spanish mission sites have yielded trade beads which, with the known dates of the mission chains, will be an aid in dating beads from undocumented sites. The purpose of this paper, therefore, is to record all of the known types of the area, and to tie these types into an established classification system.

The sample used in this study does not contain all of the beads recovered from the mission sites, but does represent all of the types found. The sites which contain this material are: San Luis de Talimali, San Cosmo y San

Chart 1

Glass Trade Beads from Spanish Mission
Period Sites, Florida

Type	Site	Provenience	Reference as to Type	Sample Size
Ig1S	8Le 120	Burial 18	New	10
IIa1VS	8Je 1	F.S. 59, 65	Kidd	175
IIa1M	8Je 1	F.S. 59, 65	New	6
IIa6M	8Je 1	F.S. 23	Kidd	1
IIa7VS	8Je 1	F.S. 59, 65	Kidd	15
IIa8M	8Le 152	Burial 11	Kidd	1
IIa11VS	8Je 1	F.S. 59, 65	Kidd	1
IIa11S	8Je 1	F.S. 59, 65	New	4
IIa13M	8Le 120	Burial 2	Kidd	1
IIa17VS	8Le 152	Burial 11	Kidd	311
IIa26	8Le 152	Burial 11	Kidd	3
IIa28M	8Le 120	Burial 2	Kidd	1
IIa31M	8Le 120	Burial 2	Kidd	28
IIa31M	8Le 152	Burial 11	Kidd	4
IIa36S	8Le 152	Burial 11	Kidd	1
IIa36M	8Le 152	Burial 11	Kidd	21
IIa36L	8Le 120	Burial 2	New	1
IIa43VS	8Je 1	F.S. 59, 65	Kidd	4
IIa44VS	8Je 1	F.S. 59, 65	Kidd	70
IIa45	8Le 4	F.S. 83	Kidd	1
IIa55S	8Le 152	Burial 11	Kidd	4
IIa55M	8Le 152	Burial 11	New	4
IIa55M	8Le 120	Burial 2	New	1
IIa58VS	8Je 1	F.S. 59, 65	Kidd	1
IIb18M	8Le 120	Burial 2	Kidd	5
IIb39	8Le 120	Burial 2	Kidd	1
IIb53	8Le 120	Burial 2	Kidd	12
IIb56	8Le 120	Burial 2	Kidd	4
IIb'7	8Le 120	Burial 2	Kidd	3
IIc'3	8Le 120	Burial 2	New	1
IIIf 1	8Le 120	Burial 18	New	13
IIk63	8Le 152	Burial 11	New	1
IVk4	8Je 1	Unknown	Kidd	1
IVk6	8Le 152	16E/35S	Kidd	1
WIb1	8Le 120	Burial 2	Variation of Kidd	1
WIIb1VS	8Je 1	F.S. 59, 65	Variation of Kidd	1
WIIb6	8Le 152	Burial 11	New	2

Note to Chart 1

Kidds' abbreviations have been followed here and are very small= VS, small= S, medium= M, large= L.

Roman numeral one (I) signifies beads with cut, unmodified ends, II designates beads with ends which have been rounded after cutting, III is polycrome beads with unmodified ends, IV stands for polycrome beads with rounded ends.

The prefix letter "W" signifies that the bead was wire wound.

Arabic numerals indicate color as based on Taylor, Helen D., et al, editor, Descriptive Color Names Dictionary, Chicago.

Chart 2

Kidd Type	Other Type Name if any	Probable Time Span
IIa1VS		1625- 1
IIa7VS		1650-1704 ²
IIa8M		1570- 1
IIa13M		1625-1637 ³
IIa17VS		1650-1704 ⁴
IIa26		1660-1710 ⁵
IIa36S		1650-1725 ⁶
IIa36M		1595-1710 ⁷
IIa43VS and IIa44VS		1660-1677 ⁸
IIb18M	Gooseberry	1570-1595 ⁹
		1700-1800 ¹⁰
IIb'7		1714-1803 ¹¹
		c.1760 ¹²
IVk3		1570-1595 ¹³
Wib1	Tallahassee hatchee	1700 ¹⁴
	Transparent Dexhedral	
WIIb6	Seven Oaks	late 16 th cent.
	Gilded Moulded	early 17 th cent. ¹⁵

¹Pratt, p.9.

²Morrell, pp.73, 81.

³Pratt, p. 10.

⁴Morrell, pp. 73, 81.

⁵Pratt, p. 12.

⁶Morrell, pp. 70, 81.

⁷Pratt, p. 9.

⁸Pratt, p. 12.

⁹Pratt, p. 8.

¹⁰DeJarnette and Hansen, p. 58.

¹¹Gregory & Webb, p. 19 no. 15.

¹²Duffield & Jelks, pp. 47, 80.

¹³Pratt, p. 7.

¹⁴DeJarnette and Hansen, p. 58
and plate 13 no. 36.

¹⁵Goggin, p. 21.

Damian de Escambe, San Pedro y San Pablo de Patali and San Juan de Aspalaga, here after referred to as San Luis, Escambe, Patale and Aspalaga respectively. These sites have been recorded as 8Le⁴ for San Luis, 8Le120 for Escambe, 8Le152 for Patale and 8Je1 for Aspalaga and all are in what was known as the Apalachee Province.

In all, the sites yielded 35 types or variations of types from a sample size of 715 beads. The classification system used here is that established by Kidd and Kidd in 1970. The system basically organizes beads on a basis of technology rather than on descriptive terms or manufacturing areas as have been used by many arthors in the past. The Kidd system relies primarily on number of steps involved in the production of each individual bead. Shape, size, color, and nature of the glass are also taken into account. The Spanish material has ten new types or variations of types other than those established by Kidd and Kidd. These are indicated as such on Chart 1, and they will be dealt with in greater detail below.

Several of these 35 bead types are present at other sites. By studying chronologies which are present in other areas, then perhaps some time markers can be established within the mission period, and used to discern relative time relationships between sites. The following (Chart 2) is a sketch of these types which appear in other geographical areas and have definite time spans.

From the above information it can be seen that only seven of these types could possibly differentiate "early" or "late" mission sites. Of these seven, similar types have been found at Childersburgh, Alabama. "Childersburgh Opaque Blue" is similar to, if not the same as IIa36, and according to Woodward, has an indeterminable date.¹⁶ Types IIa43 and IIa44 are similar to those found at Woods Island, Alabama, and suggest a continuation until at least 1715.¹⁷

Bead types IIa26, IIa13M, IIa7, IIa17, and WIIIv6 may be relative time indicators within the mission period of 1633-1704. Further analysis of all beads recovered to date may find that these five types are time markers.

The presence of types IIb18M, IVk4, IIb'7 and WIIIB6 will fill in a time gap in one case and indicates the presence of the others in the New World at a time earlier than has previously been indicated. A revision of Chart 2 appears below (Chart 3).

Chart 3

Type	Revised Dates
IIa1VS	1625-
IIa7VS	1650-1704
IIa8M	1570-
IIa13M	1625-1637
IIa17VS	1650-1704
IIa26	1660-1710
IIa36S	1650-1725
IIa36M	1595-1710
IIa43VS	1660-1677
IIa44VS	
IIb18M	1570-1595(1596-1632) 1633-1800
IIb'7	1660-1704(1705-1713) 1714-1803

¹⁶DeJarnette & Hansen, p. 58

¹⁷Morrell, pp. 73, 83.

Chart 3(cont'd.)

Type	Revised Dates
IVk3	1570-1595(1596-1632) 1633-1704
Wib1	1700-1704(1705-1713) 1714-1803
WIIb6	Late 16 th to Early 17 th Century

Note: IIA43VS and IIA44VS have been combined for dating purposes since there is little difference in color between the two and could be due to variations in the glassmaking procedure as indicated by Kidd and Kidd (p. 50).

IVk3 has been used in place of IVk4 for the same reason.

As previously stated there are ten types/variatics present at the Spanish mission sites and not recorded by Kidd. Some of these variations are differences only in size from the established types, and do not need to be discussed in great detail. They are IIA1M, IIA1S, IIA5M and IIA36L.

The following is a description of those types which vary in manufacture from those already ^{recorded} by Kidd. Type Ig1S is represented by ten beads. This group has not undergone any apparent remelting to achieve rounded ends. They are characteristically black, opaque, irregular in shape and have seven facets. Length 5-6 mm, height 5mm.

Bead IIc'3 is ultramarine in color and clear. Initially it was a square tube which was twisted, then heated. It has been assigned to this type to correspond to Kidd's type Ic'3 because of general shape and color. Length 7mm., height 5mm.

Type IIk63 is similar to Pratt's type 1. It is a round, clear, teal green bead and corresponds to Kidd's I Ib53 in color. This bead has been flattened, and it is similar to I Ib55 in shape. Length 10mm., height 3mm.

Bead WII Ib6 is the type established by Goggin as "Seven Oaks Gilded Moulded", and it is possibly wire wound; it has alternating rows of incisions and punctations running lengthwise. It is a clear gold color with a gold wash. Length 5mm., height 6mm. This is the same size as those found at Lake Butler.¹⁸ One other example is stored in the Florida Archive's type collection. This bead is the same size as those above, and it was found at the Phillip Mound, Marion County, Florida.

Bead type WI b1 is recorded by DeJarnette and Hansen (p. 58 and plate 13 no. 51) as Tallahasseehatchee Transparent Decahedral. This bead is clear, oyster white with eight facets. It is probably a wire wound bead.¹⁹ Length 10mm., width 10mm.

Bead type II f1 is a black, opaque multi-holed bead. It has 27-30 facets and could possibly be made from jet or a hardwood.²⁰ Length 11-13mm., height 8-9mm.

The bead described here as WII Ib1 is similar to the bead assigned to that type by Kidd. However, the green areas are run into the white, and are not as well defined as Kidd's example. Length 3mm., height 2mm.

¹⁸Goggin, p. 21.

¹⁹Gregory and Webb, p. 18 and plate 1 no. 10.

²⁰Morrell, personal communication.

Bead types Ig1S, WIIb6 due to the size of the sample, are certainly varied types, and they hopefully will be recorded in the Kidd master system in the future. If and when more of these new types/varieties are brought to light, they should likewise be recorded.

This paper has attempted to record and make available all of the bead types typical of the Spanish mission period. It is hoped that these types will aid archaeologists in dating those protohistoric sites which cannot be dated by other means.

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