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## EUROPEAN TRADE MATERIAL FROM THE KANSAS MONUMENT SITE

by

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The study of objects of European origin found in archeological sites in the Great Plains should be of assistance in determining the approximate time spans of the protohistoric and early historic culture complexes. However, when the archeologist attempts to do this he finds few comparative data in the literature. Detailed lists of trade goods from several sites would simplify the problem. Sites do not always yield items which the expert on trade materials can date within a short span of years, but if lists are available for comparison, I see no reason why sites within limited areas may not be arranged in chronological series based upon the character of and the presence or absence of various objects of European origin.

I wish to place on record a list of such specimens found at the Kansas Monument Site, a Republican Pawnee village in Republic County, Kansas. In a recent issue of the Plains Archeological Conference News Letter, a brief description of the site and its contents was presented (Smith, 1949). It will suffice to state that indirect documentation places the occupation of the site prior to 1802 but probably not much earlier than 1777 (Wedel, 1936, pp. 32-33). It is hoped that the description of the trade material will prompt other workers to publish similar lists or to communicate directly with me by letter. Photographs of the specimens will be available for distribution in the near future to those who are working on similar problems.

Trade objects from the site are made of stone, iron, brass, copper, lead and glass. In the appended list all objects made of metal are listed together. It should be noted that the specimens made of metal could have been subdivided into two broad groupings: (1) those which were manufactured as finished artifacts in Europe and used as such by the Indians; (2) artifacts made by the Indians from European materials, either from parts of European artifacts or from raw materials of European origin.

The only objects of stone are three rectanguloid gun flints made of material foreign to the region. These are of the two varieties commonly found on 18th century sites. One is flat and tablet-like with sharp end broken off. Burning has altered the flint to a chalky white color. It is common knowledge among persons familiar with old firearms that flints of this type were, and still are, made by cutting up long prismatic flakes with an iron chisel. The

Objects of glass consist of 479 beads and one bottle. Most of the beads are approximately one-eighth inch in diameter and occur in white, turquoise blue, blue, and black colors. Rounded beads occur in the first three colors. Cylindrical beads 3/32 to 5/16 of an inch in length occur in white and black. The green glass bottle has a capacity of between a pint and a quart. It measures 10-1/8 inches in height and 3-1/4 inches in diameter. There is a raised ridge around the mouth below the lip; the shoulders are well defined and the bottom is concave.

The Republican Pawnee were receiving gifts from St. Louis in 1777 (Houck, 1909, p. 143). An indication of the variety of artifacts and substances supplied to the Indians in 1787 is obtained from the study of a document found by Houck in papers from Cuba in the General Archives of the Indies (Houck, 1909, pp. 268-270). When Lt. Governor Cruzat turned over the post at St. Louis to Don Manuel Perez, he placed on record an inventory of the trade goods on hand as of November 27, 1787.

Perishable items include: gunpowder, white blankets, limbourg cloth, white shirts, white ornamented shirts, striped shirts, "garments trimmed with lace for chiefs," "lace trimmed hats for chiefs," white plumes, "silk ribbon for medals," woolen ribbon, sewing thread, "banners," tobacco, and "brandy made from sugarcane" in casks.

Non-perishable items include: bullets, gun flints, muskets, wad drawers for muskets, ordinary knives, clasp knives, large axes, medium axes, hatchets, hoes, awls, sewing needles, thimbles, beads, steels for strike-a-lights, mirrors, combs, vermilion, large silver medals, small silver medals, wire, gorgets, hawk bells, and copper kettles.

A comparison between the goods on hand in St. Louis in 1787 and those found at the Kansas Monument Site is, with two exceptions, only possible in regard to the non-perishable items. One exception is the inferred presence of alcoholic liquor on the basis of the bottle which was unearthed. The other exception is the necessity of a supply of gunpowder for the firearms. Ten non-perishable items in the St. Louis inventory of 24 occur at the Kansas Monument Site: bullets, gun flints, muskets, ordinary knives, clasp knives, medium axes, hatchets, hoes, awls, and copper kettles. Aside from the artifacts made by the occupants of the village from European materials, the only artifacts present at the site and absent in the St. Louis inventory are: a straight razor, a bullet mold, two pothooks, a buckle, two nails, an ornamental escutcheon, and a green glass bottle. It is worthy of note that many of the items present in the St. Louis inventory and absent in the collection from the site are often found in graves but rarely in and around habitations. I refer to mirrors, combs, silver medals, gorgets, and hawk bells. This leaves only large axes, sewing needles, thimbles, steels for strike-a-lights, vermilion, and wire. Vermilion may be represented by traces of red pigment found on the floor of House 2. Perhaps further excavation would have yielded some of the other items.

Gun parts:	Section of barrels reworked as stakes, wedges or scrapers	3
	Section of barrel reworked as hammer head	1
	Fragments of barrels	6
	Flintlock mechanism, nearly complete	1
	Flintlock hammer	1
	Flintlock frizzens	2
	Flintlock pans	2
	Flintlock sear spring	1
	Flintlock mainsprings	2
	Flintlock side screws, rounded head	3
	Flintlock frizzen screw, rounded head	1
	Tang screw, flat head	1
	Butt plate fragment, perforated	1
	Butt plate tang, brass, engraved	1
	Barrel pin lug, perforated	1
	Rear sight, brass	1
	Side plate fragments, dog and leaves, brass	2
	Trigger guard fragment, brass	1
	Trigger	1
Bullet mold:	Pincer-like, <u>ca.</u> .55 cal.	1
Bullet:	Spherical ball, lead, <u>ca.</u> .55 cal.	1
Hooks:	Pothooks, length <u>ca.</u> 4"	2
Awls:	Square, bi-pointed, 3" to 4" long	6
	Round, one point, 9-3/4" long	1
Buckle:	Crescentic, fragmentary	1
Nails:	Square cut nails	2
Scrapers:	Rectanguloid blades	2
Ring:	Lead wire	1
Jingles:	Conical sheet copper	1
	Conical sheet brass	1
Escutcheon:	Double headed bird ornament, brass	1
Kettles:	Handle, heavy iron wire	1
	Handle brackets, brass	2
	Handle bracket, iron	1
	Section of bottom, copper	1
	Fragments, copper	20
	Fragments, brass	7

Miscellaneous:	Sheet iron, fragments	230
	Sheet brass fragments	21
	Melted brass, puddled	8
	Melted brass, hammered	2
	Sheet copper fragments	68

#### OBJECTS OF GLASS

Beads:	White, rounded	228
	White, cylindrical	48
	Turquoise blue, rounded	114
	Blue, rounded	80
	Black, cylindrical	9
Bottle:	Green glass, height 10-1/8", diameter 3-1/4", concave bottom	1

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