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# ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE DALLES-DESCHUTES REGION

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These now appear as surface finds although it is apparent that they may have come from different depths up to 7.5 m. A somewhat similar situation at the mouth of the Deschutes, but with the river as the erosive agency, is mentioned under Workshops. No human débris *in situ* could be found.

## SITE 20

Below talus slope on south side of western end of Miller's island: directly behind and about 500 m. distant from village, site 18. For perhaps 250 m. along the cliff, beyond the talus slope, were fragments of human bones and artifacts uncovered from the sand by the wind. Irregular piles of basalt fragments up to 1 m. in height and largely covered by wind-blown sand also appear. Several graves found were marked by such piles, although some graves were not so marked and many such rock piles were investigated without graves being revealed. (See pl. 3*d*.)

*Burial 17.*—About 10 m. out from bottom of rock slide. Wind erosion caused the ground over this burial to slope toward the south. (See pl. 4*c*, *d*.) Grave: about 2.7 m. E-W by 1.8 m. N-S and from .3 to .6 m. deep depending on the slope of the ground. The north and east sides at least were bounded by split boards badly decayed. The floor also seems to have been covered with boards over which tule matting was apparently spread (2-12691). Another layer of boards, .3 to .4 m. above the floor, had apparently been placed over the corpse. (See pl. 4*c*, *d*.) Bodies: number indeterminate owing to the very fragmentary condition of the bones. One adult skull was well preserved. One, possibly two, children were indicated. One unborn infant was suggested by slight fragments (2-12699). Artifacts: most of the artifacts were on the matting at the bottom of the grave; some were with the hand bones; some with a lower jaw; and a few scattered. The following came from this grave:

- 2 bone belts for lance or harpoon (2-12684, p. 60, pl. 6*j*).
- 6 bear claws for necklace (2-12683, p. 63, pl. 8*h*).
- 1 incised tooth pendant (2-12687, p. 62, pl. 6*v*).
- 138 copper beads, bracelet, pendants, ring (2-12681, 89, 90, 95-97, p. 66).
- ✓ Several glass beads (2-12686, p. 72, pl. 11*m*, *n*, *o*).
- 1 iron bracelet (2-12682, p. 67).
- 1 leather artifact, fragmentary (2-12688, p. 67).
- Fragmentary twined basketry (2-12692, p. 118).
- 140 shell beads and pendants (2-12685, 86, 95, 93, pp. 72, 73, pl. 11*m*, *n*, *o*).

*Burial 18.*—About 30 m. east of burial 17. Here were a number of fragmentary human bones, some blown to the surface, others about

.15 m. deep. Artifacts: about .6 m. from the human bones was a polished stone sinker (2-12817, p. 112, pl. 8j).

*Burial 19.*—About 42 m. west of burial 17. Much the same as burial 18, but with a chipped flint blade (2-12818).

*Burial 20.*—About 40 m. east of burial 17. Burials 20, 21, and 22 were very closely associated. Grave: same type as burial 17, but about 1.3 m. square. Bodies: number uncertain; bones very badly decomposed. Artifacts: the following artifacts were recovered from the immediate vicinity of this grave:

Ca. 20 bronze or metal buttons, plain and Phoenix type (2-12819-26, 30, pp. 64, 118).

Several copper beads and pendants (2-12832, 36).

✓ Many glass beads (2-12831, 34, 37, 19, p. 72).

1 iron or steel mattock (2-12827).

Several shell beads (2-12833, 19, p. 72).

1 chipped flint point (2-12838).

Fragmentary textiles, twined basketry (2-12828, 35, p. 118).

Traces of textiles, modern cloth (2-12839, 30, 19, p. 118).

Fragment of a wooden artifact (?) (2-12829, p. 121).

The presence of the Phoenix buttons probably places the maximum age of this burial as less than 100 years.

*Burial 21.*—About 1.5 m. north of burial 20 and adjacent to the talus slope. Grave: same type as burial 20, but 1.8 m. E-W by 2.1 m. N-S, depth .45 to .75 m., depending on the slope of the land. Bodies: bones badly crushed by a large number of heavy basalt fragments that might have come from the talus slope. Number uncertain. Artifacts: the following were recovered from the immediate vicinity.

Ca. 120 copper pendants and beads (2-12841, 48, 49).

✓ Ca. 100 glass beads (2-12840, 44, p. 73).

Ca. 45 shell beads (2-12840, 42, p. 72).

5 chipped flint points (2-12845-47).

Fragments of textiles, basketry (2-12843).

*Burial 22.*—Just west of burials 20 and 21. Grave: same as burial 20. Bodies: traces of human bones. Artifacts: the following were recovered from the immediate vicinity.

1 bronze or metal button (2-12851).

Ca. 35 copper beads, buttons, pendants (2-12852, 51, 53, 54).

✓ Ca. 100 glass beads (2-12850, pp. 72, 73).

Ca. 20 shell beads and ornament (2-12850, 55, 56, pp. 72, 73).

1 lead sinker (2-12857).

*Burial 23.*—About midway between burial 17 and site 21. No surface mark to indicate burial. Body: fragmentary but entire adult skeleton. About .5 m. deep. On back; head south; facing upward; arms by sides and flexed, a long bone resting on face. Artifacts: none.

*Copper beads.*—These are of the tubular type (pl. 11o) and are made by rolling up into cylinders thin sheet copper or brass. There is no suggestion that this copper is native. In most cases the sheets look machine-made and in one instance corrugations are shown which were adjuncts of the original article (2-12689). In diameter they range from 4 to 7 mm.; in length, from about 20 to 120 mm. They resemble dentalia (pl. 11m) and are frequently strung with short dentalium segments intervening (pl. 11o at top). Possibly they were made in imitation of the older and popular dentalium shell beads. Four were recovered from burial 5; 6 from a site 12 burial; 1 from near the disturbed burials of site 15; over 100 from burial 17; several from burial 20; about 70 from burial 21; and about 30 from burial 22.

*Copper bracelet.*—A bracelet made by bending a length of copper wire about 6 mm. in diameter came from burial 17.

*Copper rings.*—A finger ring (?) made by bending a tubular copper bead with a string passed through it and the ends tied together was found in burial 17. A similar ring, but only 8 mm. inside diameter, from the same burial, being too small for a finger suggests that the pieces were used as beads rather than rings.

*Copper pendants.*—Thin bits of copper sheet cut to various shapes occur. Possibly in some cases these are tubular beads in course of manufacture. In others, perforations for suspension and decorative designs in the form of tiny perforations indicate pendants. Here again the shapes are very suggestive of typical shell pendant shapes. Burial 17 yielded the greatest number, 35, and the most elaborate specimens. One was in burial 20; over 14 in burial 21; and 3 in burial 22. A few sheet fragments (2-12891) came from near the disturbed burials of site 15. Finally, from the cremation pit, site 21, came some copper sheet fragments that might have been pendants (2-12747, 810).<sup>74b</sup>

*Copper wire.*—Some of the glass beads from burial 20 were strung on a hair-like copper wire.

*Glass beads.*—Burials 17, 20, 21, and 22 were marked by the presence of quite a number of glass beads. These were both tubular and globular in form, with the latter predominating. There were various sizes and colors. The quantities and reference numbers have

<sup>74b</sup> Copper implements from old coastal sites are described by Hill-Tout, 117-120, and Smith, 1903:178 and 1907:412. Krieger mentions copper artifacts from Wahluke cremations that appear to be pre-Caucasian, and suggests that the native copper came from the Cascade mountains, or was obtained by barter from British Columbia, 1928:12-13.

been given in the descriptions of sites. A few glass beads were also found on the surface of site 15 in such a position as to make them more likely to have come from the disturbed burials than the cremation pits. Some of these are of types which we have found in widely scattered Californian sites. We have comparatively few of the "blue beads" which Lewis and Clark found to be most esteemed on the lower Columbia.<sup>75</sup>

*Iron or steel bracelet.*—Fragments indicating a bracelet somewhat similar to the copper bracelet, but made of iron or steel, were found in burial 17 (2-12682).

*Iron or steel dagger.*—A small dagger was found .3 m. deep, pit A, Wakemap mound (2-11382). It has a badly rusted blade about 80 mm. long, with a brass guard and bone-covered handle. The blade was protected by a sheath made of a single strip of harness (?) leather.

*Iron or steel mattock.*—From burial 20 came a mattock of tomahawk shape.

*Iron or steel indeterminate fragments.*—In Pit A, .1 m. deep, was a small cone of thin sheet iron or steel—45 mm. long, tapering from 2 to 10 mm. in diameter (2-11381). It somewhat resembled the tip of a sheath or scabbard and was of crude workmanship.

Iron or steel fragments also marked some of the graves of site 12, the surface of site 15 (2-11510) near the disturbed burials, and the cremation pit at site 21 (2-12747).

*Lead sinker.*—A rectangular, perforated sinker (?), made of lead, came from burial 22.

*Leather.*—The fragment of harness (?) from pit A has been mentioned. From burial 17 came a small fragment of leather that had been colored or had turned red (2-12688).

#### ARTICLES OF CLAY

Only one article of clay was recovered from our entire region, pottery not being evidenced even in the modern sites. The specimen recovered is a 9 mm. thick, grey, sunbaked, clay tablet marked on top with the short wedge-shaped marks formed by pressing or puncturing with a sharp point (2-12335, pl. 11j). It came from 1.05 m. in pit L. A clay impression mentioned under Textiles was also noted.

<sup>75</sup> 2:736, 788, entries of December 20, 1805, and January 21, 1806.