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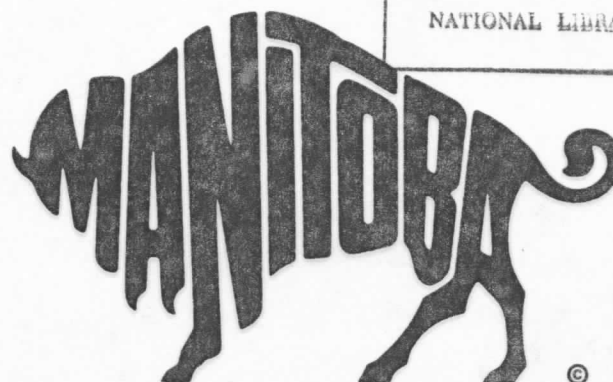
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ARCHAEOLOGY

Preliminary Report No.7

THE
HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
OF
PINE FORT

by

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Figure 16. Artifacts from the Snart Site: Top - stone tools of Native manufacture (left, centre - knives; right - projectile point). Bottom - cup made of animal horn.

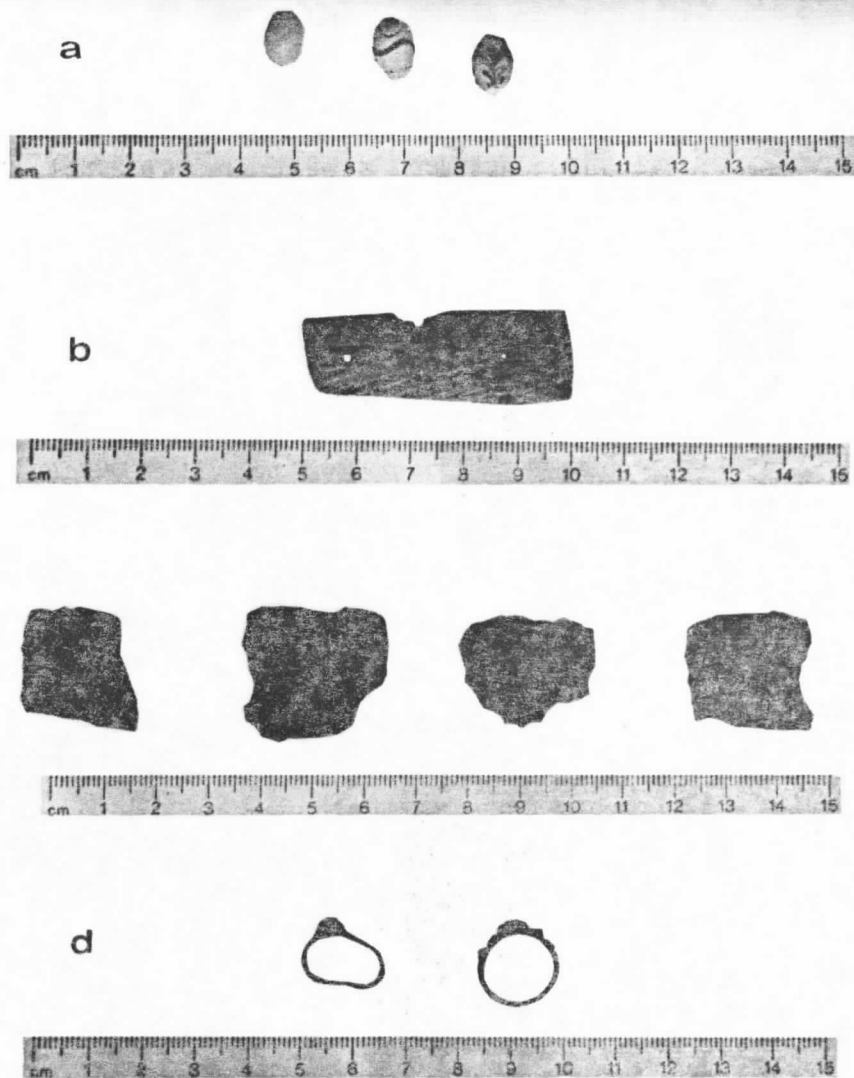


Figure 17. Artifacts from the Snart Site: a - trade beads; b - bone knife handle; c - gun flints; d - finger rings.

CHAPTER 6

THE ARTIFACTS FROM PINE FORT

A large number of artifacts had either been lost or discarded by the inhabitants of Pine Fort. These artifacts or trade objects were material things used by the White men in the fur trade with the Indians. Just over eight thousand artifacts from the excavations at Pine Fort have been washed and catalogued. This figure does not include the thousands of seed beads found. It should be noted that the photographs of the artifacts from Pine Fort included here do not represent the entire collection of artifacts, nor are they necessarily the best. The photographs were taken of some of the artifacts on display in the field museum in 1974. Hundreds of artifacts remain to be catalogued, but time has not permitted examination of this other material. There are many unexciting artifacts that will not be discussed, such as broken glass, metal fragments, and broken tools, all of which shed light on a portion of life at the fort and help the archaeologist reconstruct a bit about life at that time. The main artifacts recovered include a great variety of beads, gunflints, silver and copper ornaments, and many other typical fur trade artifacts which will be briefly described below. Generally, trinkets such as beads, copper decorations and buttons are recovered at early fur trade posts; later posts have an abundance of larger-sized artifacts such as tools and implements (e.g., axes and hoes).

Trade Items

Beads. Beads were the most common artifact encountered at the site. They were found in practically every level of every square

excavated, and approximately twenty thousand were recovered. Seed beads were the most common type, and aquamarine and white were the most abundant colours found (see Figure 78). Some larger, irregular sizes were also obtained. These can be described as barrel-, globular-, and tubular-shaped.

The major source of glass beads, until the early 1900's, was Venice, Italy, and they were manufactured in various sizes and colours ranging from transparent to opaque. They were an extremely important trade item with the Indians, who used them to decorate their clothing. They were sold in bunches of five or six strings each, four to six inches long. During the occupancy of Pine Fort B, blue and white beads were the most favoured colours among the Plains Indians.

One interesting and rather uncommon bead type found at Pine Fort was a round form, three-eighths of an inch in diameter. They were dark blue in colour with white polka dots. A few examples of this type were unearthed in Building I.

Trade Silver. It did not take the fur traders long to realize which particular items the Indians desired the most in trade. They were extremely fond of shiny metal ornaments made from brass, tin, pewter, and silver. Polished and engraved silver was preferred. The Indian women, as well as the men, wore a profusion of rings, earrings, buckles, and bracelets since they were fond of the glittering metals and considered it very fashionable to wear them on their clothing and in their hair.

Montreal was where most of the high-standard silver craftsmen worked and produced thousands of orders for the fur traders, especially

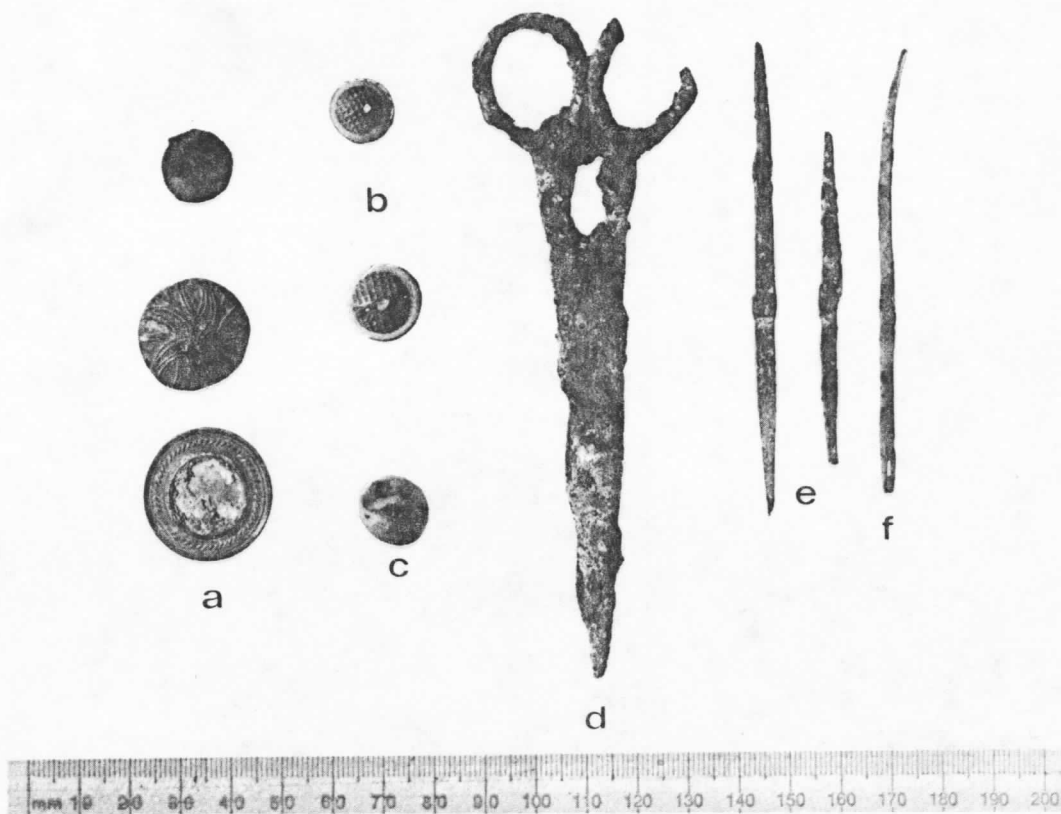


Figure 77. Metal objects from Pine Fort B: a - buttons; b - thimbles perforated for suspension (?); c - hollow metal sphere; d - scissors; e - awls; f - eyed needle.



Figure 78. Seed beads from Pine Fort B.