

# BEADS: Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers

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## Front Matter

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## The Society of Bead Researchers

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*BEADS* (ISSN: 0843-5499) is published annually by the Society of Bead Researchers, a non-profit, scientific-educational organization which aims to foster serious research on beads of all materials and periods, and to expedite the dissemination of the resultant knowledge. Subscription is by membership in the Society. Membership is open to all persons involved in the study of beads, as well as those interested in keeping abreast of current trends in bead research.

There are three levels of membership: Individual - \$10.00; Sustaining - \$25.00; and Patron - \$50.00 (U.S. funds). All three levels receive the same publications and benefits. The Sustaining and Patron categories are simply intended to allow persons who are in a position to donate larger amounts to the Society to do so. Members receive the annual journal, *Beads*, as well as the biannual newsletter, *The Bead Forum*.

General inquiries, membership dues, address changes and orders for additional copies of this journal (available for \$12.50 plus \$2.00 postage) should be sent to:

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Books for review and manuscripts intended for the journal, as well as items for the newsletter (such as brief articles, announcements of recent publications, requests for information, and summaries of current research) should be addressed to:

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Information for authors is provided at the back of the journal.

**Cover.** *Diakhité*: The larger funerary pot and its contents (photos by H. Opper).

**Back Cover.** *Diakhité*: Strands of glass and carnelian beads, strung as found, from the larger funerary pot.

# BEADS

1989 Vol. 1

Journal of the Society of  
Bead Researchers

KARLIS KARKLINS, editor

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**NOTE:** This reprint of *Beads* volume 1 is identical to the original version with a few exceptions. Pages 67 and 70 have been refurbished to put Table 2 in its proper place. Several inconsistencies in table headings and scattered typographical errors have also been corrected, and a line of text that the computer opted to delete from the bottom of page 89 in the initial printing has been reinstated. All the color plates had to be redone as the color separations for the initial ones were no longer usable. This allowed captions to be added to the plates, and the color is much improved overall.

In the reports that follow, reference is made to the beads illustrated in the color plates by plate number (Pl.), row (R.) and row position (#). For example, the designation Pl. IA, R.2, #3 refers to the third bead in row 2 of Plate IA.

## THE EDITOR'S PAGE

Beads have been popular forms of adornment since our ancestors lived in caves and have been used in one form or another by practically every ethnic group on the face of the earth since then. Despite this near-universal popularity, it was not until the late 1960s that research on these amazingly-diversified baubles began to blossom. In the decade that followed, Robert K. Liu initiated *The Bead Journal*, bead enthusiasts in Los Angeles formed The Bead Society (the first of its kind), and ever-increasing numbers of researchers, both avocational and professional, turned their attention to the study of beads. Their energies were primarily directed at formulating bead chronologies and classification systems, as well as determining bead production techniques, uses, trade values, chemical composition and origins.

With so much research going on all over the globe, there became a definite need for an informal organization that would reduce the isolationism of those studying beads and expedite rapid communication between researchers. The untimely demise of *The Bead Journal* in 1978 accentuated this need and spurred Peter Francis, Jr., to form the Society of Bead Researchers in 1981 with the help of Elizabeth J. Harris and Jamey D. Allen. The Society's mandate was straightforward: to promote the scientific study of beads. To help accomplish this goal, Peter initiated *The Bead Forum*, an informal newsletter through whose pages researchers could seek and share information.

Your present editor came on the scene in 1983 with the hope that the Society — then with a membership of 11 dedicated souls — could one day fund a

scholarly journal devoted entirely to the study of beads, one with much-needed color illustrations. As you can see, that day is here!

The articles that appear on the following pages represent a cross-section of what is currently being studied in the United States, the Caribbean and Africa. The article by Chris DeCorse is especially timely as bead research in Africa is only now reemerging after a hiatus of some 25 years; a hiatus that is apparently responsible for the actions of at least one archaeologist working in East Africa who is not even saving — much less studying — the beads found in his excavations! That this sort of thinking exists in this day and age is deplorable.

I hope that you will find this first issue of *Beads* interesting and informative. If so, please tell your friends and colleagues about it and urge them to join the Society of Bead Researchers. If not, let me know what can be done to improve it. I would also be interested to learn what areas of bead research you think should be investigated further, and which publications should be reviewed in future issues. This journal cannot be a success without your input and support.

I am very grateful to all those who submitted manuscripts and book reviews for this issue, and to those who read and commented on them. I would also like to thank all of you who have supported the Society over the years, both financially and with contributions to *The Bead Forum*. We could not have made it this far without your help.

Karlis Karklins