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## Book Reviews and End Matter

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### *The History of Beads from 30,000 B.C. to the Present.*

**Lois Sherr Dubin.** Harry N. Abrams, New York, 1987. 346 pp., 130 figs., 248 color figs. \$60.00.

Probably the most important line in this work is on the title page: "Original Photography by Togashi." This will be the final word in coffee-table books on the subject of beads. It is not the final word on beads. The photography contained in the 248 (the dust jacket says 254) color plates is flawless. Fig. 169 is a rare exception but is still acceptable. Anyone who has attempted the photography of round glass beads can appreciate the time that has gone into these color plates. In no examples are the backgrounds distracting yet they are not uniformly bland as is so often the case in archaeological reports. The quality paper and printing have also obviously helped to bring out the artistic and technical talents of Togashi.

The black and white photographs tend to be more variable, in part probably due to the use of museum-supplied prints. On occasion the lack of contrast is annoying (Fig. 71) but the use of historic photographs is well done (Fig. 236 is a pleasing example).

Also included in the illustrative material are 15 maps from different geographical regions. Except for the first one, they all represent good projection choices. In general, they are crisp and professional in appearance but some of them (for example, the Far East, p. 155) are so "busy" that the non-professional reader or browser would be lost immediately. The maps for the early time periods take a definite Eurocentric view of the world and the important archaeological discoveries. The obscure list of maps on page six contains an error (195 = 203). Numbering of the maps and a table of contents for the maps and figures would have made this work more of a research tool yet no less of a show piece. A few additional pages of text certainly would not have added much to the production cost and probably nothing to the retail price.

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It is to be hoped that the degree of completeness represented in the map of North America is not indicative of the completeness of the other maps. Only those tribes or archaeological cultures mentioned in the text are included, thus the Chumash represent the California Culture Area, the Yakima represent the Plateau, and the Haida represent the Northwest Coast. We are told in the caption that italics represent prehistoric cultures, yet three of the four listed are the three traditional Southwest cultures - Anasazi, Hohokam, and Mogollon. Combining the Plateau and Great Basin as the "Intermontane" is like combining the Plains and Woodlands into the "Midwest." We are also told by the map that only the Russians brought glass beads to the West Coast of North America; no mention is made of the major contributions by the Spanish, English and Americans.

The maps tend to be transitional between the illustrative material and the text in several ways. They represent in a nutshell the major weakness of this work. Dubin has attempted to do too much in too little space. The work attempts to be all things to all people and as a result opens up the text for scrutiny and negative criticism by an army of specialists. It is not the purpose of this review to go over the text page by page with a fine-tooth comb but only to point out that such an ambitious and widely based book is going to be the target of such criticism.

The book begins with a Foreword, Acknowledgments, and Introduction. The list of acknowledgments is interesting for the total lack of dirt archaeologists in the area of North American historical archaeology (only the work of Kenneth Kidd is mentioned). This is the group doing the most today with glass trade beads from all time periods in North America and the most likely to use the book as a scientific reference.

The next sixteen chapters comprise a melange consisting of chronology (The Beginnings, Antiquity [Neolithic to Roman], Europe [Late Roman to Renaissance], Age of European Expansion, The Twen-

tieth Century); geography (The World of Islam, Africa, The Far East, India, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and South Pacific, Middle and South America, North America); function (Prayer Beads, Eye Beads); and material (The Special Beads: Amber and Pearl). All of these contain elements of the other categories but the emphasis in each is obvious.

As mentioned, it is not the objective to review all of the text, however some indication of the degree of accuracy might be gained by looking at just one small section. A colleague who would clearly qualify as an expert on one specific country sent me a critique of the five paragraphs about that country based almost exclusively on his published material. In the first paragraph the wrong site is mentioned. In the third paragraph the wrong state is mentioned, and the beads are identified as being from the country being dealt with when the published source cited lists them as similar to but probably *not* coming from that country. In the fourth paragraph a technique of manufacture is taken as assumed when the source just suggests it as a possibility. The endnote makes a statement about "beads" that should read "wound beads," thus drastically changing the cited author's findings. Finally none of the beads listed in the Bead Chart as coming from this country are actually known to be from that country and they are placed one century too early.

The text is marred by nonsequiturs ("Figure 4 is a rare star bead traded into the Spanish New World .... This bead, in fact, was found in Africa.") p. 117; errors of fact (pony beads were not used to cover entire surfaces) p. 275; speculation given as fact ("... 'pony beads,' thus named because they were transported by traders on ponies.") p. 274; errors in terminology or spelling (Hudson Bay Company for Hudson's Bay Company) p. 275; and glaring omissions (*Olivella* shell beads, and historic, rolled, tubular copper beads of the Pacific Northwest). However, the text contains a vast amount of information that has been condensed with a fair degree of accuracy and a flowing writing style. The text for a specific time and place is a good beginning but must be supplemented.

The end material includes: Bead Chart: A Time Line in Bead History, Bead Chart Key, Bead Shape Table, Bead Chart Glossary, Notes, Bibliography, and Index. The chart is a tip-in, almost four pages long and printed in color on both sides. Like the text and maps,

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it tries to do too much in too little space. Some of the terms on the maps only show up in the chart. The Chart Key is a very useful addition and again contains information not found elsewhere in the text. The Bead Shape Table in Horace Beck's chart revisited with real beads rather than drawings. The glossary, by Jamey Allen, is tied to the chart and is excellent as far as it goes but is really too short to be useful except as an explanatory supplement to the chart.

The notes are necessary reading for those with a scholarly interest in beads but in today's world of internal citations, it is annoying to have to revert back to a system of end-notes. The Bibliography is really a references cited section and is generally very good. The abbreviation n.p. does not mean "no place" or "no publisher" as is customary, but apparently means "no pages" which translates to mean that the researcher forgot to put them down and no one went back to verify them.

In spite of some major problems with the text, the book is one that any serious bead researcher should have. The price is not surprising considering the quality of the color plates. The volume has already shown up in the discount catalogues so that even those in academia can afford to add this handsome volume to their bead library. With her demonstrated enthusiasm, excellent writing style, storehouse of knowledge, and devotion to beads, Dubin should now edit a series of volumes of contributions from the world's bead specialists.

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*Beads from the West African Trade Series.*

- Volume I, "Chevron Beads in the West African Trade," 1986. 16 pp., 8 color plates. \$10.00;
- Volume II, "Tabular Beads from the West African Trade," 1986. 6 pp., 4 color plates. \$5.00;
- Volume III, "Fancy Beads from the West African Trade," 1987. 16 pp., 14 color plates. \$7.50;
- Volume IV, "White Hearts, Feather and Eye Beads from the West African Trade," 1988. 36 pp., 31 color plates. \$15.00.

**John Picard and Ruth Picard.** Picard African Imports, 9310 Los Prados, Carmel, California 93923.

This series provides the best photographs and greatest selection of West African beads currently available in a publication. The four booklets published so far — more are planned for the future — are all extremely well-illustrated with 8-1/2 x 11 in. full-color photographs with most of the beads appearing actual size or enlarged 140 to 200 percent. Each booklet loosely concentrates on a certain category of bead, the majority of which were gathered by the Picards on trips to Africa and Venice between 1969 and 1988. Given the paucity of photographs and illustrations of West African beads, the Picards' publications are a very welcome addition to the African bead literature.

While the photographs are admirable, the quality of the volumes varies and the text often constrains the value of the work. The documentation provided in Volumes I, II and III is very brief, the Picards allowing the photographs to speak for themselves. However, the limited text, and illustrations are at times not adequate to allow for careful comparison with other specimens as the color and order of the individual layers of some of the beads cannot be determined. Colors are not given with reference to a standardized system, and no information on manufacture is provided. Because of the high quality of the photographs this information can, in many cases, be inferred, but the work would have been rendered much more useful by providing Kidd and Kidd (1983) codes or referring to some other type of classification. The first three volumes would also benefit from references or some elaboration on the basis for some of the age and source attributions.

The Picards provide little information on the context in which the beads were collected, although in several places they make some tantalizing observations. There is very little data on the distribution of bead types in Africa and the Picards' comments on the current prevalence of certain kinds in Nigeria, Mali, Cameroon, and Ethiopia are notable. The effects of 20th-century marketing and the tourist trade need to be considered, but more information on this subject would be very welcome. The ethnographic data presented about the beads is also limited. Given the

great deal of myth and speculation that surrounds beads, and the great cultural variation represented in West Africa, generalizations should be avoided. For example, although chevron beads may have a preeminent position in some areas (e.g., Delarozzière 1985: 69-72; Lamb 1978: 25), and they are widely found in markets, they are not one of the more ubiquitous bead types in West Africa (Picard and Picard Vol. I: 5; cf. Mauny 1957; Harter 1981). A large assemblage of beads recovered from archaeological contexts at Elmina, Ghana, included a relatively small number of chevrons of several different types. These were generally small and few have counterparts in the Picards' illustrated examples. Stories relating to the magical properties of beads are widespread in West Africa. However, old beads of African manufacture and enigmatic "aggrey" beads are more commonly accorded supernatural origins than are chevrons (e.g., Bowdich 1966: 268; Fynn 1974: 40, 65; Lamb 1976: 37; Landewijk 1970: 92; Sackey 1985: 182-185).

Although beads are clearly very important in African societies, the Picards overemphasize their role as a medium of exchange introduced by Europeans (Vol. III: 3). As noted elsewhere in this journal, beads were an important trade item long before the arrival of the Europeans on the West African coast at the end of the 15th century. Shells, iron, cloth strips, and gold were all well-established mediums of exchange in various parts of West Africa prior to European contact (Daaku 1961; Garrard 1980; 1982; Hogendorn and Johnson 1986; York 1972). After the Europeans' arrival, firearms, metal goods, cloth, cowries and other products probably surpassed the importance of beads as trade items in many areas.

Volume IV stands apart from the earlier issues. It includes five pages of text and is the most substantive in the series so far. The Picards augment their own useful observations with references to the beads in the Venetian Bead Book, Levin Catalogue, Sick Collection, Venetian Museum of Glass and other dated collections. This makes Volume IV a far more valuable research tool than previous volumes and it is hoped that future publications will reach the same standard. However, caution should be used when noting the dates attributed to the beads in the Sick Collection, some of which the Picards suggest extend into the 1950s. The Tropen Museum in Amsterdam which holds the collection maintains that it was gathered

together in 1920 and that the beads on the sample cards were made before then (J.H. van Brakel 1989: pers. comm.). Further research should resolve this discrepancy.

The series as a whole provides a useful reference to beads available in West Africa during this century. Many of the beads illustrated have counterparts in 19th-century collections providing valuable comparative information. They also illustrate the continued value placed on antique beads in West African cultures and the vast array of beads produced in Europe. The average reader might be more inclined to purchase other works which provide more information on the cultural and historical background of African beads. However, the excellent photographs and the cross-referencing to other collections in Volume IV promises to make this work an important addition to the libraries of both scholars and collectors of African Beads.

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*Artifacts of the Spanish Colonies of Florida and the Caribbean, 1500-1800. Vol. I: Ceramics, Glassware, and Beads.*

**Kathleen Deagan.** Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, 1987. xx + 222 pp., 141 figs., 8 color plates, index. \$35.00 (cloth); \$19.95 (paper).

The primary orientation of this publication is "to view artifacts as tools in the complex process of reconstructing and understanding past lifeways and cultural systems, ceramics, tiles, glassware and beads found most commonly on Spanish colonial sites in the circum-Caribbean region." In this respect, the data are well organized, clear, concise and presented in a manner that will, it is to be hoped, help both the layman

and the professional to better understand the scientific and cultural importance that artifacts, properly interpreted, can have. As Dr. Deagan explains, "Time period, functional associations, economic activities, cultural exchange and interaction, levels of access to resources by different groups, and religion and ideology" can all be better understood through the analysis of material assemblages. "Artifacts themselves cannot address any of these issues, but can only do so in conjunction with their archaeological contexts and associations."

Sites from which samples were obtained are noted on a map, along with their approximate date ranges and are briefly described. Dr. Deagan's research actually covers the period from 1500-1820, although the terminal date listed in the title of the publication is 1800. Economic factors affecting the distribution of artifacts in Florida and the Caribbean are discussed.

The section on Spanish-colonial ceramics and ceramics from other origins found on Spanish-colonial sites includes data on coarse earthenware, Old World and New World majolica, porcelain, stoneware, Spanish-colonial tiles, unglazed tiles and bricks which were known as *ladrillos*, and roof tiles. Date ranges for these ceramics are provided.

In the section on Spanish-colonial glassware, the author discusses the manufacture of glass in Spain from the 12th century, as well as glass produced in Murano, Italy, other European glass-manufacturing centers, and Mexico. Although this information does not refer to the manufacture of glass beads, it is a source of worthwhile information for those who want to learn more about this subject.

The section on glass beads recovered from Spanish-colonial sites in the circum-Caribbean is particularly important because it provides an overview of the types present in that area over a longer time period than has been dealt with in other available reports.

Deagan points out the problems in the recovery and recording methods used on these sites over the past several decades and mentions the problem created by the inadequacy of the bead descriptions in the site reports (this is frequently the situation in reports from any area). She found that many times glass beads recovered archaeologically had been misplaced or were unavailable, and that existing descriptions were not sufficiently detailed. I have found that this situation is not limited to the circum-Caribbean region.

The author describes beads noted in documentary sources and discusses terminology used during the Spanish Caribbean period to describe specific bead types. The use and importance of glass beads in the early trade period are also discussed.

Her section on glass-bead production outlines sources of supply and major manufacturing methods. Other bead-manufacturing techniques are mentioned but not discussed because beads made using them are either rare or nonexistent on Spanish-colonial sites.

The section relative to the classification of glass beads discusses particular bead types characteristic of the 16th-century: Nueva Cadiz, chevron, eye, gooseberry, Cornaline d'Aleppo, embroidery or seed, and heat-altered drawn. The primary sources of 17th-century beads that were available for study came from Spanish mission sites. Dr. Deagan feels that these assemblages reflect the choices of the Indians themselves or of those choosing beads for the Indian, rather than the tastes of Spanish colonists.

Table 4, providing the distribution and approximate date ranges of Spanish-colonial beads, is thorough and includes Kidd and Kidd classification codes. Dr. Deagan notes the differences in beads recovered from St. Augustine in contrast to the Spanish-mission sites. She identifies 16th-century beads that continue into the 17th century.

The striking difference between 18th-century beads and those of earlier periods is defined. At this point, available assemblages are primarily from European-occupied sites and shipwrecks. The majority of the beads, many of which are marvered, are of wound construction.

The glass-bead discussion concludes with commentary on specimens of the late 18th century, for which almost no data are available. Lastly, she provides descriptions of lapidary beads present on Spanish-colonial sites: Florida cut crystal, amber, carnelian, jet, and garnet.

Both the introduction and the epilogue are important to the understanding of the significance of Dr. Deagan's findings. A useful glossary of terms that adds to the value of this work is included, as is an excellent bibliography.

It is unfortunate that Plate 8, the color plate depicting the more diagnostic glass beads, was printed

upside down. In all probability, this occurred during production of the book and the error was not recognized by printing personnel, especially since there are no letter or number guides in the illustration. Had such designators been present, this problem might not have occurred; however, such guides should not be mandatory to ensure that an illustration is properly oriented in a publication! It is not difficult to relate the bead descriptions to the correct beads and readers should not have any problem with this. The color reproduction itself is of good quality and is accurate enough to allow comparisons with other specimens.

Dr. Deagan's work is most definitely worth a permanent place in a bead-researcher's library, and I expect to see it continually noted as an important and reliable reference.

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*A Bibliography of Glass Trade Beads in North America.*

**Karlis Karklins and Roderick Sprague** South Fork Press, Moscow, Idaho, 1980. iii + 51 pp., index. \$5.45.

*A Bibliography of Glass Trade Beads in North America - First Supplement.*

**Karlis Karklins and Roderick Sprague** Promontory Press, Ottawa, Ontario, 1987. iii + 72 pp., index. \$5.45.

For North American glass bead researchers, this bibliographic series is an essential reference. The two works contain annotated bibliographies for 1043 titles, including 455 in the initial volume and 588 in the supplement. Quoting from the most recent Introduction:

... this bibliography will be most useful to those seeking comparative data for the preparation of bead chronologies and distribution charts, as well as for the dating of bead collections derived from sites in the continental United

States, Canada and Mexico. However, several references concerned with bead manufacturing techniques, beadwork, and the historical values and uses of glass beads have also been included. A few sources dealing with beads from areas outside North America are listed because they have a definite bearing on the study of glass beads in the New World. Excluded are reports that deal entirely with non-glass beads, Indian-made glass beads, and prehistoric beads (for these, see Buehler and Kidd 1972). Papers presented at conferences have been listed when copies of the text are known to be available from the author.

The authors conducted an exhaustive search of North American archaeological publications, including most federal, state and provincial report series; and have included references to many relevant international historical articles. Individual works are organized alphabetically, uniformly annotated, and well indexed, thus creating a highly useful comparative reference.

Entries within each volume are arranged alphabetically by author and year, with individual titles assigned unique numbers for ease of indexing. Each entry includes the author(s) name(s); year of publication or release; title; publication series; institution; place of publication; and an annotated description, usually less than 50 words, identifying the period covered by the work, the sites and political locations mentioned, and the types of beads described.

At the conclusion of the annotated bibliographic section, each volume has an index of selected terms, including specialized bead types, political locations, research subjects and temporal affiliations by century. The combination of this index with the well-structured annotations makes this series an extremely practical research tool.

I have had the occasion to use both bibliographies to identify works which potentially addressed faceted, mold-pressed bead varieties. Using indexed terms for bead types and temporal affiliations, it was possible to identify all works containing potential references to the specific bead varieties being investigated. Reviewing works in my personal library, and those available from local libraries, it was possible to

check the validity of the search. Accuracy of information for individual annotations was impeccable. Although many titles proved not to have relevant information for my specific research project, the search clearly identified all works that could have contained relevant data. For this project, use of these bibliographies provided a twofold benefit: 1) they eliminated the need to duplicate a search of all manuscripts on bead research in North America, and 2) they provided precise information restricting further investigation to a few dozen relevant studies. Because these bibliographies are relatively complete, their value for comparative research is outstanding.

Also, because the scope of the series is exhaustive, it requires constant updating as new manuscripts and publications are released. As such, the authors must examine all potential sources of relevant works, a task which never ends. As the series continues, colleagues with similar research interests will increasingly provide copies of relevant titles as they become available. And as is obvious with the publication of the Supplement in 1987, new titles are being located in an aggressive and exhaustive manner. Approxi-

mately half the entries in the Supplement predate the 1980 publication date of the initial bibliography. The authors appear to be committed to the continuation of the series, with additional volumes, it is to be hoped, being released every few years. Individuals or institutions concerned with glass beads and their occurrence in North America would be well advised to include this series within their libraries, and all serious researchers would be well advised to send relevant new works to the authors for inclusion in later supplements.

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## INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

1. Papers submitted for publication must be typed double-spaced on 8-1/2 x 11 in. or 21.0 x 29.5 cm, white, non-erasable bond paper with 1 in. margins. Submissions should not exceed 40 pages including references cited.
2. Citations and references should follow the style of *American Antiquity* 48(2):429-442 (April 1983).
3. All manuscripts must be prepared with the following internal organization and specifications:
  - a. First Page: 1) place title 2 in. below the top margin, typed in upper and lower case letters; 2) center author's name(s) 5 spaces below title; 3) begin text 5 spaces below the author's line.
  - b. An informative abstract of 150 words or less should comprise the first paragraph.
  - c. Acknowledgements: these are to be placed at the end of the article, before the references cited.
  - d. Author's Affiliation: place author's name, affiliation and address adjacent to the right margin immediately following the references cited.
  - e. Tables: each table must have a short title and be typed double-spaced on a separate page.
  - f. Figure Captions: list the captions for black and white illustration (Figures) sequentially on a separate page using Arabic numerals; color illustrations (Plates) should be listed separately using Roman numerals.
4. Number all pages consecutively from the title page through the references cited.
5. All headings should be situated 3 spaces below the preceding text and flush with the left margin.
  - a. Primary headings are to be capitalized.
  - b. Secondary headings are to be typed using upper and lower case letters.
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6. Illustrations
  - a. All drawings and photographs should be of publishable quality, with black and white photographs having sharp contrast.
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  - c. Color illustrations will be considered if of sufficiently high quality to warrant the high cost of reproduction; they should be submitted in the form of 3-1/2x5 in. matte-finish prints (for initial assessment), or 35mm slides.
  - d. Figure and plate numbers are to be pencilled lightly on the backs of drawings and photographs, and on the mounts of color slides and the sleeves of larger transparencies.
  - e. Photographs of objects, and maps, site plans, etc., must include a metric or metric/inch scale.
  - f. When several items are shown in a single frame, each object is to be designated by a lower case letter, and the caption should include references to these letters.
    - 1) *Letraset* letters should be added to black and white figures, at the lower right of each object.
    - 2) For color illustrations, refer to objects by plate, row and position in row; e.g., Pl. II, R.1, #3 refers to the third bead in row 1 of Plate II.
  - g. Illustrations obtained from museums or other institutions must be accompanied by a letter from the appropriate institution granting permission to publish and indicating that reproduction fees, if any, have been paid by the author.
7. Each manuscript will be reviewed by at least one member of the Editorial Advisory Committee. Articles of a specialized nature will also be reviewed by one or more persons who have expertise in the thematic content, cultural or geographical region, or time period dealt with in the manuscript.

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9. Manuscripts will be judged on the accuracy of their content, appropriateness for an international audience, usefulness to other researchers, and consistency with the research and ethical goals of the Society.
10. Each author or set of co-authors will receive 6 complimentary copies of the journal. Book reviewers will receive one copy. Reprints, in multiples of 25, will be available prepaid to authors if there is sufficient interest. An order form will be sent out when the journal goes to press. Reprints will consist of the appropriate journal pages, complete with color plates, if any, stapled together at the upper left corner.