

However, according to another statement, the child received a green stone bead immediately after birth.

Similar traditions are still alive in Jordan, where Birgit Mershen observed that beads of green stone are popular as amuletic devices. In addition to cornerless cubes, she found heart-shaped pendants and oblong beads made of green agate.

In this short note I wanted to stress the fact that beads may be much more to certain people than mere items of personal adornment. But I also hope to secure the help of readers of *The Bead Forum*. As I am preparing a study on these items, I would be grateful for any information or suggestions concerning the age of such beads (are there any from stratified sites?), their origin, distribution, use, and place in local folklore and magical beliefs. It would also be interesting to know if such items are reused by contemporary craftspeople, bead stringers, and other designers of personal jewellery. It goes without saying that no information would be used without the consent of the informer, and the source would be duly stated.

79. TRADE BEADS EXCAVATED FROM A EUROPEAN/KONYAG CONTACT SITE ON KODIAK ISLAND, ALASKA, by Elizabeth G. Shapiro (1988, 13:7-12)

This report is intended to acquaint the reader with the site in question, the placement of the beads in the site, and the types of beads excavated from the site. By reviewing this evidence, it may be possible to trace and compare historic accounts of European intervention on Kodiak Island, while at the same time, develop the beginnings of a chronological sequence of trade beads in southern Alaska. The town of Karluk, Alaska, is located on the northwestern side of Kodiak Island and is separated from the Alaskan mainland by the 25-mi.-long Shelikof Strait (Fig. 1). Two sites at Karluk were chosen for archaeological survey and excavation during the summer of 1984, under the supervision of Dr. Richard Jordan, former Professor of Anthropology at Bryn Mawr College and currently chairman of the Anthropology Department at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The second site, consisting of 42 house pits (major portions of which date back to the period of Russian occupation) is known as the village of Nunakakhnak, and will be referred to as the KAR-37 site. The collection of beads excavated from one of these house pits constitutes the data presented herewith.

Briefly, the contact history of Kodiak Island centers on Gregor Shelikov who, in 1784, established the first permanent Russian settlement in Alaska on Kodiak Island at

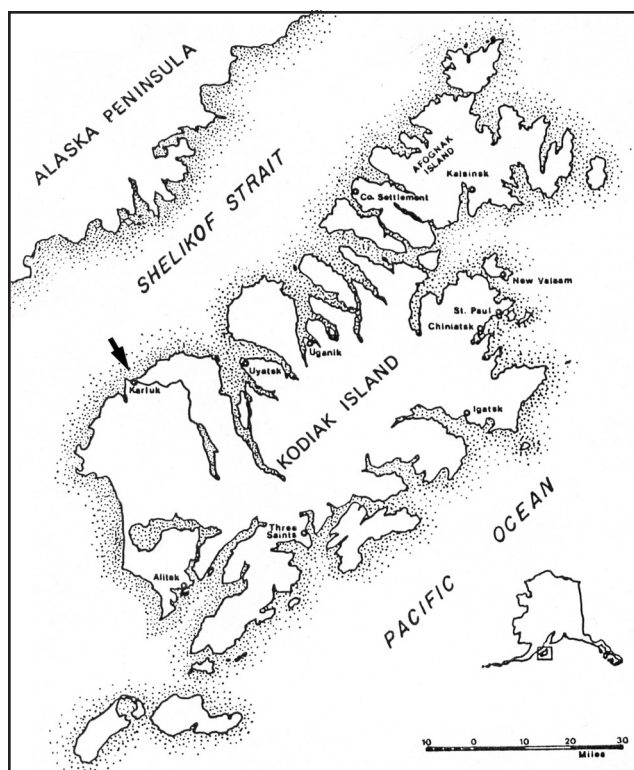


Figure 1. Map of Kodiak Island showing the locations of mid-19th-century Russian Period settlements including Karluk (arrow) (Knecht and Jordan 1985).

Three Saint's Bay. During the winter of 1785-1786, a party of Russians, Aleuts, and Konyags (the indigenous population), established the first Russian encampment on the Karluk site. In 1786, an *artel*, or trading post, was established by Shelikov at Karluk with trade goods coming from Russia, Britain and later, even America. At its peak, according to accounts from 1804, the village consisted of 34 *barabaras* (sod houses) with a speculative population of 680 natives. The settlement was short-lived, however. In 1821, the Russian population had decreased to a three-person management of the *artel*, which, by the 1840s, had been demoted to an *odinochka*, or one-man post (Knecht and Jordan 1985:20-21). Finally, a chart dated 1849 portrays the site as the remains of a Konyag resettlement project undertaken by the Russian-American Company during 1840-1844. It is believed that the site was abandoned before the late 1880s, as an 1888 map of Karluk Lagoon shows settlement locations only at Old and New Karluk (Knecht and Jordan 1985:21). For a more detailed history of the KAR-37 site, I refer readers to the article by Knecht and Jordan (1985:20).

The structure (no. 1; Fig. 2) which was excavated consists of a "large central room and four adjoining side rooms, at least one of which functioned as a sleeping room" (Knecht and Jordan 1985:22). Preliminary observations

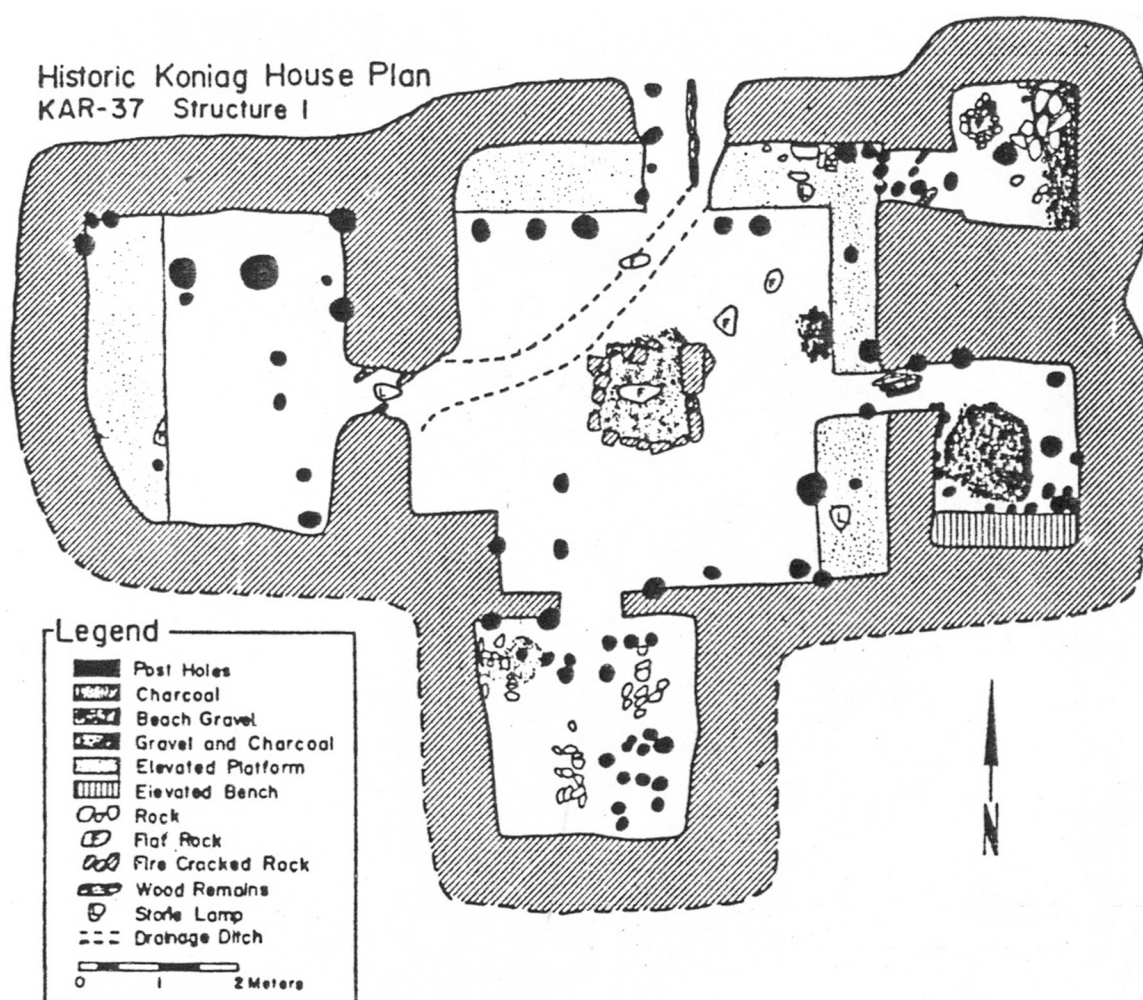


Figure 2. Floor plan of Structure 1 at Karluk (Knecht and Jordan 1985).

have reinforced the notion of the central room as the primary domestic activity area within the structure. Three iron axe heads as well as a traditional lithic assemblage were found in the central room together with almost a third of the trade bead collection. This side-by-side assemblage of traditional and imported goods illustrates the phenomenon of acculturation occurring at this time.

The west side room of Structure 1 has been identified as a *zupan* or sleeping room and contained the majority of the excavated beads. The south side room functioned primarily as a storage room. The two smaller side rooms are identified as sweat baths, and the northeast side room has been tentatively identified as a burial chamber.

It was from this context that the collection of 2,735 trade beads of various types emerged. In order to make sense of the assemblage, I began by adapting the Kidd and Kidd (1970) classification system to a system which would fit my needs. Bead type, size (both diameter and length

measured in millimeters), clarity or opacity of the glass, and color (as determined by the *ISCC-NBS Color Charts Illustrated with Centroid Colors*) were categories obtained through the suggested procedure of the Kidds. In addition to these, I added categories of my own such as material code (there were a few beads of natural materials found in the collection), decoration (including swirling, facets, stripes), suspected country of origin, condition, and general comments. Above and beyond the actual bead description were included categories from the original artifact data. Those categories which proved useful for analysis were provenience data (identification of structure and room), quadrant data (northwest, northeast, southwest, southeast, and the north/south and east/west baulks), and layer data (surface, roof sods, floor sods, layer one, and layer two).

Within Structure 1, a good portion (40.7%) of the beads were excavated from the west or sleeping room. This is probably due to a depression near the center of the room where beads may have collected during routine room use.

The central room followed in bead quantity with 35.3%, not significantly different from the west room. The most obvious explanation for the high frequency of beads in the west and central rooms is that while sewing perhaps occurred in the central room, it seems more likely that the *zupan* was used for dressing and undressing, an activity during which it is likely that beads were torn off clothing and not recovered.

Both the northeast and southeast side rooms contain deposits of beads in similar quantities: 260 beads were found in the southeast side room (the sweat bath), while 334 beads were recovered from the northeast side room.

The majority of the beads (90.1%) were found on the floor (the L-2 layer) of the structure. This indicates that the majority of the beads were found in the locations in which they were deposited (whether by accident or on purpose). Only 1.3% of the beads were found on the site surface. The second largest grouping of beads (8.6%) occurred in the sods level (L-1). No beads were found in the floor sods, while only one bead was located in the roof sods. In the west room, 96.2% of the beads were found in the floor sods (L-2), while 3.8% were found elsewhere.

If a general label could be placed on the beads in this collection, it would be "typical Alaskan." Analysis of the collection using Kidd and Kidd (1970) reveals twelve types, most of which belong in two categories: type IIa (a simple tubular drawn bead which has been subjected to reheating), and type IVa (a two-layered compound bead which has been subjected to reheating). Of a total of 2,723 quantifiable beads, 1,033 are type IIa (37.9%) while 1,367 are type IVa (50.2%). Other types represented at the site include type Ia, a simple tubular bead (80 beads; 2.9%); type IIIa, a multi-layered tubular bead (131 beads; 4.8%); and type WIb, a spherical wound bead (48 beads; 1.8%). Bead categories with less than fifteen members (0.6%) include type Ib, a simple striped tube; type If, a faceted tube; type IIb, a reheated drawn bead with stripes; type IIIf, a multi-layered tubular bead with facets; type IVb, a reheated, compound bead with stripes; type WIIc, a wound, oblong bead; and type WIIa, a wound and molded "corn" bead.

As for the most common sizes of beads found on the KAR-37 site, medium-sized beads (length and diameter between 3.0 and 4.9 mm) are by far the best represented, at approximately 60-65%. In the case of color frequency, brick red beads (commonly known as "cornaline d'Aleppos") are the most common (37.4%), followed by small turquoise seed and pound beads (20.8%), and white pound beads (17.1%). Blue, black, yellow/orange, purple, green, red/purple, true red, grey, and clear follow in this order. Most of the beads were whole and in fair to good condition with the exception

of the wound beads which were larger in size and often weather-worn, chipped, or split.

Typical "named" Alaskan trade beads which are present on the site are the "cornaline d'Aleppo," "Russian" and "Canton" beads. The cornaline d'Aleppo bead, consisting of a brick red outer layer and a light blue (pre-1800) or light green (post-1800) core were found in abundance. Beads with the light green center were far more common than the earlier variety and support the dating of the site (Mille 1975:20; Sorensen 1971:16). The faceted Russian beads were all royal blue, some containing a milky core and some translucent. These beads are attributed to the early to middle 1800s. Fewer than thirty specimens of this type were found, possibly because they had a high value, or perhaps because of the early date of KAR-37. Fifty-five Canton beads (an opaque spherical bead said to come from China) were found at the site. The majority of these were light turquoise or white, although a few were a translucent deep red or green/blue. The suggestion that these beads actually came from China is in dispute. However, many of the wares traded to the natives by both the British and Russians originated in Chinese ports, supporting a Chinese origin. The majority of the remaining beads consist of white and turquoise pound beads.

The best and most descriptive adjective which one could apply to the trade beads from Kodiak Island is "typical." Sites such as the Erskine House, located in Three Saint's Bay on Kodiak Island and occupied from 1793-1867, have produced similar, if less extensive, bead collections (Shinkwin and Andrews 1979). Much work is yet needed before a detailed and accurate dating system can be developed for trade beads in Alaska and other areas where they played major roles in the acculturation process. Trade beads have the potential to be powerful research tools, tracing patterns of trade and trade sources through their various complexities. By pursuing this investigation, it may be possible to prepare chronologies to aid in the study of culture contact and acculturation in southern Alaska in the quickest and most efficient manner.

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80. AN UNUSUAL GLASS BEAD FROM SOUTHERN FLORIDA, by Marvin T. Smith (1983, 2:3-4)

In a recent archaeological report on excavations at Fort Center in southern Florida, William Sears (1982:67) mentions a large twisted chevron bead recovered by vandals during unauthorized excavations in Mound B. I dismissed it as probably being a poor description of a multi-layered Nueva Cadiz Twisted Bead. Later, I was able to view slides of material from Fort Center, and sure enough, there was a bead appearing to be a striped Nueva Cadiz Twisted. When the Florida State Museum acquired the collection from Fort Center, I was able to study the bead first-hand. To my surprise, the original description of the bead was quite accurate. This paper will describe the bead and discuss its significance.

Description

The bead does appear to be a striped Nueva Cadiz Twisted Bead, but closer inspection reveals inner layers molded with teeth typical of chevron beads (Fig. 1). This bead was clearly the product of a master craftsman, who combined many techniques to produce a unique product.

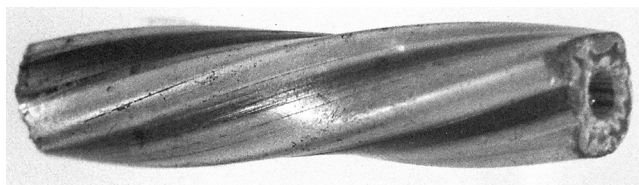


Figure 1. Striped chevron Nueva Cadiz twisted bead.

The craftsman started with a colorless core layer and added white, red, and white layers all molded in the 12-pointed star pattern. Apparently the first 2 layers (colorless and white) were molded in one step, and the next 2 layers

were added and the gather molded again. Equally spaced around the outer layer are 2 stripes of brick red glass alternating with 2 stripes of medium blue glass. Next the gather was dipped in colorless glass and molded in a square mold like a Nueva Cadiz bead. The stripes were arranged to be on the flats of the bead. Finally the entire cane was drawn and twisted. The result is a truly magnificent bead.

Classification

This unique bead presents many problems of classification. It cannot fit into the classification scheme presented by Smith and Good (1982) for 16th-century Spanish colonial trade beads. Class V of that scheme is Chevron Beads with Molded Cross-Sections; we split Nueva Cadiz Beads into different classes depending on whether or not they had been twisted. Thus, to remain consistent, the new bead would require its own class (IX) for Chevron Beads with Molded Cross-Sections, Twisted. If this new class were invented, the bead would be Class IX, Series A (untumbled), Type 4 (composite), Variety a.

Similarly, the Kidds' system (1970) does not really allow for this bead, even when the modifications proposed by Karklins (1982) are considered.

Dating

This bead was produced during the first half of the 16th century, since it is closely related to the horizon style of tubular, multi-layered molded cane beads. Other beads found at Fort Center confirm this temporal placement: both faceted Chevron Beads (Smith and Good type IVC2a) and Nueva Cadiz plain (Smith and Good IIA2b) were recovered. Other beads on the site reflect later styles of globular tumbled beads, common in the late 17th century, but it is unlikely that the bead illustrated here belongs with them. Recovery by a trained archaeologist could have cleared up this problem.

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