

the interests of maintaining its monopoly on the bead trade, acquired a factory in France in 1900, and the firm of A. Sachse in Gablonz, Bohemia, in 1920. Indeed, until about 1955, Venice's *Conterie* seems to have cornered the bead export trade to South Africa; Saitowitz in her Appendix 2 tabulates the amazing quantity of beads (including glass rods and lamp-worked beads) exported to Africa during 1932-1955, country by country and year by year, totalling a staggering 3,706,256 kilograms, of which 1,665,691 went to South Africa and Zimbabwe. She also has useful data on traders in Cape Colony and the Eastern Cape, and has tracked down old records, including an annotated trade-bead card, from merchants operating in King William's Town. Her paper really adds to the recorded data on beads in South Africa.

Carol Kaufmann, in "The Bead Rush: Development of the Nineteenth-century Bead Trade from Cape Town to King Williams Town," continues where Sharma Saitowitz left off, concentrating on the part that beads played in Xhosa-speaking trade and economy. After 1830, the bead market became deregulated to some extent, and beads were more generally available, instead of being exclusively under royal control. Beads became increasingly important as currency among the indigenous population, and the making of beadwork becomes a feature of South African life. Kaufmann adds to the roll of former merchants through the records held in Cape Town, and documents the efforts of frontier missionaries and traders who tried to order beads directly from London and thus bypass the inflated prices charged in Cape Town. Sections in this paper entitled "Distribution of Trade Beads," and the periods 1820-1830, 1840-1870 and 1870-1900 take us through the history of the bead trade in the Eastern Cape area, and trace the changes in value and availability. An ongoing archaeological excavation at the farm "Canastaplace" promises to give significant information arising from a bead assemblage found in grain storage pits, a find that is so far unique in the Eastern Cape.

The exhibition catalogue, compiled by Carol Kaufmann, one of the curators of the exhibition, covers 373 entries, including 12 paintings and photographs, 12 bead sample cards and a variety of beadwork, among which is a complete diviner's outfit.

The illustrations are well chosen to accompany the text, and show that the exhibition must have been well worth a visit. Perhaps something more permanent may come about ere too long.

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Beads and People Series.

Volume 1, "Heirlooms of the Hills (Southeast Asia)," 1992. vi + 22 pp., 13 color figs., 12 b&w figs., index. \$15.00 (paper).

Volume 2, "Where Beads are Loved (Ghana, West Africa)," 1993. vi + 22 pp., 11 color figs., 8 b&w figs., index. \$15.00 (paper).

Peter Francis, Jr. Lapis Route Books, The Center for Bead Research, 4 Essex Street, Lake Placid, New York 12946.

These two publications are the first in a series of monographs aimed at a popular audience. Both volumes cover very large geographical areas and time periods. "Heirlooms of the Hills" features beads from Southeast Asia. A brief introduction to the region is followed by short discussions of the beads of ethnic groups in Thailand, Burma, Taiwan, the Philippines and Indonesia, the work concluding with a brief overview. "Where Beads are Loved" concentrates on beads in southern Ghana, though the text ranges widely over time and space, including condensed discussions of the trans-Saharan trade, the European bead trade, African-made beads and bead use.

As publications aimed at the collecting market, these volumes are likely to sell well. Both volumes provide basic introductory information on such topics as how to distinguish wound and drawn glass beads, European bead manufacture and bead terminology which will be useful to the novice. The prose is generally engaging and the ethnographic examples colorful.

There is less of interest for advanced researchers. The referencing in both volumes is fair, though this is not surprising given the constraints of space and the

intended market. However, this feature limits the scholastic value of some of the original observations made by Francis. This is most apparent in areas where he attempts to draw together general observations concerning the age, distribution and role of beads in specific cultural settings. Expansion on how some of these conclusions were reached would have been helpful. More detailed discussions on topics such as the ethnographic use of beads, *akori* and African bead production are extensively (and more critically) dealt with in other publications — by Francis and others.

At a more pragmatic level, the dot matrix printing is poor quality (particularly in “Heirlooms of the Hills”) and the computer-generated illustrations are wanting. In “Heirlooms of the Hills,” the small locator maps lack any text and one must refer to a larger map at the front of the monograph. The photographs provide good supplementary illustrations but are not outstanding. Given the technology available for desk top publishing, these features will undoubtedly be rendered much more effective in future publications.

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Early Contact Glass Trade Beads in Alaska.

Polly G. Miller. *The Bead Society of Central Florida*, 121 Larkspur Drive, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. 1994. viii + 44 pp., 10 color figs., 49 b&w figs. \$15.00 (paper) + \$1.15 postage in the U.S.

Miller places her work in “the new genre of bead research,” evidently because of its primary focus on beads as artifacts for the interpretation of history. She abjures classification schemes or technical descriptions in *Early Contact Glass Trade Beads in Alaska*, choosing instead to sketch the commercial and political factors that influenced the flow of Chinese and European beads to the Alaskan frontier from 1741 through the late 19th century. Referring to various recent exhibitions and archaeological projects, the

author suggests that Alaska is emerging as a laboratory for collaborative studies between bead researchers, historians, anthropologists and archaeologists.

The story is a complex one, conveyed with economy (there are only 36 pages of text) in a semi-popular style that makes up in verve for what it lacks in academic polish. After establishing that China, rather than Venice, was the main source for 18th-century beads brought to Alaska by Russian, British and American vessels, Miller reviews historical and archaeological research on glass production in China during the Qing (Manchu) dynasty (A.D. 1644-1911). While glass had been made in China since the first millennium B.C., the bead industries centered in Canton and Boshan developed largely in response to the external market provided by Western trading concerns. Chinese beads exported through Canton supplied the booming British and American sea otter trades on the Northwest Coast, while Russian fur merchants (and after 1799, the Russian American Company) purchased their American trade wares at Kiakhta on the Chinese border. Siberian trade fairs supplied a secondary Native trade in Chinese beads across Bering Strait.

By the latter half of the 19th century, however, European beads had almost completely replaced Chinese beads in Alaska, except for heirloom examples. These new varieties were imported in large quantities by American whalers and fur trade companies. As Miller points out, this shift in supply is readily apparent on beaded garments obtained by E.W. Nelson and other American museum collectors in the post-1867 American Period. Her exposition on this topic is less clear and inclusive, however, than the earlier analysis of the Chinese trade. There is no discussion of the Venetian or Bohemian bead industries, for example, although evidence for an early Dutch component in the Alaskan trade is examined in some detail. Citing a lack of documentary evidence, she discounts the influx of European beads that is likely to have occurred as a result of the 1839 supply agreement between the Russian American and Hudson’s Bay companies, 30 years prior to the Alaska Purchase. Archaeological collections from Native villages and Russian trade posts (the reviewer’s current research) suggest that European beads did