

people of Sarawak, Borneo; Greek beads of the Mycenaean period—the age of heroines in Greek tradition and mythology; archaeological investigations into ancient Chinese beads; what beads mean to craft producers supported by Oxfam; and “Don’t get your Necklaces in a Twist!” or specialist bead terms for researchers and collectors.

The contributions are all packed with useful information, and are illustrated with 86 black and white drawings and photographs. This is where, I am sorry to say, the book is weakest, because somewhere in the scanning or printing of many of the photographs they became dark or overinked and the detail has been completely lost or obscured. I have a paperback copy, so I’m not sure whether this unattractive feature also appears in the hardback edition, but the photographs of Sarawak beads in Figs. 10.3 and 10.4, for example, are atrocious, while the adorned Uduk women in Figs. 1.9a and 1.9b have been reduced to mere silhouettes! I would also have preferred a little tighter proofreading to get rid of silly little mistakes such as “Neckless” instead of “Necklaces” in the Table of Contents. Furthermore, the Gemmological Association is at “Greville” Street, not “Groville” (p. 305), my address for the Bead Society of Great Britain is “Casburn Lane” not “Cosburn Lane” (p. 305) and, as any good bead researcher ought to know, they are Nueva “Cadiz” beads not Nueva “Cad” (p. xi)!

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Glasperlen Christbaumschmuck/Glass Bead Christmas Tree Ornaments.

Waltraud Neuwirth. Selbstverlag Dr. Waltraud Neuwirth, P.O. Box 11, A-1194, Vienna, Austria. 1995. 320 pp., 167 color figs., 95 b&w figs., ATS 640 (hard bound) + ATS 85 surface postage.

Many people’s happiest memories revolve around Christmas, a joyful occasion to celebrate the birth of Christ and exchange gifts and good cheer with loved ones and friends. At the center of the event was—and

continues to be—the beloved Christmas tree, frequently a scruffy one hacked down in a nearby woods. Yet, even the most lopsided and malformed tree could be turned into a dazzling wonder through the addition of tinsel, garlands, and a variety of ornaments. With so many fond memories attached to them, it is no wonder that many people admire and collect Christmas tree ornaments. If you fall into this category, you will love Waltraud Neuwirth’s newest book.

Written in German and English, the book deals with the Gablonz-industry Christmas tree ornaments collectively produced in Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, and Austria during the late 19th and 20th centuries. The text is relatively brief, the English portion taking up only 20 pages. It surveys the different forms of ornaments that were produced, as well as the beads and other components that went into their composition. While several kinds of drawn and molded beads were utilized, hollow or blown beads were the principal constituents. Composed of thin, non-transparent glass to obscure each ornament’s wire framework, the hollow beads were ideal for Christmas tree ornaments as their extremely light weight kept even a small tree’s branches from sagging.

For the bead researcher, the section devoted to hollow beads contains useful information concerning manufacturing techniques (including interior ribbing and silvering/gilding) and nomenclature. Another section discusses how to date and determine the place of manufacture of the beads and the ornaments they compose. A list of the principal regional manufacturers and merchants of Christmas tree ornaments during the first half of the 20th century occupies six and a half pages.

An additional 28 pages are devoted mainly to German technical articles concerning the manufacture and marketing of beads and ornaments, especially silver- and gold-lined blown beads, from the late 19th century to the present. There is much valuable information here but the technical language that pervades the material apparently made it too difficult to translate for the benefit of English-speaking readers. This is unfortunate, but understandable.

The concise text is much enhanced by a profusion of excellent color and black-and-white illustrations of a wide variety of ornaments and their components, some on sample cards. German/English captions

describe the objects and provide measurements and probable dates of production. This information will benefit both researchers and collectors.

In case you already own Neuwirth's major work on beads, *Perlen aus Gablonz: Historismus, Jugendstil/ Beads from Gablonz: Historicism, Art Nouveau*, it should be pointed out that there is little overlap in content between the two publications. You will need to obtain *Glasperlen Christbaumschmuck/Glass Bead Christmas Tree Ornaments* to round out your knowledge of Gablonz-industry beads, and to obtain the short list of errata for *Perlen aus Gablonz*.

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Perlen: Archäologie, Techniken, Analysen. Akten des Internationalen Perlensymposiums in Mannheim vom 11. bis 14. November 1994.

Uta von Freeden and Alfred Wieczorek (eds.). *Kolloquien zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte*
1. Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Postfach 15 01 04,
D-53040 Bonn, Germany. 1997. x + 386, 26
color plates, 197 b&w figs., index. DM 59.00
(hard bound).

A specialized conference on beads was held in Mannheim, Germany, in the fall of 1994. It was attended by over 50 specialists from 14 European countries. The volume under review contains 35 of the presented papers. This profusion makes it impossible to discuss the papers individually, and necessitates a summary review of the proceedings.

The impetus for the Mannheim symposium was provided by a group of German-speaking specialists who, during the 1980s, had been individually working on beads, particularly those of the Early Medieval period (5th-8th centuries). These glass beads derived primarily from strings which had served women as pectoral or neck jewellery and were subsequently placed in their graves together with other artifacts. Many of these graves have been examined archaeologically, resulting in a rich store of material for

analysis. Several of the analysts met in 1990, in order to coordinate their individual studies more effectively. The first aim was to compile a suitable system of attributes to facilitate a universal system for the description and comparison of beads, one which would provide the basis for an electronic bead database, as well as a computer-based program of documentation. These endeavors were quite productive, so that the initial results and the first version of the computer program "ProPer," which is now generally available, could be presented at the Mannheim conference (pp. 117-124, 169-176, 177-186).

In 1994, this small group initiated the Mannheim symposium in order to draw together more closely those European bead specialists who had hitherto been working mainly in isolation or in small groups and, at the same time, to create an awareness among others of the profusion of the studies being undertaken. The symposium papers cover a wide spectrum of time, place, and themes, while providing a representative overview. Three papers deal with Iron Age beads (ca. 8th century B.C.-birth of Christ), five with beads of the Roman Imperial period (ca. birth of Christ-4th century), eleven with the Merovingian period (ca. 5th-8th century), and nine with Medieval material (8th- 12th century). The emphasis on the two latter periods effectively reflects what was being investigated and analyzed at the time. The papers cover western and northern Europe in particular, with the focus being on the German-speaking region; several articles discuss material from eastern Europe, including the Ukraine.

Thematically, 23 papers are primarily concerned with overviews of the subject material and attempts at typology and chronology. Three papers consider questions of methodology, two deal with excavated beadmaking workshops, and five discuss glass analysis and its interpretation. Here, too, as far as I can see, the relative frequency of the topics realistically reflects the emphasis of current research. All papers contain footnotes and comprehensive bibliographies. Thus, this volume provides an up-to-date and representative overview of European research on archaeologically recovered beads, and provides the interested reader with an extensive listing of additional literature.

The pioneer studies presented in this volume provide us with a better understanding of various aspects of European bead research. They underline the