

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