

In the 1950s the government tried to start a glass bead and bangle center in Gudimallam, 3 kms (but a long walk) away. There is not even a trace of an industry now; perhaps the social system prevented any interfering government factory from being successfully launched.

Anyway, back at Papanaidupet, the workers who were paid \$.99 a day were forced to pay 9 cents of that to the furnace owner (120 rupees per month divided by two teams). The strike was settled when the four trading houses agreed to pay the monthly rent to the furnace owners.

I visited Papanaidupet during and after the strike; afterwards work was going at double speed. Tube drawing which usually ceases at dawn was continuing until noon. The bead village is back in business.

#### **15. CENTER FOR BEAD RESEARCH ESTABLISHED, by Peter Francis, Jr. (1985, 6:6-7)**

The Center for Bead Research has been established in Lake Placid, New York. It is designed to serve as a repository of information about beads of all kinds and is open to scholars interested in any aspect of bead research.

The resources of the Center are a library of over 3,000 references, a photographic collection of over 2,500 prints and slides from public and private collections around the world, and a study collection. At the core of the study collection are examples obtained from excavations or directly from beadmaking centers with known provenances which may serve as references for scholarly investigation.

The activities of the Center include a publication series, *Occasional Papers of the Center for Bead Research*. The first monograph in the series, "A Survey of Beads in Korea," has now been published and several others are being planned. In February 1986, the Center will sponsor a bead tour of India which will visit museum collections, archaeological sites of past beadmaking centers, and the modern centers of Cambay, Purdalpur, Firozabad, and Papanaidupet.

Among the ongoing projects of the Center are the building of a computerized data bank of the literature to facilitate access to this information and the review and monitoring of periodical series in history, archaeology, anthropology, and other relevant fields to identify material on beads. Over 80 such periodical series have now been completed and are being monitored; others are designated for review. In the future the Center hopes to hold seminars and workshops on various problems related to bead research and to sponsor other tours of important beadmaking and bead-using areas.

#### **16. A BIT MORE ON THE CORNERLESS CUBE, by Peter Francis, Jr. (1986, 8:8-10)**

The note by Peter Schienerl in *The Bead Forum* (7:8-9) about the green stone cornerless cubes used as amulets by Egyptians, Bedouins, and Palestinians brought to mind a similar bead encountered in Iran. Like those described by Schienerl, they are of a green stone, found individually, and show heavy wear; they may have been worn as amulets in Iran as well. Among beads in my collection from Egypt are two "imitations" of these beads. One is a deep green glass wound bead pressed into the cornerless cube shape; the other is a bloodstone, which appears to be modern Cambay in origin.

The green stone appears to be jasper. Like agate, jasper is a crypto- ("hidden") or micro- ("tiny") crystalline form of quartz. The crystalline form of quartz includes rock crystal, smoky quartz, and amethyst. Chalcedony, including agate and carnelian, has a fibrous microcrystalline structure, while jasper has a granular microcrystalline structure. Bloodstone is a combined form of the two with a chalcedonic green base and red jasper flecks through it. Bloodstone is currently mined at a few spots in Gujarat, India (Tankara near Morvi and in the Little Rann of Kutch). Bloodstone cornerless cubes are exported from Cambay today, often on strands mixed with other types of agate beads. The earlier beads, however, were not bloodstone but green jasper.

The only dated green jasper cornerless cubes I have noted are in the National Museum in Tehran, Iran, displayed with material from Susa from the Sassanian Period (A.D. 224-642). It is difficult to know how much trust can be put in these museum displays; Tehrani dealers bragged to me how they had sold the museum this or that necklace from such and such a site. I have written about this problem in Iranian museums before (Francis 1979:44).

In Iran cornerless cubes of green jasper, carnelian, quartz crystal, hematite, lapis lazuli, and pyrite are known. The pyrite is interesting, as one source for it is near Ratanpur (the source of most stones for the west India bead industry), and it can occur as natural cornerless cubes in its crystalline form.

As far as cornerless cubes in general are concerned, the earliest example that Beck (1928:17) noted was of blue glass from the Crimea in the 5th century B.C. While this date may be considered the beginning of general popularity of these beads, earlier examples are recorded. Two cornerless cubes, one of gold and the other of glazed steatite, were excavated from the upper levels at Mohenjodaro by Mackay (1938:516; LXXXII.5, CXXXIV.2). A lapis lazuli cornerless cube was found at Tall-i-Bakun, a