

providing information regarding the beads found on several unpublished VOC wrecks and for putting me in contact with the Shetland Museum. Gratitude is expressed to Mr. Tommy Watt, Assistant Curator of the Shetland Museum, Lerwick, for the kind loan of a sample of *De Liefde* beads and providing an inventory of the beads recovered from the wreck between 1964 and 1986.

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## 40. EUROPEAN CHICKEN EGG BEADS, by Karlis Karklins (1988, 12:24)

Museums are frequently fascinating places for bead researchers to spend a few hours. You just never know what new material or use you will encounter. Take a recent visit to the Musée de l'Homme in Paris. As I neared the end of the European gallery, I spied a colorful stuffed figure about 4.5 ft. high that had a cloth head and wore a black skirt. The front of the effigy was festooned with eight strands of chicken eggs strung end to end and five strands of ca. 1-inch-square pieces of colored cloth. The caption read:

In Czechoslovakia, this straw figure is called "Smartka" meaning "Death." Its crudely painted face represents a death's head which symbolizes the end of winter. The Sunday before Palm Sunday, young girls carry it in a procession to the river where they drown it.

Does anyone know anything more about these egg beads? Are they also used elsewhere in Europe and in similar ceremonies? Are the eggs ever colored or decorated like Easter eggs? What is their history?

## 41. THE SUITABILITY OF THE ISCC-NBS CENTROID COLOR CHARTS FOR DETERMINING BEAD COLORS, by Karlis Karklins (1989, 14:8-12)

Researchers interested in comparing bead assemblages from archaeological sites are not infrequently frustrated in their efforts by a lack of adequate descriptions of the recovered specimens. Ever-increasing use of the expanded Kidd and Kidd (1970) classification system (Karklins 1985) has greatly improved the situation but color determination remains a problem. Because the *Color Harmony Manual* (Container Corporation of America 1958) used by the Kidds to identify bead colors is relatively obscure, many individuals have been using the color plates in the Kidds' publication to identify their specimens. This is *not* recommended practice as the illustrations, being reproductions of shaded colored-pencil drawings, are not accurate enough for this purpose, especially in the 1970 French edition and the 1983 reprint in which the colors are substantially different from the 1970 English edition. In addition, the number of recorded bead colors has more than doubled since the Kidds' system was first published so their inventory is far from complete.

Ideally, a bead should be compared directly to the glossy side of the color chips in the *Color Harmony Manual* or the *Munsell Book of Color* (Munsell Color 1976), the relevant colors in which have been correlated to those in the *Manual* (Table 1). Unfortunately, not only are both of these