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61. EARLY SIXTEENTH-CENTURY GLASS BEADS FROM THE TATHAM MOUND, CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA, by Jeffrey M. Mitchem (1986, 8:13-16)

The Tatham Mound (8-Ci-203) is an aboriginal sand burial mound located in eastern Citrus County, Florida. Since early 1985, personnel from the Florida State Museum have been conducting excavations at the site. The top stratum of the mound has yielded a large assemblage of early 16th-century European trade material, including iron and silver objects and beads of silver, gold, and glass. The purpose of this paper is to briefly describe the glass beads from the mound.

Table 1 lists the glass beads by type, with classification based on the system devised by Smith and Good (1982). The number of beads recovered is listed for each type, along with a short description and notes. Of the 55 beads recovered, 24 are varieties of Nueva Cadiz Plain (both faceted and unfaceted), nine are varieties of faceted chevrons, nine are small olive-shaped opaque blue beads, six are spherical wound transparent green beads, five are spherical wound navy blue (almost opaque) beads, and one is spherical, but too patinated (or possibly burned) to determine color.

The presence of Nueva Cadiz and faceted chevron varieties indicates that the beads date from the period A.D. 1500-1560 (Smith and Good 1982:11). This would suggest contact with the expeditions of Panfilo de Narvaez (1528) and/or Hernando de Soto (1539), both of whom are believed to have passed through this area. Two other sites in this part of Florida have produced very similar assemblages of glass beads. These are the Weeki Wachee and Ruth Smith mounds (Mitchem and others 1985). The probability that all three sites represent contact with the same expedition is strengthened by the fact that three of the Nueva Cadiz varieties (IIA1d, IIC2a, and IIC2b) and one of the faceted chevron varieties (IVC2d) from Tatham were previously known in North America *only* from the Weeki Wachee and Ruth Smith mounds (Mitchem and others 1983:204; Smith and Good 1982:48-50).

The presence of the spherical beads is surprising, as they are uncommon in sites of this time period (Smith and Good 1982:11). However, their apparent rarity may be due to inadequate samples, because there are very few complete, carefully excavated bead assemblages from early sites in the southeastern United States.

Excavation will continue in the fall of 1986. This work should add to our knowledge of beads from early Spanish contact sites in Florida and adjacent areas.

Table 1. Glass Beads from the Tatham Mound.

Class.	No.	Description	Notes	Provenience
IIA1d (No. 36)	3	Short, tubular, translucent dark navy blue	Nueva Cadiz Plain	Burial no. 31 (F.S. 99); F.S. 100; Burial no. 48 (F.S. 127)
IIA1e (No. 37)	1	Short, tubular, transparent cobalt blue	Nueva Cadiz Plain	Burial no. 31 (F.S. 99)
IIA2a (No. 40)	1	Turquoise blue/thin white/translucent navy blue	Nueva Cadiz Plain	Burial no. 17 (F.S. 94)
IIA2e (No. 44)	1	Translucent navy blue/thin white/translucent navy blue	Nueva Cadiz Plain	Burial no. 48 (F.S. 127)
IIA2g (No. 46)	5	Cobalt blue/thin white/translucent medium blue	Nueva Cadiz Plain	F.S. 64
IIC2- (Unique)	1	Turquoise blue/thin white/translucent purple	Nueva Cadiz Plain, Faceted	F.S. 90
IIC2a(1) (No. 50)	1	Turquoise blue/thin white/transparent medium blue	Nueva Cadiz Plain, Faceted	F.S. 90
IIC2a(2) (No. 50)	1	Turquoise blue/thin white/navy blue	Nueva Cadiz Plain, Faceted	Burial no. 17 (F.S. 94)
IIC2b (No. 51)	1	Turquoise blue/thin white/colorless	Nueva Cadiz Plain, Faceted	F.S. 100
IIC2g (No. 56)	9	Cobalt blue/thin white/translucent light blue	Nueva Cadiz Plain, Faceted	Burial no. 27 (F.S. 93)
IVC2a (No. 79)	2	Blue/white/red/white/translucent green/white/translucent green	Faceted Chevron	F.S. 64
IVC2d (No. 82)	7	Cobalt blue/white/red/white/transparent medium blue/white/transparent medium blue	Faceted Chevron	Burial no. 60 (F.S. 140)
VID1h (No. 108)	10	Olive-shaped, opaque medium blue		F.S. 64; Burial no. 31 (F.S. 99); F.S. 147
----	5	Spherical, navy blue		Burial no. 2 (F.S. 58)
----	1	Spherical (burned or patinated)		Burial no. 2 (F.S. 58)
----	6	Spherical, transparent green		F.S. 64; Burial no. 48 (F.S. 127)

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