

II. The motifs were floral designs fabricated with small glass beads from Venice which displayed a wide variety of color nuances ranging from violet and rose to white.

References Cited

Foy, Danièle

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Frothingham, Alice

1963 *Spanish Glass*. Thomas Yoseloff, New York.

69. NOTES ON A RARE MELON-SHAPED CHEVRON BEAD, by Marie-José Oppé (1997, 30:10-11)

Among a group of very small, old chevron beads acquired at the market in Chinguetti in northeastern Mauritania, and found together at a nearby ancient site, is a rare seven-layered melon-shaped specimen (Fig. 1). John and Ruth Picard (1993:40, no. 265) mention another similar bead, declaring it to be the single unique example so far encountered. The other chevron beads in the group are the same small size and also have seven layers. One is square, and another has a black inner and outer layer, showing similarities to bead number 95 in Smith and Good (1982:43). Three other beads correspond to their no. 79. In addition, there is an eight-layered chevron, with numerous imperfections. These types of small, ancient chevrons are highly prized in Mauritania, as well as northern Morocco.



Figure 1. The seven-layered chevron bead from Chinguetti.

Accompanying the chevron beads are three, short, three-layered, squared tubes with faceted corners. These beads, also described by Smith and Good (1982:42, no. 55), have a colorless core, a thin white middle layer, and an ultramarine exterior. There is also a similar bead, but without the facets.

If these beads were exported to the Americas by 16th-century Spanish explorers, how did they come to be found in Mauritania as well? Chinguetti is actually the site of an ancient city that, since the Middle Ages, served as a major relay point for caravans that had just traversed over 1,000 km of harsh desert. This major trans-Saharan route, located just 4 km from the town, linked southern Morocco with the Adrar, a mountainous region located in what is now Algeria and Niger. It is most likely, therefore, that the chevron and tubular beads acquired in Chinguetti were transported there by caravan from Morocco sometime in the 16th century.

References Cited

Picard, John and Ruth Picard

1993 Chevron and Nueva Cadiz Beads. *Beads from the West African Trade Series 7*. Picard African Imports, Carmel, California.

Smith, Marvin T. and Mary Elizabeth Good

1982 *Early Sixteenth Century Glass Beads in the Spanish Colonial Trade*. Cottonlandia Museum Publications, Greenwood, Mississippi.

70. RESPONSE TO BUSCH, by Marie-José Oppé (1997, 31:1-12)

First, thank you to Mr. Busch for pointing out the error published in "Notes on a Rare Melon-Shaped Chevron Bead" which concerns the location of *l'Adrar des Iforas*, effectively straddling Algeria and Mali. This error of inattention by the author is compounded by the fact that she is native to the region, having roamed the Sahara all the way to Mauritania. Concerning the role of the caravan route from Sidjilmassa to Ghana via *l'Adrar de Mauritanie*, one has merely to consult Mauny (1961:428-434, Figs. 74-76) to confirm its importance.

The extent to which these beads are "highly prized" (please note the word used is prized, not priced), is revealed in such sources as Delarozzière (1985:69, 72, 126-127) and Fisher (1987:219), as well as through personal observation. Regarding rarity, so far, only six melon-shaped chevron beads have been documented among the thousands of chevron beads that have been studied to date by various

individuals. Thus, they are certainly not “common” beads (*see* the definition of the word “rare” in any dictionary). The sixth bead, not mentioned in the original article, is described in Smith and Good (1982:40, type VC2c, photo no. 127).

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1985 *Les perles de Mauritanie*. Edisud, Aix-en-Provence, France.

Fisher, Angela

1987 *Fastuese Afrique*. Chene, Paris.

Mauny, Raymond

1961 *Tableau géographique de l'Ouest Africain au Moyen Age. Memoires de l'IFAN* 61. Dakar, Senegal.

Smith, Marvin T. and Mary Elizabeth Good

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71. CZECH MOLD-PRESSED BEADS: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, by Marie-José Oppé and Howard Oppé (1992, 21:3-4)

The mold-pressed beads in Fig. 1 are from Czechoslovakia, destined for export to Islamic countries. For the most part, they date from the 1930s-1950s, although some are more recent, such as the first two beads in the second row of the illustration. They are either transparent or opaque, with diverse colors depending on the particular models.

The bead with the airplane motif is most unusual, and is actually part of the bead collection of the Institut Fondamental de l'Afrique Noire (IFAN) in Dakar, Senegal.

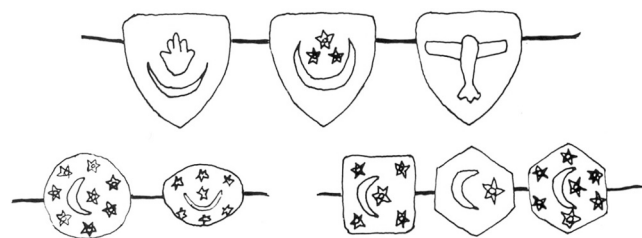


Figure 1. Czech mold-pressed glass beads with airplane and crescent-moon/star motifs (actual size).

It was purchased in 1949 in Senegal, and, to our knowledge, is the only example of this bead to date. The glass is colorless and transparent. Conceivably, this bead may well have been made for export only to Senegal, in honor of Jean Mermoz, a French aviator who was the first to succeed in flying from France to South America in 1930. Mermoz ultimately disappeared somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean near Dakar (Senegal) aboard the seaplane *Southern Cross* in 1936.

We are looking for the following information: Other models of Czech beads containing crescent-moon and star motifs; other models of triangular Czech beads with different motifs; and any other beads with different origins and/or designs containing crescent-moon and star motifs (certain beads of this genre have been found at North American sites dating to the 17th century, as well as in old necklaces with magical properties from Brittany in France).

72. JEWELRY FROM MOOSE DROPPINGS, by *The Ottawa Citizen* (1987, 11:14-15)

Glenburn, Maine (UPI) - An insurance salesman who moonlights stringing necklaces from moose droppings says he is flooded with orders for the unusual jewelry, one of them from a bride who wants them as gifts for her bridesmaids. “They don’t look anything like what they really are,” said David Bowley, who gathers the moose manure, dries the droppings in an oven, then soaks them in a hardener, lacquers them, and strings the brown nuggets together with colored beads. “I just started showing them to different people, and the ladies and gentlemen alike went bananas over these things,” he said Thursday.

An avid hunter and outdoorsman, Bowley said he has seen moose droppings in the woods for years. “I always knew you could make jewelry out of these things,” he said. The jewelry has no odor. He made a necklace and matching earrings two months ago for his wife, Ann, who brought them to work. “They came out so nice. Everyone she showed it to wanted a set,” Bowley said. “They’re quite attractive, really they are.”

Bowley now has 200 orders for his Maine Moose Dropping Necklace and Earring sets, for which he charges \$22.50 (U.S.) a set. Last weekend, Bowley filled a sack with 40 pounds of moose droppings from a moose yard near his camp in Brownville Junction. He has them drying all over his garage in Glenburn. If a batch of droppings needs a little help drying, Bowley puts them in the oven. Until recently, this procedure was unknown to his wife. “She sprayed the whole oven with oven cleaner,” he said. [Extracted from *The Ottawa Citizen*, August 17, 1987, Ottawa, Ontario]