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**75. RUSSIAN BEADS AND BEADWORK – 1881, by Pottery and Glassware Reporter (1989, 14:14)**

[Ed. note: Little is known about the production of beads and beaded ornaments in Imperial Russia. The following item, extracted from the *Pottery and Glassware Reporter* 13(7):24-29 (December 3, 1885), throws some additional light on the subject.]

In the manufacture of small articles or vases from glass, in 1881, 214 kustars [domestic or cottage artisans]

in the government of Moscow produced goods valued at 37,000 rubles (\$13,500). The nature of this special industry was bead-working, having its origin in the glass or crystal produced in two kustar glass works in the Demetrieff district. The beads, &c., made at these works are confined to eight colors-opal, black, rose, dark red, green, blue, turquoise and amber. In 1881 the output was 4,500 poods (162,000 pounds), valued at 11,625 rubles (\$5,625). These beads are purchased by the kustars and strung upon wires and strong twines, such wares finding ready sales among the peasantry at all fairs and bazaars in the interior and eastern provinces of the empire. The annual receipts of two families engaged in the preparation of such articles or wares is about 200 rubles (\$100). The weekly labor of an adult bead worker is from 50 copecks to 2 rubles (25 cents to \$1), and of a female bead threader from 30 to 50 copecks (15 to 25 cents). These wares, however, are sold at prices commensurate with such remuneration. Thus, 1,000 buttons or studs cost 3 rubles (\$1.50); 1,000 necklaces, 2 rubles (\$1) and ear rings cost from 5 to 12 rubles (2.50 to \$6) per 1,000.

**76. HOW BEADS ARE MADE – 1890, by The Pottery Gazette (1987, 11:2-8)**

It sounds almost incredible, but is nevertheless a fact, that it would take a dozen locomotive engines to transport the weight of glass beads annually purchased by the fair sex.

The best customers of all are the French, and next to them come the Spaniards of Europe and America; while among the German nations it would seem, according to the testimony of Herr Gampe, that the purer the race, the less the fondness for beads. Thus the Yankees show how mixed their blood is, by buying almost as many beads as the French and the Spaniards; the English are not such good customers, but they imported 2,204,241 lbs. in the year 1871; while the Germans stand third on the list, and the Scandinavians last. The latter are, perhaps, too sober minded, and grave to care for such frivolous vanities.

Of the Turks and Hungarians, only the upper classes wear beads at all, as they would be quite out of keeping with the national costumes of the people.

As a rule, the civilised European, no matter what her nationality, buys only the cheaper kinds of glass-beads, and leaves the best and most expensive for the barbarous and semi-barbarous natives of India and Africa. Strings of beads adorn the throat, neck, hair, arms, and ankles of the Hindu and Malay, and often enough form the sole costume of the Ethiopian, and in the interior of Africa they frequently take the place of money as a medium of exchange.