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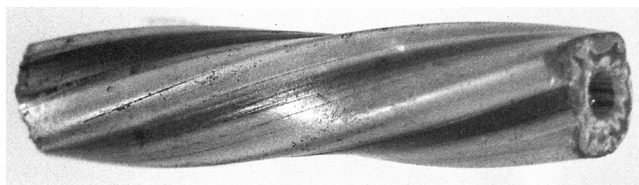
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## 80. AN UNUSUAL GLASS BEAD FROM SOUTHERN FLORIDA, by Marvin T. Smith (1983, 2:3-4)

In a recent archaeological report on excavations at Fort Center in southern Florida, William Sears (1982:67) mentions a large twisted chevron bead recovered by vandals during unauthorized excavations in Mound B. I dismissed it as probably being a poor description of a multi-layered Nueva Cadiz Twisted Bead. Later, I was able to view slides of material from Fort Center, and sure enough, there was a bead appearing to be a striped Nueva Cadiz Twisted. When the Florida State Museum acquired the collection from Fort Center, I was able to study the bead first-hand. To my surprise, the original description of the bead was quite accurate. This paper will describe the bead and discuss its significance.

**Description**

The bead does appear to be a striped Nueva Cadiz Twisted Bead, but closer inspection reveals inner layers molded with teeth typical of chevron beads (Fig. 1). This bead was clearly the product of a master craftsman, who combined many techniques to produce a unique product.



**Figure 1.** Striped chevron Nueva Cadiz twisted bead.

The craftsman started with a colorless core layer and added white, red, and white layers all molded in the 12-pointed star pattern. Apparently the first 2 layers (colorless and white) were molded in one step, and the next 2 layers

were added and the gather molded again. Equally spaced around the outer layer are 2 stripes of brick red glass alternating with 2 stripes of medium blue glass. Next the gather was dipped in colorless glass and molded in a square mold like a Nueva Cadiz bead. The stripes were arranged to be on the flats of the bead. Finally the entire cane was drawn and twisted. The result is a truly magnificent bead.

**Classification**

This unique bead presents many problems of classification. It cannot fit into the classification scheme presented by Smith and Good (1982) for 16th-century Spanish colonial trade beads. Class V of that scheme is Chevron Beads with Molded Cross-Sections; we split Nueva Cadiz Beads into different classes depending on whether or not they had been twisted. Thus, to remain consistent, the new bead would require its own class (IX) for Chevron Beads with Molded Cross-Sections, Twisted. If this new class were invented, the bead would be Class IX, Series A (untumbled), Type 4 (composite), Variety a.

Similarly, the Kidds' system (1970) does not really allow for this bead, even when the modifications proposed by Karklins (1982) are considered.

**Dating**

This bead was produced during the first half of the 16th century, since it is closely related to the horizon style of tubular, multi-layered molded cane beads. Other beads found at Fort Center confirm this temporal placement: both faceted Chevron Beads (Smith and Good type IVC2a) and Nueva Cadiz plain (Smith and Good IIA2b) were recovered. Other beads on the site reflect later styles of globular tumbled beads, common in the late 17th century, but it is unlikely that the bead illustrated here belongs with them. Recovery by a trained archaeologist could have cleared up this problem.

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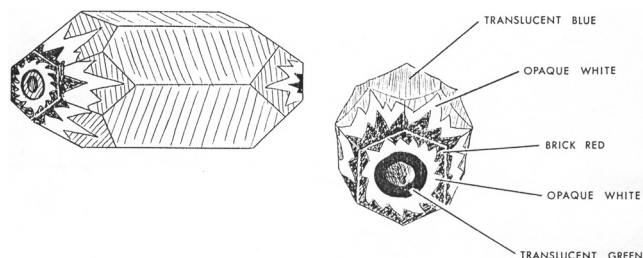
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# **81. EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY CHEVRON BEADS IN THE SOUTHEAST, by Marvin T. Smith (1990, 16:6-9)**

In 1976, Fletcher Jolly and Ken Cornett published an article describing chevron beads with a hexagonal cross-section found in surface collections from the Overhill Cherokee town of Great Tellico (40Mr12) in Tennessee (Fig. 1). They carefully describe the beads and suggest that they may date to the 17th century. Both blue and green are listed as exterior colors, and Cornett (pers. comm.) later found an identical bead with a red exterior at another nearby site in Tennessee.



**Figure 1.** Hexagonal-sectioned chevron bead (Jolly and Cornett 1976:Fig. 2).

These beads differ from 16th-century faceted chevron beads (see Smith 1989; Smith and Good 1982) in many respects: 1) they have a hexagonal cross-section, while 16th-century examples have a round or, very rarely, square cross-section (Smith and Good 1982); 2) they have five layers of glass, while 16th-century chevrons usually have seven; 3) they have no “teeth” on the inner green layer, while 16th-century chevrons do; and 4) the chevrons of the type seen at Great Tellico are much larger than the usual 16th-century type, frequently being over 20 mm long. There has been some confusion in the literature about this hexagonal type of chevron bead (I will use this term in place of the longer but more precise hexagonal cross-section), and now may be the time to clear up some of that confusion.

Jolly and Cornett were unable to find comparable examples in the archaeological literature, except for a related hexagonal chevron in a large collection of beads from several sites in the Lower Tallapoosa River valley reported

by Burke (1936; reprinted by G.B. Fenstermaker in 1974). As Jolly and Cornett note, even this hexagonal chevron is different: the Alabama specimen has seven layers (Burke 1974:no. 162). Since their article, additional research has located hexagonal chevron beads at the 18th-century Overhill Cherokee towns of Chota (ca. 1710-1819; Newman 1986:427), Hiwassee Old Town (Fenstermaker 1978), and Toqua (Polhemus 1987:945); the Peachtree Mound site in North Carolina (Mary Ann Thompson collection; see Setzler and Jennings 1941 for details of the site); the site of Fort Moore/Savannah Town in South Carolina (ca. 1680-1770; Story n.d.:types 223, 274); and the site of “Big Town,” an 18th-century Chickasaw site in Mississippi (Steve Cook collection). Although some of these sites (Toqua, Hiwassee Old Town, and Peachtree) have earlier components that may represent occupations during the 16th century, most are single component, 18th-century sites. The distributional data strongly suggest that this bead type was traded by Englishmen during the 18th century.

But of much more importance was the eventual excavation of this hexagonal type of chevron bead in a good archaeological context. Green chevrons of this hexagonal type were excavated in an 18th-century Cherokee burial at the Citico site on the Little Tennessee River by James H. Polhemus (Richard Polhemus: pers. comm.). This burial also contained silver earrings of a type first traded during the 18th century. There is no doubt that this five-layered, hexagonal-cross-sectioned chevron bead is an 18th-century type.

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