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Glass Beads from Kinsloe Focus Sites in Gregg, Harrison, and Rusk Counties, Texas

Timothy K. Perttula and Robert Z. Selden, Jr.

INTRODUCTION

European glass beads are one of the most common artifact categories found on historic Caddo sites in the middle reaches of the Sabine River basin in East Texas on what Jones (1968) had dubbed Kinsloe focus sites. Several thousands beads were found by Jones in his investigation of burial features at these sites, along with other European trade goods and Caddo ceramic vessels, pipes, and chipped stone tools.

In Jones' (1968) description of the beads from the Kinsloe focus sites, he relied on the analytical and chronological interpretations of John Witthoft, then of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, although he did seek the advice of R. K. Harris, a notable glass beads expert who had worked on numerous historic Caddo and Wichita sites in eastern and northern Texas. Witthoft's interpretations of the age of the beads from the sites tended to suggest that the Kinsloe focus sites dated to the early 17th century—when beads of such types tended to date in aboriginal sites in the Northeast U.S.—while Harris suggested that the glass beads on the Kinsloe focus sites dated from no earlier than the early 18th century, and likely dated in several cases after ca. A.D. 1750. Given the likely late 17th to late 18th century ages of the engraved ceramic vessels found on the Kinsloe focus sites, based in large measure on their occurrence on a wide range of Historic Caddo sites, Harris' temporal interpretations of the glass bead assemblages are consistent with these ceramic temporal ranges, and thus the Kinsloe focus sites are seen as indicative of Caddo settlements post-dating the beginning of intensive contact between Europeans and Caddo peoples that began after A.D. 1685.

GLASS BEAD SAMPLES FROM KINSLOE FOCUS SITES AS DESCRIBED BY JONES

Jones (1968) did not always consistently provide numerical details on the numbers of glass beads recovered from the seven Kinsloe focus sites in his study. Two sites were reported to have had over 2000 glass beads each, namely the Ware Acres (41GG31) and Millsey Williamson (41RK3) sites (Jones 1968:19, 64), but another tabulation indicated that he had a sample of 1986 beads from Ware Acres (Jones 1968:21), and Jones provided no specific tabulation of the number of beads he had collected at the Millsey Williamson site. Similarly, he provided no tabulation of the number of glass beads from the Kinsloe site. Jones (1968:55, 120, 152) did indicate that in his sample of glass beads there were 15 beads from the Cherokee Lake site (41RK132), 15 beads from the Susie Slade site (41HS13), and 175 beads from the Brown Burial #1 site (41HS261). No glass beads were collected from the C. D. Marsh site (41HS269) during Jones' work there.

BEAD SAMPLES FROM GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM'S BUDDY JONES COLLECTIONS

During the course of documenting Caddo collections of ceramic vessels and other funerary offerings in the Buddy Jones collection at the Gregg County Historical Museum, we had an opportunity to analyze all of the glass beads in the Jones collection. Unfortunately, with a few exceptions, such as a single glass bead from the Henry Spencer site (41UR315) (Perttula et al. 2012:Figure 179), an oval-shaped blue bead from the Patton site (41HS825) (Perttula et al. 2013a), and a strand of 864 white, blue, and red glass beads

from Burial 3 at the Vanderpool site (41SM77) (Perttula et al. 2013b:Figure 18), the other glass beads in the collection now have no specific provenience other than that they came from six of the seven Kinsloe focus sites. The provenience of these glass beads was lost when Jones either put the glass beads from specific sites on strands for display purposes in his family museum (without labeling or separating the beads from specific sites from each other) or laid them out as border decorative items on frames of projectile points and other chipped stone tools.

Consequently, in our analysis of the glass beads in the Jones collection, we have treated the beads as representing a single Kinsloe focus assemblage rather than the separate assemblages of the six Kinsloe focus sites known to have had glass beads. There is a total of 7926 drawn glass beads in the single unprovenienced inter-site assemblage (Table 1). Almost 58% of the beads are white in color, but with substantial percentages of red, black, and blue glass beads. One unique bead is a yellowish-brown color.

Table 1. Color of the Beads from the Collection.

Color	Number	Percentage
White	4585	57.7
Red	1259	15.9
Black	1071	14.8
Blue	1010	12.8
Yellowish-brown	1	Trace
Totals	7926	100.0

The prevalence of white glass beads in the Kinsloe focus assemblage is matched by only a few Caddo bead assemblages that date from the early 18th century to as late as ca. 1830, including Womack (41LR1, 64%), Roseborough Lake (41BW5, 48%), and Ware Acres (41GG31, 46%, following Jones' [1968:21] original tabulation) (Avery 2008:Table 1). Red beads, primarily Cornaline d'Aleppo multi-layered beads with a red outer layer and a dark gray or black core, are also important components of several other Caddo bead assemblages, such as at the Gilbert site (41RA13, 13%), Deshazo (41NA27, 10%), Ware Acres (36%), and Colfax Ferry (16NA15, 11%). Black beads that occur in Caddo sites in comparable proportions to the Kinsloe focus bead sample are noted only at Gilbert (13%) and Ware Acres (Avery 2008:Table 1), while generally comparable percentages of Caddo sites with blue beads occur only at Spradley (41NA206, 29%) (Avery 2008:Table 1). Other Caddo sites with large assemblages of beads listed by Avery (2008:Table 1) tend to have much higher proportions of blue glass beads (ranging from 32-98%), which suggests that the Caddo peoples represented by the Kinsloe focus, namely the Nadaco Caddo (Fields and Gadus 2012; Jones 1968), had distinctly different color preferences for beads than did other East Texas or Northwest Louisiana Caddo groups.

Approximately 99% of the glass beads from the Kinsloe focus sites are small in size (2-4 mm) (Table 2), and can be classified as seed beads that were likely to have been sown onto clothing, such as beaded shirts or other beaded clothing styles (Perttula 1992:217). Slightly larger beads (4-10 mm in size) were probably worn as necklaces and bracelets.

Following the distinctions made by Kidd and Kidd (1970:50, 53) between glass beads, approximately 97% of the Kinsloe focus beads are rounded, with one or multiple layers of different colors of glass (Table 3). These are tubular beads "that have been subjected to rounding by reheating" and tumbling (Kidd and Kidd 1970:53). The remainder of the Kinsloe focus glass beads are tubular (3%), with one or more layers of glass, where tubes of glass are "broken up into short lengths, and these are finally chopped into sizes which will serve as beads" (Kidd and Kidd 1970:49). Multi-layered glass beads comprise 15.8% of the glass bead assemblage, almost all as rounded beads rather than tubular.

Table 2. Size of the Beads from the Collection.

Size	Number	Percentage
Small (2-4 mm)	7847	99.0
Medium (4-6 mm)	48	0.6
Large (6-10 mm)	31	0.4
Totals	7926	100.0

Table 3. Bead Classes from the Collection.

Class	Number	Percentage
Tubular	241	3.0
Tubular, Multi-Layered	2	Trace
Rounded	6425	81.2
Rounded, Multi-Layered	1257	15.8
Rounded, with Stripes	1	Trace
Totals	7926	100.0

In sorting through the Kinsloe focus glass bead assemblage, we relied on color, number of layers, shape, and size (i.e., diameter and/or length) differences to define 36 different bead groups (Table 4). Subsequent analyses has led to the collapsing of some of these groups into 32 larger bead groupings (Figure 1-30). Of the 32 groups in the Kinsloe focus glass beads, the five principal bead groups include Group 34 (Figure 30, 45.6% of all the beads), Group 28 (Figure 24, 15.9%), Group 35 (10.3%), Group 25/26 (Figure 22a-b, 10.0%), and Group 31 (Figure 27, 8.3%). These represent, respectively, small round white beads; small round red over black Cornaline d'Aleppo beads; small round white seed beads; small round blue beads; and small round black beads.

Table 4. Bead groups defined in the assemblage.

Group	Description	N	%
1	White, large, round, 7.12 mm in diameter	1	Trace
2	Yellowish-brown, large, round, 6.95 mm in diameter	1	Trace
3	Aquamarine, small, round, 3.95 mm in diameter	62	0.8
4/5	Aquamarine, small, tubular, 3.0-3.6 mm in diameter	14	0.2
6	Blue, medium, round, 5.04 mm in diameter	3	Trace
7	Blue, large, round, 8.01 mm in diameter	1	Trace
8/9	White, large, oval, 7.59-7.62 mm in diameter	12	0.2
10/12	White, large, tubular, 6.28-6.43 mm in diameter	2	Trace
11	White, medium, round, 5.64 mm in diameter	1	Trace
13	Aquamarine, large, round, 6.77 mm in diameter	3	Trace
14	White with black surface, small, round, 3.66 mm in diameter	3	Trace

Table 4. Bead groups defined in the assemblage, cont.

Group	Description	N	%
15	Cornaline d'Aleppo, red with black core, medium, tubular, 4.03 mm in diameter	2	Trace
16	Blue, large, oval, 6.81 mm in diameter	1	Trace
17	Blue, large, tubular, 6.75 mm in diameter	7	0.1
18	Blue, large, round, 7.50 mm in diameter	3	Trace
19	Blue, medium, round, 5.43 mm in diameter	2	Trace
20	Aquamarine, small, round, 2.66 mm in diameter	29	0.4
21	White with four black stripes, medium, round, 5.45 mm in diameter	1	Trace
22	Blue, small, tubular, 3.13 mm in diameter	1	Trace
23	Blue, translucent, small, tubular, 2.68 mm in diameter	17	0.2
24	Blue, small, round, 2.46 mm in diameter	40	0.5
25/26	Blue, small, round, 3.79-3.97 mm in diameter	795	10.0
27	Blue, translucent, small, 3.52 mm in diameter	32	0.4
28	Cornaline d'Aleppo, red with black core, small, round, 3.19 mm in diameter	1257	15.9
29	Black, medium, round, 4.42 mm in diameter	37	0.5
30	Black, small, tubular, 2.63 mm in diameter	35	0.4
31	Black, small, round, 3.20 mm in diameter	658	8.3
32	White, small, tubular, 3.07 mm in diameter	133	1.7
33	White, medium, round, 4.70 mm in diameter	2	Trace
34	White, small, round, 3.34 mm in diameter	3612	45.6
35*	White, small, round, 2.48 mm in diameter	818	10.3
36*	Black, small, round, 2.06-3.20 mm in diameter	341	4.3
Totals		7926	100.0

*These bead groups were tabulated from beads that were mounted on artifact frames, and they consequently could not be photographed for this study



Figure 1. Glass bead group 1.

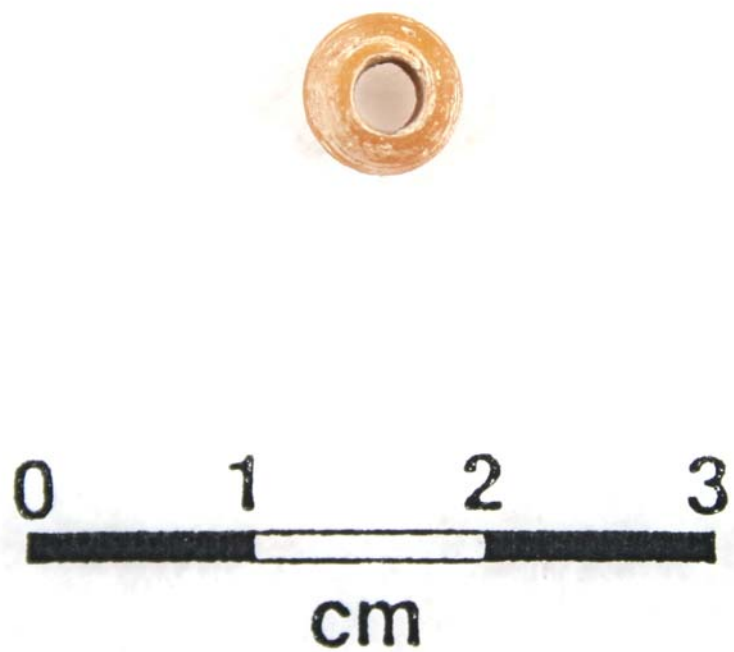


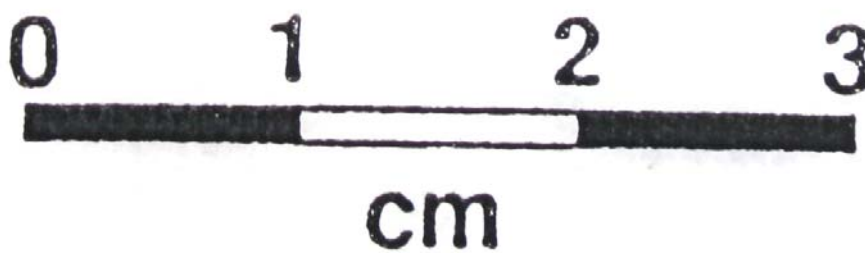
Figure 2. Glass bead group 2.



Figure 3. Glass bead group 3.



a



b

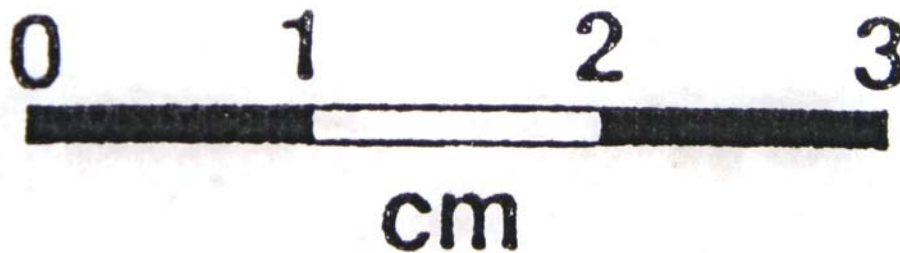


Figure 4. Glass bead groups 4 and 5: a, group 4; b, group 5.

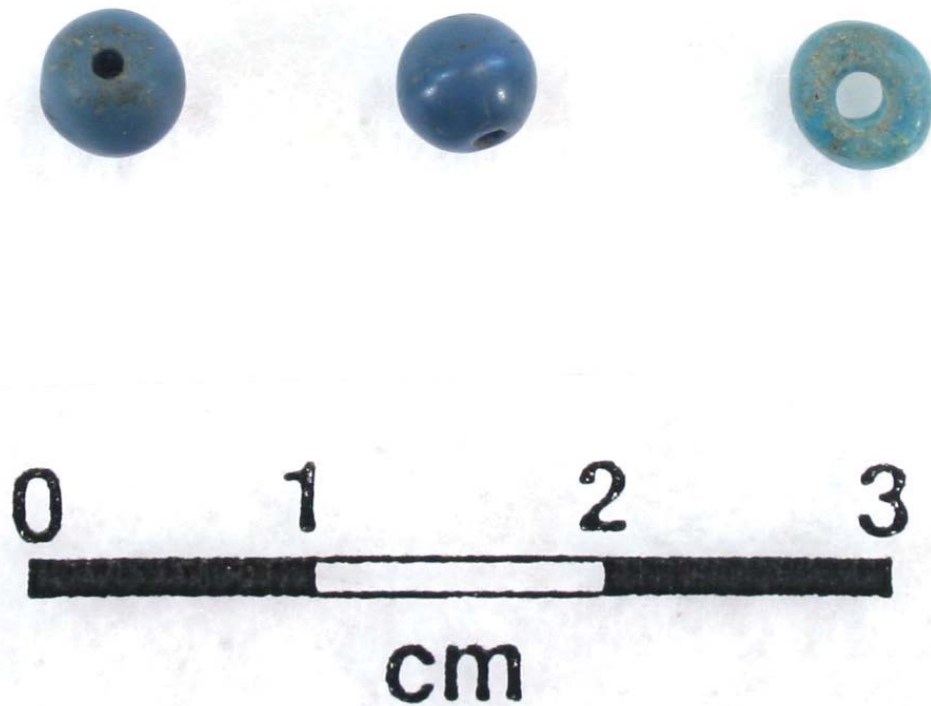


Figure 5. Glass bead group 6.



Figure 6. Glass bead group 7.



Figure 7. Glass bead groups 8 and 9: a, group 8; b, group 9.



Figure 8. Glass bead groups 10 and 12: a, group 10; b, group 12.



Figure 9. Glass bead group 11.

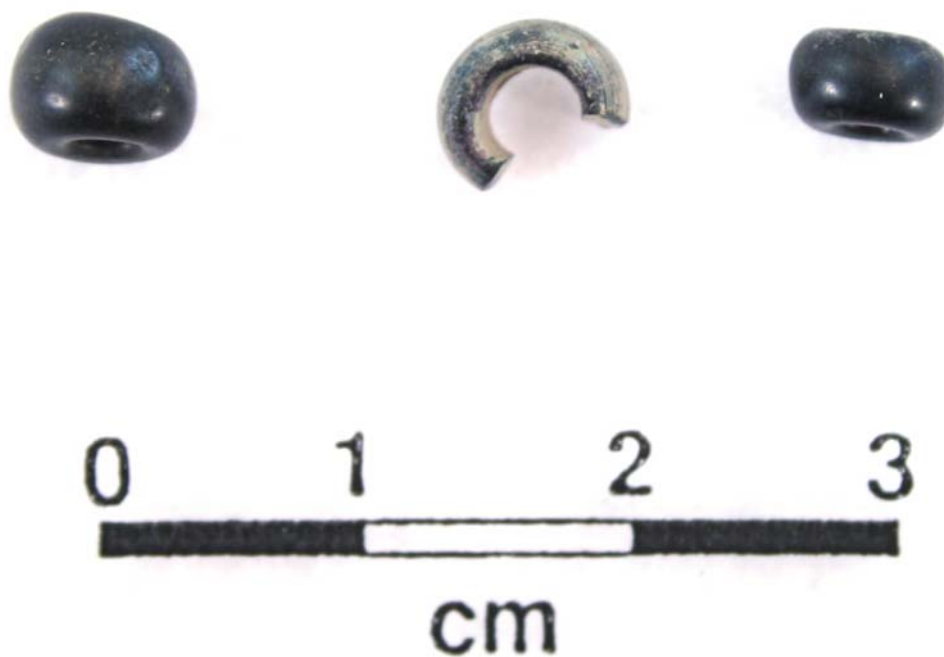


Figure 10. Glass bead group 13.



Figure 11. Glass bead group 14.

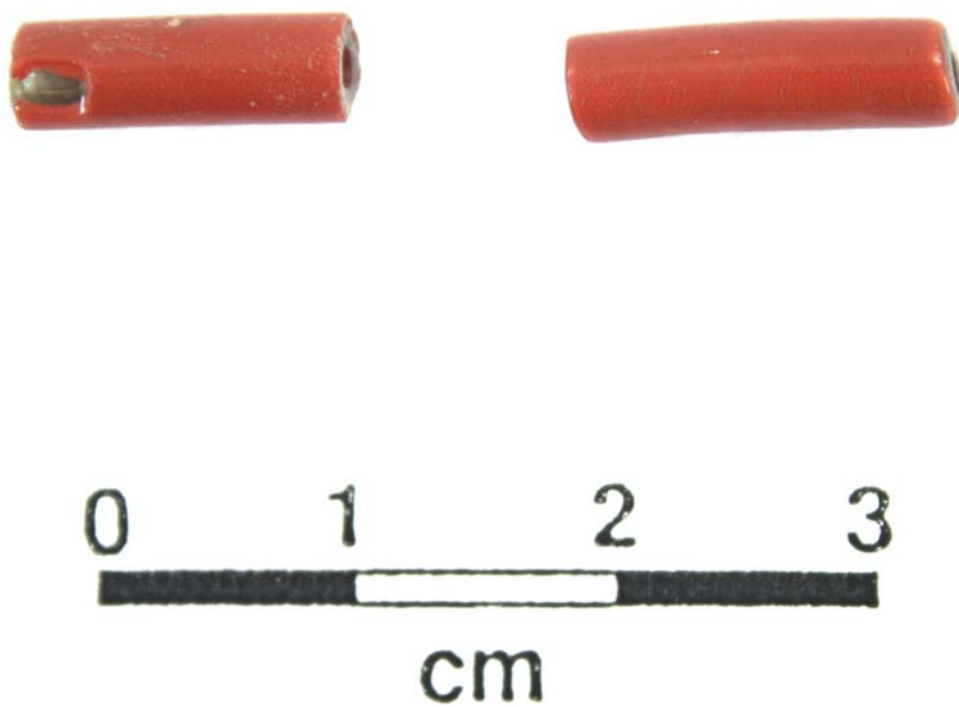


Figure 12. Glass bead group 15.

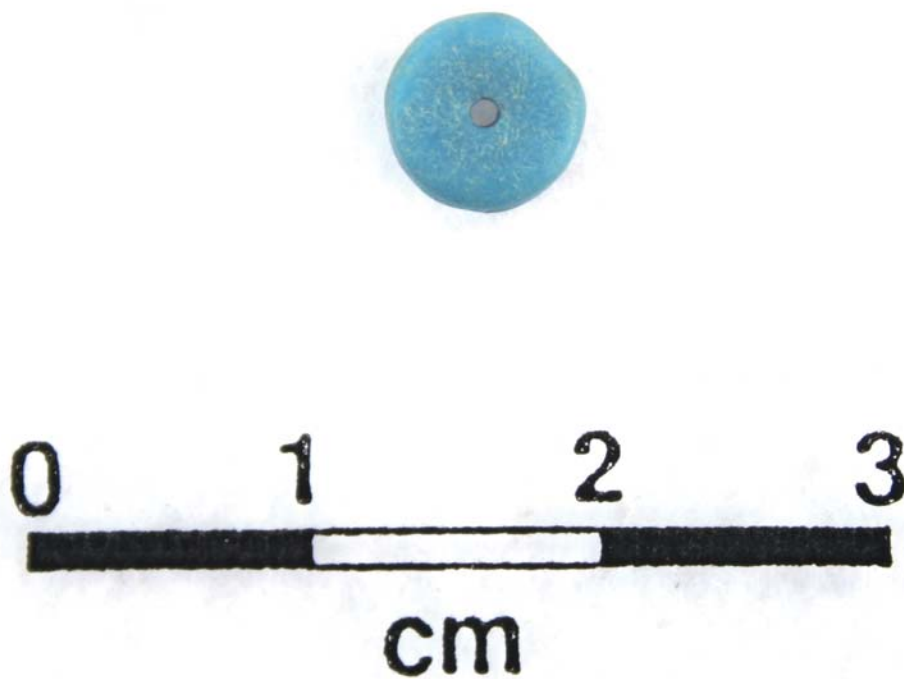


Figure 13. Glass bead group 16.



Figure 14. Glass bead group 17.

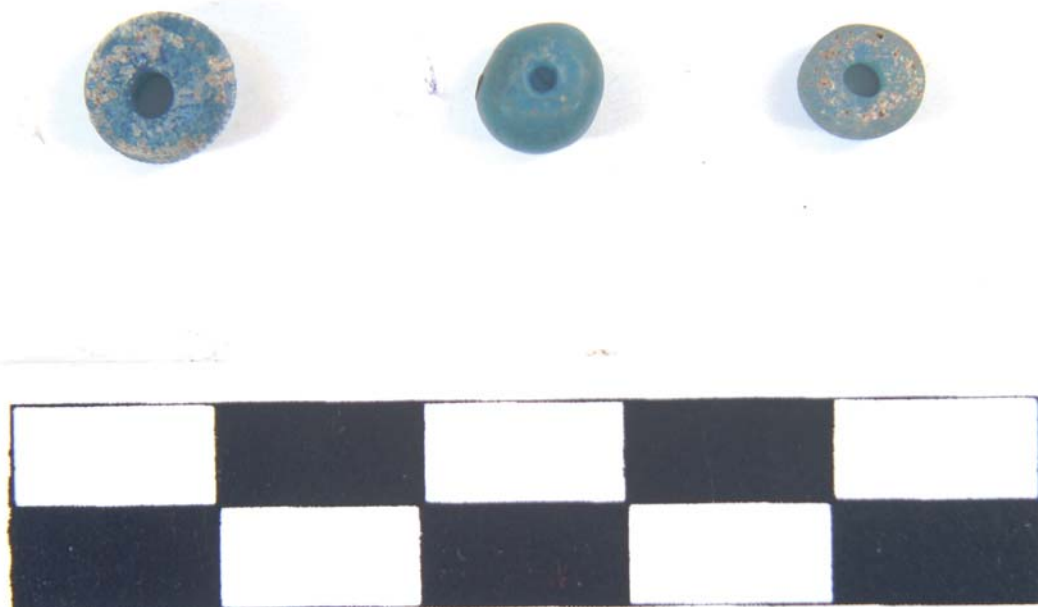


Figure 15. Glass bead group 18.

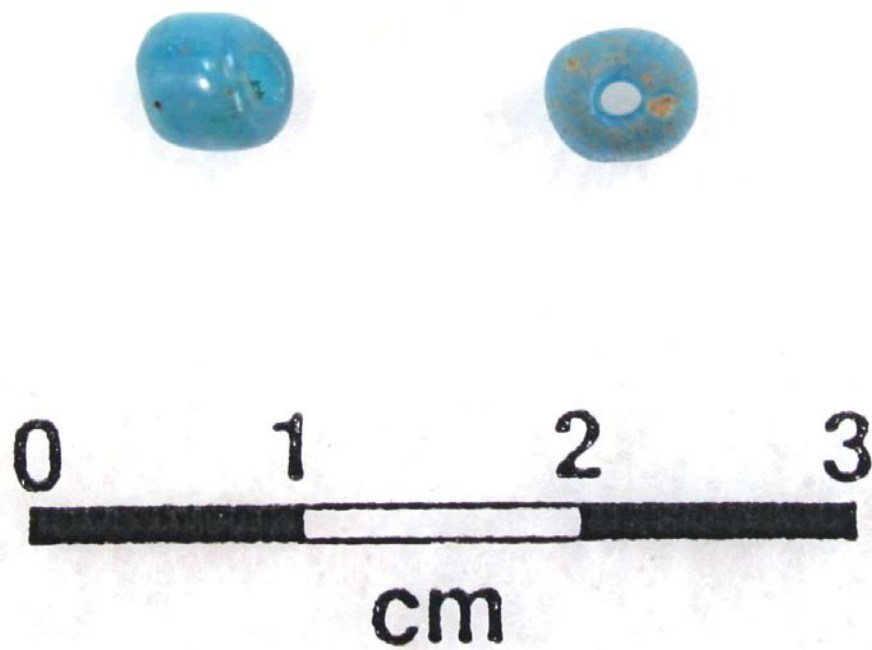


Figure 16. Glass bead group 19.

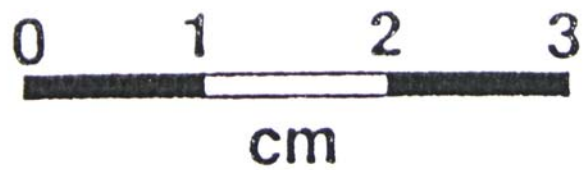


Figure 17. Glass bead group 20.

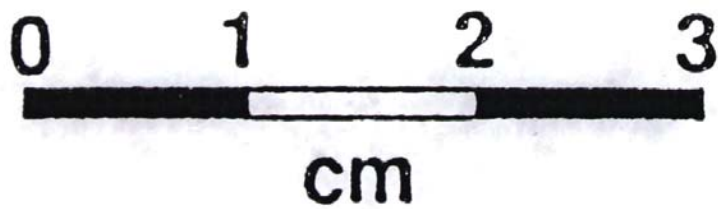


Figure 18. Glass bead group 21.

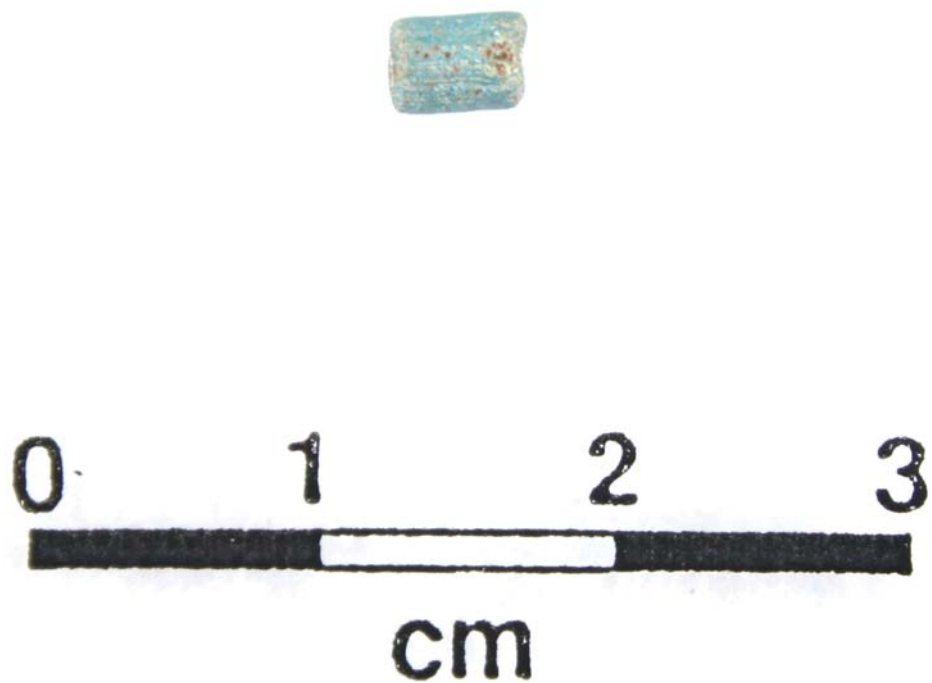


Figure 19. Glass bead group 22.

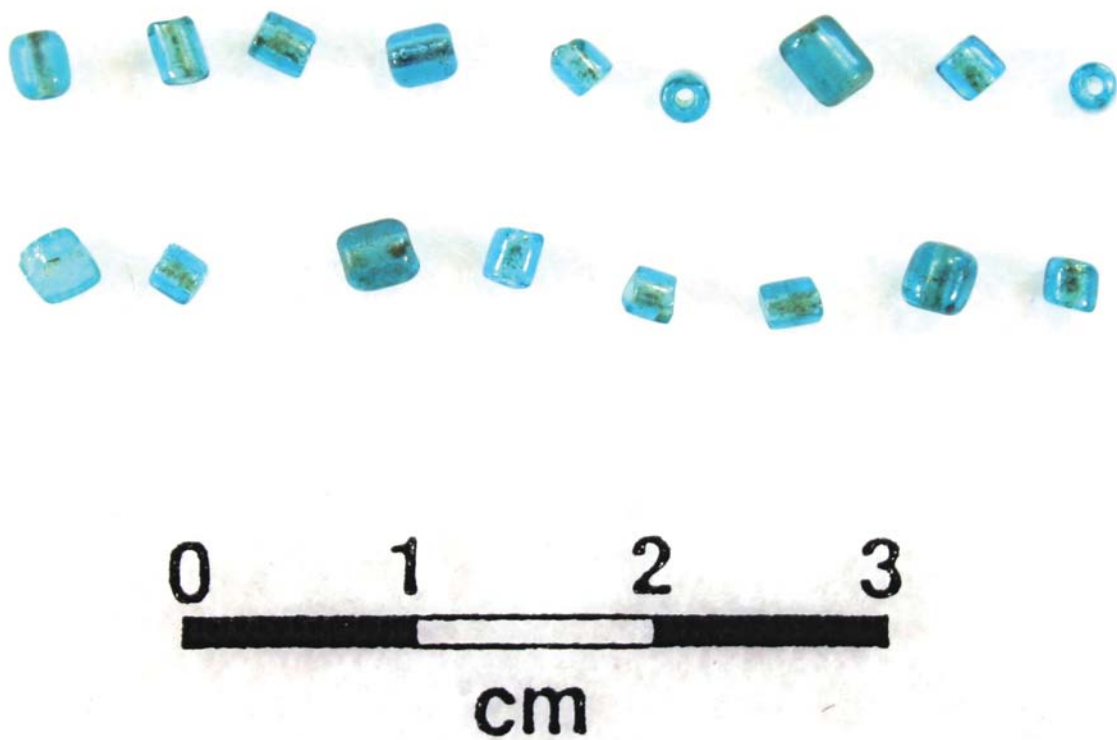


Figure 20. Glass bead group 23.



Figure 21. Glass bead group 24.



Figure 22. Glass bead groups 25 and 26: a, group 25; b, group 26.

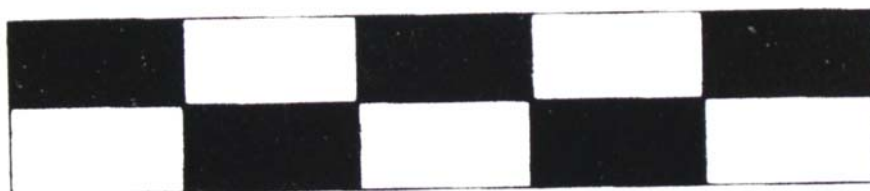


Figure 23. Glass bead group 27.

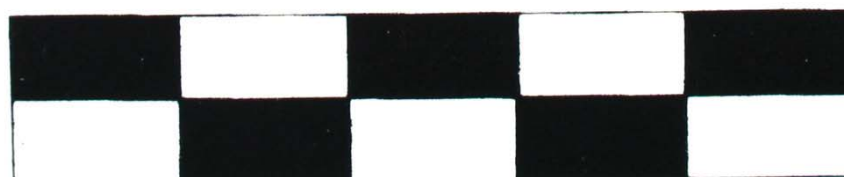


Figure 24. Glass bead group 28.

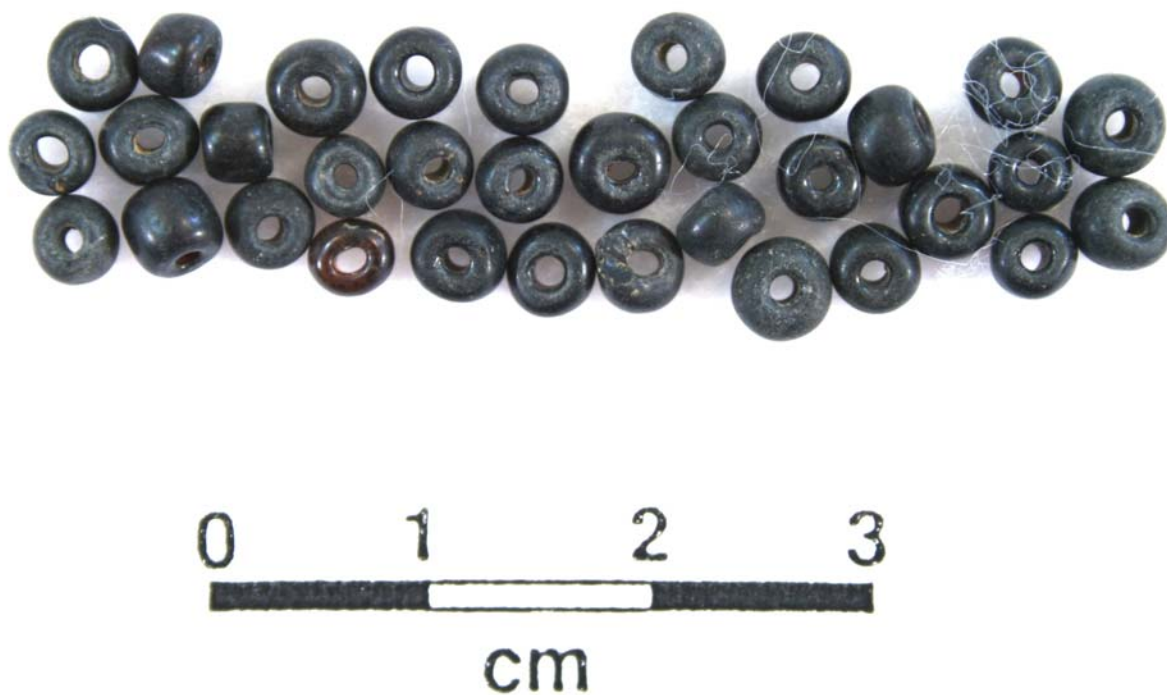


Figure 25. Glass bead group 29.

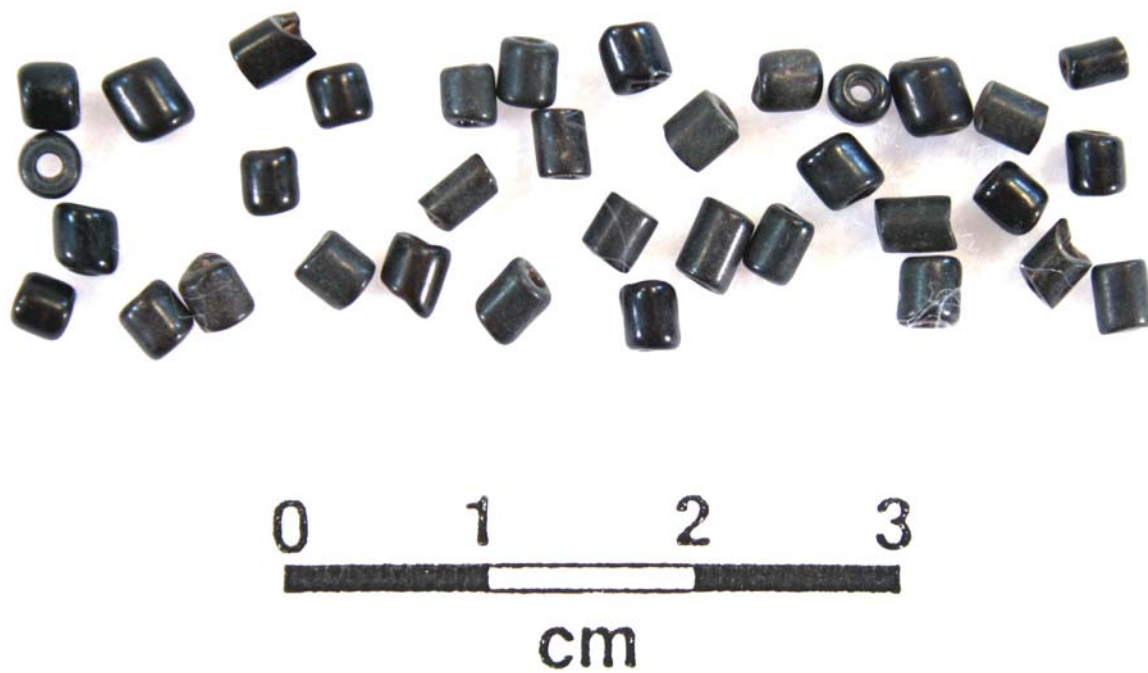


Figure 26. Glass bead group 30.



Figure 27. Glass bead group 31. Note that one small Group 3 glass bead was mistakenly included with the photograph of the Group 31 beads.



Figure 28. Glass bead group 32.



Figure 29. Glass bead group 33.



Figure 30. Glass bead group 34.

The glass beads from the Kinsloe focus sites are also classified following the widely-employed Kidd and Kidd (1970:Tables 1, 2, 4-5) bead system. Only the three Group 14 beads (see Table 4 and Figure 11) could not be classified using the Kidd and Kidd (1970) bead classes and types (Table 5).

Table 5. Beads from the Kinsloe focus classified following Kidd and Kidd (1970).

Bead Type	Description	No.	%
<u>Tubular</u>			
Ia2	Black, opaque	35	0.4
Ia5	White, opaque	135	1.7
Ia13	Aqua blue, translucent	33	0.4
Ia15	Brite Blue, translucent	17	0.2
Ia16	Blue, opaque	7	0.1
Ia18	Ultramarine, clear	14	0.2
	Subtotal, Class I	241	3.0
<u>Rounded</u>			
IIa6	Black, opaque, round	1036	13.1
IIa13	White, opaque, round	4433	55.9
IIa15	White, opaque, oval	13	0.2
IIa20	Cinnamon, opaque, round	1	Trace
IIa33	Lt. Aqua Blue, clear, round	3	Trace
IIa36	Aqua Blue, opaque, round	91	1.2
IIa40	Robin's Egg Blue, opaque, round	843	10.6
IIa44	Cerulean Blue, clear, round	1	Trace
IIa54	Ultramarine, clear, round	1	Trace
IIb23	White with four black stripes, opaque, round	1	Trace
Unidentified	—	3	Trace
	Subtotal, Class II	6426	81.2
<u>Tubular, Multi-Layered</u>			
IIIa1	Red outside layer, black core, opaque	2	Trace
<u>Rounded, Multi-Layered</u>			
Iva1	Red outside layer, black core, opaque, round	1257	15.8
Totals		7926	100.0

This classification indicates that the Class II rounded beads comprise 81.2% of the bead sample from the Kinsloe focus sites, in particular the white, black, and Robin's Egg blue beads (see Table 5). Class IV Cornaline d'Aleppo rounded multi-layered round beads are the second most common bead class in the Kinsloe focus bead assemblage; this class of beads is characteristic of many 18th century Texas Caddo sites, more so than many other historic Native American sites in the southeastern U.S. The tubular bead classes I and III represent only 3% of the beads in the sample, including white, blue, and black tubular beads, and only two Cornaline d'Aleppo tubular multi-layered beads (see Table 5).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

There is a large sample (n=7926) of European glass beads—likely made in either Venice or Amsterdam—from Historic Caddo Kinsloe focus sites in the mid-Sabine River basin of the East Texas Pineywoods. Because specific site provenience for these beads has been lost over the years since they were collected from Kinsloe focus burials excavated by Buddy C. Jones, our analysis of these glass beads must be at the overall assemblage level. The assemblage of Kinsloe focus beads features small (less than 4.0 mm in diameter) round beads of white, black, red (Cornaline d’Aleppo), and blue colors, as well as a few tubular beads of the same colors. The very high proportion of small beads suggests that the Kinsloe focus assemblage dates primarily from after ca. 1740 to the early 19th century, given trends in bead sizes. By the early 19th century, small drawn beads tended to comprise more than 90-95% of the beads from sites in Texas and Northwest Louisiana (Perttula et al. 2010:Table 5).

We also made color comparisons between the Kinsloe focus bead assemblage and other large bead assemblages from Caddo sites in East Texas and Northwest Louisiana, based on summaries in Avery (2008:Table 1). The very high percentages of white beads in these sites would seem to indicate that differences in the proportions of bead colors on Kinsloe focus sites, and on beads of other Caddo tribes, are probably evidence for particular Nadaco Caddo color and size preferences that were accommodated for a considerable time by different European traders

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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