

Perles d'Afrique.

Marie-Françoise Delarozière. Éditions Édisud, La Calade, RN 7, 13090 Aix-en-Provence, France. 1994. 240 pp., 13 b&w figs., 150 color figs., bibliography, index. 370 French Francs (cloth).

In her new book, *Perles d'Afrique*, Marie-Françoise Delarozière fills the reader with wonder with her descriptions of rare and mysterious beads from the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, as well as the more easily recognized beads of European or local manufacture that are found in Africa. Different materials used in Mauritania during the neolithic period—such as shell, ostrich egg shells, fish vertebrae, pottery and various types of stone—are well described. Glass and metal beads of the medieval period are also well documented. Among the more remarkable of the stone beads of these two periods in Mauritania are those of greenish amazonite and blue scorzalite, an extremely rare material. Glass beads are found in great numbers at medieval sites, having been brought there by trans-Saharan caravans. It is probable that some of these beads were locally reshaped to suit the needs of the indigenous population. Ancient beads such as these, found in the sands of the Sahara, are highly collectable, having intrigued researchers and collectors alike throughout the world.

The author also discusses and illustrates prehistoric quartz and carnelian beads from Mali and Niger, terra-cotta bead necklaces from Mali and metal beads from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire. Kenyan beads made of iron and aluminum, and various gold and silver beads are covered as well. As is the case with all the photos in this book, those of beaded objects from Guinea, Togo, Nigeria and Cameroon are superb. The last section of *Perles d'Afrique* offers wonderfully descriptive and romantic stories about beads and bead use in Africa, as told to the author by friends and acquaintances.

Of particular interest is a description of the neolithic carnelian industry that existed in the Oued Tilemsi valley in Mali. Numerous carnelian beadmaking sites have been discovered by Jean and Michel Gaussen to the east and northeast of Gao. The raw material came from a mountainous region called Adrar des Iforas which straddles southern Algeria and Mali. Techniques used to

form the stones into beads are described and illustrated on pages 26-32.

Another interesting passage in the book describes two beads found in Côte d'Ivoire, and considered highly desirable and very expensive by Mauritians, Haussas and Senegalese. One is a medieval glass bead with blue spots. The other is a 19th-century Venetian bead with black eyes, locally called "feather" or "eye of the peacock" (p. 82).

Traditional tools and techniques used in fashioning beads from silver, gold, and ebony inlaid with silver are fully described and well illustrated. Gold and gold-plated silver beads from Senegal are also dealt with, as are beads from Mali, Niger and Mauritania which are composed of braided vegetal material and called "Timbuctu gold."

Superbly illustrated with photographs and the author's own watercolors, *Perles d'Afrique* is written with a great amount of love and romantic wonder. The text and illustrations combine to provide the reader with a sense of the magic and reverence with which beads are held in Africa. Even for those who cannot read the French text, this book is a must for collectors and researchers alike. However, it is important to note that the chapters concerned with Mauritania were originally published in Delarozière's first book, *Les Perles de Mauritanie*, which is now out of print. Only those who own her original work can judge whether or not it is worthwhile for them to own *Perles d'Afrique* as well.

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Indian Trade Goods.

Oregon Archaeological Society. P.O. Box 13293, Portland, Oregon 97213. 1993. 48 pp., 50 b&w figs. \$7.50 (paper) postpaid.

This is a new edition of the book of the same title written by veteran trade-goods historian Arthur Woodward and published by the Oregon Archaeological Society in 1965. While the text is essentially Woodward's, it has been thoroughly edited and parts of the text have been reshuffled and others deleted.

Unfortunately, the latter material includes the original endnotes, leaving the reader wondering where some of the quoted material originated, as well as a useful appendix on "Columbia River Trade Beads" by Emory Strong. On the positive side, section headings have been added making it easier to locate specific topics. However, they have also created a few minor problems as now some unrelated text is included in a section because of its placement in the original text (e.g., the last paragraph on page 21 has nothing to do with "Fancy Beads"). Such orphan paragraphs should have been edited out or moved to a relevant section.

Considering that most of the narrative text is uncut, unaltered Woodward work, it is regrettable that the OAS did not print his name on the title page as the principal author as it did in 1965! They do, however, recognize his contribution to the present work in the preface.

A number of OAS members spent much time preparing a very attractive publication with extensive illustrations of various trade objects. I feel, however, that these depictions leave much to be desired. Many illustrations in the original work were photographs and too many of these have been reduced to drawings of less clarity in the new edition.

Indian Trade Goods begins with a general introduction to the subject, followed by chapters that deal with glass beads, as well as buttons, and trade on the Northwest Coast. The former chapter, which occupies the largest part of the text, initially deals with bead nomenclature and the manufacture of glass beads, followed by short sections on specific bead categories such as star or chevron, O.P., cut, fancy, and cornaline d'Aleppo. While most of Woodward's data are still viable, a quick once-over by one of several bead experts in the Pacific Northwest would have helped to bring the publication up to date. For example, we now know that "O.P. beads" (p. 18) are not the so-called "Russian" beads but distinctive thin-walled hexagonal tubes which are actually quite scarce in the Northwest (K. Karklins: pers. comm.). And no one has used the term "wire laid" (p. 21) for decades.

Furthermore, the addition of new illustrations with captions that do not always fit has introduced several minor errors to the monograph. For instance, the caption to figure 16A mentions "polychrome wire wound beads," yet all the illustrated specimens are drawn chevrons. Also, while the beads in figures 18B and 20A illustrate two different chapter sections, they

are actually one and the same form with the exception that one is eight sided and schematically drawn while the other is six sided and a much more realistic representation. It might also be mentioned at this point that many of the beads illustrated on pages 18-21 are taken from Kenneth and Martha Kidd's 1970 publication *A Classification System for Glass Beads* but without any credit to them.

The chapter on buttons covers the subject well and includes a time chart based on that published by Stanley J. Olsen in 1963. Beads are again dealt with in the chapter on Trade on the Northwest Coast, as are other trade goods such as gunflints, fire steels, kettles, coins and medals. Unfortunately, the coverage in this chapter is inadequate for the complexity of the subject of Indian trade goods, briefly surveying only a handful of the possible categories. The book ends with a short Suggested Reading list. This should have been expanded to include the works of the many fine scholars who have published on trade goods since 1965.

In summary, this is a rather "arty" publication that will be attractive mainly to newcomers and dilettantes interested in Indian culture. It is not a technical reference of much use to the professional.

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Glass, Glass Beads and Glassmakers in Northern India.

Jan Kock and Torben Sode. THOT Print, Bellahøjvej 180, DK 2720 Vanløse, Denmark. 1995. 32 pp., 36 color figs., 30 b&w figs. \$10.00 (paper) + \$12.00 postage and bank expenses.

This small book (also available in Danish) is excellently illustrated. The text, while short, is accurate and highly readable. It is based on first-hand investigation of the modern glass-ornament business in northern India, and serves as a commendable introduction to this important industry.

The publication begins by stating correctly that the traditional ways of making beads and bangles are threatened in northern India by new methods and styles. The value of the traditional industry is linked