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The Beads of Humaliwo

R. O. GIBSON

The site of *Humaliwo* (4-LAn-264) is located near the coastal town of Malibu, California. Radiocarbon dates from the site indicate it was first seasonally occupied approximately 800-1000 B.C. Historically the area was occupied by Santa Monica Mountain Chumash, who acted as middlemen in complex island/inland trading spheres. Baptisms from *Humaliwo* are recorded at Mission San Buenaventura from 1785 to 1816. Thus the site could contain information about cultural systems spanning almost 3000 years.

This is a preliminary analysis of shell, stone, and glass beads from *Humaliwo*. It is based on a small sample of beads recovered during summer excavations of 1971 and 1972 by the UCLA Archaeological Survey.

Any discussion of beads should begin with a few explicit statements about the basis of its units. The artifact categories discussed below represent the correlation, within specific limits, of three variables or attributes.¹ The three variables are form, material, and dimensions. When the form "saucer" and the material "wall of the *Olivella* shell" and the dimensions "7.0 mm. in overall diameter, 1.3 mm. in thickness, and 2.0 mm. in hole diameter" are found together, the artifact is classed within the category "early Middle Period *Olivella* saucer."² In this paper the dimensions will be written as bead diameter/bead thickness/hole diameter, all in millimeters. It is not within the scope of the present paper to discuss the rationale for the three variables except to say that they are common to all beads, easily measured, and temporally significant. The reader may wish to examine other bead classifications and discussions of the types or categories used and is referred to papers by Beardsley (1954), Bennyhoff and

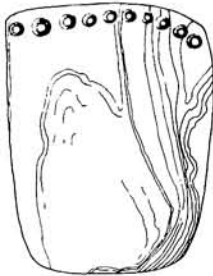


Table 1
COMPARATIVE CLASSIFICATIONS OF *OLIVELLA* BEADS

Description	Humaliwo	Lillard, Heizer, Fenenga (1939)	Gifford (1947)	L. King (1969)	Hoover (1971)
Small spire-lopped	14	1a	F4	9a	1f
Medium, large spire-lopped	10	1b	F5b	9b-c	1f
Small, obliquely-ground spire	15	1c	F5b	9a	1f
Spire-lopped, wall perforated	—	1d	C23b	9b-c	1a-b
Small, medium rectangle	—	2a	X3aI-III; X2a	—	4b
Large rectangle	—	2b	X3a1; X2a	—	4a
Thin-lipped round	5	3a1	X3bII	3	2d
Split punched	—	3a2	X1a	—	2a
Split punched/shaped	—	3a3	—	—	—
Saddle	—	3b	X3c	—	2b
Split drilled	—	3b1	X1b; X2b	—	—
Modified saddle	—	3b11	X3c	—	—
Medium saucer	9	3c	X3bI	6	3a
Large saucer	12	—	—	7	3c
Small saucer	16	3d	X3bI	5	3f
Cup	8	3e	X4	1a	3g
Full-lipped	—	3a1	X3bII	4	2b
Cylinder	—	3e	X4	2	3g
Lipped (unlipped variants)	2	—	—	8	—

Heizer (1958), Gifford (1947), L. King (1969), Lillard, Heizer, and Fenenga (1939), and Meighan (1953) (see Table 1).

CLASSIFICATION OF *HUMALIWO* BEADS

After careful study, 16 categories of beads and ornaments were recognized in the assemblage from *Humaliwo*. The categories, together with brief descriptions, are listed in Table 2.

The 16 categories of beads were non-randomly distributed both vertically and horizontally within the site (Table 3). Either a synchronic or a diachronic approach could be used to explain this non-random distribution of beads if nothing were known of the relative ages of the categories represented.

The synchronic approach places the main emphasis on the horizontal distribution of

artifacts within the site. If all the categories are approximately contemporaneous, then horizontal variability could be the result of different beads having functioned in different capacities at the site. For example, categories 1-4, which clustered in Area 1, could be high-status beads and categories 10-14, which occurred mainly in Area 3, could be low-status forms. Ample evidence has been presented that various bead types do serve different functions within a cultural system (Malinowski 1929; C. King 1973b, 1973c, personal communication). This approach has been successfully used in cemetery analyses. It has been shown that in complex Chumash society different bead types were associated with different social groups, and this resulted in the non-random distribution of bead types synchronically within the cemetery (L. King

Table 2
BEAD CATEGORIES REPRESENTED
AT HUMALIWO

Category	Description
1	European glass trade beads (all types)
2	<i>Olivella</i> lipped bead (unlipped variants)
3	<i>Mytilus</i> tubes
4	<i>Olivella</i> chipped disc (saucer) 4.0-6.0/1.0-1.5/0.8-1.2 mm.
5	<i>Olivella</i> thin-lipped round 5.4-6.0/1.5-2.0/1.0-1.5 mm.
6	<i>Mytilus</i> disc 4.5-5.6/1.8-2.0/1.0-1.5 mm.
7	<i>Haliotis rufescens</i> epidermis disc 4.0-4.8/1.2-1.6/1.2-1.5 mm.
8	<i>Olivella</i> cup bead 3.5-4.0/1.2-2.0/1.0-1.4 mm.
9	<i>Olivella</i> saucer 3.5-6.0/1.0-1.5/1.0-1.5 mm.
10	<i>Olivella</i> spire-lopped bead 10.0-13.0/15.0-25.0/- mm.
11	Steatite disc bead 5.0-9.0/1.0-3.0/1.4-2.5 mm.
12	<i>Olivella</i> saucers 8.5-6.0/1.0-2.0/1.8-2.5 mm.
13	Chlorite schist disc bead 3.2-4.8/1.0-2.6/1.2-2.4 mm.
14	<i>Olivella</i> spire-lopped bead 3.5-6.0/7.0-10.0/- mm.
15	<i>Olivella</i> with obliquely-ground spire 3.5-6.0/5.3-10.6/- mm.
16	<i>Olivella</i> saucer with ground dorsal surface 3.5-5.0/0.8-1.5/1.0-1.2 mm.

1969). There is no reason to believe that the same phenomenon would not be operating within a village and be reflected in the patterned occurrence of beads in the midden. However, much better control of space and time can be obtained from cemetery bead lots than from generally isolated beads occurring in village middens. Thus, due to the small sample of beads from *Humaliwo*, the probable natural disturbance of the midden, and the possibility that considerable time depth was

represented in the deposits, it was thought that the non-random distribution of beads might more likely be a result of change over time.

The diachronic approach assumes that variability in bead form and distribution is explainable in terms of time. This approach is normally used to explain vertical differences but can also be applied to horizontal distribution. Specific categories of beads are more common in certain areas of the site, as shown in Table 3 and Fig. 1. A clustering of bead categories within specific areas or strata is referred to as a *bead complex*. The complex also includes temporally diagnostic ornament types originally described by Gifford (1947).

Defining a bead and ornament complex at a point in time and space requires knowledge of bead sequences in other areas and determination of variability within any given category at any one point in time. The four bead complexes defined for the four areas within the site of *Humaliwo* are generalizations or abstractions about the beads that occur at a point in space and time. Table 3 and Fig. 1 also show that bead categories are not necessarily restricted to one complex. This overlap can be explained in a number of ways. Use of a particular kind of bead may have continued unchanged for long periods of time. Rodent activity or other disturbances may bring together beads from two different time periods. The definition of a "type" or category may even overlook attributes which are temporally significant. These problems are exemplified by the fact that category 4—*Olivella* saucer with chipped periphery—occurs in all four areas. Moreover, the one in Area 4 was found with a historic glass trade bead at 11 ft. below the surface. Examples of category 4 occurring in Area 3 were all in the upper 12 in. of the deposit and were probably the result of plowing activity moving the beads from Areas 1 and 2 into Area 3. The category 4 beads in Area 2 were blanks used for manufacturing category 9 beads. The category 4

Table 3
HORIZONTAL DISTRIBUTION OF *HUMALIWO* BEADS
OCCURRENCE IN EXCAVATION UNITS IN FOUR AREAS OF SITE 4-LAn-264

Bead Category	Area 1	Area 2			Area 3			Area 4	
	TP-21	P-4	P-6	P-8	H-15	J-15	J-16	D-2	D-3
1	191	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	154	4	16	6	9	0	1	1	0
5	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
6	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
7	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
9	2	21	10	11	39	10	8	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	0	0
11	0	1	1	3	6	2	2	0	0
12	0	0	1	5	50	7	16	0	0
13	0	1	1	19	123	42	32	1	2
14	0	0	0	0	7	2	1	5	2
15	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	10	7
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	1

beads from Area 1 were true chipped discs, a finished product where grinding was not done during the later phases of the Mission period. The bead complexes are illustrated in simplified form in Fig. 1.

Figure 2 shows the approximate relationship of the four areas of the *Humaliwo* site. The site is actually continuous between the areas, and all except Area 1 comprise a black, greasy shell midden. Area 1 is lighter brown soil with very little shell and is known as the historic cemetery. From surface indication no difference can be noted between Areas 2, 3, and 4. Area 3 is known as the Monroe area or the Ruby pits. Area 4 has midden 16-18 ft. deep with a basal date of around 800-1000 B.C. The Early/Middle Transition complex was taken from the 10-12 ft. level in Area 4. As the following bead complexes are defined, similar types and/or complexes will be noted.

EARLY/MIDDLE PERIOD TRANSITION COMPLEX

The earliest bead complex at *Humaliwo* comes from Area 4 on the sea side of the Pacific Coast Highway. The 10 ft. level has been radiocarbon dated at 560 B.C. (Berger and Libby 1965:7). This level is characterized by bead categories 13-16.

Category 13 is the thin chlorite schist disc bead. The color is greenish-gray, and the dimensions are 3.85-5.0/1.0/1.0-1.2 mm. Similar beads occur in the lower part of Area C at the Rincon site (4-SBa-1) (C. King 1973a), and at Paradise Cove (4-LAn-222) (C. King 1973a). The variability of stone beads is still unclear, but chlorite schist discs in this complex generally tend to be thinner than the later examples in the Middle Period complex.

Category 14 is the regular *Olivella* spire-ground bead, and category 15 is the *Olivella*

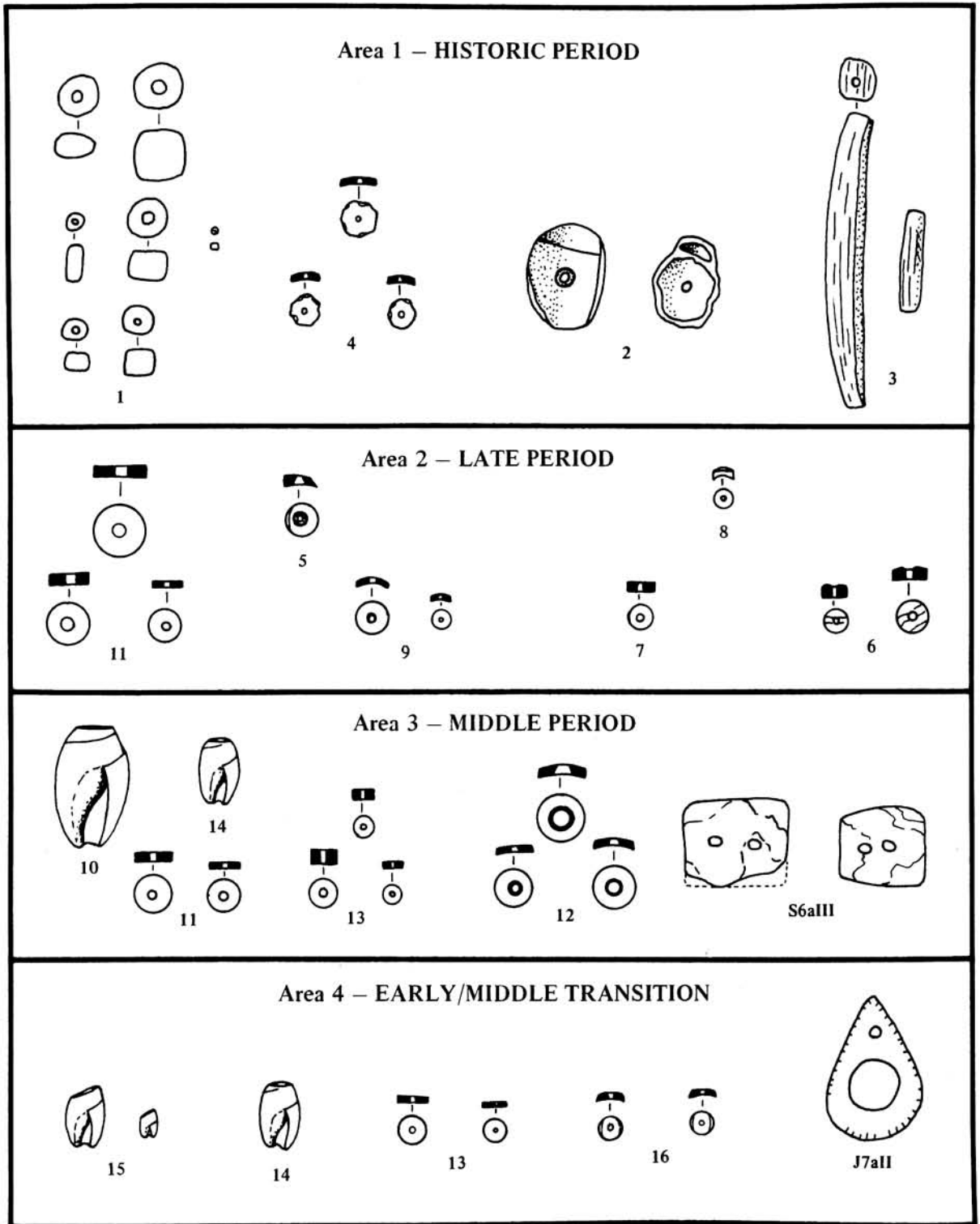


Fig. 1. Bead complexes at *Humaliwo* (Malibu). Items shown actual size. Numbers refer to artifact categories discussed in the text.

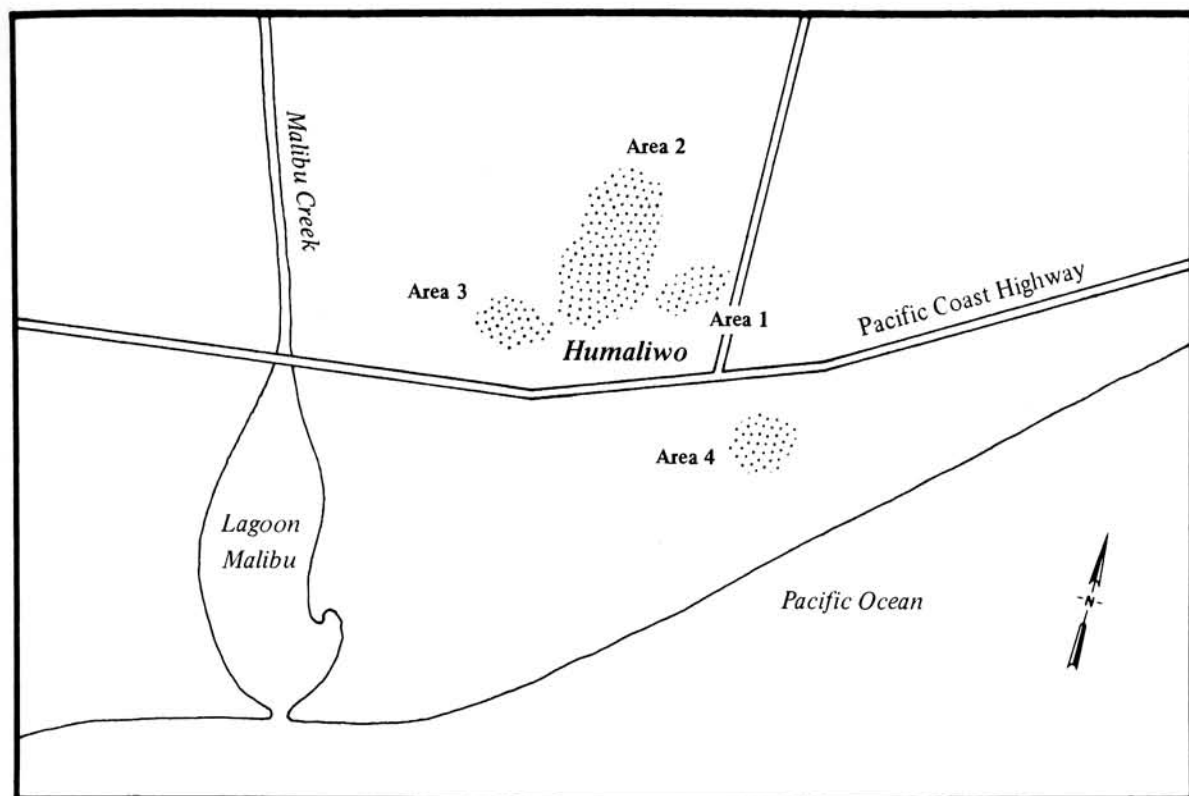


Fig. 2. Map showing various areas of the site of *Humaliwo* (Malibu, 4-LAn-264). No scale.

with obliquely-ground spire. In category 15 the spire is ground off approximately 45° to the columella axis, while in category 14 it is ground perpendicular to it. Their diameters range from 3.5-6.0 mm., which places them in the small category (Fredrickson 1968). In Central California, the small spire-lopped *Olivella* beads are predominant in the Early Period and in Phase 1 of the Late Period. Those with obliquely-ground spires (Bennyhoff's type 1c) are known to occur in definite lots only when associated with beads of the Early Period complex (Windmill site [4-Sac-107], West Berkeley site [4-Ala-307], and probably the Tranquillity site [4-Fre-481]) (Bennyhoff and Heizer 1958).

Category 16 is the small *Olivella* saucer with a ground dorsal surface. It is usually drilled from the dorsal surface, and by grinding away the outer enamel, thereby exposing

the softer shell, drilling would be more easily done. The dimensions are 3.5-5.0/0.8-1.5/1.0-1.2 mm. Sometimes this bead occurs in inlays on pipes. *Olivella* saucers with the dorsal surface ground have been identified in the Early/Transitional Lovelock Cave (NV-Ch-18) complex in Nevada by Bennyhoff and Heizer (1958). They assign a date of 1500-500 B.C. to the Early/Transitional Lovelock Cave complex. Most of the beads and ornament types from the Lovelock Cave complex are pre-*Humaliwo*, so that category 16 probably dates closer to 500 B.C. at Lovelock Cave (Fig. 3). This is consistent with the radiocarbon date of 560 B.C. on material associated with category 16 beads at *Humaliwo*.

MIDDLE PERIOD

The Middle Period bead sequence is very complex and has been broken into four

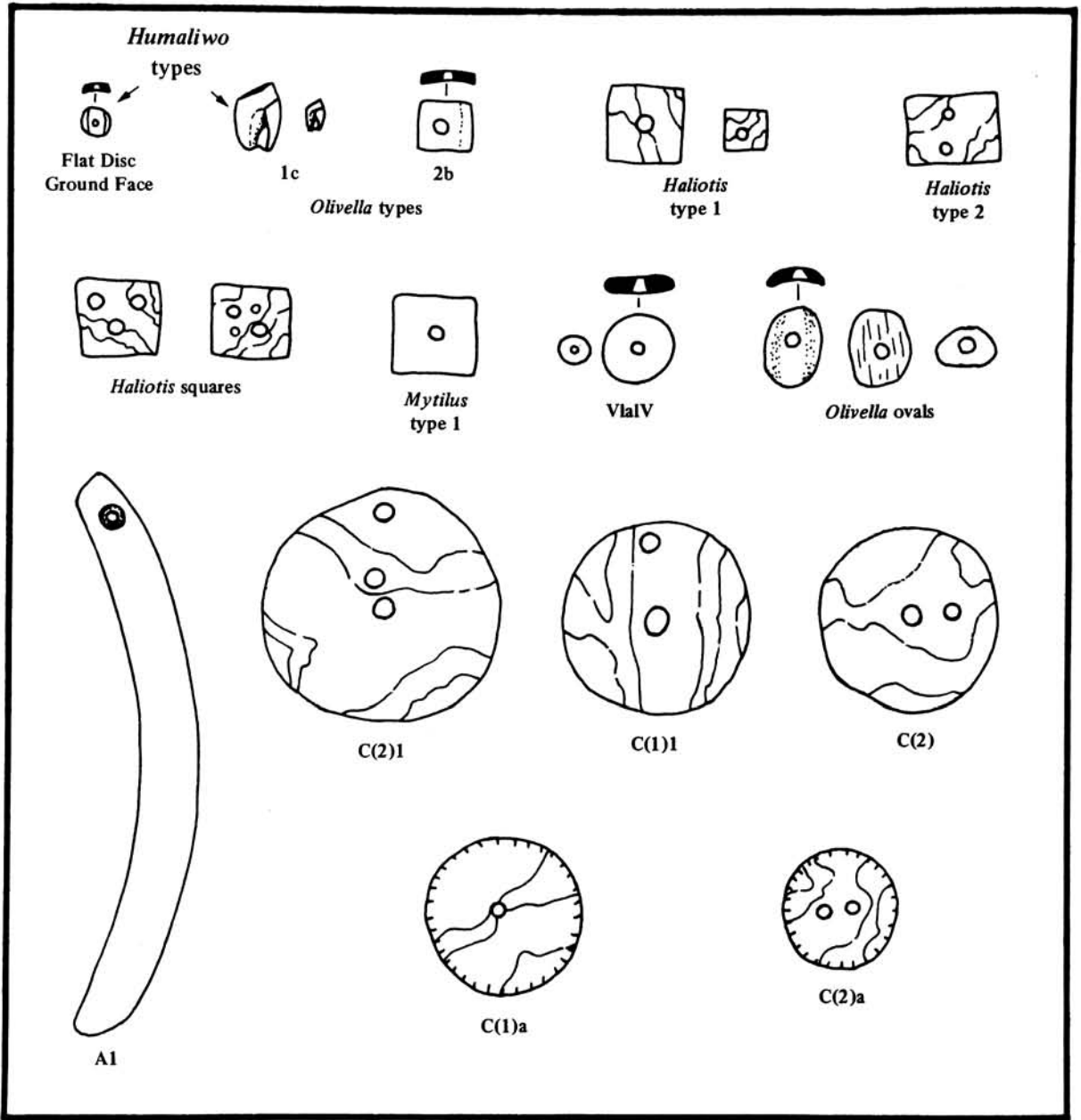


Fig. 3. Early Lovelock Cave complex (1500-500 B.C.). Lovelock Cave is located in the Humboldt Sink region of west-central Nevada, and the shell ornaments are of California origin. Examples of this complex which occur at *Humaliwo* are indicated. Actual size, after Bennyhoff and Heizer (1958).

sub-horizons by Bennyhoff (unpublished). The bead and ornament complex from Area 3 is characterized by two main categories, the large-holed *Olivella* saucers (category 12) and the chlorite schist disc beads (category 13).

The size range for the large-holed *Olivella* saucers is 6.0-8.5/1.0-1.5/1.8-2.5 mm., with the average being 7.0/1.3/2.0 mm. This bead style occurs in deposits dating between 400 B.C. and A.D. 300. Large-holed (2.5-3.0 mm.)

Olivella saucers occur earliest and the smaller-holed ones somewhat later. The hole diameter of the Area 3 *Olivella* saucers is about 2.0 mm., and these would probably date closer to 100 B.C. and later.

Similar types occur in the upper levels of Paradise Cove (4-LAN-222) (C. King 1973a), in Burials 6, 7, and 9 at Camp 30 on Santa Rosa Island (C. King 1973a), and in Burials 6, 8, and 9 at the Fowler site (4-SLO-406) (Tainter 1971).

The chlorite schist disc beads range in size from 3.2-4.8/1.0-2.8/1.2-1.8 mm. Similar types occur at Rincon but appear to be rare on the northern Channel Islands. Area 3 also yielded two *Haliotis* pendants (Gifford [1947] type S6aIII, Cat. Nos. 572-3050, 572-3153). These square-to-rectangular pendants have two holes along the long axis. Similar examples occur in Burials 1, 4, and 6 at Camp 30 on Santa Rosa Island (C. King 1973a), at the Fowler site (Tainter 1971), and at the Dodd site (4-SLO-648) (Gibson 1973).

Two small *Olivella* shells with obliquely-ground spires (category 15) were found in the lower levels of Area 3 (depth 30-36 in.). This category is included in the Early/Middle Transition complex which is represented in the lower levels of Area 3.

During the end of the Middle Period and in the Middle/Late Period transition several styles of beads were manufactured which are not found in the Area 3 deposits. They are *Olivella* saucers with chipped periphery, *Olivella* split drilled, *Olivella* split punched, and two sizes of *Olivella* saucers with smooth periphery and diameters of 2.3-3.5 mm. and 4.0-5.0 mm., respectively. The absence of these Middle/Late transitional bead styles indicates that use of Area 3 ended before A.D. 400.

LATE PERIOD

The Late Period has been divided into Phase 1a, 1b, and 1c, and Phase 2a and 2b by Bennyhoff (unpublished). The bead complex

found in Area 2 at *Humaliwo* is characterized by many styles, including category 5—*Olivella* thin-lipped round, category 6—*Mytilus* disc, category 7—*Haliotis rufescens* epidermis disc, category 8—*Olivella* cup, and category 9—*Olivella* saucer. Temporally, the most diagnostic are the *Olivella* cup and *Olivella* thin-lipped round. The *Olivella* cup first occurs about A.D. 800-1000 (Bennyhoff Phase 1b). *Olivella* thin-lipped round first occur about A.D. 1520-1550 (Bennyhoff Phase 2a).

Most of the excavation units in Area 2 yielded *Olivella* cups, and one unit yielded *Olivella* thin-lipped round (Cat. No. 572-1478).

Because of the low density of *Mytilus*, *Haliotis*, and clam discs and tubes, which are common in Phase 2a, the Area 2 bead complex probably ended early in Phase 2.

This same bead complex was found at sites 4-LAN-227, 4-LAN-229 (C. King, et al. 1968), Medea Creek Village and Cemetery (L. King 1969), Mulholland (4-LAN-246) (Brindamour 1970), and 4-Ven-195 (Gibson and Singer 1970).

HISTORIC PERIOD

This bead complex is the easiest to define due to the presence of Spanish trade beads, which were manufactured in Venice, Italy. For the purposes of this analysis, category 1 includes all glass beads. More than 300 types of glass beads have been identified in California (Meighan 1953; Riddell 1951; King and Gibson 1972). The bead complex from Area 1 is characterized by category 1—European glass beads (all types), category 2—*Olivella* lipped beads, category 3—*Mytilus* tubes, and category 4—*Olivella* chipped disc saucer). Seriation of both glass and shell beads is possible but is not dealt with in this paper. The beginning date for this bead complex is about A.D. 1785, and it ends about 1820.

Area 1 measures approximately 40 x 40 m., and within this area during the summer of 1972 the UCLA Archaeological Survey ex-

cavated 129 burials. All burials dated to the Historic Period. A similar bead complex was found at *Mikiw* (4-SBa-78) (Harrison 1965).

CONCLUSIONS

Analysis of stone, shell, and glass beads from the site of *Humaliwo* has resulted in recognition of four areas within the site, each with a fairly distinct complex of beads and ornaments. Radiocarbon dating, distribution of glass trade beads, and comparison with bead and ornament assemblages from other sites indicates that the clustered occurrence of bead and pendant categories reflects the use of different areas of the site over the course of time.

With reference to the recognized chronology for this part of the coast, the Early/Middle Period transition (800-500 B.C.) is characterized by bead categories 13-16, which cluster deep in Area 4; categories 10-14 equate with the Middle Period (400 B.C.-A.D. 300) and cluster in Area 3; categories 5-9 date from the Late Period Phases 1b and 2a (A.D. 1000-1550) and cluster in Area 2, and categories 1-4 date from the Historic Period (A.D. 1785-1820) and cluster in Area 1. These concentrations of beads, in use in different areas of the site at different points in time, are termed bead complexes. Categories 11, 13, and 14 occur in more than one complex.

Humaliwo is an extremely complex site, and analysis of the data collected there is continuing. The recognition that different areas of the site were used at different times may lead to important observations of changing site use. What might superficially have appeared to be separate shell and fish/sea mammal processing areas may well be evidence of changing subsistence patterns in the history of site occupation.

The *Humaliwo* bead complexes described in this preliminary analysis are generalizations about the kinds of shell artifacts in use at different points in time. The key to most

problem-oriented archaeology is control over time, and one of the best ways to obtain temporal control in California sites is through shell beads. This paper is a step in that direction.

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NOTES

1. In this discussion the term "category" has been used rather than "type." Ultimately, the spatial, temporal, formal, and perhaps the functional dimensions of each category will be understood and agreed upon, and they can then be discussed as true artifact types.
2. The term "Period" has been substituted for "Horizon."

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