Proposal for a Thesis
in the Field of Anthropology and Archaeology
in Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements for the
Master of Liberal Arts Degree

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I.
Tentative Title


II.
The Research Problem

Trade beads are referenced in historical records and have been found in many archaeological sites; however, there are few comprehensive sources that focus on their importance around the time of the Spanish Conquest. When the Conquistadors landed in South America, they brought glass beads and were able to trade them for items of great value. These items included: precious metals, pearls, cotton items, gemstones, and even women. At the same time, the indigenous populations of South America already had their own cross-cultural exchange for highly valued shell beads.

Information about cultures and societies can be gleaned from the study of glass and shell bead dispersion and use in the context of indigenous communities. “European items were incorporated into an already indigenous system of exchange that placed high value on hard, sharp, and shiny objects, many of which were used for bodily adornment.” (pg 153) By using a combination of archaeological discoveries, museum bead collections, and historical accounts, I hope to draw conclusions on bead replacement, foreign contact, and acculturation during the contact period.

According to Peter Francis (1992),

“In the civilizations of Mesoamerica and the Andes the bead trade had consisted of moving raw materials to a central locale, processing them, and
distributing finished products to outlying regions. The Spanish quickly seized the centers of these civilizations. They destroyed the old bead industries and introduced outside beads. Soon both native and Spanish traders were using the old trade routes but carrying new beads (Francis 1992c in Asia’s Maritime Bead Trade, 179).

To fully understand the dispersal of beads in South America, it is necessary to evaluate several factors including: regional differences (coastal vs. amazon), status differentiation, bead manufacture, aesthetic value (brilliance), and religious/ burial practices. This context, rather than archaeological evidence alone, is important in understanding beads and the people who used them.

I will look at site level bead discoveries in order to better understand how far beads traveled. By looking at the percentage of indigenous beads versus European beads, I hope to gain a better understanding of their value in various customs and religious practices. “Shell beads have been rather rare in the lowlands, being reported mainly in Andean and sub-Andean ceremonial and high-status contexts. Those associations point to the potential importance of social complexity and inequality to explain the origins and distribution of such valuables.” (Gasson, 2000) In order to understand the initial appeal of beads, we must understand the indigenous value system (Scaramelli, 2005)

Shell beads were made out of local material found on the coast of Ecuador and were traded locally before the arrival of the Spanish. As local costumes and dress adapted, the importance of shell beads such as Spondylus also fluctuated. Spondylus shell beads were highly regarded prior to Spanish contact where “ideas concerning the spiritual and creative power of light were inextricably bound up with its embodiment in physical form” (Saunders, 1999). However, new, shiny, brilliant beads introduced by the Spanish may have replaced the shell beads.
This research will evaluate whether or not foreign beads caused transformations in indigenous ritual practices. Through the examination of tangible site level artifacts and examples in written accounts, I will identify instances where Spanish beads were inserted into existing customs and practices. These examples will provide evidence to help determine whether or not Spanish beads replaced indigenous beads and if they transformed customs and traditions in indigenous culture.

As part of this research, I will identify bead types that were valued by indigenous cultures prior to contact and compare them to bead types that were brought by the Spanish. In looking at material culture, “A common practice is a simplistic association of classes of material culture with ethnic identities, comparing percentages of imported versus non-imported artifacts to determine degrees of cultural change, or directly associating artifacts combining elements of multiple stylistic traditions with people with blended ethnic identities or even genetic backgrounds.” (Card, 2013 pg. 3) I believe the same can be done with trade beads that were introduced by the Spanish Conquistadors. Beads with archaeological provenance can be used to prove or disprove theories about bead distribution. This includes examples from the Los Tamarindos Trench in La Cabrera, Lake Valencia found at the Harvard Peabody Museum (34-159-30/847). By finding examples in museum collections and anthropological records, I will seek evidence that confirms or dis-confirms whether new beads were merely inserted into existing rituals or if they transformed rituals.

This thesis will provide support in answering the following questions: What beads were used by indigenous populations in the Venezuelan Amazon and the coast of Peru prior to Spanish contact? What was the role of beads in indigenous customs and traditions in Peru before the time of European contact? What, if any, changes came about in the use of beads in
indigenous customs and traditions following the introduction of European beads into South America? What evidence do we have in modern day museums and archaeological records that allows for the proper identification of bead origination and use? Why were people attracted to beads? What did people see in them that so fascinated them?

Through a better understanding of bead acceptance and value, we can learn more about their adoption into ritual practices, better understand their context, and show whether or not new beads transformed indigenous rituals.
III.  
Definition of Terms

Andean: (English) Indigenous peoples living in, and near to the Andes Mountains; the Andean region stretches from modern day Ecuador to northern Chile. (www.smith.edu)

Andes: (English) A geographical region encompassing the Andean mountains, stretching from modern day Ecuador to northern Chile. (www.smith.edu)

Castile: (English) A kingdom on the Iberian peninsula, today in the country of Spain. Technically, Spain's New World possessions belonged only to two kingdoms, Castile and León, because they were responsible for the expeditions of conquest. (www.smith.edu)

Chullpas: above ground burial sites used by the Chachapoyas

Chachapoyas: tribe in the Andean tropical cloud forest between the Maranon and Huallaga rivers (Church, 2006) Encyclopedia of Anthropology.

Chotuna.: Area on the North Coast of Peru where glass beads have been found.

Conquest Period: 1530-1679

Conquistadors: a conqueror, especially one of the Spanish conquerors of Mexico and Peru in the 16th century

Early Colonial Period: 1680-1767

Iberia, Iberian: (English) Relating to the Iberian peninsula, comprising modern Spain and Portugal. (www.smith.edu)

Inka: (Quechua) The empire built by a group of Quechua-speaking Andeans in the 14th and 15th centuries that stretched from Ecuador to Chile. "Sapa Inka" was the title of its supreme ruler, and its capital city was Cuzco. Also Inca. (www.smith.edu)

Laguna de los Cóndores: Lake near Kuelap, Chachapoyas where mummy bundles were found

Late Pre Contact Period: 1400-1529

Material Culture: Material culture studies is an interdisciplinary field that examines the relationship between people and their things, the making, history, preservation, and interpretation of objects. It draws on theory and practice from such disciplines as art history, archaeology, anthropology, history, historic preservation, folklore, and museum studies, among others. (University of Delaware, Center for Material Culture Studies)
New Spain: (English) The name that Spain gave to her northern Viceroyalty, which comprised the modern regions of Mexico, Central America, Venezuela, and the Caribbean. The capital city was Mexico City (www.smith.edu)

Nueva Cádiz bead: bead named for a location on an island off the coast of Venezuela, the first archaeological site where this type was found. (Corning Museum of Glass)

Spondylus: is a bivalve mollusk also known as a spiny oyster, found in the warm waters of most of the oceans of the world.

Viceroy: (English) The head of the largest administrative district (a viceroyalty) established by the Spanish crown in her colonies, second in power only to the king. (www.smith.edu)

Viceroyalty: (English) The largest administrative district established by the Spanish crown in her colonies. Its head, the viceroy, was second in power only to the king. In 1700, there were two viceroyalties: New Spain and Perú. The Viceroyalties of Nueva Granada and Rio de la Plata were carved out of these in the 18th century. (www.smith.edu)
IV.

Background of the Problem

Beads and other artifacts can tell an important story. The context for bead trade during the time of Spanish contact can be used to reveal the importance of their use as cultural objects.

Chapter I of this thesis will provide a background on beads and bead types. Bead appearances will be described including: material, shape, size, glass versus stone and overall luster. The first chapter will also cover bead manufacturing processes such as cane molding and grinding.

Chapter II will cover indigenous uses of beads in religion and dress in order to have a baseline for their use prior to Spanish contact.

Chapter III will look at the route of entry and dispersal of beads in the new world. Historical records will be used to provide evidence of bead movement across South America. Other material evidence such as dress and burial contexts will also be evaluated.

Chapter IV will evaluate the key hypothesis of this thesis research by studying whether European beads replaced indigenous beads in ritual practices and customs (including dress) but left those practices and customs unchanged, or whether they replaced and transformed the customs and traditions in indigenous culture. Through the evaluation of material evidence, bead innovation and technological innovations, this research may show that European beads were merely incorporated into existing customs.

Chapter V will conclude this research and will discuss limitations and future areas of interest in the field.
It is critical to understand where beads were found and what cultural contexts they were used. Patterson says, “the increasing importance of the economic system was underwritten not only by the continued flow of goods (the expansion of trade) but also their removal from circulations (hording or burial goods) and by their periodic destruction.” (Patterson, 2014, pg 117) As beads fell in and out of circulation, certain types became more valuable. Museum collections include excellent examples of beads found in burial contexts. As a result, these collections will aid in understanding the cultural value placed on certain types of beads.

Some of the sites that will be explored are: Chachapoyas, Peru, Orinoco, Venezuela, the Ica Valley, Peru, Nasca, Peru, La Cabrera/Lake Valencia, and the Cerro Blanco complex on the North coast of Peru. Other areas of Venezuela will also be researched to determine points of entry prior to distribution. The Orinoco provides a greater number of bead artifacts than other regions and the Ica Valley provides context into bead styles from the Middle Horizon dating back to 800 A.D. so these will be used in analysis. Finally, specific beads such as the Nueva Cadiz found in burial sites in the Ica Valley have allowed archaeologists to understand the extent of Spanish contact in the early parts of the Colonial Period.

Peru’s geography spans the rugged Andean mountains to Pacific coastal deserts intersected by many rivers flowing down the mountainsides. The rains that flow down the mountain rivers allow for irrigation and cultivation. As a result, many of these areas became populated from very early times (beginning around 4,500 B.C.) as people built irrigation canal systems and terraced landscapes. Trade also became more expansive between the regions since all materials were not available at any one location or elevation. Toward the end of the pre-Hispanic era, the Inca administration also had an elaborate network to move materials from one region to another. An understanding of the ritual practices and bead dispersal during the Inca
administration will provide one of the underlying comparative contexts for this thesis.

In other regional examples, specific cultures such as those of the Chachapoyas provide a look into the cultural exchange between the Peruvian cloud forest and the tropical lowlands and will aid in the distinction between the coast and inland. Chachpoyas’ finds in the mortuary complex at Laguna de los Cóndores show “the wide array of offerings that accompanied the more than 200 mummy bundles.” (Church, 918) It is through finds like this that we are provided with artifacts that can help trace the original source of beads and to ascertain how new beads were incorporated into burial practices. An understanding of the dates of the burials also provides a window into the continued material importance of beads into Spanish Colonial times. For example, “A small wooden crucifix, glazed pottery and glass trade beads indicate that the chullpas at Laguna de los Cóndores continued to be used into early Spanish colonial times.” (Church, pg 921)

An example of bead progression can be found in Table 1 below which shows the evidence of beads during different periods in the Middle Orinoco, Venezuela. By examining beads and other artifacts across time, anthropologists and archaeologists can gain a better understanding of a culture’s adoption and acceptance of outside materials. It can also provide insight into bead demand and usage over time. Similar methods will be employed to gain a better understanding of the bead progression at the sites that have been chosen for this thesis.
Table 1 Archaeological phases and associated artifacts in the Orinoco

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Constructions</th>
<th>Ceramics</th>
<th>Beads</th>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Glass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Hispanic</td>
<td>Camoruco</td>
<td>1200–1530</td>
<td>Los Mangos Simonorere</td>
<td>Low habitation mounds</td>
<td>Araquirold Valloid</td>
<td>Polished stone beads and bead polishers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1530–1680</td>
<td>Carichana</td>
<td>Wattle and daub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Colonial</td>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>1680–1767</td>
<td>Pueblo de los Españoles (Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles de Panama)</td>
<td>Stone, wattle and</td>
<td>Salt glazed</td>
<td>Small 'seed' beads</td>
<td>Forge knives</td>
<td>Square gin</td>
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<td>Pueblo del Villarosa</td>
<td>and adobe buildings</td>
<td>Olive jar</td>
<td>Cornaline d'Aleppe</td>
<td>Nails</td>
<td>bottles</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Fortín del Parguaza (San Francisco Javier de Marinavaro)</td>
<td>Wattle and daub</td>
<td>Delft</td>
<td>Faceted beads</td>
<td>Buddles</td>
<td>Onion</td>
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<td>Piedra Rajada</td>
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<td>Barmann</td>
<td>Black beads with white and yellow opaline</td>
<td>Mussels</td>
<td>shaped</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>San isidro</td>
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<td>Belloreine</td>
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<td>Lead bullets</td>
<td>bottles</td>
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<td>Pineiro</td>
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<td>Harpoons</td>
<td>Fish hooks</td>
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<td>Araquirold (San Isidro Style)</td>
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<td>Fish hooks</td>
<td>Micelles</td>
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<td>Vialrd</td>
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<td>Carajal</td>
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<td>Fina sand temper</td>
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<td>Pearl ware (English)</td>
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<td>Shell Edge (1780–1820)</td>
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<td>Early hand-painted</td>
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<td>Annular ware: Mocha</td>
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<td>Boorenbeek (Dutch)</td>
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<td>Transfer print (1756–1820)</td>
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<td>Ground sherd</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sponge spicule</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Colonial</td>
<td>Pueblo Viejo</td>
<td>1768–1829</td>
<td>Pueblo Viejo</td>
<td>Stone, wattle and</td>
<td>Drawn faceted</td>
<td>Bludles</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Demijohns</td>
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<td>La Pica</td>
<td>and adobe buildings</td>
<td>'Russian' beads</td>
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<td>bottle</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Documentation of other bead findings is scattered in footnotes and museum collections. This thesis research will provide a centralized resource for continued interpretation of the trade patterns, cultural significance and material value that was placed on beads in Central and South America at the time of the Spanish conquest.

V.
Research Methods

One goal is to identify bead styles found in archaeological records and bead collections at several museums. The bead collections at The Field Museum, The Corning Museum of Glass, The Harvard Peabody Museum, The Yale Peabody Bead Collection and other museums in the
New England region will be utilized to document various bead styles found in South America that date to the 16th Century.

Beads are found in many contexts: burial sites, shipwrecks, and archaeological sites. Testimony of beads is also found in documented ship’s records, historical accounts and Spanish documents. Documents such as these will be used in this research.

Similar to Hopwood (2003), my research will identify available beads based on the classifications of Kidd and Kidd (1983). I will also utilize the Karklins’ bead guide (1985) to identify the beads available in local museum collections. The main characteristics of the beads will be recorded in an Excel spreadsheet for further analysis.

Bead classification methods found in Smith and Good (1982) will be utilized because their classification specifically covers 16th Century glass trade beads. They divide the beads into four groups based on method of manufacture: drawn cane, wire wound, blown beads and crumb beads. Cane beads are divided further into classes such as: normal (round), twisted cross section, chevron beads with molded cross section and others. (Smith, 1982, pg 19) A description of bead types and manufacturing processes will be covered in detail.

I will define the types of glass beads based on their common characteristics. The material, style, design, color and other elements will be evaluated. The location of bead discoveries in archaeological sites, the anticipated origin and the cultural practices in certain regions will help identify and classify the beads. Archaeological evidence will be used as much as possible.

The count of bead types found in specific regions of Peru and Venezuela will be analyzed. Physical characteristics such as color, diameter, thickness, material, type and function will be recorded and compared with findings from additional sites and museum collections. To
the extent possible, statistical analysis will be conducted to test for similarities between bead sets.

This research will also utilize methods from Rafael Gassón’s article *Quirípas and Mostacillas: The Evolution of Shell Beads as a Medium of Exchange in Northern South America* with particular emphasis on the Orinoco Basin of Venezuela. Other works that will be cited include *Pottery Style and Society in Ancient Peru: Art as a Mirror of History in the Ica Valley, 1350-1570* by Dorothy Menzel.

Archaeological resources such as Patricia Plunket and Gabriela Uruñuela’s Dating Cholula, México on the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies website will be used as a template for recording data. The structure and tables that they use to record samples can also be used in structuring a database of beads.

VI.

Research Limitations

I will focus primarily on Peru and Venezuela as the source material from these two regions is more accessible. The focus will not be on Portuguese contact. I will travel to Yale to the Peabody Museum and hope to travel to Chicago to the Field Museum to document and evaluate beads from their collections. All source material will need to be in the English language.
VII.
Tentative Schedule

Submission of thesis proposal draft  
Proposal returned by research advisor  
Final draft of thesis proposal submitted  
Proposal accepted by advisor (with minor revisions)  
Thesis Proposal returned with corrections  
Thesis Director and Co-Director Assigned  
Thesis Proposal approved by Co-Directors  
Registration for thesis completed  
First Chapter submitted to Co-Director  
Co-Director returns first chapter  
Second Chapter submitted to Co-Director  
Co-director returns second chapter  
Third Chapter completed  
Third Chapter returned from Co-Director  
Fourth Chapter completed  
Fourth Chapter returned from Co-Director  
Final Chapter completed  
Final Chapter returned from Co-Director  
Entire Thesis final revision period  
Final text submitted to thesis directors and research advisor  
Bound copy approved  
Graduation
VIII.

Bibliography

Works Cited

- A collection of essays by various authors about hybrid material culture.
- The essays cover topics such as ceramics in colonial Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Ethnicity, material culture, and identity in pre-Hispanic and colonial Latin America are discussed in the context of cultural contact and transformation.

- This dissertation looks at Spondylus shell beads and the effect of external changes and cultural changes on local production of the beads in the Manteno of Coastal Ecuador.

- English translation of the accounts of Conquistadores Bernal Díaz Del Castillo about the Conquest of New Spain.
- Several first-hand accounts discuss the importance of glass trade beads. These documented accounts provide greater context than archaeological findings alone.


- Important bead typology published in 1985 to be used in conjunction with the Kidd & Kidd typology of 1970.

- Developed in 1970, Kidd & Kidd provide a primary typology for glass trade.
beads.
- Used widely in other scholarly articles in order to compare glass beads across several archaeological sites.


Plunket, P. and Gabriela Uruñuela, *Dating Cholula, México Discussion of Results The Cholula Pyramid* http://www.famsi.org/reports/02042/section03.htm

Rafael A. *Colonial Transformations in Gassón, Quirípas and Mostacillas: The Evolution of Shell Beads as a Medium of Exchange in Northern South America* Ethnohistory


- The authors trace the impact of exchange and commerce in local societies of the Middle Orinoco.
- They evaluate the introduction and consumption of foreign manufactures and technologies such as Western dress and alcoholic beverages. They also examine the role of material culture and indigenous cultural response in the face of different colonial and post-colonial circumstances. (Scaramelli, 135)

Works to Be Consulted


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Carter, Benjamin – *Spondylus In South American Prehistory*


Cobo, Father Bernabe *Inca Religion and Customs* pg. 226


Fagan, Brian M. *Introductory Readings in Archaeology* 1970 (page 76)
Fenstermaker, G.B. 1976 - *Beads - South American Colored Trade Bead Chart*, 1850-1870

Ferreira, Roquinaldo Amaral. *Cross-Cultural Exchange in the Atlantic World: Angola and Brazil* (p. 155)


Helms, Mary 1985 *Art Styles and Interaction Spheres in Central America and the Caribbean*

Hecht, Johanna and Cristina Esteras Martín *The Colonial Andes: Tapestries and Silverwork*, 1530-1830

Hoberman, Louisa Schell. *Mexico’s Merchant Elite, 1590-1660: Silver, State, and Society*

Hoberman, Louisa Schell and Susan Migden Socolow *Cities & Society in Colonial Latin America* University of New Mexico Press, 1986


- Thesis about shipwreck beads found off the coast of Ghana using Kidd & Kidd and Karklin bead classification methodologies that will be used in this thesis.

Jamieson, Ross W. *Domestic Architecture and Power: The Historical Archaeology of Colonial Ecuador* page 2


Lyons, Claire L. and John K. Papadopoulos (eds) *The Archaeology of Colonialism* (page 9)

Pedro de Cieza de León *The Discovery and Conquest of Peru* pg 127

MacIntyre, Kellen Kee and Richard E. Phillips (ed.) *Woman And Art in Early Modern Latin America* page 89

Margot B., Janet Catherine Berlo, Edward B. Dwyer Textile Traditions of Mesoamerica and the Andes: An Anthology (p. 155)

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Walford, Edward and John Charles Cox, George Latimer Apperson (eds.) The Antiquary, Volume 32

Wernke, Steven A. (Author) Negotiated Settlements: Andean Communities and Landscapes under Inka and Spanish Colonialism