

## Personal Adornment



Grand Portage National Monument  
PO Box 426, 170 Mile Creek Road  
Grand Portage, Minnesota 55605  
218-475-0123

PHOTO TITLE: Trade Beads - GRPO 350

DESCRIPTION: Ninety-three assorted trade beads strung together after being recovered during archeological surveys of the Grand Portage depot area in 1970. White pound beads are the dominant type depicted here, along with turquoise pound beads, a Dutch duelf, cane beads, and assorted others.

PHOTO TITLE: Venetian Fancy Bead - GRPO 356

DESCRIPTION: At least two examples of this rare style of wound bead were recovered during archeological investigations conducted at Grand Portage National Monument. This one here measures 2.1 cm long with a maximum diameter of 1.3 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Pigeon Egg Bead - GRPO 357

DESCRIPTION: Large opaque white bead known as "Pigeon Egg" measuring 2.8 cm long with a maximum diameter of 2.0 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Silver Bracelet - GRPO 4831

DESCRIPTION: Silver bracelet etched with lines and perforated at ends for cord attachment bearing the stamp "RC" for Robert Cruickshank. Born in England, Cruickshank immigrated first to Boston in 1767 and then moved to Montreal in 1773 where he remained as one of the city's most prolific silversmiths until his death in 1809.

PHOTO TITLE: Hawk Bell - GRPO 14419

DESCRIPTION: The 1797 inventory of goods present at the Grand Portage depot lists 1,584 hawk bells. Hawk bells were made from cupreous sheet metal formed into a dome shape and contained looped wire eyes for attachment to bags, pouches, clothing, etc. The example here has a maximum diameter of 1.5 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Cast White Metal Brooch - GRPO 14434

DESCRIPTION: Circular-shaped cast white metal brooch with stationary crossbar. The brooch has a diameter of 1.1 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Silver Alloy Annular Brooches - GRPO 14436

DESCRIPTION: Pair of circular-shaped silver alloy brooches with hinged crossbars. The brooches have an average diameter of 2.0 cm. The North West Company inventory of goods present at the Grand Portage depot in June 1797 records a total of 3,436 brooches, of which approximately two-thirds could be characterized as the style featured here.

PHOTO TITLE: Glass Pound Beads - GRPO 14564

DESCRIPTION: Archeological excavations at Grand Portage National Monument have recovered over 15,000 glass beads. Pound beads such as these featured here are the most common in the collection and the turquoise color is second in abundance only to white.

PHOTO TITLE: Black Trade Beads - GRPO 14564

DESCRIPTION: This assemblage of black colored glass beads contains three opaque pound beads and fifteen translucent cane beads.

PHOTO TITLE: Wound Barrel Bead - GRPO 14627

DESCRIPTION: This style of bead is formed by winding molten glass around a solid metal cylinder or wire (mandrel). This bead measures 0.9 cm long with a maximum diameter of 0.4 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Wound Barrel Beads - GRPO 14669

DESCRIPTION: Pair of black opaque mandrel wound barrel beads each measuring approximately 0.8 cm long with a maximum diameter of 0.4 cm

PHOTO TITLE: Hands and Heart Trade Ring - GRPO 14700

DESCRIPTION: Decorative "hands embracing heart" white metal ring with stamped medallion and welded band. The diameter of the ring is 1.7 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Brass Trade Ring - GRPO 14703

DESCRIPTION: Plain brass trade ring with crude markings scratched on interior face. The diameter of this ring is 1.9 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Brass Trade Ring with Glass Inset - GRPO 14709

DESCRIPTION: Cast brass band with single, plain circular-shaped bezel containing a faceted clear glass inset. The diameter of the ring is 1.9 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Brass Pendant with Glass Insets - GRPO 14710

DESCRIPTION: Decorative cast brass pendant with four turquoise faceted glass insets; three round insets in outer lobes, square inset at center. The pendant contains a wire suspension ring at the bottom on the back and a cupreous wire loop at the top.

PHOTO TITLE: Jesuit Style Ring - GRPO 14712

DESCRIPTION: Cast brass Jesuit style ring with "IM" engraved on the face of the object. Rings with identical markings like this one from Fort Charlotte have been excavated at Fort Michilimackinac and Fort St. Charles near Lake of the Woods and are found in contexts dating them to the first half of the eighteenth century.

PHOTO TITLE: Brass Trade Ring - GRPO 14718

DESCRIPTION: The 1797 inventory of goods present at the Grand Portage depot records the presence of 5,472 rings. The majority of those recovered during archeological excavations on monument grounds are plain brass trade rings like the one featured here. This ring has a diameter of 1.8 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Brass Trade Ring with Glass Insets - GRPO 14722

DESCRIPTION: Brass ring with central notched circular-shaped bezel containing faceted, clear glass inset. Six smaller round bezels contain translucent blue faceted insets, three on each side of the central clear glass. The diameter of the ring is 1.5 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Tinkling Cone - GRPO 14785

DESCRIPTION: Tinkling cone measuring 1.4 cm long, produced from cupreous sheet metal. The Ojibwe and other Native Peoples would frequently reuse materials from the trade for a purpose outside the scope of the original intended use, such as making jewelry from brass and copper kettle scrap.

PHOTO TITLE: Tinkling Cones GRPO 14787

DESCRIPTION: Pair of cupreous metal tinkling cones. The smaller one measures 1.5 cm long and has a maximum width of 0.4 cm, whereas the longer one measures 2.6 cm long and has a maximum width of 0.6 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Vermilion - GRPO 14819

DESCRIPTION: The 1797 inventory of goods present at the Grand Portage depot records the presence of over 106 pounds of vermilion. This pigment of mercuric sulfide was widely traded in the western Great Lakes region during the fur trade era as Native Peoples mixed the compound with grease to form a brilliant red makeup and dye.

PHOTO TITLE: Glass Pound Beads - GRPO 14967

DESCRIPTION: White pound beads represent the most common color and style of beads excavated at Grand Portage. Although glass beads came from several locations throughout Europe for the North American trade, the majority of beads were imported from the Venetian island of Murano in Italy.

PHOTO TITLE: Glass Pound Beads - GRPO 15002

DESCRIPTION: These beads were created by drawing a molten bubble of colored glass into a long tube that was broken into cylindrical pieces of varying lengths once cooled. The beads were then tumbled to remove the sharp ends and polish the edges.

PHOTO TITLE: Tinkling Cone - GRPO 16569

DESCRIPTION: Sheet brass tinkling cone measuring 2.7 cm long and 0.8 cm at its widest point. The sheet metal at the base of the cone is slightly incised.

PHOTO TITLE: Silver Moon - GRPO 16948

DESCRIPTION: Silver moon pendant produced by Montreal silversmith Narcisse Roy (active around 1785-1814) was excavated at the monument in 2003. A piece such as this would have been attached to the front of a shirt or worn around the neck on a strap, ribbon, or a string of beads, and likely worn in conjunction with other beads and silver pieces.

PHOTO TITLE: Jeweled Brooch - GRPO 17017

DESCRIPTION: Rectangular-shaped cast non-ferrous metal brooch with diamond-shaped, faceted amethyst colored inset over lattice work frame. Hinged pin on back of piece allows for attachment to garment. The brooch measures 6.3 cm long and 4.7 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Hair Pipe - GRPO 17606

DESCRIPTION: Partially closed non-ferrous metal hair pipe measuring 1.9 cm long, 1.5 cm wide, and a diameter of 1.8 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Pair of Jesuit Style Rings - GRPO 17626

DESCRIPTION: This unique item excavated on monument grounds in 2006 is a pair of cast brass Jesuit style rings bound with natural fiber. Both rings have eight-sided faces etched with lines.

PHOTO TITLE: Jesuit Style Ring - GRPO 17764

DESCRIPTION: Cast brass Jesuit style ring with etched cross-like marking on face. The diameter of the ring is 1.9 cm. This ring was excavated on monument grounds in 2008.

PHOTO TITLE: Jesuit Style Ring - GRPO 17765

DESCRIPTION: Cast brass Jesuit style ring with etched "IV" or "N" on face. Dotted marks appear on either side of the central letter on face, and etched oscillating lines appear above and below markings on face. The diameter of the ring is 2.1 cm. This ring was excavated on monument grounds in 2008.

PHOTO TITLE: Bracelet - GRPO 17776

DESCRIPTION: This unmarked, cylindrical C-shaped cupreous metal bracelet excavated on monuments grounds in 2008 is virtually identical to a piece that was found over forty years earlier during archeological excavations of the main depot area along Grand Portage Bay. Similar bracelets were also excavated at Fort Michilimackinac. The bracelet measures 7.3 cm long, 4.3 cm wide, and the tubing diameter is 0.5 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Silver Alloy Annular Brooch - GRPO 17809

DESCRIPTION: Excavated on monument grounds in 2008, this ring brooch with hinged crossbar has a diameter of 2.7 cm and is 0.1 cm thick.

PHOTO TITLE: Annular Brooch - GRPO 17811

DESCRIPTION: Non-ferrous metal circular brooch with sawtooth exterior edging, contiguous interior. Two holes are present for a pin to attach the brooch to a garment.

PHOTO TITLE: Silver Alloy Pendant - GRPO 17812

DESCRIPTION: Triangular-shaped silver alloy pendant with scalloped edging along bottom edge, hole at apex for suspension to another piece of silver, ring, cord, etc. Similar pendants were excavated at Fort Michilimackinac.