A000-Afr-Ghana-Millefiori Pearls-19th c



Afr-Ghana-Millefiori Pearls-19th

Ghana, Millefiori Pearls, 0.5  inches, 0.01 pounds, glass.

Case No.: 6

**Accession No.**

**Formal Label:** Afr-Ghana-Millefiori Pearls-19th

**Display Description:**

The trans-Saharan trade and exchange routes were an important aspect of Ghanaian trade beginning in the prehistoric period. It was through these networks that gold was exchanged and Islam entered into West Africa. Several terra cotta busts and heads of prominent people engaged in this trade document the presence of many non-Africans in Ghana beginning in the early Common Era. The Millefiori Pearls are another substantiation of this trade that came originally from Mediterranean seaports. These “pearls” exemplify the ancient Phoenician expertise in glass blowing that managed to survive on the Mediterranean seacoast. With the advent of the trans Saharan trade beginning with the expansion of Islam in 700 CE glass beads became an object of trade and adornment as well as being important status symbols. The European entrada in 1482 beginning with the Portuguese and continuing with the Bavarians, Danish and English, introduced European glass beads into the trade and exchange of these prized objects. However, the indigenous manufacture of beads continued throughout all of the foreign bead exchanges, shifting with new methods of manufacture and production. Today the Tamale students of the Cultural Center produce their own beads in accordance with the ancient practices handed down by the indigenous bead manufacturers.

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:**

**Geographical Area:**

**Map:**

**GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Media:**

**Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

References

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Stone beads from LSA sites on Kwahu escarpment, 300-2000 BC (p.29), quartx, porphyry, shell, bone beads, agricultural sites 2000-500 BC (p. 72).

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Granite beads from agricultural complex at Boyase Hill, near Kumasi, Kintampo Complex

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**LC Classification:**

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**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

**References:**

 