



Niku IIII



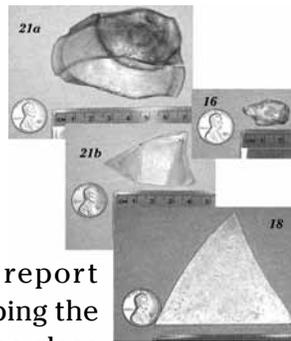
Post-Expedition Analysis Progress Report

Artifact Identification

For more photos and full descriptions of artifacts see TIGHAR Tracks November 2001, "Mysteries of the Seven Site" or Earhart Project Bulletin November 20, 2001 on the TIGHAR website at http://www.tighar.org/Projects/Earhart/Bulletins/11_20_01%20Bulletin/mysteriesbull.html.

Glass Objects

- 2-6-S-21a**
- 2-6-S-21b**
- 2-6-S-16**
- 2-6-S-18**

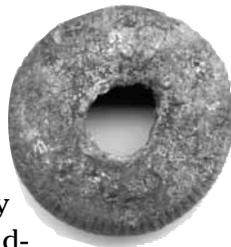


We now have a detailed report from Dr. Rob Jackson describing the physical characteristics of the glass artifacts. We're correlating that information with what we know about the island and the specific site at which the artifacts were found to determine what conclusions can be drawn about the probable origin and use of the artifacts. We'll publish a full report on the TIGHAR website and in an upcoming issue of *TIGHAR Tracks*.

The Knob

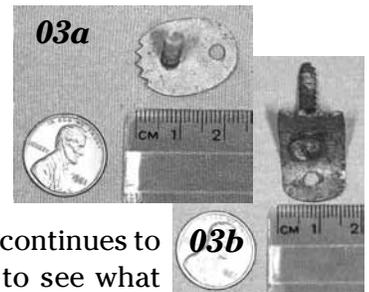
2-6-S-45

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) courtesy of the Non-Destructive Testing Laboratory at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland has determined that the metal knob has a high lead (Pb) content. Attempts to further decipher the very worn raised figures on its face have, so far, been unsuccessful but we haven't given up.



The Little Clips

- 2-6-S-03a**
- 2-6-S-03b**



Our suspicion that these were once associated with a sextant box continues to grow. The next step is to see what we can learn about the screws that are part of each artifact. They appear to be wood screws and made of brass. Detailed measurement of their dimensions and comparison to known specifications may tell us where and when they come from.

Faunal Material

Analysis of the various bird, fish, turtle, and shellfish remains collected at the Seven Site continues, with some interesting results. As Dr. Tom King reports:

Ten of the seventeen Tridacna (clams) from the cluster disassembled and brought back for analysis show evidence of being opened either by forcible prying at the hinge (two specimens) or siphon (two specimens), or by bashing with a rock or other heavy object (six specimens). None of these techniques is consistent with any indigenous Tridacna harvesting method of which we have been able to find record thus far. Prying at the hinge is consistent with the way oysters and some clams are typically opened in the United States and Europe. A pointed fragment of ferrous metal found about ten meters from the nearest Tridacna feature

fits neatly into the best preserved pry wound on one of the shells.

The second cluster of clam shells at the site was not collected but appears to be made up of slightly larger clams that do not exhibit this kind of damage. One interpretation might be that the person who harvested clams and brought them to the Seven Site was unfamiliar with how to deal with these tough-to-open Pacific clams and tried unsuccessfully to use a technique that was more appropriate for oysters and ended up just bashing them open, until s/he learned that if the clams are simply left alone for a while they open by themselves.

We're looking forward to detailed reports on the bird and fish bones, but we already know that we have one "mystery bone." We thought it was a turtle bone, but the turtle expert said no. Dr. Kar Burns says it's not a human bone but, so far, three top-notch zoöarchaeologists haven't been able to identify it either. We'll figure it out.



Tom King sketches a clam dump feature at the Seven Site. TIGHAR photo by R. Gillespie.

