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Millefiori Beads From The West African Trade (Beads From The West African Trade, Vol VI)



Synopsis

Trade beads (sometimes called aggy and slave beads) were otherwise decorative glass beads used between the 16th and 20th century as a token money to exchange for goods, services and slaves. Trade beads were used to exploit African resources by early Europeans. The beads traded were not of a set design, but were produced according to demand. Millefiori (thousand flower) beads from Venice, Italy were one of the most commonly traded beads, and are commonly known as 'African trade beads.' They were produced by creating flowers or stripes from glass canes, that were then cut and moulded onto a core of solid color. Beads such as the kiffa beads of Mauritania are thought to have resulted from women creating powdered glass beads to mimic the appearance of millefiori beads.

Book Information

Series: Beads from the West African Trade, Vol VI

Paperback: 7 pages

Publisher: Picard African Imports; First edition (March 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0962288411

ISBN-13: 978-0962288418

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,184,946 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Glass #608 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Jewelry & Beadwork > Beadwork #242857 in Books > Textbooks

Customer Reviews

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millefiori beads.

Highest recommendation.

This is actually the fourth in a series of books by John & Ruth Picard on antique trade beads. Essentially this volume is a 90-page descriptive catalog of Venitian Millifiore beads used for trade with Africa. Large format and measuring 8 1/2 by 11 inches (or 21.5 by 28 cm), One of the most attractive and obvious peatures is that every bead is pictured in color and if known, details of the manufacturing process are provided! The Picards open by describing how these beads were made and defining some of the terms used throughout. Millifiore means "Thousand Flowers" in the Italian language, and indeed many of these beads seem to boast floral patterns. ALso included is a helpful article by Jamey Allen, "A Short History of Millifiore Work".Each one of these beads is a mini work of art, truely lovely to behold. If you are lucky enough to have some of these little treasures, or simply have an interest in glasswork and history, you will probably enjoy leafing through this work. Happy Beading :)

This book offers a comprehensive insight in the colourful world of the many types beads used in the trade with West Africa. With about 3000 diffrent colour combinations of glass beads. A must for every collector of beads. And fun to recognise the collected beads.

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