

MUSEUM SHOWCASE

PRE-CONTACT NATIVE AMERICAN JEWELRY
FROM THE KENT FURNACE SITE¹

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The Kent Furnace Site in Kent, Connecticut is represented by clay, stone, and bone artifacts from the Philip Rabito Collection. Little else is known about the assemblage except that the Collection was donated to the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, Connecticut some years ago. It included several styles of bone beads: disc, tubular, and barrel-shaped. The assemblage also contained ground, round stone objects with drill holes that may also have functioned as beads (Figure 1).



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Figure 1. Stone beads (?) (left; right, third item in middle row), and bone beads (all other items on the right) from the Kent Furnace site, Kent, Connecticut (Courtesy of Lisa Piastuch-Temmen, IAIS).

Chert Levanna projectile points and clay rim sherds representing Late to Final Woodland pottery styles in the assemblage suggest that the beads may date these time periods. Figure 2 contains another photo of the beads, along with two Levanna points and rim sherds of the Late Woodland types Chance Incised and Deowongo Incised. The latter type is similar to Chance Incised except that the pots exhibit small punctates at the base of their collars.

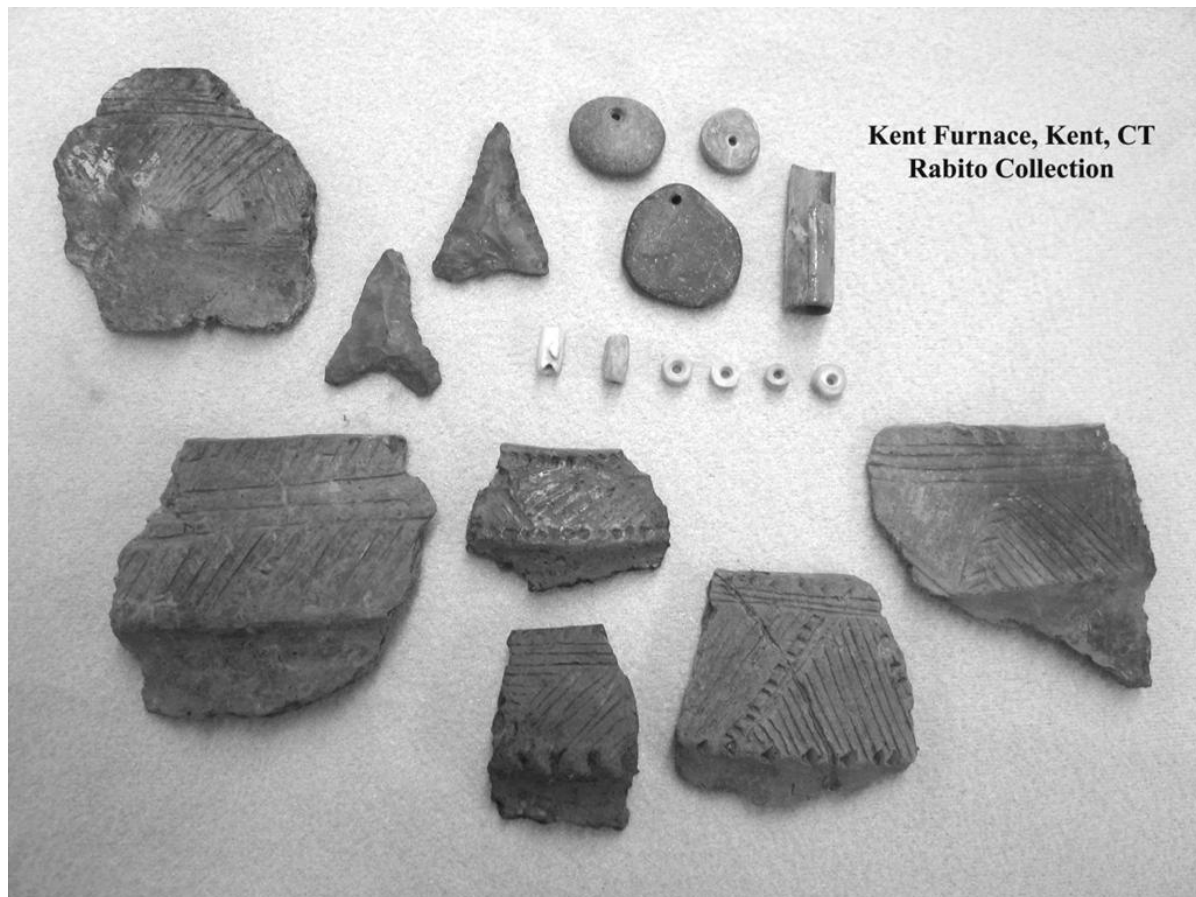


Figure 2. Chance Horizon pottery (i.e., types Chance Incised, Deowongo Incised), chert Levanna arrow points, & stone & bone beads from Kent, Connecticut (Courtesy of Lisa Piastuch-Temmen, IAIS).

Figure 3 shows some examples of Late Woodland to Contact period collared Garoga-like pottery and collarless Otstungo Notched pottery from the site (e.g., Lenig 1965; Ritchie 1980). Interestingly, these styles are typical eastern New York pottery types. They are quite different in design technique and motif from the Windsor pottery styles common to Long Island Sound and the lower Connecticut River Valley (Lavin 1987, 1998, 2002). They show that the Late Woodland inhabitants of Kent had close relationships with the Native American communities to their west and north.



Figure 3. Incised & punctated Late Woodland- contact period pottery from Kent, CT (Courtesy of Lisa Piastuch-Temmen, IAIS).

References Cited

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