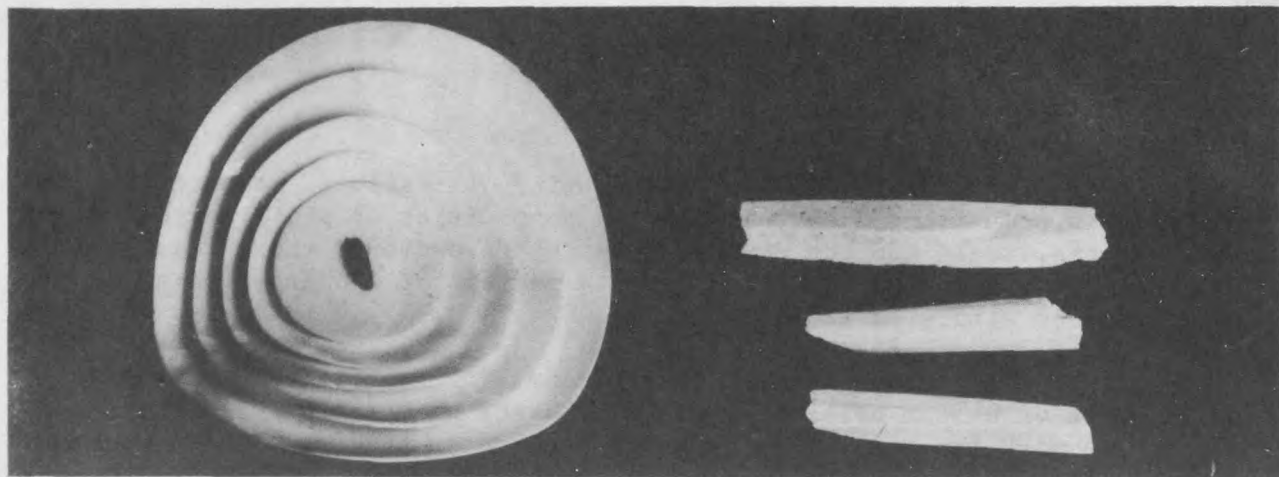


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with white flying dust as the shells were being ground. The shell pipes were made in six lengths, the longest being the most valuable. They were first cut from the fluted lip of the conch shell and ground smooth, sometimes by hand, sometimes by machinery. The delicate process of drilling a hole clear through the length of the pipes required skill and patience. A hundred pipes a day or ten strings of beads was considered a good day's work for a woman operator.



Moon and pipes, from Charles A. Philhower collection, New Jersey Historical Society, Newark

The moons were a particularly popular form of ornament. These were concave disks arranged according to size, the smaller being placed inside the larger with the shiny surface uppermost. They were strung together in sets of three to five on red worsted. The size of the moon brooch hanging on an Indian's breast was an indication of his wealth.

In the hands of the third generation of Campbells the methods of manufacture improved. They invented a machine for drilling through the length of the pipes, and also discovered that soaking in buttermilk made the shell less brittle. They perfected a baking process that removed the pinkish tinge from the conch shell and produced the pure white that the Indians most admired. In the late seventies, when trade with Indians began to decline and they were sent to the Black Hills reservation, the wampum business began to dwindle. The last was made about 1889.

Daniel, the last of the fourth generation of Campbells, who had started working in the wampum factory as a boy of 16, was still living on the old Campbell farm in 1923. All trace of the old factory has disappeared; but in the loft of the barn is the old drilling machine invented by James Campbell more than a hundred years ago. It has been presented to the Bergen County Historical Society.

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