



Figure 1: The map shows the main rivers and former pearling centres in Karelia and on the Kola peninsula in north-western Russia. Source: *The Journal of Gemmology*, 34(7), 2015, p. 585



Figure 2: This late 19th century kokoshnik is embroidered with small imitation pearls, together with larger Russian freshwater pearls, in sizes up to 7mm and off-round shapes. Courtesy of the Museum of History, Culture and Life of Tersky Pomors, Uмба. Photo by E. Strack



Figure 3: These earrings containing Russian freshwater pearls (5-6mm in diameter) are dated to the late 19th century. Courtesy of The Russian Museum of Ethnography, St. Petersburg. Photo by E. Strack



Figure 4: The figure shows three pearls from Varzuga River, dating from the 20th century.
From left to right: Barrel shape, 2.68 ct., 7.08 x 6.77 x 6.72mm
Drop shape, 1.28 ct., 10.96 x 4.82 x 4.40mm
Intergrowth of three pearls, 1.83 ct., 3.18mm/3.77mm/5.62mm each
Photos by E. Strack

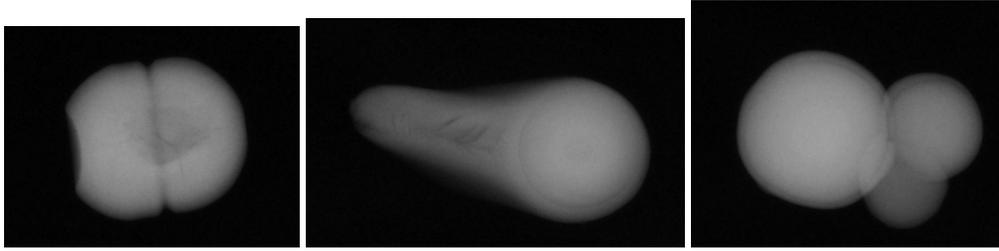


Figure 5: Radiographs of three pearls shown in Figure 4. They reveal irregular areas of organic substance that appear dark (left and centre pearl) and linear deposits of organic material just underneath the outer rim (bulb of centre pearl and triple pearls on the right).
Radiographs by E. Strack