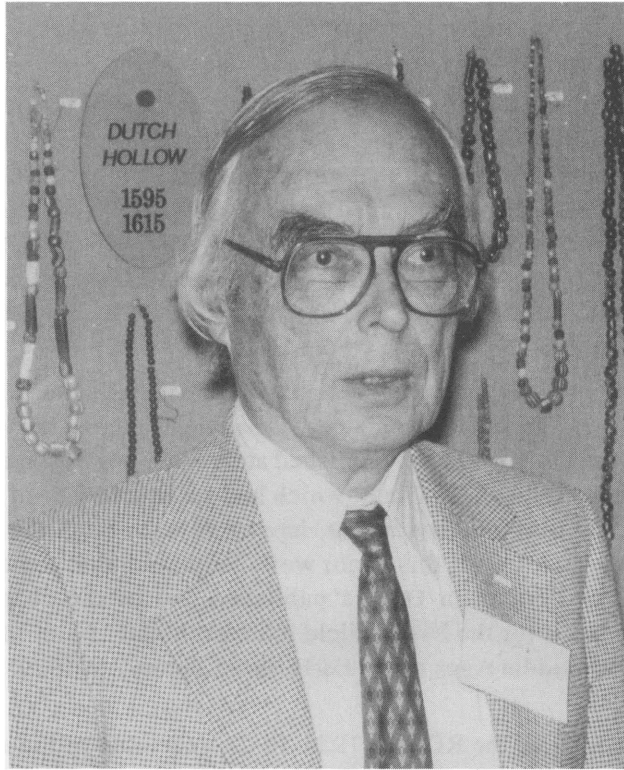


**IN MEMORIAM
KENNETH E. KIDD, 1906-1994**



Kenneth E. Kidd at the 1982 Glass Trade Bead Conference in Rochester, N.Y. (courtesy of the Rochester Museum and Science Center).

Pioneer bead researcher Kenneth Earl Kidd passed away peacefully in Peterborough, Ontario, on 26 February 1994, at the age of 87. He now rests with his ancestors in Cookstown, a small rural farm community in central Ontario.

Born 21 July 1906, in Barrie, Ontario, Ken grew up in Cookstown and went to public school there. He attended high school in Barrie, then studied English and History at Victoria College, University of Toronto, where he received his B.A. in 1931. A teaching certificate from the Ontario College of Education followed in 1932. He subsequently taught at the Brantford Collegiate and the Mohawk Institute in Brantford, Ontario.

In 1935, Ken joined the staff of the Department of Ethnology at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto. He continued his academic work the following year, conducting research among the Blackfoot Indians of Alberta for his thesis. He received an M.A. in Anthropology and History from the University of Toronto in

BEADS 5:3-8 (1993)

1937. Taking a leave of absence from the ROM, Ken participated in the University of New Mexico's summer field school at Chaco Canyon, his first taste of archaeology. He subsequently studied anthropology at the University of Chicago where he met his future wife, Martha Ann Maurer. He returned to the ROM in 1940, and married Martha three years later.

Ken undertook a ground-breaking project for the ROM in 1941: the archaeological investigation of Sainte-Marie I, a fortified French Jesuit mission site occupied from 1639 to 1649, near what is now Midland, Ontario. A first for Canada, this excavation pioneered field techniques and methodology in historical archaeology. Published in 1949, the resulting monograph, *The Excavation of Ste. Marie I*, remains one of the most comprehensive monographs on historical archaeology in Canada.

Ken's work in historical archaeology continued in 1947-1948, at the Ossossané Ossuary in Tiny Township, an important 17th-century Huron site which contained a large quantity of glass beads. Faced with the analysis of the recovered grave goods, Ken quickly found that very little had been written on European trade goods of the 16th to 19th centuries. Thus, in 1951, encouraged by Dr. Harcourt Brown, he successfully applied for a Guggenheim Fellowship which enabled him and Martha to begin what was to become their life-long research into North American trade goods, especially glass beads. In 1951 and 1952, they visited various institutions and private collections in the Northeast gathering relevant information. In 1956, they headed for Europe, conducting research at museums and archives in a number of key countries.

Beads had come to dominate the study by this time and Ken produced a substantial manuscript on "Glass Trade Beads in the Northeast: Their Technology, History, Classification and Archaeological Utility" in 1957. This was a truly pioneering work which, had it been published at the time, would have benefitted bead researchers immensely. As it was, The Corning Museum of Glass, which had sponsored part of the research, decided not to publish the volume. It then sat for a while, drying out, having gone through the major flood that inundated Corning, N.Y., in 1972. Realizing the value of this major work, but noting that some of the material was already dated, the National Historic Sites Service in Ottawa published two of the chapters in modified form: "A Classification System for Glass Beads for the Use of Field Archaeologists" (with Martha as co-author) in 1970, and "Glass Bead-Making from the Middle Ages to the Early 19th Century" in 1979. Both are now classics in the field.

Ken became Curator of Ethnology at the ROM in 1954. In the years that followed, he continued researching European trade goods, as well as overseeing many archaeological excavations and museum exhibitions. In addition, he also pioneered underwater archaeology in Canada, stimulated research on rock art of the Canadian Shield and initiated the ROM's Mayan archaeology program in Belize.

In 1964, Ken left the ROM to found and become chairman of the Department of Anthropology at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. He subsequently set up the Indian-Eskimo Studies Program at the university which is now the Department of Native Studies. During his term at Trent, Ken concentrated on historical archaeology and his course on that subject was another first for Canada. Although he "retired" from full-time teaching in 1973, he continued his involvement with students maintaining an office, teaching part-time and encouraging Native students to pursue academic careers with an emphasis on history and Native studies.

During his years at Trent University, Ken maintained a keen interest in historical trade goods studies and continued to publish. In 1985, he donated his extensive glass bead collection to Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Midland with the hope that a repository of glass beads could be established there to further work on the subject.

In addition to his other activities, Ken was active in various archaeological organizations. He helped found the Ontario Archaeological Society in 1950, and was elected vice president of the Society for American Archaeology in 1957. He also served on the board of directors of the Society for Historical Archaeology from 1973 to 1975. He was an honorary life member of the Ontario Archaeological Society and the Society for American Archaeology, as well as the Society of Bead Researchers.

Ken's many achievements have been honored by numerous organizations and institutions. In 1970, he received the Cornplanter Medal from the Cayuga Museum of History and Art for his contributions to Native

studies, the first Canadian recipient. Both he and Martha were honored at the 1982 Glass Trade Bead Conference in Rochester for their pioneering research contributions over the years. This was followed in 1985 by the prestigious J.C. Harrington Medal in Historical Archaeology from the Society for Historical Archaeology. He is also a recipient of the Trent University Eminent Service Award and, in 1990, Ken and Martha were both awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws *Honoris Causa* by the university. In May of 1993, the Governor General of Canada presented Ken with the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada.

Ken is survived by his wife Martha and a circle of close friends and relatives. He will be missed as a leader and innovator in the field of historical archaeology in Canada. Just one of his many contributions in that field is the classification system for glass beads, a work still popular and in use today. In fact, it has become so entrenched among researchers in eastern North America that it has already been reprinted twice: first as an appendix to the "Proceedings of the 1982 Glass Trade Bead Conference" in 1983, and subsequently in part in Gary Fogelman's "Glass Trade Beads in the Northeast" in 1991.

Kenneth Kidd helped and inspired many people during his lengthy and illustrious career, and his accomplishments are surpassed by few. His high standards are something we should all strive to match. Let us all raise a glass and wish him a fond farewell.

Jamie Hunter and Karlis Karklins

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(Ed. note: The above bibliography lists all of Kenneth Kidd's published works but only those of his manuscript reports and conference papers that deal with beads. A full bibliography will be published in Vol. 29, No. 1 [1995] of *Historical Archaeology*).