

**IN MEMORIAM:
RODERICK SPRAGUE, 1933-2012**



An archaeologist, educator, and a pioneer in North American trade bead research, Dr. Roderick Sprague passed away in Moscow, Idaho, on 20 August 2012. A staunch supporter of the Society of Bead Researchers, he served as its president from 2004 to 2007, and chaired the Editorial Advisory Committee for a good number of years as well. He also contributed a number of useful articles, news items, and reviews to both the Society's publications. His moral support and the useful comments and suggestions he made concerning these publications will be sorely missed.

Rick was born in Albany, Oregon, on 18 February 1933, and lived most of his life in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. He became interested in anthropology and ethnology at an early age and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in anthropology from Washington State University and received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Arizona after serving two years in the U. S. Army. He worked at Washington State University as a research archaeologist for three years before going to the University of Idaho in 1967 as an assistant professor of anthropology. Within a year and a half of his arrival he became chairman

of the Department of Sociology/Anthropology and Director of the Laboratory of Anthropology. When the two positions became too much for one person about a dozen years later, the two units were separated. Rick chose to remain as Director of the Laboratory of Anthropology but continued to teach anthropology part time including summer archaeological field schools. Over the years, Rick conducted field work in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Arizona, and as far away as Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Rick received both the University of Idaho Library Faculty Award for Outstanding Service and the Sigma Xi Published Research Paper Faculty Award in 1986. In 1996, he received the Phi Kappa Phi Distinguished Faculty Award for Research. In 2000, he received the J.C. Harrington Medal, the highest international award in historical archaeology followed by the Carol Ruppé Service Award in 2004, both given by the Society for Historical Archaeology. He remains the only member to ever receive both of these awards and the only member to serve two terms as president of the society.

While Rick's research interests were many, he was particularly fond of beads. It was while working on his Master's thesis that he first encountered these little baubles. Not knowing much about them, he sent off a sample to Arthur Woodward who was well versed in trade goods and pointed out their research potential. Rick subsequently began a lifelong study of beads with emphasis on those made using the Prosser process, one also used to produce buttons which were another of Rick's specialties. Teaching at Inner Mongolia University during a sabbatical in 1986-1987, Rick was able to conduct research into modern Chinese glass bead production and was one of the first to report on this now-thriving industry. Related to that interest, he and wife Linda assembled a nice collection of early 20th-century beaded Chinese sewing baskets which is now in The Historical Museum at St. Gertrude in Cottonwood, Idaho.

Finding we had kindred interests, Rick and I met at the Society for Historical Archaeology conference in Washington in 1971. This led to the publication of *A Bibliography of Glass Trade Beads in North America* which we co-authored. With typical generosity, he let me be the senior author to give my CV a boost. That is the kind of guy Rick was; thoughtful of others and willing to help them whenever possible. I also found this to be true when I attended the University of Idaho to complete my graduate studies in anthropology several years later. I learned a lot and was happy to prepare a supplement to our initial bead bibliography as part of Rick's historical archaeology course.

During his career, Rick published over 130 scientific papers and articles plus more than 100 unpublished reports to agencies specializing in historical archaeology, culture change theory, and artifact analysis. Editorial duties were a major part of his work load; not only the usual editing of lab reports and theses but also of several journals and serials. Most significant of these were 40 years as senior co-editor for the *Journal of Northwest Anthropology* (formerly *Northwest Anthropological Research Notes*) and as editor of *Anthropological Monographs of the University of Idaho*, plus 20 years as Review Editor for *Historical Archaeology* and 40 years as editor of *Anthropological Monographs of the University of Idaho*. He also edited 96 of the 98 issues of the *University of Idaho Anthropological Reports*.

Rick conducted research and burial excavations at the request of ten different American Indian tribal governments in the Plateau, Great Basin, and Northwest Coast with repatriation a standard procedure many years prior to the enactment of the federal Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act. Legal work for five different Northwest tribes and two tribes outside of the area involved testimony in 5th District Federal Court on five occasions, including

one case before the Supreme Court, as well as testimony before various state and federal legislative bodies.

After retirement, Rick continued to live in Moscow, Idaho, and was designated Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Director Emeritus of the Laboratory of Anthropology at the University of Idaho. He kept busy doing the research and writing he enjoyed so much, concentrating on bells, buttons, and beads. Other areas of interest included the history of anthropological research in the Northwest, especially historical archaeology, bibliographies, and a study of Rick's ethnographic father figure, James A. Teit. Rick's personal work in recent years also turned to doing more to support the tribal view on artifact repatriation with several court appearances in the Northwest and elsewhere. So that it would be of use to others, the extensive research library that Rick and Linda accumulated over the years (now The Roderick & Linda F. Sprague Research Library) was donated to the Fort Walla Walla Museum in Walla Walla, Washington.

Roderick Sprague has done much to advance historical archaeology and material culture research both as a researcher and an educator. During his long and distinguished career he was a mentor to many who have since gone on to careers in archaeology and material culture research. I am thankful that I can count myself among these individuals. I owe much to Rick and cherish his friendship which spanned four decades. We had many a good time together and I will very much miss not being able to have a beer and a good laugh with him once again. Where once there was a warm and caring soul now exists a sad void. Yet, all of us who mourn his passing can take solace in our memories of him and the legacy he left behind. You are very much missed, my dear old friend.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Publications

- 1959 A Comparative Cultural Analysis of an Indian Burial Site in Southeast Washington. Master's thesis, Washington State University, Pullman.
- 1964 Miscellaneous Columbia Plateau Burials. *Tebiwa* 13(1):1-32. With Walter H. Birkby.
- 1971a Addendum [beads]. In "A Bison Jump in the Upper Salmon River Valley of Eastern Idaho," by B. Robert Butler, pp. 4-32. *Tebiwa* 14(1).
- 1971b Review of "Canadian Historic Sites: Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History, No. 1." *Historical Archaeology* 5:128-129.
- 1972a Glass Trade Beads. In "The Archaeology of Pass Creek Valley, Waterton Lakes National Park," by Brian O.K.

- Reeves, pp. 252-253. National Historic Sites Service, *Manuscript Report Series* 61. Ottawa.
- 1972b Glass Trade Beads in North America: An Annotated Bibliography. *Historical Archaeology* 6:87-101. With Karlis Karklins.
- 1972c Mission San Antonio Glass Trade Beads. In "Excavations at Tes-haya," by Donald M. Howard. *Monterey County Archaeological Society Quarterly* 2(1).
- 1972d Nez Perce Grave Removal Project. *University of Idaho Anthropological Report Manuscript Series* 5. Moscow. With Michael J. Rodeffer and Stephanie H. Rodeffer.
- 1978 Nez Perce Grave Recovery, Lower Granite Dam Reservoir, 1973-1978. *University of Idaho Anthropological Report Manuscript Series* 47. Moscow.
- 1980a *A Bibliography of Glass Trade Beads in North America*. South Fork Press, Moscow. With Karlis Karklins.
- 1980b Ancestral Burial Relocations, Chief Joseph Dam, 1979. *University of Idaho Anthropological Reports* 63. Moscow. With Thomas M.J. Mulinski.
- 1982 Nez Perce National Historical Park Archaeological Excavations, 1979-1980: Part 1. *University of Idaho Anthropological Reports* 70. Moscow. With Karl Gurcke et al.
- 1983 Tile Bead Manufacturing. In "Proceedings of the 1982 Glass Trade Bead Conference," edited by Charles F. Hayes III, pp. 167-172. *Rochester Museum and Science Center, Research Records* 16.
- 1984 Glass Trade Beads. In "A Nineteenth Century Ute Burial from Northeastern Utah," by Richard Fike and Blaine Phillips, pp. 69-70. *Utah Bureau of Land Management, Cultural Resource Series* 16. Salt Lake City.
- 1985 Glass Trade Beads: A Progress Report. *Historical Archaeology* 19(2):87-105. Also in *Approaches to Material Culture Analysis for Historical Archaeologists*, compiled by David R. Brauner, 1991 and second edition, 2000.
- 1986 A Possible Prosser T-Hole Bead from Japan. *The Bead Forum* 8:10-11.
- 1987 *A Bibliography of Glass Trade Beads in North America – First Supplement*. Promontory Press, Ottawa. With Karlis Karklins.
- 1988a Bead Analysis. Appendix to "Further Testing at 45SA16, Skamania County, Washington," by Rick Minor, pp. 45-49. *Heritage Research Associates Report* 67. Eugene.
- 1988b Bead Analysis. Contribution to "Archaeological Testing at Ice House Lake," by Rick Minor, pp. 52-55. *Heritage Research Associates Report* 76. Eugene.
- 1988c More on Tile Beads. *The Bead Forum* 13:3-4.
- 1989a Archaeological Investigations at Lyon's Ferry State Park, on the Lower Snake River, Franklin County, Washington. Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, *Letter Report* 89-21. Moscow. With Robert Lee Sappington.
- 1989b The Fenstermaker Bead Collection, Spokane, Wash. *The Bead Forum* 14:6-8.
- 1989c Glass Trade Beads. Chapter 8 in "Curation Manual for the Archaeological Collection from 45SA11, North Bonneville, Washington," edited by Kathryn Anne Toepel, pp. 75-80. *Heritage Research Associates Report* 81. Eugene.
- 1989d Glass Trade Beads. In "An Overview of Investigations at 45SA11: Archaeology in the Columbia Gorge," by Rick Minor et al., pp. 156-158. *Heritage Research Associates Report* 83. Eugene.
- 1989e Review of "The History of Beads from 30,000 B.C. to the Present," by Lois Sherr Dubin. *Beads: Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers* 1:95-96.
- 1990 Observations on Problems in Researching the Contemporary Glass Bead Industry in Northern China. *Beads: Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers* 2:5-13. With An Jiayao.
- 1991a Bezuksewas Beads. Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, *Letter Report* 91-10. Moscow.
- 1991b Description of Glass Beads, 10-CW-4. In "Archaeological Investigations at the Clearwater Fish Hatchery Site (10-CW-4), North Fork of the Clearwater River, North Central Idaho," by Robert Lee Sappington, pp. 86-87. *University of Idaho Anthropological Reports* 91. Moscow.
- 1992a A 1937 Government View of Indian Beadworking Ability. *The Bead Forum* 22:11-13.
- 1992b Cape Creek Beads. In "Archaeology of the Cape Creek Shell Midden, Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, Central Oregon Coast: Interim Report of the 1991 Investigations," by Rick Minor, pp. 25-28, Eugene. Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, *Letter Report* 92-7. Moscow.
- 1992c Esselen Beads. Archaeological Consulting, Salinas, CA. Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, *Letter Report* 92-22. Moscow.
- 1992d Fort Rock Beads. University of Oregon, Eugene. Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, *Letter Report* 92-6. Moscow.
- 1992e Review of "Scientific Research in Early Chinese Glass," by Robert H. Brill and John Martin. *Beads: Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers* 4:69-72.
- 1992f Zion/Harris Beads. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Monterey. Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, *Letter Report* 92-5. Moscow.
- 1993a Clearwater Beads. Clearwater National Forest, Orofino. Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, *Letter Report* 93-10. Moscow.
- 1993b Metcalf Beads. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Eagle, CO. Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, *Letter Report*, No. 93-17. Moscow.
- 1994a A Note from 1887 on Glass Beadmaking. *The Bead Forum* 24:5-6.
- 1994b Bead Typology: The Development of a Concept. In "Pioneers in Historical Archaeology, Breaking New Ground," edited by Stanley South, pp. 85-100. Plenum Press, New York.

- 1994c Glass Bead Inventory. Appendix C to "An Assessment of Archaeological Resources within the Proposed Sahhalie Condominiums Project Area, Seaside, Clatsop County, Oregon," by Rick Minor, pp. 116-120. *Heritage Research Associates Report* 167. Eugene.
- 1995 Classification of Glass Beads. In "Archaeological Investigations for the Port of Siuslaw Norpal Street Project, Florence, Oregon," by Rick Minor, pp. 27-30, 65-82. *Heritage Research Associates Report* 182. Eugene.
- 2002 China or Prosser Button Identification and Dating. *Historical Archaeology* 36(2):111-127.
- 2004a Incised Dentalium Shell Beads in the Plateau Culture Area. *Beads: Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers* 16:51-68.
- 2004b Northwest Graduate Studies Concerning Beads. *The Bead Forum* 46:3-5.
- 2006 A Glass Bead Rattlesnake Bracelet. *The Bead Forum* 48:5-6.

Manuscripts

- 1963 Glass Beads. In "Highway Salvage Archaeology, Lava Beds National Monument: Final Report," by Benjamin K. Swartz, pp. 90-91. Report to National Park Service, Tucson.
- 1985 Historic Artifact Analysis. In "Phase II Testing of Four Sites on Cassimer Bar and Testing and Evaluation of Site 45 OK 74," compiled by Denise Carlevato, pp. 15, 18-20, 70. Report from Western Heritage, Inc., Olympia, to Douglas County Public Utility District, East Wenatchee, WA.
- 1998 Chilkoot Trail Beads, Site CT-126. In "449-SKG-148: A Pre-Stampede Rock Shelter on the Chilkoot Trail," by Jeff Rasic. Report to National Park Service, Skagway

from Department of Anthropology, Washington State University, Pullman.

Meeting Papers

- 1966 Toward a Chronology of Glass Trade Beads. 19th Annual Northwest Anthropological Conference, Banff, AB.
- 1969 A Suggested Standardization System for the Identification of Glass Trade Beads. 2nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Tucson.
- 1973 Molded Ceramic Beads. 26th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Anthropological Conference, La Grande, OR.
- 1982 Tile Bead Manufacturing. Paper presented at the First Glass Trade Bead Conference, Rochester Museum and Science Center.
- 1983 Glass Trade Beads from the 42-UN-1225 Burial. 16th Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Denver.
- 1986 Chinese Glass Trade Bead Research. 19th Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Sacramento.
- 1988 Recent Bead Research in Northern China. 21st Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Reno. With An Jiayao.
- 1992 The Chinese Glass Bead Trade. The Bead Trade in the Americas. 1st International Bead Conference, Santa Fe.
- 1993 The Description of Prosser Beads. The First Symposium of Glass Trade Beads. 26th Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Kansas City.
- 1994 Prosser Beads Through Time. The Second Symposium of Glass Trade Beads. 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Vancouver, BC.

Karlis Karklins