

BEADS: Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers

Volume 24 *Volume 24 (2012)*


Article 4

1-1-2012

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Repository Citation

Karklins, Karlis (2012). "In Memoriam: Roderick Sprague, 1933-2012." *BEADS: Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers* 24: 3-6. Available at: <https://surface.syr.edu/beads/vol24/iss1/4>

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**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.

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