



# THE BEAD FORUM

Newsletter of the Society of Bead Researchers

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## SOCIETY NEWS

### Results for the Election of Secretary / Treasurer

Dr. Jeffery M. Mitchem has won the election for the Secretary/Treasurer office. Our sincere congratulations and a large bottle of Roloids go out to him.

**A Message from the SBR Secretary-Treasurer:** In Number 42 of *The Bead Forum*, I had indicated that the 2002 Treasurer's Report would be published in this issue. When I compiled the expenses and revenues, I found that there was a discrepancy between what the records showed and what was in our bank accounts. Investigation by SBR Editor Karlis Karklins and myself indicates that the problem probably dates from 2001, when the report reflected different balances due to some SBR checks being written in 2001 but not cashed until 2002.

I want to stress that there is no indication of foul play or embezzlement! The errors are in our favor, suggesting that we should have less money than what the banks say. To straighten this out, I am going to go through the 2001 financial records carefully to see if I can find where the error occurred. This will be done this summer (2004). Part of the difficulty is that 2001 was when we were in the process of changing Secretary-Treasurers, so the records are from more than one person. If necessary, we will hire a Certified Public Accountant to analyze the records. Once the numbers are straightened out, the reports will be published in *The Bead Forum*.

To reassure the members of our financial health, here are the balances in each of our accounts since December 31, 2001:

#### Wells Fargo Business Market Rate Account

Balance Dec. 31, 2001: \$16,043.69

Account closed April, 2002: Funds transferred to Citizens Bank & Trust Company account.

#### Centennial Bank Business Checking Account

Balance Dec. 31, 2001: \$4,163.42

Account closed March, 2002: Funds transferred to Citizens Bank & Trust Company account.

#### TD/Central Trust Canadian Dollar Checking Account (used by Editor Karklins)

Balance (US\$ equivalent) Dec. 31, 2001: \$7,249.93

Balance (US\$ equivalent) Dec. 31, 2002: \$1,080.82

Balance (US\$ equivalent) Dec. 31, 2003: \$1,059.56

Citizens Bank & Trust Company Money Market Checking Account (opened March, 2002)

Balance Dec. 31, 2002: \$22,219.34

Account closed June, 2003: Funds transferred to First State Bank.

First State Bank Checking Account (opened April, 2003)

Balance Dec. 31, 2003: \$19,371.37

Balance May 1, 2004: \$22,441.26

Wells Fargo Money Market Fund-Class A

Balance Dec. 31, 2001: \$15,987.43

Balance Dec. 31, 2002: \$16,173.30

Balance Dec. 31, 2003: \$16,252.48

Balance March 31, 2004: \$16,267.55

From the above, you can see that we have approximately \$39,768.37 in our three existing accounts. SBR remains in a financially healthy state. Current membership records are kept up to date, with a computerized database that allows efficient printing of mailing labels for sending out publications.

We will publish the detailed Treasurer's Reports once we have the correct information.

----Jeffrey M. Mitchem, SBR Secretary-Treasurer

### **Election for the office of SBR President**

The last issue of the newsletter contained a call for nominations for Society President. The only nomination received has been for Dr. Roderick Sprague. Rick Sprague is Professor Emeritus at the University of Idaho. He has published several major works on beads and is a long time member of the SBR. The ballot for the election is enclosed with this copy of the newsletter and does include provisions for write-in candidates.

### **Subscription Notice**

Please look at your mailing label--unless it says "04" somewhere on the top line this is the LAST issue of *The Bead Forum* you will receive!

### **Notice of SBR Annual Business Meeting - 2004**

The annual business meeting will take place concurrently with the Society for Historical Archaeology meetings, January 6-11, at the Union Station Hyatt Regency in St. Louis, Missouri. The time and room will be announced later.

## **OTHER BEAD RELATED NEWS**

The Victorian Bead Society is planning a Bead Symposium (official title?) to be held in Melbourne, Australia on June 12-14, 2004 (Queen's Birthday Weekend -- Monday is a public holiday). Will be program & bead sales. There will also be workshops on various topics (beadwork, glass beadmaking, precious metal clay (PMC)) on the weekdays preceding.

Vikings Beads. A CD Rom with almost 200 Viking Beads from the Island of Gotland, Sweden. A short description of the contents and how to order is in on the web pages at: <http://www16.aname.net/~arkeodok/CDindex.html>

### **Requests For Information**

"The Mysterious Whitney Farm." The site is a nineteenth century farm located on a bluff that looks down over a beaver meadow and a sixteenth century St. Lawrence Iroquois Village.

However, in going through the contractor's collections (from excavating with a grader and backhoe in the 1980s), we have discovered Bohemian glass trade beads including one shaped like a rattlesnake head. Please contact: Dr. Laurie Rush, Cultural Resources Manager, 85 First Street West, Fort Drum, NY 13602-5097

Phone: 315-772-4165

Fax 315-772-8050

[rushl@drum.army.mil](mailto:rushl@drum.army.mil)



Stringed Things: I am a post-graduate student studying at the University of Tasmania. My thesis topic is: Stringed Things used to link the 'material' world with the 'immaterial' one. More specifically, I am examining historical and contemporary threaded beads/talismans/amulets used for protection, prayer and sacred/ceremonial purposes and influences on contemporary art practice.

I am interested in examining the diversities and the commonalities in the development of such objects by structured established 'religions' and indigenous peoples.

I am interested in the origin of prayer strands and their use by believers today. I am also interested in how other groups use these stringed things for secular reasons, such as David Beckham wearing rosaries as jewellery. I am also interested in how artists use meanings from these objects in their artwork.

There seems to be a renewed interest in 'stringed things' today and sometimes their meanings and use is affected by popular culture which often is not well-informed but attracted by the inherent power or these objects.

Unpublished material is of interest and contemporary sources in particular. Looking forward to replies. Please respond via e-mail: [tmulford@postoffice.utas.edu.au](mailto:tmulford@postoffice.utas.edu.au)  
Thank you, Therese Mulford

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Arnold, Jeanne E., and Diana Rachal

2002 The Value of Pismo Clam Tube Beads in California: Experiments in Drilling. *NORTH AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGIST* 23(3):187-207.

Illustrated study of experiments in drilling and other technological aspects of aboriginal production of shell beads along the Pacific coast of California.

Bellina, Be're'nice

2003 Beads, Social Change and Interaction Between India and South-East Asia. *ANTIQUITY* 77(296):285-297.

Agate and carnelian beads are used to examine early exchange between India and southeast Asia. Includes drawings, photographs, and microscopic views of bead surfaces.

Billeck, William T., and Chad Badorek

2003 Glass Trade Beads from Fort Clark Trading Post and Primeau's Post. In: *Archeological Investigations at Fort Clark State Historic Site North Dakota: 1973-2003 Studies at the Fort Clark and Primeau Trading Posts*, edited by Hunt, William J, Jr., pp.349-393. Report Prepared by the PaleoCultural Research Group, Flagstaff, Arizona, for the State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck.

This report describes 6,986 glass beads for the Fort Clark trading post and 2,174 glass beads from the Primeau trading post on the Missouri River in North Dakota. The two posts are located about 150 m apart and were adjacent the a Mandan (circa 1822-1838) and later Arikara (1838-1861) earthlodge village. The Fort Clark post of the American Fur Company was established circa 1830 and abandoned in 1860. The Primeau post was a competitor of the American Fur Company and was established in circa 1850 by Charles Primeau and abandoned in 1861.

The bead assemblages consist of 39 varieties of drawn beads, 24 varieties of wound beads, two varieties of mold pressed beads, and one variety of possibly Native American-made glass beads. The post assemblages differ significantly in the percentage of dominant bead color and in the incidence of large beads.

Large beads are about nine times more common at Fort Clark than at the Primeau post, may relate to differences in post wealth. While the Fort Clark post has 50% white beads and 31% blue beads, the Primeau post has 28% white and 48% blue beads. These differences are primarily in the color of small drawn beads and demonstrate that nearby, fairly contemporary posts, can have significant differences in bead inventories.

Kaehler, Gretchen Anne

2002 Patterns in Glass: The Interpretation of European Glass Trade Beads from Two Protohistoric Sites in the Greater Lower Columbia Region. MA thesis in Anthropology, Portland State University, Portland, OR. PSU library – LD4349.A85 2002.K34

Wright, Katherine, and Andrew Garrard

2003 Social Identities and the Expansion of Stone Bead-Making in Neolithic Western Asia: New Evidence from Jordan. *ANTIQUITY* 77(296):267-284.

Study of stone beads and pendants from bead workshops at Neolithic sites in the Jilat-Azraq Basin of Jordan. Includes drawings and color photographs. Data on production and exchange are also presented.

The Society is a non-profit corporation, founded in 1981 to foster research on beads of all materials and periods, and to expedite the dissemination of the resultant knowledge. Membership is open to all persons involved in the study of beads, as well as those interested in keeping abreast of current trends in bead research. The society published a biannual newsletter, *The Bead Forum*, and an annual journal, *Beads*. The society website is: <http://www.mindspring.com/~larinc/sbr/index/index.htm>.

Contents of the newsletter include current research news, requests for information, responses to queries, listings of recent publications, conference and symposia announcements, and brief articles on various aspects of bead research. Both historical and pre-historical materials are appropriate. The deadline for submissions to the next *Bead Forum* is 15 March 2004. Electronic submissions should be in Word for Windows 6.0 or later, or RTF (Rich Text Format) with no embedded sub-programs such as "End Notes". References cited should be in *American Antiquity* format.

Send electronic or paper submissions to the *Forum* editor:

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