



THE BEAD FORUM

Newsletter of the Society of Bead Researchers

MICHAEL A. PFEIFFER, Editor

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SOCIETY NEWS

New President for the Society of Bead Researchers

We are happy to announce that Dr. Roderick (Rick) Sprague has won the election for the office of SBR President. Rick is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Idaho, Moscow. He is a founding member of the SBR and has an even longer history in bead research and publications. He is a widely respected historical archaeologist who has won numerous honors from the Society for Historical Archaeology. He is also the main editor for the *Journal of Northwest Anthropology* (formerly *Northwest Anthropological Research Notes*).

Two important messages from the Secretary-Treasurer: First, you will see that there is a 2005 membership form enclosed with this issue of *The Bead Forum*. **Please take the time to check your mailing label.** The top line should have some numbers on it (if there are just letters, you are an exchange or gratis institution and should disregard this message). If it doesn't have "05" included on the top line, you need to pay 2005 dues or this will be the last issue of *The Bead Forum* you will receive.

And now for the second message: **THE SBR NOW ACCEPTS PAYMENTS VIA PAYPAL!** We have set up an account with PayPal™ that will allow you to pay for memberships, publications, or donations by credit card or check through their website. Although they will accept payments in US dollars, Canadian dollars, Euros, Pounds Sterling, and Yen, we require that all funds sent to SBR must be as US dollars. If you have questions, please contact me via email [jeffmitchem@juno.com].

We hope that the ability to accept credit card payments will increase memberships and sales both from North America and other parts of the world. A link to the PayPal™ site will be added on our website soon. In the meantime, you can go to <http://www.paypal.com> and follow the directions for paying by clicking on "Send Money." The email address to use for SBR orders on PayPal™ is: jmitchem1@yahoo.com. Be sure to make it clear what you are ordering or what membership year you are paying for.

And now for the bad news. PayPal™ charges us for this service, so we have to ask you to **add 4%** to the total of your order or membership (including postage charges, if any, in the

total) when paying through them. We have to pass this modest cost on in order to keep from losing money. The convenience and lower cost of currency exchange should be worth it in most cases.

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

DONATIONS, BENEFACTORS, AND GRANTS—THANK YOU!

The Society of Bead Researchers gratefully acknowledges donations in 2004 from Joan Eppen, Donna Garaventa, and The Bead Society. We are also grateful for memberships at the Benefactor level from Recursos de Santa Fe, Joan Eppen, and The Bead Society. Thanks are also due to the Northwest Bead Society for a grant to help defray expenses associated with publication of color plates in *BEADS*. Thank you all for your support!

OTHER BEAD RELATED NEWS

FIRST INTERNATIONAL JET CONFERENCE

The 1st Jornadas Internacionales sobre el Azabache was held from May 7 through 9, 2004, in Villaviciosa, Spain. Organized by Spanish jet researcher Valentín Monte Carreño and the Asociación para el Desarrollo de la Tradición del Azabache en Asturias, the conference brought together jet artisans and researchers from Spain, Great Britain, and the United States. Jet is a type of coal that is fossilized from a specific tree. It can be carved and polished to produce beautiful black jewelry, beads, and other decorative objects.

The conference featured a number of formal presentations, along with demonstrations by artisans and a field trip to several of the abandoned jet mines in the Asturias region of northern Spain. The first day's presentations reported on a number of scientific analyses of jet and its sources, as well as an archaeological discussion of the jet mines in the Asturias region and the conditions in which the miners worked. The second day included an illustrated discussion of the British (Whitby) jet industry, especially the items produced during the Victorian era. Another presentation featured jet artifacts exported from Spain to the New World, with a focus on those recovered from Spanish colonial archaeological sites in the southeastern United States. The third day included a discussion of jet objects associated with La Ruta Jacobea (the Santiago religious pilgrimage) and other religious uses of jet in Spain. This was followed by an overview of jet and its popular uses in various parts of the New World. The morning of the third day was devoted to a field trip to several of the abandoned mines, where participants not only were able to see the mines and appreciate the difficult conditions in which miners worked, but were also allowed to collect pieces of jet from the tailings.

On the mornings of the first two days, several artisans demonstrated jet working, making beads, jewelry, and elaborate carvings. Ramón Requeixo Rebón, a master jet artisan from Santiago de Compostela, carved exquisite, detailed religious plaques, higa pendants, and other objects. Hal Redvers-Jones, jet artisan from Whitby (Yorkshire), made earrings and pendants

of Whitby jet, both copies of Victorian pieces and other designs. Several other artisans brought jet beads, jewelry, and other items for display and sale.

A special treat for me was the opportunity to closely watch one of the last traditional jet artisans make several beads and pendants using tools and methods handed down by families of Spanish artisans. Faustino Solares Ordieres drilled beads using a bow drill with a metal bit made from an umbrella spoke. Experience has shown that these spokes are perfect for this task. It was a valuable experience to be able to watch and photograph the process of manufacture, as well as ask questions of the artisans. Many of the beads and pendants they made were exact duplicates of objects that have been excavated from seventeenth-century Spanish mission sites in Florida.

The conference was supported by the governments of Villaviciosa and Asturias, the Ministerio de Economía of Spain, and the European Union. Additional conferences are planned for the future.

-----Submitted by Jeffrey M. Mitchem

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Petersen, James B., Malinda Blustain, and James W. Bradley

2004 "Mawooshen" Revisited: Two Native American Contact Period Sites on the Central Maine Coast. *Archaeology of Eastern North America* 32:1-71.

Includes black-and-white illustrations, detailed descriptions and measurements, and discussion of beads of shell, metal (copper/brass), and glass from the Sandy Point and Walker's Point sites on the coast of Maine in northeastern North America.

Veit, Richard, Gregory D. Lattanzi, and Charles A. Bello

2004 More Precious than Gold: A Preliminary Study of the Varieties and Distribution of Pre-Contact Copper Artifacts in New Jersey. *Archaeology of Eastern North America* 32:73-88.

Illustrates and discusses copper beads from several sites in the state of New Jersey.

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 publishes a biannual newsletter, *The Bead Forum*, and an annual journal, *Beads*. Tables of Contents for BEADS and ordering information can be found at the SBR website:

<http://sbrwebsite.home.comcast.net/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 February 2005. 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:

Smoke (Michael A.) Pfeiffer
Society of Bead Researchers
845 Cagle Rock Road
Russellville, Arkansas 72802

(479) 968-2354 Ext. 233

mpfeiffer@fs.fed.us or buffalohead@gmail.com

fax: 479-964-7518

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