

**Ripley Pierce Bullen**  
**1902-1976**  
**A Memoir**  
**By Alfredo E. Figueredo**

The archaeological community in the Caribbean recently suffered a great loss with the death of Ripley P. Bullen on 25 December 1976. For almost two decades, Dr. Bullen had been active in the study of West Indian prehistory, and was among the founders of the International Association of Caribbean Archaeologists.

Born 21 September 1902 in Winthrop, Massachusetts, Rip (as he was known by his friends) spent part of his childhood in Schenectady, New York. He studied at Cornell University, earning a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering (1925). Bullen worked for the General Electric Co. for 15 years, all the while developing an increasing interest in prehistory and serious research. In 1940, he joined the Robert S. Peabody Foundation for Archaeology, and soon afterward began taking graduate courses in anthropology at Harvard University.

Bullen became an assistant archaeologist with the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials in 1948, entering the Florida State Museum in 1952 as its first Curator of Social Sciences. After an important career in the U.S. Southeast (he has been referred to as 'the dean of Florida archaeology'), Rip cultivated an interest in the Caribbean.

Field work sponsored by the William L. Bryant Foundation and the National Park Service in St. John and St. Thomas during 1959-1960 gave him the opportunity to visit the Virgin Islands in a professional capacity, and in 1960 Bullen participated in the surveys and excavations that were to lead to an important series of articles and monographs on our local prehistory. His Virgin Islands bibliography is appended to this Memoir.

Besides reporting his own collections, Ripley P. Bullen performed an inestimable service to Virgin Islands archaeologists by photographing, analyzing, and publishing some of the material from the Dano-Dutch Archaeological Expedition to the West Indies of 1922-1923, long stored in Copenhagen. In his papers on Krum Bay and the ceramic sequence of the central Virgins can be appreciated an eye for detail and concern for meticulous analysis that earned him a well-deserved reputation as a veritable encyclopaedia of cultural data. At the various congresses or even by mail, Rip was one of our most valued works of reference.

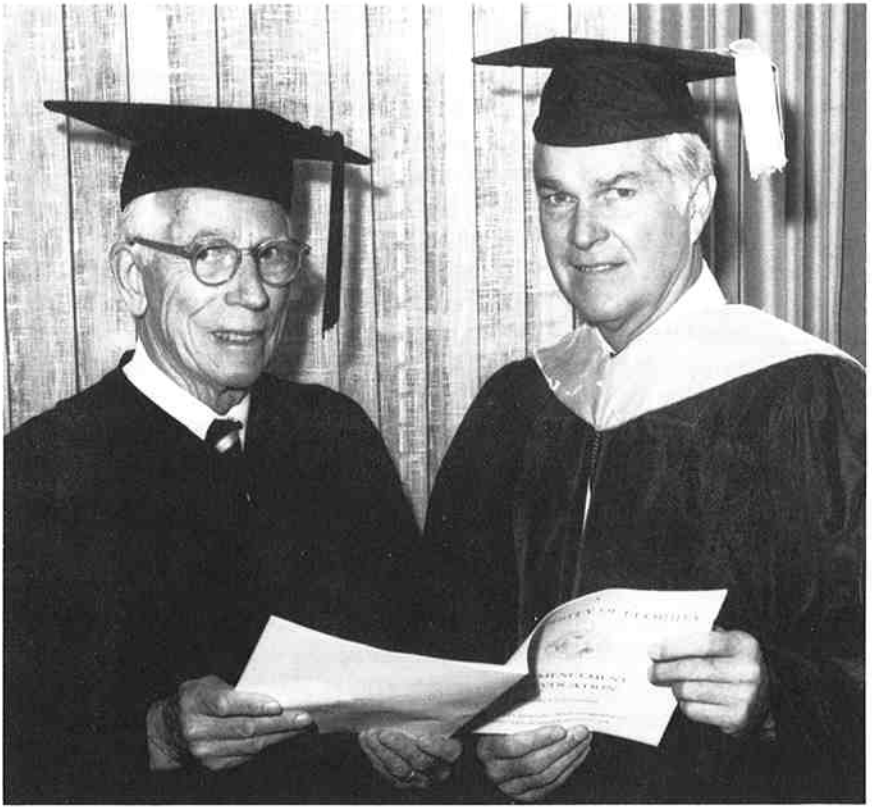
Chairman of the Department of Social Sciences, Florida State Museum, for 17 years before his retirement in 1973, he then became Curator Emeritus at that institution, which established the Bullen Medal (for outstanding anthropology students) in his honor. Bullen will be remembered as editor of many publications, among them *The Florida Anthropologist* and the *Pro-*

ceedings of the second through the sixth International Congresses for the study of Pre-Columbian Cultures of the Lesser Antilles.

Nine months before his death, the University of Florida awarded him a Doctor of Science degree recognizing his many contributions to various archaeological disciplines. He has left us a legacy of energy and enthusiasm which will be hard to match, as is evident in his many methodic and timely publications. Ripley P. Bullen is survived by his wife Adelaide (a distinguished anthropologist in her own right), two sons and four grandchildren.

### Virgin Islands Bibliography

- 1962a The Preceramic Krum Bay Site, Virgin Islands, and its Relationship to the Peopling of the Caribbean. *Akten des 34. Internationalen Amerikanistenkongresses (Wien, 18. bis 25. Juli 1960)*, pp. 398-403. [23.3 cm.]
- 1962b Ceramic Periods of St. Thomas and St. John Islands, Virgin Islands. The William L. Bryant Foundation: *American Studies*, Report Number Four. (4), map, 1-74 p. [22.8 cm.]
- 1964 Krum Bay, A Preceramic Workshop in the Virgin Islands/Krum Bay, un atelier préceramique aux Iles Vierges. *First international Convention for the Study of pre-Columbian culture in the Lesser Antilles (Fort-de-France, July 3-7, 1961)*, Part II, pp. [107]-126. [26.1 cm.]
- 1973a Petroglyphs of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. *Proceedings of the Fourth International Congress for the Study of Pre-Columbian Cultures of the Lesser Antilles (Reduit Beach, St. Lucia, July 26-30, 1971)*, pp. 13-16. [27.4 cm.]
- 1973b Krum Bay, A Preceramic Workshop on St. Thomas. *Proceedings of the Fourth International Congress for the Study of Pre-Columbian Cultures of the Lesser Antilles (Reduit Beach, St. Lucia, July 26-30, 1971)*, pp. 110-114. [27.4 cm.]
- and in collaboration with Frederick W. Sleight:*
- 1963 The Krum Bay Site. A Preceramic Site on St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands. The William L. Bryant Foundation: *American Studies*, Report Number Five. [i]-iii, 1-46 (2) p. [22.5 cm.]



**Ripley P. Bullen awarded honorary Doctor of Science degree by the University of Florida.  
Shown with President Robert Q. Marston (right).**