

## ROBERT RANDOLPH HOWARD, 1920–1965

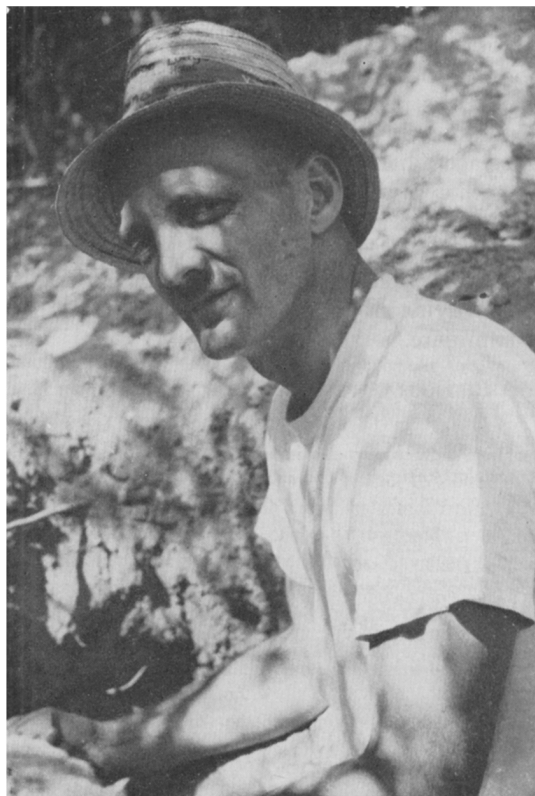
IRVING ROUSE

A sudden heart attack ended the life of Robert R. Howard on July 25, 1965. He died in his sleep at age 44, without previous warning, soon after returning from a long-anticipated vacation trip to Europe.

Howard was born on December 6, 1920, in Missoula, the seat of Montana State University, where his father was professor of Chemistry. He attended the local schools and Montana State University, obtaining his B.A. with honors in 1942. Military service during World War II took him to Japan and Korea, after which he entered the Yale Graduate School, where he specialized in Caribbean archaeology. He undertook an archaeological survey of Jamaica during the summers of 1947 and 1948, contracting a virulent form of malaria which nearly killed him when his doctors were slow to diagnose it. He received the Ph.D. from Yale University in 1950 with a dissertation entitled "The Archaeology of Jamaica and Its Position in Circum-Caribbean Culture," which he subsequently summarized as an article in *American Antiquity*.

During the first part of his professional career he concentrated on teaching, moving from the University of Connecticut to St. Lawrence University, the University of Colorado, and finally the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he held the rank of Associate Professor of Anthropology at the time of his death. He helped create a new Department of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was its first Chairman from 1961 through 1964. He initiated many new courses and became known as a lucid and inspiring teacher. He was also successful in popularizing Anthropology; in 1957 he aroused so much interest with a series of 36 lectures on "The Indians of North America" over the Wisconsin State Radio Network that he was asked to repeat them the following year.

In 1958 he resumed his research on Caribbean archaeology with another trip to Jamaica, and he returned to that island again in 1961, 1963, and 1964, with the aid of grants from the National Science Foundation, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, the University of Wisconsin Graduate School, and other sources. In January, 1959, the Institute of Jamaica named him Honorary Collaborator in



ROBERT R. HOWARD

Archaeology. Working with the Institute, he developed a national museum at the White Marl site and established there a permanent field station, to which he brought his students for training and research in archaeology. All this is memorialized by an inscription in the White Marl museum, which was erected through popular subscription and dedicated on July 30, 1966, by the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Institute of Jamaica and the Deputy Chief of Mission, United States embassy.

Howard was a Fellow of the American Anthropological Association and held memberships in the Society for American Archaeology, the Wisconsin Archaeological Association, and the Central States Anthropological Association. He served as Caribbean Editor of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* and as Assistant Editor of *American Antiquity* for Caribbean research.

Before Howard, archaeological activity in Jamaica had been virtually limited to the collection of artifacts. He introduced modern techniques, including stratigraphy and radiocarbon dating, and was well on his way towards working out a complete sequence of Indian occupations for the island at the time of his death. This research is being continued by his former student Ronald Vanderwal and has now reached the stage where Jamaica is becoming one of the best known islands in the Caribbean, archaeologically speaking. It is unfortunate that he died before he was able to complete his program of research and to publish the results of the current activity in Jamaica which he did so much to stimulate.

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