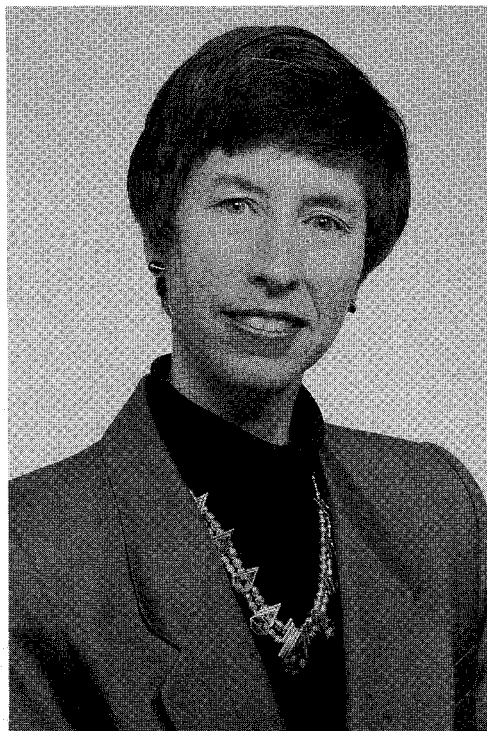


Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award
STEPHANIE HOLSCHLAG RODEFFER



When I was asked to be the presenter of the 1994 Society for Historical Archaeology Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Stephanie Rodeffer, I was both flattered and emotional. Emotional because, in various university classes I teach, I have for years used Tef Rodeffer as a role model of a highly successful career professional. I have frequently outlined for both women and men in those classes how Tef exemplifies, in the late 20th century, how women can be highly successful professionally yet give freely of their time to organizations in which they strongly believe and be a spouse in a warm and sharing marriage.

When I attended my first SHA board meeting in April 1978 it was my impression that Tef had been Secretary-Treasurer for several years. She seemed to know everything there was to know about the Society, and the Board members deferred to her for a variety of information. It was not until some months later that I realized she had assumed her position only several months before that April meeting.

Clearly from the moment Tef assumed the Secretary-Treasurer office she immersed herself in the affairs of the SHA and has never looked back. It is largely because of her diligence, understanding of fiscal matters, administrative talent, and ability to work effectively with persons of all personalities that the SHA has matured into one of the two most powerful scholarly archaeological societies in America. It is certainly no accident that the Society has grown and matured under her guardianship.

Dr. Rodeffer began her anthropology career at the University of Kentucky from where she graduated in 1969, Phi Beta Kappa with High Distinction, and with Departmental Honors in Anthropology. Tef entered Kentucky with the intention of specializing in equitation. After a bout with peritonitis, subsequent corrective surgery, and an anthropology course or two, she changed her major—apparently some things are just meant to be. She entered Washington State University's Ph.D. program in anthropology as a National Defense Education Act (NDEA) Fellow in Fall 1969, was A.B.D. by December 1972, and was granted her doctorate in Spring 1975.

Tef's first archaeological field work was as a crew member on a 1967 University of South Carolina project on the Keowee River in the upper part of the state. During the summer of 1968, Tef served as a crew member on a Kentucky river basin project and participated in Southern Methodist University's (SMU) field school at the Ft. Burgwin Research Center near Taos, New Mexico. She returned to Ft. Burgwin in 1969 and 1970 to serve as an assistant in the archaeological field schools at Pot Creek Pueblo under the supervision of Dr. Fred Wendorf and Dr. Joel Shiner. Tef also participated in the analysis and write-up of materials from the Nez Perce Grave Removal Project under the supervision of Dr. Roderick Sprague in 1971 and 1972.

Tef met Michael Rodeffer on the Kentucky reservoir project in 1968, and they were married in September 1971. They moved to South Carolina in early 1973. That summer Tef taught anthropology at Montana State University and in the Fall joined the faculty at Lander College. Between 1974 and 1977, Tef directed two Lander College archaeological field schools at the Ninety Six Historic Site and participated in various other grant and contract projects at Ninety Six and around the state.

In 1977 Tef began a professional career with the National Park Service (NPS) in Atlanta, Georgia, where her organizational, administrative, and intellectual talents were quickly recognized by Dr. Bennie C. Keel who was Chief, Interagency Archaeological Services-Atlanta (Georgia). While at the Atlanta office Tef was acting chief in 1979–1980, but her greatest accomplishment and contribution to historical archaeology was securing equal status for historical alongside prehistoric archaeology in the Tombigbee Waterway Project. At that time the Tombigbee project was the largest budget archaeology project which the federal government had funded. Dr. Rodeffer not only secured equal project status for historical archaeology, but she managed the project historical research. Later, the research model which she developed was used as the research design for the Richard B. Russell Dam and Reservoir Project.

From 1980 through 1982 Tef was Archaeologist at the Southwest Regional office of HCRS in Albuquerque/Sante Fe, New Mexico, where she received a National Park Service Unit Award for excellence.

In 1982 she relocated to Philadelphia where she was an archaeologist in the Division of Cultural Programs in the Mid-Atlantic Region until 1984. In June 1984 she was appointed Acting Chief of the Preservation Planning Branch for the National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic office. Two years later, within months of the time when her husband, Mike, finally was able for the first time in about eight years to synchronize his archaeology career with that of Tef's and move to Philadelphia so they could live together normally; Tef was promoted to Chief of Interagency Archaeological Services' Branch at the National Park Service Western Regional office in San Francisco. Tef and Mike cheerfully moved to the Bay area. In August 1990 Tef was again rewarded for her administrative talents by the National Park Service when she was appointed Chief of the Museum Collections Repository at the Western Archaeological and Conservation Center in Tucson, Arizona.

As remarkable as her career with the National Park Service has been, it is in her volunteer service to the Society for Historical Archaeology that she has excelled to a level hard to comprehend. Few society members are aware of how unselfishly she has given of her time and for how many years she has given of huge blocks of her time. However, it is not only time which she has given to the SHA, but she has

given her heart. Her service to the Society has not only been selfless but she has attended to the SHA interests as if the Society were part of her soul. She has, year after year, protected the Society's assets from assault by the SHA Board of Directors. Were it not for Tef the Society's financial position would not be rock-solid. She is the undisputed champion of honest, accurate, but cleverly prepared budgets—budgets that do not allow Board members to easily fund their pet projects by gobbling up needed general operating funds so that the Society is forced to deficit-spend by cutting into needed capital reserves.

In the same manner as she protects the Society's finances, she has a rare talent for being able to respond perfectly to every letter or query she receives from the membership. Tef graciously acknowledges letters of compliment and with a most deft pen responds to letters of complaint. Her ability through the years to reply promptly, fairly, and tactfully to disgruntled as well as outraged members has resulted in the Society receiving negligible negative correspondence. In this area we, as well as the National Park Service, are fortunate. It is not frequently that a scholarly society officer possesses the interpersonal skills that Tef brings to the SHA.

Despite the care which Tef gives to the Society's finances and correspondence, she also chooses to annually sacrifice an opportunity to listen to the various papers presented at the SHA annual meeting. From essentially the moment the Business office at the meeting is open, Tef occupies a chair beside the Business Manager or operates the office herself. Most SHA conference attendees likely believe she is paid to be present to sell Society publications, answer questions about dues, or generally act as the Society public relations officer. Like everything Tef does for the Society, she sells the SHA to anybody who will listen to her. She does not do this because she expects something in return. She promotes the SHA because she believes in its worth. And above all, she is not obligated by her job description as Secretary-Treasurer to give her time to the Society in this manner.

Why does Tef give so unselfishly of her time, talent, and energy to the SHA? Only she actually knows, but I suspect that it is because she loves to interact with people, strongly believes in the importance of historical archaeology to understanding our heritage, and feels that anything worth doing is worth doing well. In reviewing how she has served the Society, it is clear that it will be decades before another member will be able to amass a service record to match that of Stephanie Rodeffer. Her service to the Society even started before she was a member of any SHA committee or held an office in the organization. When Mike Rodeffer was Society Secretary-Treasurer, 1975–1977, Tef shared the work load by stuffing the SHA journal, *Historical Archaeology*, into envelopes and preparing it and the Society *Newsletter* for bulk mailing. I still vividly remember Tef describing a garage filled with Society publications where she sat on the floor stuffing envelopes and pasting on mailing labels as the hours of the night diminished.

Tef's first formal assignment for the Society was as membership chairperson from 1976 to 1979, and this job overlapped more than one year with her first term of office as the SHA Secretary-Treasurer. She assumed those responsibilities in 1978 and, as is well known, she was elected last fall to a fifth term of office. During those 16 years she has also annually chaired the SHA Budget Committee and has served on countless other SHA committees.

Nobody has ever put more of herself or himself into serving the SHA than Tef. In the early 1980s, when problems developed with the SHA Business office, Tef responded as if she were to blame for the difficulties and devoted untold unpaid hours to perform the duties of the business manager. Only when all the problems were solved, a new business manager selected, and the membership needs were totally satisfied was Tef happy. Her resolution to have the SHA run like a well-oiled machine has been perhaps the most significant factor in the Society's rapid maturation into a leading force in American archaeology. Tef normally stands quietly in the background smiling when the Society or any of its leaders are recognized for their contributions to historical archaeology, but without the thousands of hours of

volunteer time and quality effort which she has unselfishly donated, the Society, its officers, board members, and the profession would not be smiling today. Dr. Stephanie Rodeffer is a role model of what all parents and professors dream for their offspring and students. She is a leader with dedication, determination, great intelligence, compassion, and a big heart. She has been the heart of the Society for Historical Archaeology for over one and one-half decades.

RONALD L. MICHAEL