



Boca Raton
Historical
Society

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mary Csar, Executive Director
Boca Raton Historical Society
561. 395.6766 ext. 106
mary@bocahistory.org

Dr. Donald Curl, Ph.D.

The Boca Raton Historical Society (BRHS) is saddened to announce the passing of our friend and mentor Donald W. Curl on December 4, 2010. Dr. Curl was an original member of Florida Atlantic University's History Department serving as professor from 1964 until his retirement in 2004. He also served as a board member of the Boca Raton Historical Society from 1973 until 2000, and honorary board member since that time. He was very active in historic preservation activities in the county and was a member of the Boca Raton Historic Preservation Board since 1986 and a former member of the Historic Preservation Board of Palm Beach County and the Landmarks Preservation Board for the Town of Palm Beach.

Dr. Curl was the author of many articles and books on Boca Raton and Palm Beach County history including *The Pioneer Cook in Southeast Florida* (1975); *Palm Beach County an Illustrated History* (1986); *Palm Beach County in a Class by Itself* (1998), and *Florida Atlantic University* (2000). He wrote the definitive resource on the subject of local history *Boca Raton: A Pictorial History* (1990). He was the author of the pivotal 1984 publication *Mizner's Florida: American Resort Architecture*, which helped bring legitimacy and scholarship to Mizner's work and featured a chapter on Mizner's Boca Raton efforts, attracting a nationwide interest in local architectural history.

Donn served as guest curator for the BRHS 2003 exhibition "Mizner's Dream: The Built and Unbuilt," which featured Mizner drawings never before on public view. (The exhibition can still be seen online at the BRHS website, www.bocahistory.org.) His 2008 book *The Boca Raton Resort & Club: Mizner's Inn* is a comprehensive history of Addison Mizner's famous resort which opened in 1926, the royalties from which benefit the BRHS.

The Boca Raton Historical Society is fortunate to have had a friend in Dr. Donald Curl, who helped bring his recognized scholarship and academic background to the projects and publications of the BRHS. Most local historical societies are not so fortunate to have had a professional historian of Dr. Curl's experience, qualifications, and enthusiasm (who was also a long time resident of the community) as historical mentor and advisor. His research and publications have brought statewide recognition of the efforts of the BRHS and its significant historical collections.

PHOTO CAPTION: *Dr. Donald W. Curl*

The Boca Raton Historical Society is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to preserving the past to enrich the future. Now in its 38th year, the Historical Society actively promotes historic preservation and education through its archival services, guided tours and educational programs. For more information or to become a member, go to www.bocahistory.org.

###