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## Gertrude Dole (1915–2001)

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Gertrude Dole, or Trudie, as she was known to many, died at the age of 86 on December 8, 2001, at the Jewish Home & Hospital, Riverdale, New York. Dole received her undergraduate degree in biology and French from Middlebury College in 1937. She later studied geography, education and linguistics, before settling into a Ph.D. program in anthropology at the University of Michigan. Her doctoral dissertation, *Development of Patterns of Kinship Nomenclature* (1957), takes up the determinants of patterns of kinship terminology, a subject that remained a central theme of her work and for which she is widely recognized.

Dole held positions at Columbia University (1961–1965), Vassar College (1965–1971), and the American Museum of Natural History (1976–88). She also participated in dissertation committees of students at Columbia, Stanford, Yale, and other universities. She was an admired teacher, with devoted students who maintained contact with her over decades.

As a leader in South American ethnology, Dole published over 70 works, including three books and two films. She co-edited *Essays in the Science of Culture* (1960) and authored the only monograph on the Amahuaca of the Upper Amazon (1999). Her research interests included ethnohistory, ethnic identity, labor, exchange, endocannibalism, and material culture—the latter including ceramic figurines and the technology of manioc preparation. Her best known works were those on kinship, and include the often cited 1965 publication, “The Lineage Pattern of Kinship Nomenclature: Its Significance and Development” (*Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 21(1):36–62).

Dole was an intrepid pioneer in women’s ethnographic scholarship. Undaunted by prevailing perceptions of obstacles to research by women, she conducted her first field expedition in 1952, a study of cave archaeology in Matanzas province, Cuba. The following year Dole became the first American woman to carry out anthropological fieldwork along a headwater stream of the Xingu River in the Amazon basin of Brazil. Dole, with her then husband Robert L. Carneiro, worked among the Xinguan Kuikuuru from 1953 to 1954, and, six years later, among the Amahuaca of Peru (1960–61).

Dole was an early contributor to feminist anthropology. She was a discussant in the symposium entitled “Sexual Politics and Colonialism



and Culture Change” at the 1975 AAA annual meeting, San Francisco. Her chapters “The Marriages of Pacho,” in *Many Sisters: Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective* (Carolyn Mathiasson, editor 1974) and “Amahuaca Women and Social Change” in *Sex Roles in Changing Cultures* (Ann McElroy and Carolyn Mathiasson, editors, 1979) are among the earliest works in anthropology focused primarily on women.

Dole was also active in a number of women’s organizations. In the 1950s, she was a member of the University of Michigan Woman’s Research Club. In the early 1970s, she was a founder of the feminist anthropology organization, the Ruth Benedict Collective.

From 1969 until her death, Dole was an active member of the Society of Woman Geographers, for whom she conducted and published oral histories of important women geographers. In 1975 Dole presented “Some Early Members of the Society of Women Geographers,” and eventually published a series of biographies of the lives of some of these women geographers (1990).

Dole was also an active member of the New York South Americanists group, an anthropology roundtable that met monthly during the 1970s. That group eventually moved to annual meetings at Bennington College, under the leadership of Kenneth Kensinger.

Shortly before the stroke that led to her death, Dole was hard at work on a monograph on the Brazilian Kuikuru, as well as the project “Life and Death of High Hill Farming in Vermont.” The latter took Dole to Vermont, the site of her birth in 1915 and the family farm on which she was raised. Forever a dedicated Yankee, Dole was in the process of combining oral history and archaeological observation to reconstruct hilltop farms in Vermont at the turn of the century. In her eighties, Dole would regularly pack a sleeping bag in her beat-up Volvo station wagon and head off to do fieldwork in the White Mountains.

She was a beloved friend and respected anthropologist who will be missed by those who knew her.

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 [Compiled by Jeffrey David Ehrenreich]

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