

Museum exhibits trade beads collected by Hoyt

An exhibit of trade beads collected by Norma Hoyt, a recent bequest from her estate to the Cook Inlet Historical Society, is on display in the Atrium Balcony of the Anchorage Museum of History and Art.

Hoyt's extensive collection will be supplemented with beads from the museum's permanent collection and beads from a private collector which, in combination, will provide a comprehensive presentation of the trade bead distribution network in Alaska.

While trade beads were used by all Native people, various geographical areas of the state were distinguished by which beads were most prized and which traders supplied the area. In general, Alaskan trade beads were monochromatic and occasionally cut to resemble jewels.

Hoyt, who died in early 1989, was a long-time resident of Anchorage and a founding member of the Anchorage museum.