

1992

## Martha B. Anders 1949-1990

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### Recommended Citation

Sandweiss, Daniel H. (1992) "Martha B. Anders 1949-1990," *Andean Past*: Vol. 3 , Article 4.

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**Martha B. Anders, 1949-1990**  
Martha on the day of her graduation as Doctor of  
Philosophy, Cornell University, 1986. Photograph  
courtesy of Eunice B. Anders.

**MARTHA B. ANDERS**  
**1949-1990**

Daniel H. Sandweiss  
*Carnegie Museum of Natural History*

On August 8, 1990, Martha B. Anders died in an automobile accident on the Panamerican Highway near Cañete, Peru, together with her friend and fellow archaeologist Margarita Pérez. The loss for Andean archaeology and for Martha's and Margarita's friends and colleagues is inestimable.

Born in Wisconsin on November 28, 1949, Martha grew up in Canada. While an undergraduate at the University of Toronto, she assisted in archaeological field work during the summers of 1968 and 1969 at Point Pelee National Park in Ontario. Martha also spent three months in 1970 and in 1971 in Israel as an archaeological technician, part-time supervisor, and assistant to the architect at the Tell Gezer excavations directed by William G. Dever. Much to the delight of her fellow students at Cornell, Martha appears briefly in *The Big Dig*, a documentary film about the Tell Gezer project.

In 1972, Martha graduated with a B.A. (First Class Honours) in Near Eastern Studies, New Programme Concentration in Anthropology and Archaeology. After graduation, she worked briefly at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, where she first developed her interest in the Andes--an interest which would soon develop into her life's work. In 1974, Martha began doctoral studies in the Anthropology Department at Cornell University, but spent all of 1975 in Peru. There, she studied state storage facilities at Pampa Grande (Anders 1977, 1981) as a member of the Royal Ontario Museum project directed by Kent C. Day.

After receiving her M.A. from Cornell in 1978, Martha returned to Peru to carry out her dissertation research at the planned Wari site of Azángaro in the highlands of Ayacucho Department (Anders 1979, 1986a, 1986b, 1986c, 1987, 1989a, 1989b, 1989c, 1990d, 1991, n.d.a, n.d.b, n.d.c, n.d.d). The 19 months of field work (1978-1980) were supported by an International Doctoral Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council and American Council of Learned Societies and by a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship. During this period, Martha not only advanced her research but also gained the friendship and admiration of her neighbors and colleagues in Huanta, Ayacucho, the headquarters of her project. Before leaving Huanta in 1980, Martha was awarded both the Honor al Mérito from the Consejo Provincial de Huanta for her contributions to the study of the cultural patrimony of the Province of Huanta, and the Honor al Mérito from the Grupo Solidaridad for her humanitarian contributions to the community of Huanta. I remember Martha as particularly proud of these honors.

On returning to North America, Martha spent the next six years writing her dissertation and teaching at Cornell. It was at this time that I came to know her personally and to appreciate her intellect and generosity. Martha was always willing to loan a book or article from her excellent and amazingly organized personal library, to review a paper or manuscript, or simply talk about Andean archaeology. It was during this period that *Andean Past* began, and Martha played a key role in its development. The origin of *Andean Past* is in the Annual Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory, first held at Cornell in 1982. Martha served *ad honorem* as volume reviewer of the collected papers for the Cornell Latin American Studies Program (LASP); her positive recommendation convinced LASP to publish the papers in 1983 under the title *Investigations of the Andean Past*. Following two further volumes of collected papers from the Northeast Conference, the peer-reviewed, open submission series *Andean Past* began under LASP sponsorship. Up to the time of her death, Martha was one of our most consistent and conscientious reviewers.

After receiving her doctorate from Cornell in 1986, Martha returned to Peru in 1987 to begin work at the Middle Horizon site of Maymi, in the coastal Pisco Valley. Work at this important site continued up to her death in 1990--she was returning to her laboratory/home in Chincha Baja at the

time of the accident. Although resulting in several preliminary publications (Anders 1988, 1990b, 1990c), much remains to be done at the site and with the collections.

During the period of the Maymi project, Martha was supported by a series of Canadian grants and fellowships: a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship held while a Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology at Trent University (1987-1988); a Calgary Institute for the Humanities Visiting Postdoctoral Fellowship (1988-1989); and a Research Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada (1989-1990) held while a Research Associate in the Department of Archaeology, University of Calgary. During this period, Martha also served as a consultant for the Museo de la Nación project in Lima. In September, 1990, Martha was to have begun a prestigious, three-year Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada Research Fellowship as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Archaeology, University of Calgary, where she would have split her time between field work at Maymi and teaching at Calgary. At the time of her death, Martha was one of the organizers of the Archaeological Association of the University of Calgary's 23rd Annual Chacmool Conference, held 8-11 November, 1990. The theme of the meeting, "Ancient Images, Ancient Thought, The Archaeology of Ideology," was of particular interest to Martha, as her dissertation and resulting publications show.

Martha was frank but fair, organized to the last detail but generous of her time and her material, serious yet with a developed sense of humor. She well-embodied Horace's dictum: "A [person] may smile yet speak the truth." As one of the last people to talk with Martha, on the eve of her accident, she impressed me (as always) with her insight and fairness in evaluating a manuscript by an archaeologist with whom she had had serious personal differences. Her reprint dedications were never *pro forma*: they always had a touch of humor as well as warmth. The esteem with which Martha's colleagues held her stemmed from these personal characteristics as much as from her tremendous intellectual contributions.

A memorial service for Martha was held shortly after her death at the Museo Nacional de Antropología y Arqueología in Lima, Peru; a memorial fund has been established in Martha's honor at the University of Calgary, Department of Archaeology, with which she enjoyed particularly close ties during her final years; the 23rd Annual Chacmool Conference, held at Calgary, and its Proceedings were dedicated to Martha's memory; an obituary was published in Peru by Rogger Ravines and Fernando Villiger (*Boletín de Lima* 71: 5-6) and a death notice by Monica A. Barnes appeared in the *Anthropology Newsletter* for September, 1992; the volume *Huari Administrative Structure, Prehistoric Monumental Architecture and State Government* (edited by William H. Isbell and Gordon F. McEwan, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.) is dedicated to her memory; and on the second anniversary of her death, a roadside shrine was erected in Peru at the site of the accident by Helaine Silverman and others. I can speak for everyone involved in *Andean Past*, and many others as well, in affirming that we will miss Martha B. Anders, but never forget her.

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