

1992

## Preface Andean Past 3

Daniel H. Sandweiss

*University of Maine*, dan\_sandweiss@umit.maine.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/andean\\_past](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/andean_past)



Part of the [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Sandweiss, Daniel H. (1992) "Preface Andean Past 3," *Andean Past*: Vol. 3 , Article 2.

Available at: [https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/andean\\_past/vol3/iss1/2](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/andean_past/vol3/iss1/2)

This Preface is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Andean Past by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY**



**LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

# **ANDEAN PAST**

Volume 3

1992

**ANDEAN PAST**  
**Volume 3**  
**1992**

Editor:  
**Daniel H. Sandweiss**  
Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Associate Editor:  
**Monica Barnes**  
Cornell University

Editorial Advisory Board:  
**Richard J. Burger**  
Yale University

**Thomas F. Lynch**  
Cornell University

**Craig Morris**  
American Museum of Natural History

Copyright©1992 by the Cornell University Latin American Studies Program

The Cornell University Latin American Studies Program is the publishing institution for **ANDEAN PAST**. Orders should be addressed to: Latin American Program, 190 Uris Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14953. Inquiries and manuscripts to be considered for future volumes should be sent to: Daniel H. Sandweiss, **ANDEAN PAST**, Anthropology Dept., Stevens Hall South, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469; or to Monica A. Barnes, 377 Rector Pl., Apt. 11-J, New York, NY 10280.

## Preface

ANDEAN PAST 3 represents a departure from the previous two volumes: for the first time, AP includes a thematic section, on early maritime adaptations throughout the Andes. This volume also contains papers on other aspects of Andean prehistory, ranging in time from the Preceramic Period to the Middle Horizon, and in topic from land snails through households and geoglyphs to stone bowls and pottery. The volume starts with an obituary of Martha B. Anders (Ph.D. Cornell 1986), a valued friend and scholar whose sudden death in 1990 has saddened us all.

### *Thematic Section: Maritime Foundations*

The thematic section originated in a symposium which I organized for the 1986 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in New Orleans, entitled "Maritime Foundations: Preceramic Subsistence and Society on the Andean Coast". At that time, a decade had passed since the publication of Michael E. Moseley's (1975) controversial book *The Maritime Foundations of Andean Civilization*, in which he proposed that marine resources had played a crucial role in the initial development of complex societies in the Andes. Critics of the proposal were many and vociferous, but as Moseley pointed out to me on several occasions, none of the critics had ever excavated a preceramic coastal site in the Central Andes. Other archaeologists had done so, however; my idea in organizing the symposium was to bring these scholars together to evaluate the maritime foundations hypothesis in terms of new field data.

Although I had originally envisaged a set of papers in which presentation of subsistence data played the predominant role, I soon found that most of the participants considered the subsistence question to be already resolved in favor of marine resources providing the vast bulk of animal foods in a mixed economy which nevertheless included plant gathering and horticulture. Subsequent publication of work then in progress has strongly supported this view (e.g., Quilter *et al.* 1991). Many of participants felt that the time had come for new syntheses and new questions, ones which moved beyond the issue of subsistence to consider other manifestations of material cultural and social organization, and ultimately to consider how and why complex societies arose when and where they did in the Central Andes. The papers in the Maritime Foundations section of AP 3 offer such syntheses and ask such questions.

Of the ten papers originally presented at the 1986 symposium, significantly revised and updated versions of five are included in this volume, along with an article later solicited from Chilean archaeologist Agustín Llagostera. Four of the other five papers have been published elsewhere in the interim: those by Robert A. Benfer (1990), Elizabeth J. Reitz (1988), James B. Richardson III (Sandweiss *et al.* 1989), and Karen Wise (1989).

Michael E. Moseley's contribution to the Maritime Foundations section provides an introduction to the topic and the section, albeit from a particular point of view. The paper looks both backward and forward. Moseley reviews the history of the Maritime Foundations of Andean Civilization (MFAC) hypothesis from its first clear articulations in the 1960s through the present day. He then offers insight into the directions which are or ought to be taken in further evaluating MFAC and integrating it into a more holistic, anthropological understanding of subsistence, society, and cultural development in the Andes.

Karen E. Stothert's paper reviews the importance of maritime resource utilization in the initiation and subsequent development of complex societies in the Northern Andean coastal zone, in Ecuador. She concludes that MFAC does not apply to the Ecuadorian area, where tropical forest resources permitted an efficient, land-based adaptation in which fishing played only a secondary role.

Tom D. Dillehay asks about the origins of the monumental architecture of the Late Preceramic Period. He suggests that these highly developed structures were used for public, communal activities which must have had antecedents in the region. By focusing on the use of the structures rather than on the buildings themselves, we can search for earlier, less obvious arenas of public

activity. Drawing on sites from Ecuador to Chile, Dillehay offers several examples of possible Middle Preceramic Period use of public space in non- or minimally monumental settings. The discussion of these examples is informed by ethnographic observation of such use, especially among the Mapuche of South-Central Chile.

Robert A. Feldman begins his paper with an historical review of MFAC, focusing on the early inattention to plant remains and their later integration into more sophisticated versions of the hypothesis. The recognition of the importance of plants in the Late Preceramic Period, including those native to highlands, brings Feldman to the topic of interzonal contacts and exchange. To better evaluate such interactions, he describes the subsistence systems and architecture of three traditions: the Paraíso Tradition of the Central Andean coast, the Kotosh Religious Tradition of the highlands, and the Valdivia Tradition of the tropical Ecuadorian coastal lowlands. Feldman concludes with a provocative scenario for regional development and interregional interaction in the Late Preceramic and Initial Periods.

In a paper covering thousands of years of prehistory and thousands of kilometers of coastline, Agustín Llagostera provides the first major synthesis of the data on Preceramic fishing traditions from Ecuador to Chile. The data are organized into a two-stage sequence, based primarily on the material remains of fishing technology. The Stage of Maritime Gatherers covers those societies whose exploitation of the sea was limited to the shoreline, while the Stage of Archaic Fishermen includes those groups which had developed the technology to exploit the open ocean, in particular the fishhook. Llagostera traces the movement of hook technology from Chile north into Peru, where it appears late in the Middle Preceramic Period or at the start of the Late Preceramic Period; in Ecuador, fishhooks arrived even later, and are found only in association with ceramic age sites. Llagostera's conclusion includes a comparison between the Peruvian Central Coast, where complex society developed in the Late Preceramic Period, and northern Chile, where it did not; these observations make an interesting counterpoint to Stothert's comparison of Ecuador and central Peru.

Jeffrey Quilter's paper ends the maritime section with a series of questions and a serious discussion of what we know, what we don't know, and what we can hope to discover about Late Preceramic societies on the Peruvian coast. He concludes that although it "was not so much settled as put back on the shelf for a while," "the Maritime-Terrestrial Debate has served archaeologists well. . .in advancing the larger goal of understanding the culture history of early Peru." It is my hope and belief that in taking the debate off the shelf so many years after these papers were first presented, this larger goal will, indeed, be well-served.

#### *Miscellanea*

Though not formally part of the thematic section on maritime foundations, two of the papers in the regular section of AP 3 do relate to that theme. Alan K. Craig's review of land snails in Andean prehistory is the first general synthesis of these animals' ecology and prehistoric use. Craig traces his interest in the topic to Lanning's use of land snails to postulate radical climate change during the Preceramic Period on the Peruvian Central Coast; this issue was critical in the earliest formulations of the Maritime Foundations hypothesis. Craig's discussion of natural land snail death assemblages helps clarify the situation.

Michael A. Malpass and Karen E. Stothert synthesize data on Preceramic households from Ecuador, Peru, and Chile; their work provides a "bottom up" view of Preceramic societies which makes a useful contrast to the maritime section papers. Malpass and Stothert find that "the shift from a communal way of life to one based on household production and consumption" took place earlier in Ecuador than in Peru, and that it did not take place at all during the Preceramic Period in Chile. This conclusion has an interesting inverse correlation with the spread of Llagostera's fishhook-using "Archaic Fishermen" which should be explored further.

Thomas and Shelia Pozorski's paper on early stone bowls and mortars describes a vessel form found in the Casma Valley on the Peruvian North-Central Coast and dating primarily to the Initial Period. Analysis of the Casma bowl fragments and comparison with related pieces from other

areas offer insights into function and chronology, while indicating "widespread communication, on at least a ceremonial level, throughout much of northern Peru and Ecuador during early ceramic times."

Also in the Casma area, between the Casma and Nepeña Valleys, John Rick discovered a bird geoglyph which he reports here with Thomas and Shelia Pozorski. Measuring 27 m long, the geoglyph probably dates to the Late Intermediate Period. It represents another in the growing corpus of prehistoric Peruvian ground markings found outside of the Nazca region.

Kathryn M. Cleland and Izumi Shimada present their seriation of Sicán single-spout bottles from the Batán Grande area in Lambayeque, north coastal Peru. Five phases are recognized, dating to the Middle Horizon and the Late Intermediate Period. Although based mainly on unprovenienced whole vessels from the Brüning Museum in Peru, supporting data come from stratigraphic excavations at Batán Grande. The seriation represents an important advance in the archaeology of the Lambayeque region, where ceramic sequences for later prehistory still lack much published detail.

---

I am indebted to many people and institutions for their efforts on behalf of ANDEAN PAST, and it is a pleasure to express my gratitude to all of them. Billie Jean Isbell, Miguelina Tabar, and Phyllis Corey at the Cornell Latin American Studies Program provided the institutional support which make this series possible. The Division of Anthropology at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History has permitted me the time and equipment necessary to produce the final copy of this volume; Charmaine Steinberg at CMNH helped with various tasks in the production stage. The Editorial Advisory Board members--Thomas F. Lynch, Richard L. Burger, and Craig Morris--continue to give freely of their time to evaluate each paper submitted to ANDEAN PAST. Associate Editor Monica Barnes has taken up much of the editorial burden, not only during my years in Peru but even after my return; without her contribution, this volume and those planned for the future would not be possible. The international community of Andeanists continues to provide thoughtful and timely peer reviews of papers. I am particularly grateful to the three anonymous reviewers who each evaluated the entire packet of maritime section papers. Finally, the authors of the papers included in this volume have demonstrated patience above and beyond the call of duty.

Daniel H. Sandweiss  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
November 13, 1992

### References

- Benfer, Robert A.  
1990 The Preceramic Period Site of Paloma, Peru: Bioindications of Improving Adaptation to Sedentism. *Latin American Antiquity* 1: 284-318.
- Moseley, Michael E.  
1975 *The Maritime Foundations of Andean Civilization*. Menlo Park, CA: Cummings.
- Quilter, Jeffrey, Bernardino Ojeda E., Deborah M. Pearsall, Daniel H. Sandweiss, John G. Jones, and Elizabeth S. Wing  
1991 Subsistence Economy of El Paraíso, an Early Peruvian Site. *Science* 251: 277-183.
- Reitz, Elizabeth J.  
1988 Faunal Remains from Paloma, an Archaic Site in Peru. *American Anthropologist* 90: 310-322.

**Sandweiss, Daniel H., James B. Richardson III, Elizabeth J. Reitz, Jeffrey T. Hsu, and Robert A. Feldman**

**1989** Early Maritime Adaptations in the Andes: Preliminary Studies at the Ring Site, Peru. In *Ecology, Settlement and History in the Osmore Drainage*, edited by Don S. Rice, Charles Stanish, and Philip R. Scarr, pp. 35-86. *BAR International Series 545i*.

**Wise, Karen**

**1989** Archaic Period Research in the Lower Osmore Region, In *Ecology, Settlement and History in the Osmore Drainage*, edited by Don S. Rice, Charles Stanish, and Philip R. Scarr, pp. 85-99. *BAR International Series 545i*.