

2000

Editor's Preface Andean Past 6

Monica Barnes

American Museum of Natural History, monica@andeanpast.org

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/andean_past

 Part of the [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#), [Latin American History Commons](#), and the [Physical Chemistry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Barnes, Monica (2000) "Editor's Preface Andean Past 6," *Andean Past*: Vol. 6 , Article 3.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/andean_past/vol6/iss1/3

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.

EDITOR'S PREFACE

It is no secret to our authors that we produce *Andean Past* with a minimum of infrastructure and at very low cost. Since the beginning, we have published it under the aegis of the Cornell University Latin American Studies Program which does an exemplary job with our printing and distribution. Many thanks are due to Mary Jo Dudley, Associate Director of the Program, for her interest and support. Some of our modest overhead is absorbed by the University of Maine, where Dan Sandweiss is an Associate Professor. Our archives are housed in Maine's Anthropology Department. The editing and layout of *Andean Past* takes place at Maine, and in the small New York City apartment which I share with our Graphics Editor, my husband David Fleming.

Virtually all the work that goes into producing *Andean Past* is done on a volunteer basis as a service to the archaeological community, and this has always been the case. In 1986, when Dan Sandweiss founded *Andean Past* he exhibited a great deal of prescience. Then, as now, most peer-reviewed scholarly journals were produced by large learned societies, or by commercial publishing houses. Annual price increases for many such series have been between twenty and thirty percent.¹ Institutional subscriptions can cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars. By contrast, we were able to sell the 430-page *Andean Past* 5 for \$30 plus shipping.

The high costs of academic journals have lead to a crisis of accessibility. Many scholars cannot afford to buy the publications in which

their own articles appear. As prices rise, libraries are forced to cancel more and more subscriptions.

In reaction, new journals are being founded by serious scholars who often work out of their homes or small offices, assisted by the revolution in computing which has occurred during the past two decades. One such is *Evolutionary Ecology Research*, begun by Dr. Michael Rosenzweig, the former editor and founder of *Evolutionary Ecology*, now produced by Wolters Kluwer, a commercial publisher.

Sandweiss anticipated this trend more than a decade ago. It is one that I have endorsed since I became an editor in 1992, and one to which we remain dedicated. The continuity engendered by a stable, as opposed to revolving, group of editors and editorial board members allows us to set long-term goals, develop them, and make modifications as needed. One such is our commitment to publishing data-based articles and interim reports. We can exercise a great deal of flexibility regarding article and volume lengths. We can also publish relatively large numbers of illustrations, acknowledging that graphics are as important to archaeological presentation as text. We often work with young or inexperienced scholars, helping them, through various drafts, to produce papers of a high professional standard. Although we are an English-language series, it has always been our policy to translate the work of our Spanish-speaking contributors at no cost to them. We hope to continue to produce high-quality, well-illustrated, but low-cost volumes for many years.

This issue of *Andean Past* contains twelve articles, a new feature, "Current Research" and,

¹Carol Kaesuk Yoon, "Soaring Prices Spur a Revolt in Scientific Publishing", *The New York Times*, December 8, 1998, F2.

sadly, one obituary, that of Lynda Elliot Spickard. Many of our readers will remember Lynda as an active participant in the Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory, one of our sponsoring organizations. For the background to *Andean Past* "Current Research", readers should see the "Editors' Note" that precedes that section. It also gives information for making future submissions.

Andean Past 5 included an article by Jack Rossen, "Unifaces in Early Andean Culture History: The Nanchoc Lithic Tradition of Northern Peru". The present issue continues the analysis of that tradition with a contribution by Tom D. Dillehay and Jack Rossen, "The Nanchoc Lithic Tradition of Northern Peru: Microscopic Use-Wear Analysis". The Nanchoc Tradition is an early unifacial industry dating from about 8500 to 6000 B.P. Use-wear can provide valuable information on the probable scope of activities performed with tools. It can also cross-check other methods of lithic analysis. Dillehay and Rossen conclude that plant and wood-related activities are discernable from the microscopic wear of the Nanchoc tools examined.

The editors and editorial board of *Andean Past* advocate the publication of site reports. If such a report includes substantial interpretation, it is all the stronger. One such is "Archaeological Investigations at the Initial Period Center of Huaca El Gallo/Huaca La Gallina, Virú Valley: the 1994 Field Season" by Thomas A. Zoubek. In the work reported here, Zoubek concentrated on sites in the Huacopongo drainage of Peru's Virú Valley. Virú has been well known to students of American archaeology since the middle of the twentieth century, when the path-breaking Virú Project was in operation. However, as at Tehuacán, in Mexico's Puebla state, the operation of a large-scale, highly professional, and well-published project, rather than serving as the basis for future work, seems, in some respects, to have inhibited it.

Archeologists are trained to leave some portion of each site for future excavation with more advanced techniques. In addition, whatever one's theoretical leanings, it is evident that theory, whether implicit or explicit, informs interpretation. As theory evolves, it is important to continue basic archeological field work to avoid data dredging. As time passes, it becomes urgent that newly constituted teams return to classic field arenas. Just as a group lead by James Neely has returned to Tehuacán with fresh techniques and insights to expand work begun in the 1960s, Zoubek confronts models derived from prior work in the Virú Valley. Specifically, Zoubek posits that the Guañape Initial Period occupation of the valley is radically different from that reconstructed by Gordon Willey in his 1953 study published as the *Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin*, number 155.

Zoubek concentrates on the Huaca El Gallo/Huaca La Gallina complex, one of at least three large ceremonial dual pyramid sites in the Virú Valley dating to the Guañape culture of the Initial Period, or around 1800 B.C. to 900 B.C. In the article published here, Zoubek describes the architecture of the complex, confronts chronology, reconstructs the diet of its users, and interprets the ritual performed at the site. Zoubek points out that prior to his project no large Guañape or other Initial Period settlements were known for Virú. Thus his work forces a fundamental reassessment of the settlement and socio-political organization of the time.

In the Andean region, environmental factors often present great challenges to human societies. Dennis R. Satterlee, Michael E. Moseley, David K. Keefer, and Jorge E. Tapia A. present an extreme case in "The Miraflores El Niño Disaster: Convergent Catastrophes and Prehistoric Agrarian Change in Southern Peru". In this article they demonstrate the impact that a catastrophic El Niño flood had on the Chiribaya people who occupied portions of the Osmore drainage in southern Peru prior to the disaster,

which most likely occurred between A.D. 1350 and A.D. 1370. Satterlee and his colleagues reconstruct the geological and climatic conditions that led to catastrophic flooding. They document its traces, and explore the implications that severe drought in the sierra, combined with unusual rainfall at lower elevations and tectonic action, would have for prehistoric agriculture in Peru's coastal valleys.

In "Bodiless Human Heads in Paracas Necropolis Textile Iconography" Anne Paul examines representations of disembodied heads in Paracas textile iconography created between 100 B.C. and 100 A.D. Paul argues that only about twenty-five percent of such heads may be literal trophy heads. Others may, in some sense, be "symbols of the intense concentrations of power in heads", or symbols of a returning spirit. In this study Paul contradicts some of her own early work with an exemplary academic honesty.

This issue of *Andean Past* contains three articles concentrating on aspects of Ecuadorian archaeology. In "The Jelf Phase Complex at La Emerenciana, a Late Valdivia Site in Southern El Oro Province, Ecuador" John Staller presents the late Valdivia ceramic sequence as viewed from his excavations at the La Emerenciana site. Basing himself on an attribute analysis of over 30,000 sherds, Staller proposes 15 formal classes for Jelf ceramics and re-evaluates the final phases of the Valdivia sequence which ended in the first half of the second millennium B.C. Staller suggests that rather than being the recipient of technological innovations, the prehispanic cultures of coastal Ecuador introduced innovations to the Andean highlands and to what is now coastal Peru.

Maria Masucci also evaluates Ecuadorian pottery in her article, "Defining Ceramic Change and Cultural Interaction: Results of Typological, Chronological, and Technological Analysis of Guangala Phase Ceramics". Masucci considers the time between 500 B.C. and 500 A.D. to have been a period of dramatic societal change in the northern Andes. Increas-

ing complexity, combined with expanding trade and interregional contacts, and florescence in local art styles may indicate regional chiefdoms, according to Masucci. Examining Guangala Phase ceramics from survey and excavation in the El Azúcar Valley of southwest Ecuador, Masucci develops a detailed typology and chronology, thus adding to our basic knowledge of the Intermediate Area.

David Blower also focuses on Ecuador, but extends his consideration to the Andes as a whole. In "The Many Facets of *Mullu*: More Than Just a *Spondylus* Shell", Blower argues that the Quechua word *mullu*, while sometimes taken to mean only the bicolored, rosy-orange to white Andean bivalve and the products made from it, in fact has a much larger semantic field. By combining information from early Spanish chronicles and dictionaries with modern ethnographic practice, iconography, and archaeological evidence, Blower concludes that *mullu* can refer to a variety of sacred objects, in a range of colors, and with several symbolic association clusters including food, water, and female sexuality.

In another paper drawing heavily upon ethnographic sources, in this case previously unpublished documents transcribed here, Catherine Julien explores "Inca Estates and the Encomienda: Hernando Pizarro's Holdings in Cusco". Julien's ultimate purpose is to reconstruct Inca patterns of land tenure and use, looking beyond Spanish arrangements. She focuses on royal coca plantations. The present paper thus makes a set with her work on coca production on the Inca frontier in the *yungas* of Chuquioma, published in *Andean Past* 5.

During the past decade, propelled in large part by advances, and failures, in geochemical analysis, direct dating, recording techniques, and neuropsychology, rock art research has moved to the forefront of archaeological interest. Once mostly the province of enthusiastic amateurs, there are now several international journals devoted to the field. Among these is

the South American series, the *Boletín* of the Sociedad de Investigación del Arte Rupestre de Bolivia; a group of both professionals and amateurs dedicated to identifying, preserving, recording, and researching Andean rock art. Most Society of American Archaeology Annual Meetings now include rock art sessions. Nevertheless, it is still appropriate to publish rock art reports in more general journals, thus integrating this subfield with archaeology as a whole.

In this issue we include "Age Estimates for the Petroglyph Sequence of Inca Huasi, Mizque, Bolivia" by Robert Bednarik, himself the editor of the Australian journal, *Rock Art Research*. Except for those panels with historically specific images, such as horses, or Tiwanaku designs, Andean rock art remains largely undated, or dated only by very general inferences. As a step towards remedying that situation, Bednarik presents an experimental direct dating technique that observes micro-erosion. Although Bednarik's results are tentative, they mark an early stage in the development of a sequence of prehistoric Bolivian rock art.

Another article that reports the results of geophysical and geochemical analysis is "The Puzolana Obsidian Source: Locating the Geological Source of Ayacucho-Type Obsidian" by Richard L. Burger and Michael D. Glascock. For many years Burger and his colleagues have been matching obsidian artifacts with the sources from which they are ultimately derived. In *Andean Past* we reported the discovery of the Alca, Chivay, and Jampatilla sources. In this volume the Puzolana source is described both in terms of its location, and in terms of its chemical signature.

For some time Dan Sandweiss and I have been encouraging archaeologists to publish their personal reminiscences. In this issue of *Andean Past* we present the first two of what we hope will be a series of such articles. One is Richard E. Daggett's "The Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory: The First Seventeen Years, 1982-1998". Dan and I

had already begun to consider commissioning such a history when an issue emerged during discussions at the Seventeenth Conference held in 1998 at The State University of New York at Binghamton. Although the first meeting of this Conference had been held less than two decades previously, memories had already diverged concerning the origin of the annual meetings. The need for a written history, based on documentary evidence, as well as interviews, became clear to us. Remembering Dick Daggett's reconstructions of the work of Julio C. Tello and his circle (*Andean Past* 1 and 4), Dan and I invited Dick to turn his attention to a history of the Northeast Conference. As Dick confessed to me after delivering a draft of his paper, this is the first time he has written a history involving mostly living individuals, with still-active egos. I congratulate him on his thoroughness, courage, and tact.

One of Dick's future *Andean Past* projects is the construction of a bibliography of all published papers originally presented at Northeast Conferences. Although some of these have appeared in *Andean Past* and the three volumes of selected papers which preceded this series, others can be found in journals as diverse as the *Latin American Indian Literatures Journal* and *Science*. I urge *Andean Past* readers to inform Dick, Dan, or me of their published Northeast Conference papers so that our finished bibliography can be as complete as possible.

As a companion to Daggett's history of the Northeast Conference, we are also pleased to publish an analytical history of its most direct ancestor, the Midwest Conference. In "The Origins and the First 25 Years (1973-1997) of the Midwestern Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory" David L. Browman explores the course this important meeting series has taken, from the perspective of a founder and constant participant. As does Daggett, Browman provides as complete a list as possible of the papers presented at all the Midwest Conferences from its beginning to 1997. These lists enable us both to

discern trends in our discipline and to reconstruct the careers of individual scholars.

The publication of Browman's history also enables us to progress towards one of *Andean Past's* important goals, the transfer of "gray literature" into the realm of citable, peer-reviewed, regularly distributed professional publications. "Gray literature" comprises those sources, often of considerable value, which are frequently cited, but have never been formally published. Included are conference papers, student course papers, reports of work-in-progress, field notes, and so on. For example, since presenting his paper to the Midwest Conference in February of 1997, Browman has been distributing copies of this paper himself. As word of this work circulated, there was more and more demand for it and it became important to publish a formal version. Publication removes the accessibility of academic work from the sphere of personal contacts, making work available to all who want it.

Each issue of *Andean Past* requires the collaborative efforts of some eighty individuals. In addition to the authors, editors, and editorial board members, many peer reviewers have given us the benefit of their insights, and illustrators have added to the attractiveness and informational content of our journal. Production and distribution is ably undertaken by the staffs of the Cornell University Latin American Studies Program and the Cornell Print Shop. I thank all these people for their assistance. The photo of Lynda Elliot Spickard incorporated in her obituary is courtesy of Broome Community College. Doris Kurella and Elizabeth and John E. Staller proofread the German references. Finally, and most especially, I would like to express my appreciation to Jo Spickard (Mrs. Warren B. Spickard) for her graciousness and courage at a time of profound personal sorrow.

Monica Barnes
The City of New York
31 October 2000