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Editor's Preface

Daniel H. Sandweiss

University of Maine, dan_sandweiss@umit.maine.edu

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Preface

This volume is the end product of a process that began in 1982 with the First Annual Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory (NCAAE), held at Cornell University in November of that year. One result of the conference was the publication of fourteen of the papers as *Investigations of the Andean Past* (1983) by the Cornell University Latin American Studies Program, who had also sponsored the meeting. Since then, the NCAAE has continued on an annual basis and two further volumes of papers have been published, from the second conference (*Recent Studies in Andean Prehistory and Protohistory*, 1985) and the third conference (*Perspectives on Andean Prehistory and Protohistory*, 1986).

Interest in these publications was great enough that we decided to change the series to its present form, in which papers are submitted by any interested scholar, sent for peer review, and accepted or refused by the Editorial Advisory Board and the Editor. A strong connection is maintained with the Northeast Conference, which is the organizational sponsor of ANDEAN PAST. Three of the papers in this volume (Daggett, Benson, and Arnold) were originally delivered at the Fourth Annual NCAAE, in Albany, New York, in 1985.

The papers in this inaugural volume of ANDEAN PAST cover a variety of topics and approaches to the prehistory of Andean South America. Two papers (Silverman, Santoro and Núñez) are primarily concerned with presenting new fieldwork in order to revise earlier ideas based on insufficient data. Helaine Silverman discusses the Room of the Posts at the principle Early Intermediate Period Nasca site of Cahuachi, and shows how this discovery and her other recent work at that site modify previous conceptions of Cahuachi's urban nature and occupational history. Calogero Santoro and Lautaro Núñez review the data--much of them recently generated by the authors' excavations--for the Archaic Period in the highland puna zones of northern Chile and southern Peru. Of particular concern to Santoro and Núñez are the previously under-recognized differences within and between the Dry and Salt Punas (in what has usually been considered a monolithic environment) and the assessment of evidence for diverse patterns of seasonal and aseasonal mobility by Archaic hunters in this area.

Four articles treat archaeological materials from museum collections. Two of these papers (Benson, Torres) have a primary focus on iconography, while two (Kvietok, Arnold) are more concerned with prehistoric technology. Elizabeth Benson ranges throughout time and space in the South American past and ethnographic present to trace the importance of bats as symbols among some prehistoric groups in this area. One of her findings is that bat symbolism is restricted to certain regions and missing in others, probably for environmental reasons. Constantino Torres reviews the iconography of an extensive collection of wooden snuff trays from San Pedro de Atacama, northern Chile, in the light of ethnohistoric, ethnographic, and ethnopharmacological data on the use of hallucinogenic inhalants among indigenous peoples of Central and South America. A number of significant themes are defined, some of them clearly related to Tiahuanaco. Others, however, appear to be local versions of pan-Andean themes which often co-existed with the Tiahuanaco iconography in San Pedro.

Peter Kvietok presents the results of his study of over one hundred prehistoric wooden boards from the south coast of Peru. He reviews the alternative functional hypotheses for the objects' use, as digging sticks or as daggerboards for sailing rafts, from the perspective of context, use-wear analysis, formal and functional analogy, and iconography, and concludes that the evidence best supports the digging stick hypothesis. Stuart Arnold's study of metal beads and stone spindle whorls from Peru provides experimental and observational evidence for the technology involved in the manufacture of these objects, including the probable use of a hollow, metal, rotary drill. A tube found in a bead assembly shows that prehistoric Peruvian technology included the ability to make tools such as the proposed metal tubular drill.

The article by Richard Daggett combines the archival approach with the presentation of "new" data from the work by Julio C. Tello in 1933 at the Nepeña valley Formative sites of Cerro Blanco and Punkuri. Much of this information has been inaccessible to most scholars because Tello never formally published the sites, choosing instead to present his results in the Lima newspapers (principally *El Comercio*). The articles from *El Comercio* are reproduced as an Appendix to Daggett's synthesis of Tello's work and recent research into the Formative Period of the Central Andes.

For much of his life, Gary S. Vescelius was a key figure in Andean archaeology. Because of his association with Cornell and the Andes, it is appropriate that this volume should contain his obituary, which was prepared by two members of the Editorial Advisory Board who knew and valued him.

ANDEAN PAST 1 is the result of collaboration by many colleagues, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. In the first place, without the constant support of Thomas H. Holloway, Director of the Cornell Latin American Studies Program, from the first NCAAE and its publication through the present volume, this project would never have gotten off the ground. Lourdes Brache, also of the Latin American Studies Program, has been a tremendous help in dealing with the bureaucratic details of preparation and production of ANDEAN PAST. I am very grateful to Monica Barnes, David Fleming, and Calogero Santoro (all of Cornell) for their aid in sundry matters pertaining to the conceptualization and realization of this project. I also thank María Inés Arrieta for volunteering to transcribe and check the Spanish of the Tello newspaper articles reproduced as the Appendix to the paper by Daggett. I am indebted to the consistently careful consideration of articles by the peer reviewers, who responded in exemplary fashion to my requests for detailed reviews of the submitted manuscripts. Finally, it is with particular pleasure that I recognize the contribution of the members of the Editorial Advisory Board, Richard Burger, Thomas Lynch, and Craig Morris, for their vital role in producing ANDEAN PAST 1.

Daniel H. Sandweiss
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