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INTRODUCTION TO “EXPERIENCES WITH THE INSTITUTE OF ANDEAN RESEARCH: 1941-42 AND 1946” BY GORDON R. WILLEY

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The following original article by Gordon R. Willey, written in 2002, near the end of his life, and at the request of the editors of *Andean Past*, represents his reminiscences about his introduction to Peruvian archaeology in general and the Institute of Andean Research (IAR), in particular. It is part of our series on the history of institutions that have been important in Andean archaeology during the twentieth century. It follows my article on the history of the Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory (NCAAE) published in *Andean Past* 6 (2000/01) and that of David L. Browman on the Midwest Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory in the same volume.

Various persons and institutions are mentioned in Willey’s recollections. This introduction provides necessary background to place these individuals and institutions in context. The IAR was the brainchild of Julio C. Tello (Strong 1943:2), so I begin with salient points about Tello, his background, and his turbulent, yet productive, career.

**TELLO, CHAVÍN, AND PARACAS**

Tello was born in the Central Highlands of Peru in 1880. In 1909 he successfully completed his studies in the School of Medicine at the University of San Marcos in Lima. He then earned his master’s degree in anthropology at Harvard University in 1911. Following a year of further study in Europe, Tello returned to Lima in 1913 and was appointed Chief of the Archaeological Section of the National Museum of History (Lothrop 1948:50-51). The German archaeologist Max Uhle had been the original director of this section, having served in this capacity from 1906 to 1911 (Tello 1959:37). Tello’s appointment in 1913 as head of the Archaeological Section at the National Museum in Lima was met with resistance by the museum’s director, Emilio Gutiérrez de Quintanilla. Gutiérrez showed little interest in preserving the museum’s archaeological and ethnohistorical collections and, after feuding with him for nearly two years, Tello reluctantly submitted his resignation in March 1915 (*ibid*:40).

Subsequently, Tello conducted an archaeological exploration of the Peruvian south coast (*ibid*:43). The collections he obtained at this time served as the basis for his doctoral thesis (Tello 1918) presented to the University of San Marcos School of Science. The following year, 1919, Tello conducted research at a number of sites in coastal and highland north-central Peru, including the highland ruins of Chavín de Huantar. This research was conducted on behalf of the University of San Marcos (Tello 1921a). Collections obtained in 1919, as well as those obtained by Tello in 1915, served as the basis for a new museum of archaeology that was begun by him at this university in 1919 (Tello 1959:42). Tello’s studies of these collections were the basis of a publication by him in which he put forth the novel idea of an early (Chavín) culture centered in the Peruvian highlands with roots...
that extended into the tropical forest (Tello 1921b:10-12). In 1923 Tello became a professor at San Marcos. The following year he offered his first course in anthropology (Lothrop 1948:51). That same year, 1924, he was appointed director of the nation’s new Museum of Peruvian Archaeology that resulted from the government’s purchase of a private museum, the Victor Larco Herrera Museum of Archaeology, which Tello had been hired to create in 1919. He had served as its director from 1919 to 1921 (Tello and Mejía X. 1967:122-123; Daggett 2007:82-83).

At the start of 1925, Tello headed two museums of archaeology and had begun teaching anthropology. Serving these related roles, he initiated an archaeological program on the coast of Peru south of Lima (Anonymous 1925). The onset of this program coincided with the arrival of Alfred L. Kroeber1 who had come to Peru for the first time on behalf of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago (Rowe 1962:402). He had recently begun publishing on Uhle’s collections that were stored at the University of California at Berkeley, beginning with collections that Uhle had made before 1906 on the Peruvian south coast (Kroeber and Strong 1924a, 1924b). In 1925 and 1926 Kroeber conducted archaeological research, in part jointly with Tello (Lothrop 1948:51). One result was a publication by Kroeber (1927) in which he discussed in detail the different ideas of Uhle and Tello regarding the prehistory of Peru.

Kroeber was not the only American archaeologist with whom Tello interacted in the field during 1925. After Kroeber returned to the United States (Rowe 1962:404), Tello received a visit from Samuel K. Lothrop.2 Together they discovered ruins on the Paracas Peninsula that proved to be the source of spectacular textiles that had been flooding the national and international art markets for more than a decade. In 1927, new excavations ordered by Tello at the ruins of Paracas led to the discovery of hundreds of mummy bundles (Tello 1959:48). Within that same year Tello began the process of opening these bundles and conserving the textiles and other objects they contained. In 1929, in a speech made at the Museum of Peruvian Archaeology that was attended by the nation’s president Augusto B. Leguía, Tello expressed the need for increased government funding to advance this process. Unfortunately, the onset of the Great Depression and the resultant political upheaval in Lima provided the opportunity for one disgruntled editor to attack Tello’s character. This he did through obviously false and libelous charges that nevertheless resulted in Tello’s removal as director of the Museum of Peruvian Archaeology in 1930. A new National Museum was then created in 1931 from the nation’s various museums in Lima. Tello was able to secure a place for himself within this new institution and, in so doing, retained control of the bulk of the Paracas collection (Daggett 1994:56-58, 2007:84-85).

1 Alfred L. Kroeber (1876-1960) entered Columbia College in 1892 and received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English in 1896 and 1897. In 1896 Franz Boas began teaching anthropology at Columbia and Kroeber became his student (Rowe 1962:395). In 1892 Boas had assumed the position of Chief Assistant, under Frederic Ward Putnam, in the Department of Anthropology at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. He followed Putnam to the American Museum of Natural History in 1895 or 1896, where he became Curator of Anthropology (Kroeber et al. 1943:12-13). This helps to explain how Kroeber was able to conduct research on behalf of the American Museum prior to 1901 when he was awarded the first doctorate given in anthropology by Columbia University. That same year Kroeber began working at the University of California at Berkeley (Rowe 1962:395-397).

2 Samuel K. Lothrop (1892-1965) graduated from Harvard in 1915 with his bachelor’s degree in Anthropology (Editor 1920:496). That same year he first participated in excavations, in the American Southwest in concert with Alfred V. Kidder. He subsequently conducted field research in Middle and South America (Easby 1966:256).
During the early 1930s Tello’s work with the unopened Paracas mummy bundles, and preservation of the Paracas collection as a whole, was inhibited by limited government funding (Daggett 1994:58). The same was true for Tello’s Chavín research that received an unexpected boost from discoveries he made in 1933 on the north-central coast (Daggett 1987:112-114). These discoveries inspired Tello to revisit Chavín de Huantar and to explore the Peruvian highlands, leading to discoveries of other Chavín sites (Daggett 2007:88-89). Given these circumstances, it should come as no surprise that Tello accepted an invitation tendered in 1935 to visit the United States. While traveling in that country in 1936 he took the opportunity to advance support for his research (Daggett 1994:59-60).

FOUNDOING AND INCORPORATION OF THE IAR

On October 13, 1936, Tello, Lothrop, Wendell Clark Bennett, Clarence Leonard Hay, Leslie Spier, and George C. Vaillant met at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) to discuss Tello’s idea to form an institute for Andean research. A plan of organization was mapped out which included, among other things, the idea that membership be limited in scope, that members preferably be American citizens, and that a Peruvian Relations Council be created to facilitate work. In addition, it was decided to create an Executive Committee composed of members who would raise and handle funds, appoint research workers, and otherwise oversee research conducted on behalf of the institute. It was specifically proposed that the Executive Committee consist of Kroeber (Chair), Lothrop, Spier, Bennett, Fay-Cooper Cole, Edgar L. Hewett, Alfred V.Kidder, Philip A. Means, and Alfred M. Kroebef on the Uhle Peruvian collections (Rowe 1978:653-654).

6 George C. Vaillant (1901-1945) studied anthropology at Harvard University where he earned his doctorate in 1927, that same year beginning his work at the AMNH. Although he had worked with Alfred Kidder in the southwestern United States, he was committed to Mexican studies and in 1930 he began working at the AMNH as its Assistant Curator of Mexican Archaeology (Noguera 1946:1-2).

7 Fay-Cooper Cole (1881-1961) studied, among other places, at the University of Chicago and Columbia University. He began work as an anthropologist at the AMNH in 1906. In 1924 he moved to the University of Chicago where, by 1929, he headed a newly formed Department of Anthropology (Jennings 1962:574). See Barnes, this volume, note 12.

8 Edgar L. Hewett (1865-1946) invited Tello to come to the United States, and this resulted in Tello being made a member of the School of American Research at a meeting held in Santa Fe, New Mexico late in August 1936 (Daggett 1994:59). Hewett was the founder and director of this School and he had established the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico (Fisher 1947:78).

9 Alfred V. Kidder (1885-1963) worked in the American Southwest. He received his doctorate in anthropology from Harvard in 1914. In 1927 he began working for the
Tozzer,11 (Harvard Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology Archives, IAR Folder 1, 996-20).

A second meeting was held in Washington, D.C. on December 28, 1936. In attendance were Bennett, Cole, Kidder, Kroeber, Lothrop, Means, Spier, Tozzer, and Vaillant.12 Kroeber was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee and Tello was appointed Peruvian Councilor. A committee of three, consisting of Bennett, Lothrop, and Vaillant was tasked with investigating the matter of incorporation (ibid.). Lothrop, Tozzer, and Vaillant filed a Certificate of Incorporation for the IAR as a non-profit entity on February 2, 1937. This they did under the Membership Corporation Law of the State of New York, and on March 5, this certificate was filed with the Office of the Secretary of the State in Albany (Mason 1967:3).

ACTIVITIES OF THE IAR, 1937-1940

During the first years of its existence, research by the IAR was supported with private contributions. This research was primarily archaeological in nature, and was conducted principally in Peru. In 1937 honorary fellowships were given to a number of students to conduct research in that country. Among the students were two from Yale, one from Harvard, and one from the University of Chicago. Donald Collier13 of the University of Chicago assisted Tello in new (Chavín) research on the north-central coast, as did the two Yale students, while Isabel Guernsey, representing Harvard, assisted with the (Paracas) textile study ongoing in Lima. An honorary fellowship was also given in 1937 to Alfred Kidder II14 to allow him to conduct a broad field survey in Peru that in 1940 focused on the southern highlands. At that time he conducted excavations as a member of the IAR, having achieved this status that same year. He was only the second new member of the Institute, the first being William Duncan Strong15

10 Philip Ainsworth Means (1892-1944) received his master's degree from Harvard in 1916. Both an historian and an archaeologist, his research focused on Hispanic America and he frequently traveled to Peru during the years prior to 1920. From 1920 to 1921 he worked at the National Museum of History in Lima (Bennett 1946:234-235). He later published one of the first descriptive reports on the Chavín discoveries made by Tello (ibid: 237) on Peru's north-central coast in 1933.

11 The Mesoamerican scholar Alfred Marston Tozzer (1877-1954) completed his doctorate at Harvard in 1904 and the following year began teaching there (Phillips 1955:72-74).

12 These nine individuals, along with Tello who apparently had returned to Peru, comprise the ten founding fathers of the IAR. They represented the following eight American institutions: Harvard University (Hay, Kidder, Lothrop, Means, Tello, Tozzer, and Vaillant), Columbia University (Cole, Kroeber, and Spier), Yale University (Spier), the University of Chicago (Bennett and Cole), the University of California at Berkeley (Kroeber), the AMNH, (Bennett, Hay, Kroeber, Spier, and Vaillant), the [Field] Museum of Natural History (Cole and Kroeber), and the Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C. (Kidder). These institutions, though spanning the country from coast to coast, were nonetheless concentrated in the northeast region.

13 Donald Collier (1911-1995) was awarded his B.A. at the University of California in 1933 (Thompson 1996:44). He became a member of the IAR in 1944 (Mason 1967:14). See also Barnes, this volume, note 18.

14 Alfred Kidder II (1911-1984) was the son of Alfred V. Kidder. In 1937 he was awarded his doctorate at Harvard, that same year becoming an instructor in the Department of Anthropology (Mohr Chávez 2005:252-253).

15 William Duncan Strong (1899-1962) studied with Kroeber at Berkeley, receiving his doctorate in anthropology there in 1926. He began his professional career at the [Field] Museum of Natural History in Chicago, ultimately moving to Columbia University in 1937 (Solecki and Wagley 1963:1103). As a graduate student Strong had
who was added to the membership roll in 1939 (Mason 1967:14). In 1938 Bennett was the recipient of one of two grants supporting research in northern Peru while another grant in 1939 supported research in Peru’s southern highlands. In 1940 two Harvard students were given support for work in the southern highlands, while Strong obtained funds for an extensive survey of Peru as a whole (Strong 1943:3).

THE 1941-1942 IAR PROGRAM OF RESEARCH

During 1941-1942 the IAR undertook a major multi-project program of research sponsored by the Art Committee of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs in the U.S. Department of State (Strong 1943:2). Vaillant had been the one to broker the arrangement, including discussions with Nelson Rockefeller,\(^\text{16}\) the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs (Willey 1988:117). Funding was provided for eleven field projects, four in Peru, two in Mexico, and one each in El Salvador, Cuba/Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Chile. In every case but Cuba/Venezuela, project directors were members of the IAR. Kroeber, Strong, and Kidder II directed three of the Peruvian projects while Lothrop and Tello co-directed the fourth. Each of these four projects also included a supervisor. Gordon Willey served in this capacity under Strong,\(^\text{17}\) and Marshall Thornton Newman\(^\text{18}\) did the same under Lothrop and Tello (Strong 1943: 6-7).

THE VIRU VALLEY PROJECT: 1946

In 1942 Strong moved to Washington, D.C.\(^\text{19}\) where he assumed the duties of the Director of the Ethnographic Board at the Smithsonian Institution (Willey 1988:91), “a special agency that made anthropological knowledge and personnel available to the national needs” (Solecki and Wagley 1963: 1103). Willey initially took over Strong’s teaching duties at

\(^{16}\) In 1937 Rockefeller made a business trip to South America. While in Lima he visited Tello and saw for himself the effect years of limited funding had on the Paracas mummy bundles under his care. Tello pleaded his case and Rockefeller agreed to help with a donation. Rockefeller then suggested that a gift of some of the bundles to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, of which he was a Trustee, might lead to further funding. Tello was in agreement as were Peruvian officials. This resulted in the shipment of four Paracas mummy bundles to the Metropolitan Museum. Later three of these bundles were transferred to the AMNH and the remaining bundle was transferred to the Harvard Peabody Museum. Subsequently, in 1940, Rockefeller assumed the position of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs (Daggett 1994: 60-61).

\(^{17}\) John Maxwell Corbett (born 1913) was also part of the research team for this project centered on Peru’s Central Coast (Strong 1943:6). Corbett was a student of Hewett’s at the University of Southern California (Willey 1988:86). Corbett worked for the Museum of New Mexico at Quarai and Pecos in 1939 (Corbett 1951:165). That same year his University of Southern California master’s thesis, “Ball Courts and Ballgame of the Ancient American Indians” was published. A copy may be found in the Harvard University Library. Before beginning work on their IAR project, Strong, Willey, and Corbett conducted excavations at the ruins of Pachacamac just south of Lima (ibid:88-90). Junius Bird (1907-1982) of the AMNH (Hyslop 1989:84) served as the supervisor for a project outside Peru that was directed by Strong (Strong 1943:6). Bird became a member of the IAR in 1944, as did Gordon Willey (Mason 1967:14).

\(^{18}\) The physical anthropologist Marshall Thornton Newman (1911-1994) also collaborated with Willey and Corbett on excavations undertaken for the Central Peruvian Coast project (Willey 1988:90). Newman had just earned his doctorate at Harvard with a dissertation entitled “An Analysis of Indian Skeletal Material from Northern Alabama and Its Bearing Upon the Peopling of the Southeastern United States” (Editor 1942).

\(^{19}\) Prior to assuming the position at Columbia Strong had worked at the Bureau of American Ethnology at the Smithsonian Institution, where he served as Senior Ethnologist beginning in 1931 (Solecki and Wagley 1963: 1103).
Columbia. However, in 1943 Willey, too, went to Washington to begin work at the Smithsonian at the request of Julian H. Steward. Bennett took an active role on the Ethnographic Board and this gave him, Strong, and Willey an opportunity to discuss plans for future work in Peru. Strong was then serving as the president of the Institute (Willey 1988:91-92). At some point Steward entered the discussions, as did F. W. McBryde of the Institute of Social Anthropology at the Smithsonian (Willey 1946:224). Because Bennett had worked in the Virú Valley, it was decided to focus research there. This research was to be coordinated by the IAR, with funding coming from the universities of Columbia, Cornell, and Yale, as well as the American Museum of Natural History, the Field Museum of Natural History, and the Smithsonian (Willey 1988:63). A committee of four, Bennett, Steward, Strong, and Willey, all IAR members, was created to formulate plans for the research.

\section*{Final Comments}

The Harvard graduate student John H. Rowe (1918-2004) participated as supervisor in the 1941-42 IAR Project 7 directed by Alfred Kidder II that focused on the southern highlands of Peru (Strong 1943:7). Rowe was made a member of the IAR in 1944 (Mason 1967:14) and earned his doctorate at Harvard in 1947 (Burger 2007: 35). In 1950 he began teaching a seminar on Peruvian archaeology at the University of California at Berkeley, the first such course since Kroeber had offered one there in 1942 (Editor 1951: 366). Rowe subsequently began bringing his students to Peru to conduct research (Rowe 1956). In 1960 the Institute of Andean Studies (IAS) was founded and incorporated with Rowe as its president (Lyon 1983: 1). Berkeley then became established as the permanent host institution for its meetings held annually in January (Browman 2000/01:347).

Clearly the influences of Uhle and Kroeber were at the heart of this new research institute. Less clear, however, was how much the increased research focus of the IAR on Mesoamerica (e.g., Mason 1967:9), and/or difficulties encountered by West Coast members in attending annual IAR meetings in New York City may have influenced the creation of the IAS. It has been reported that problems encountered by those living and working in the Midwest in attending this annual IAS meeting led to the creation of the Midwest Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory (MCAAAE) in 1973 (Browman 2000/01:347). It has likewise been reported that difficulties encountered by those living and working in the Northeast in attending the annual Midwest Conference led to the creation of the Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory in 1982 (Daggett 2000/01:310-311). Hence, both the MCAAAE and the NCAAE may be viewed as offspring of the IAS and the IAS was, at least indirectly, given its

\begin{footnotesize}
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\item[20] \textit{Julian H. Steward} (1902-1972), had done graduate studies at Berkeley and first got to know Kroeber there in 1925 (Steward 1973:vi). Steward earned his B.A. at Cornell University (Willey 1988:22). Allan R. Holmberg, a social anthropologist employed jointly by Cornell and the Smithsonian also became part of the Viru Valley Project (ibid: 92). A native of Renville, Minnesota, he was awarded his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1947. The following year he joined the faculty of Cornell (Editor 1965:2). Steward became a member of the IAR in 1944 and Holmberg became a member in 1946 (Mason 1967: 14). See also Barnes, this volume, note 37.

\item[21] \textit{Felix Webster McBryde} (born 1908) was awarded his doctorate in anthropology by the University of California in 1940. His research had been focused on present-day Maya in Guatemala. Beginning in 1932 his field research was supported, in part, by the Carnegie Institution of Washington (McBryde 1947:xiii-xiv).
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emphasis on the Andes, an offspring of the IAR. In light of this it should be noted that, like the newly formed IAR in 1937, the three current Andean research groups cover three distinct regions, the Northeast, the Midwest, and the West. Finally, given these connections, it seems both appropriate and historic that the second annual meeting of the Northeast Conference was held at the AMNH (ibid:314), the official home of the IAR (Mason 1967:2).

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