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**Excavations in Andahuaylas: An Interim Report
to the Fulbright Commission and,
the National Science Foundation**

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I. Project Accomplishments to Date:

It is with much pleasure and no small amount of good fortune that I can report that at the halfway mark this research has yielded not only enough for my dissertation but also archaeological evidence which will have significant implications for Peruvian culture history in general. Without going into too much detail I would like to summarize the most important points that have come to light thus far.

So as to give perspective let me briefly review what was known of Andahuaylas up until this research began. Archaeologists are now fairly sure that there have been at least two powerful empires in Precolonial Peru. The first, called Huari, existed in the eighth century A.D. with its capital located just to the north in the Department of Ayacucho. The second and more well known was that of the Incas who had their capital to the south in Cuzco during the fifteenth century A.D. From present evidence it is possible to say that the Huari Empire held sway throughout the Sierras and Coast of what is now modern Peru. The Inca Empire extended even farther, from the north of Ecuador to the center of Chile. That both these empires exerted influence in the Department of Apurimac during their respective periods of power is well attested to by the numerous finds of pottery and refuse belonging to each. Although pre-Inca chronologies have been worked out for both Ayacucho and Cuzco, none has been defined for the Department of Apurimac which lies between the two. It was not known what cultures existed here either during the Huari or Inca empires or what cultures may have flourished here before or between these periods of outside influence. Beside being completely unknown, this region drew attention for another reason. According to early Spanish accounts, Apurimac was the homeland of the powerful Chanka Confederation which in 1438 attacked the Incas in Cuzco. It was the defeat to the Chankas which precipitated the rapid expansion of the Incas out of the Southern Sierras. Despite the importance of the Chankas, there existed no archaeological evidence that could be securely linked to them. This region and its ancient peoples represented a geographical and temporal blank in Peruvian studies.

In 1954 John H. Rowe of the University of California at Berkeley visited Andahuaylas briefly and identified three new styles of pottery. One, called Waywaka, seemed to be a local copy or derivation of the Huari style. A second variety, Qasawirka, was shown to be earlier than Huari occupation in the area, but just how early nobody could be sure. Because of some apparent similarities in design with early ceramics from other regions it was thought that it might date back as far as the sixth century B.C. Despite the fact that this pottery has never been systematically studied or described it has been referred to by others in print as having this temporal placement. Finally, Rowe identified a third variant of pottery at a site called Muyu Moqe. The most that could be said at that time was that it might represent a regional deviant or outgrowth of the Qasawirka style. Until more evidence was accumulated nothing concrete could be said about the relative position or absolute age of these cultures.

It was with this state of knowledge that I chose to initiate a program of well controlled excavations in Andahuaylas with the aim of working out a well defined cultural chronology. I felt upon my arrival that it would be necessary to excavate possibly up to four or five sites before I found one that would yield a clear sequence of refuse deposits dating to distinct epochs. Furthermore I thought that since it was unlikely that I would discover a culture predating that of Qasawirka I would be concentrating on the latter part of the sequence, the period of the Chankas. I was mistaken on both counts. Not only did the first site at which I began excavations contain a long sequence of consecutive deposits from different cultures, but I hit upon a series of buried levels which contained very early remains. Because of this I shifted my plans and decided to excavate extensively at this one site in order to clearly define the early ceramic cultures of Andahuaylas.

After only a short while it became evident that there were four distinct but consecutive periods of occupation represented at this one site of Waywaka. Although I as yet have no radiocarbon determinations I believe that this sequence probably spans over two thousand years, running from 1000 B.C. to 1000 A.D. On the surface were Huari and Waywaka sherds dating to the eighth and possibly tenth century A.D. Below this was a stratum containing only Qasawirka sherds. When I went deeper I found refuse filled with the previously problematic Huay Moqe pottery. Thus the original picture of Andahuaylas culture history was immediately changed. It was the Huay Moqe style which was the earliest. Furthermore, instead of being early as previously thought, the Qasawirka culture could have existed as late as 500-700 A.D., an upward shift of almost a thousand years. Because the lowest levels at Waywaka contained sterile sand layers separating deposits of refuse it is now possible to define two phases of the Huay Moqe style, Huay Moqe A and Huay Moqe B. Once the analysis has progressed I believe that it will be possible to subdivide this material even further.

Together with the uppermost Huay Moqe B pottery were a few sherds which seemed to be related to an early ceramic style in Ayacucho, called Wichqana, that has been dated as early as four to six hundred years B.C. If this comparison is at all valid then the Huay Moqe A material should be several centuries earlier. As I indicated above, I would not be surprised if this Huay Moqe A style yielded radiocarbon determinations of around 1000 B.C. The question of age will soon be cleared up because in the process of excavation I was able to collect over forty carbon samples from the Qasawirka and Huay Moqe refuse levels. Although I have funds for only seven or eight laboratory tests the large sample will help to ensure a reliable series of dates.

In order to better characterize the site I ran a line of pits from one side of Waywaka to the other. In three months I excavated eight, one by two meter, units. Of these one yielded mixed refuse, one revealed only a deep deposit of Qasawirka refuse (which will possibly permit the subdivision of this culture into earlier and later periods), three showed the clear sequence outlined above, and three were opened to expose an ancient stone cistern dating to Qasawirka times.

This cistern (illustrated in report) was an important find. Like many sites both in Andahuaylas and in other areas of the Peruvian sierras Waywaka is situated on top of a steep hill. The obvious inference is that such sites were chosen for defence. But this presented a problem. How would the people living there get water in time of attack? The severing of any canal running from up valley would be the first point of attack, and it seems hardly likely that the people would subject themselves to daily trips up and down the mountain in time of siege. Although a system of cisterns would be the logical solution none have ever been found in early contexts. This example at the site of Waywaka represents an ideal solution and it is probable that with extended excavation more will sure to be uncovered both at Waywaka and at other similar sites.

The excavation of the cistern proved interesting for other reasons. While the general refuse yielded on the average only 7 to 10% diagnostic sherds (rims and decorated pieces) the cistern fill contained between 15 and 20% diagnostic material. In addition large numbers of animal bones were recovered in perfect preservation. This will help greatly in understanding the economy and eating habits of the Qasawirka peoples.

Although pottery is stressed because of its importance for defining cultural units it was by no means the only kind of artifact recovered in these excavations. Thousands of stone tools and numerous worked bone pieces were also found. From the Qasawirka levels came seven beautifully worked copper tools and small animals of clay. The Huay Moqe strata yielded sixteen human burials and one ceremonial llama burial. The llama had its legs cut off, its back broken, and a piece of turquoise in its mouth. Although the human burials had no ceramic associations a few were buried with finely cut blue stone beads and gold foil. From sea shells, many varieties of semiprecious stone, and imported pottery it might be possible to work out some extensive trade networks for the early Huay Moqe culture.

One last find deserves mention. In the lowest Huay Moqe level I found two stone bowls, one on top of the other. Inside were three carefully made small stone hammers and a larger one which probably served as an anvil. When I washed the soil matrix from inside the bowls through fine mesh screen several gold flaked

remained. It is not unlikely that this interesting discovery represents the earliest gold working tool kit to be found in Peru. I am not aware of any similar association of artifacts being reported from anywhere in the literature on Andean archaeology.

With my excavations completed I have spent the last two months washing and marking each artifact. As it is the policy with other students from Berkeley I will spend the remaining months drawing and photographing the diagnostic finds. By recording the finds in the field instead of taking them out for later study one can usually promise more rapid publication of the work and well as a warm reception from local authorities and scientists. Latin Americans have too often been frustrated without reason by foreign archaeologists who in the past would cart off tons of material, never to return. The storage of collections in the host country benefits both foreign and local students by leaving them readily accessible for future reference. At very least export should be limited to those few items which may require complex laboratory tests at foreign institutions.

This research in Andahuaylas has laid the groundwork for a second phase of study. Now that the early cultures are clearly understood, I would like to return in the near future to fill in the remaining gaps and to attack the problem of Chanka identification.

II. Working Conditions and General Advice:

A. Living Conditions: Andahuaylas, in the department of Apurimac, is located in the south-central Andes at about 9,500 ft. Being halfway between the cities of Ayacucho and Cuzco it is a major rest stop on the road from Lima to Cuzco. Here as in other areas of the Sierras the anthropologist must take into account varying weather conditions in planning his field program. While there is some variation, the rainy season usually sets in from December to March and active work in the surrounding countryside is next to impossible. Excavation is out and even travel is difficult. Although heavy rains do not come every day the ground is quickly saturated and mud is everywhere. Fortunately I had finished with my excavations by December and have used the bad weather to stay inside and study my collections.

For the archaeologist the biggest problem in terms of housing is work space. Some in the recent past have stayed in the field only long enough to make their excavations and then have taken their collections to Lima for study. But here even if they can find space for their materials it is usually quite far from where they may be living and can cause a great deal of inconvenience and lost time in commuting. Lima is also very expensive. In my case I was able to find a fairly large two story apartment in Andahuaylas with enough rooms to live in, store bulky collections, and to make a study laboratory. It has a small bath, kitchen and enclosed courtyard where I can wash and dry pottery without worry. Rent is 35 dollars a month. Electricity usually amounts to three and five dollars more a month. Since I am living here for a year and because archaeology is little more than glorified garbage collection I installed a small hot water heater for the shower. This can be done for less than fifty dollars and is well worth it. Most apartments come unfurnished but with a little ingenuity and a few friends one can set up house for pennies. I borrowed a few chairs and tables from a local parish priest and made my work benches out of old discarded crates.

Cooking is time consuming. Meat is scarce; one must get up at five in the morning in order to get down to the market before there are only leftovers. Because of this I usually make a light breakfast and lunch but make a point of eating a large meal at one of the local restaurants. In the smaller cities and towns throughout the Sierras food has little variation. Main courses consist of little more than rice, potatoes and small chunks of fried meat. On the advice of a missionary nurse I have recently begun to take a daily vitamin pill. Aside from staying healthy a successful project depends greatly on moral. I find that a well rounded American style breakfast of pancakes, maple syrup, and fried eggs does much to bolster spirits in a largely solitary situation. Although a fine pancake mix called Mamy's is available in most towns, maple syrup is unheard-of. Because of this I would

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strongly advise anyone planning a year project in the highlands to bring a small bottle of McCormick's imitation maple flavoring. With this, and a little local sugar, one can make gallons of great maple syrup. Other musts: plastic measuring cup and measuring spoons, a home made even out of tin cans to put on top a a primus stove.

Clothing requires little comment. While comfortable hiking boots are anecessity for the field, I have found light tennis shoes to be the most practical for use in town. This is especially so during the rainy season; being easy to put on and take off they save you from tracking trails of mud through the house. Although good and inexpensive work shirts are abundant in Peru, jeans are not. My best purchase before I came was a thick but light weight down alpine jacket(cost: \$45.00).

Medical facilities in Andahuaylas would have to be classed as poor. The local hospital is understaffed and illequipped. Except for an extreme emergency I would go to Lima for help. Drugs and medicines, however, are available at several local pharmacies usually without prescription. Aside from Gamma globulin and Special items (such as a snake bite kit for the jungle) the field worker need not burden himself with a large supply of medicines when he leaves the U.S.

Transportation by land is easily available between the cities. Two bus lines provide regular daily service to and from Lima and Cuzco although during the rainy season roads are often impassible for periods of one to two days. By land Lima is a two to three day trip. The easiest way to travel is by the twice weekly government Satco flight. With a student card or a letter of introduction from the Fulbright Commission in Lima one can get a 20% discount on all flights. Faucet Airlines also gives a discount but only during certain months of the year.

B: Research Conditions: Needless to say, in a semirural area such as Andahuaylas research facilities are at a minimum. In my own case I found it convenient to Xerox these references I would need (chapters, articles from journals, etc.) and bind them in a notebook. This makes them easily available and cuts down on travel bulk and weight. Equipment of course depends on the nature of ones work. Lima stores are well stocked with engineering and drafting equipment but good typewriter paper is hard to come by. I always bring down several hundred sheets of water marked bond paper. Film is expensive in Peru. It is cheapest to purchase in bulk in the U.S. Often your University can get a considerable discount. The least expensive way to take black and white photos is to purchase a bulk loader, several 100' rolls of film, and roll your own. This comes out to be less than half the price of store bought black and white packets.

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In terms of the general research climate it is not out of place to mention that the U.S. scholar sometimes has to face some rather uncomfortable stereotypes about North Americans. Despite the fact that he in no way serves as a representative of U.S. foreign policy the student is often seen as a symbol of that policy. There have even been several instances where people mentioned, either to my face or behind my back, the possibility that I was either a spy or in some way tied to one of the supposed all enveloping U.S. intelligence agencies. It is interesting that several priests working in Andahuaylas have had similar experiences.

Aside from a few ambivalent feelings towards "gringos" as a whole, people in Andahuaylas, as is often the case in areas previously unexposed to an outside archaeologist, were a little wary of my aims. At the outset quite a few were sure that I had come to loot their "buried treasure" and look for gold. While this generally surfaced as nothing more serious than repeated requests to borrow my "detector", I did have a few days of trouble when I began to excavate. Two local pet-hunters, of some status in the community, apparently thought I was crowding their territory. At first they only engaged in verbal threats but after spending two weeks laying out mapping stakes and opening the first test pits I arrived at the site one morning to find the stakes kicked up and one unit partially vandalized. Fortunately this is as far as it went. I flew to Lima to consult with Ed Purcell, the U.S. Embassy and the staff of the Patronato de Arqueología. As a result, letters were received by the local officials who then put a stop to any farther trouble. Although not serious, I mention this to indicate the kind of problems others in my position should not be surprised to encounter. Aside from this one incident the community has been most cordial and shown only a genuine interest in my work. On various occasions the mayor has brought friends and official visitors on tours of the excavations and laboratory.

C. Fulbright Commission and U.S. Embassy: The staff at the Fulbright office in Lima is both helpful and friendly. You can save yourself a lot of running around by getting advice on how to get things done from them in the beginning. The new Fellow should be sure to ask for a letter of introduction in Spanish. This not only impresses officials in outlying areas but will also get you many discounts. The Commission also keeps a well stocked back room full of household items which are available for a small fee.

One person who has been most helpful in facilitating the success of this project is Ed Purcell of the Cultural Affairs Department of the Embassy. Not only is he a charming and outgoing person but his aid and advice have been invaluable.

D. Additional Information:

1. Banking: My living stipend comes in monthly installments from the University of California. Each check is released on the fifth of the month to the Bank of America in Berkeley. They in turn send it to the B of A branch in Lima. Here it is changed into Soles and sent to the Banco de Credito in Andahuaylas where I have an account. Although the check arrives in Lima around the eleventh, because of office delays and the mail system, I often don't receive any money before the end of the month. I recently learned that the Bank of America and the Banco de Credito in Lima can arrange to wire the money up to Andahuaylas. On the first try, my money arrived on the seventeenth.

2. Visas: My biggest problem in getting into the field was the visa. When I was in San Francisco I went to the local Peruvian Consul with letters of introduction and copies of the grants to request a one year student, or research, visa. I was met with a cold shoulder and even called a hippy apparently because of my beard. I went two more times with even more documents and still got nowhere. Finally I came to Lima with a tourist card and had to request a visa once I was here. Although I had hoped for a student visa which carries no costs I ended up with a non-immigrant resident visa. This costs ten dollars each year and about twelve dollars when I leave. Other fellows have had similar experiences so that if the Fulbright Fellows (under H.R.W.) could be given visas like the State Department Fulbright Scholars a lot of headache and time would be saved for the researcher in Peru.

Aside from these minor details I can only say that this is the finest research program I have had the honor to participate in and that my only suggestion for improvement would be to expand it greatly.

Gratefully yours,

Joel W. Grossman