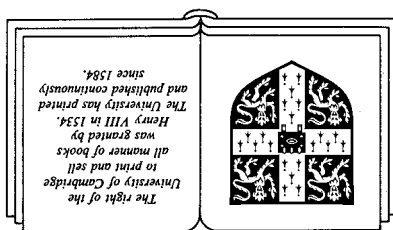


*PERUVIAN PREHISTORY*

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*Edited by*  
RICHARD W. KEATINGE

*An overview of pre-Inca and Inca society*

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*In memory of*  
**JUNIUS B. BIRD**  
*Colleague, friend,*  
*and pioneer in*  
*Peruvian prehistory*

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## PREFACE

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Some forty years ago, in July of 1947, a conference on Peruvian archaeology sponsored by the Viking Fund and the Institute of Andean Research was convened in New York City. The purpose of the conference was to evaluate the progress of research in Peruvian prehistory, focusing on various questions of chronology, stylistic relationships, and culture history. The conference volume, *A Reappraisal of Peruvian Archaeology*, assembled by Wendell Bennett and published by the Society for American Archaeology in 1948, stands as a landmark in the assessment of Peruvian archaeology. However, in the years since its publication there has been no comparable comprehensive evaluation and review of Peruvian archaeology by a group of active scholars such as was represented in the 1947 conference volume. While a number of important syntheses of Peruvian culture history have been published since that time (Bennett and Bird 1949, Bushnell 1956, Mason 1957, Lanning 1967, Lumbreras 1969, 1974, Kauffman Doig 1970, Willey 1971, Ravines, 1982), virtually all represent interpretations of single individuals rather than the collective analyses of a group of specialists.

The purpose of this volume is to provide an overview of the status of Peruvian archaeology today. Since the 1947 conference and particularly in the last fifteen years, a wealth of new material has been recovered by archaeologists working in Peru, much of it still unpublished. It seems, then, an appropriate moment for stocktaking – a time for an examination of recent research results and their ramifications for more traditional interpretations and approaches. In attempting to fulfill this goal, each participant in the present volume has been asked to review a specific period of Peruvian prehistory in which he or she has a particular interest and expertise. While such a scheme inevitably results in some overlap, it also assures complete coverage of the spectrum of cultural evolution in Peru.

The framework for the volume is provided by the chronological scheme suggested by Max Uhle and magnified by John Rowe (1960). Though increasingly challenged, this scheme is still the one most generally accepted amongst scholars working in Peru. This framework is based on the subdivision of pre-ceramic and ceramic stages into a number of different periods. The ceramic



stage, in particular, is divided by alternating Horizons and Periods, a distinction based on the contrast of time periods characterized by a wave of stylistic influence sweeping beyond parochial regional boundaries (Horizons) and time periods characterized by regional styles with much less pan-Andean impact (Periods). Combined with the preceramic subdivisions suggested by Lanning and Patterson (Lanning 1967: 25), subdivisions which are severely criticized in this volume by John Rick and Claude Chauchat (chs. 1 and 2), the standard chronological framework for Peruvian prehistory can be presented as follows:

Late Horizon	AD 1476–1534
Late Intermediate Period	AD 1000–1476
Middle Horizon	AD 600–1000
Early Intermediate Period	200 BC–AD 600
Early Horizon	900–200 BC
Initial Period	1800–900 BC
Preceramic Period VI	2500–1800 BC
Preceramic Period V	4200–2500 BC
Preceramic Period IV	6000–4200 BC
Preceramic Period III	8000–6000 BC
Preceramic Period II	9500–8000 BC
Preceramic Period I	?–9500 BC

Part I, covering the preceramic periods, begins with the appearance of the first inhabitants and focuses on the evolution of subsistence economies together with the trend towards sedentary village life in different regions of Peru. For the highlands, John Rick examines the earliest evidence for human occupation of the sierra region, emphasizing the effects of climate and ecological zonation on the behavior of hunter-gatherer society in the movement towards settled village life based on domesticated plants and animals. For the coastal region, Claude Chauchat reviews the evidence of early human occupation and discusses the ecological determinants which played a role in the adaptive behavior of these early inhabitants. Chauchat critically analyzes the empirical data on which traditional preceramic coastal chronology is based and argues that this periodization cannot be supported on the basis of the evidence.

Following the contrastive discussions of the highland and coastal zones during the preceramic stage, Rosa Fung's analysis focuses on developments which began at the end of the Preceramic and continued into the Initial Period. Her contribution thus provides a transitional chapter dealing with the complexity of cultural development characterizing this period. In addition to the introduction of ceramics and other important items in the cultural inventory, the Initial Period provides the first evidence for what later blossomed into the "Chavín phenomena" of the Early Horizon. Fung reviews the developments

on the coast and in the highlands relevant to the beginning of the politico-religious organization of Chavín, thus setting the stage for a consideration of the florescence of complex society in Part II.

Part II begins with Richard Burger's discussion of the religious manifestation referred to as the "Chavín cult" during the Early Horizon. In an exceptional discussion which draws upon his own excavations at several important sites, including the highland site of Chavín de Huántar, Burger presents an evaluation of the development and inter-regional connections of Chavín. Following Burger's chapter, William Conklin and Michael Moseley discuss the Early Intermediate Period. Utilizing pattern analysis, they contrast cultural development in different regions in terms of settlement distribution, road patterning, and irrigation networks as well as a variety of other cultural remains during a period of dynamic regional development.

There follows an essay by William Isbell in which the critical developments of the Middle Horizon are discussed. This period is characterized, though not necessarily dominated, by the two great centers of Huari (in the highlands near the modern town of Ayacucho) and Tiwanaku (on the southern shore of Lake Titicaca in what is now Bolivia). Isbell examines the stylistic evidence for a relationship between these two sites as well as their impact on cultural development in other regions, emphasizing a number of major problems in our current understanding of this critical period in Andean prehistory. Finally, to close Part II, Jeffrey Parsons and Charles Hastings review the status of research on the Late Intermediate Period, seen as a transitional period between the collapse of Huari and Tiwanaku and the formation of the Inca Empire. In discussing the Late Intermediate Period, the authors focus on four principal regions of the coast and highlands, reviewing the archaeological record and suggesting a number of guidelines for future investigation.

Part III deals with two closely related topics: the pan-Andean empire of the Incas and the importance of ethnohistoric research. Craig Morris's contribution is devoted to a review of research on the Inca Empire, including discussions of chronology, variation in artifacts, functional studies, and structural approaches to ideology and principles of organization. Following Morris's chapter, and his call for a methodology combining the efforts of specialists in anthropology and history, Patricia Netherly provides a demonstration of the potential of such an approach. In her chapter, Netherly clearly outlines the merits of research which combines the use of ethnohistoric sources with data obtained from the archaeological record.

In Part IV, Scott Raymond deals with the often-neglected tropical forest region and the impact of this important area on the evolution of Andean civilization. He discusses the archaeological evidence for exchange between the Peruvian highlands-coast and the tropical forest, and presents a number of interaction models, one involving highland settlement of the montaña during

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the Early Intermediate Period and the other the exploitation of the tropical forest as a resource base during the Middle Horizon.

The final section of the volume, Part V, offers a synthesis of the major ideas presented by the book as a whole, examines current trends in the study of Peruvian prehistory, and suggests possible research directions for the future.

This is the first collective assessment of Peruvian archaeology for a generation. We hope it will attract those with no specialist interest in Peru as much as existing students, and will play at least a small part in making the extraordinary richness of Andean culture more widely known and appreciated in the English-speaking world. If so, we will have been amply rewarded.

*RICHARD W. KEATINGE*