**How Archaic is that Archipelago?**

**The Huaracane Tradition and the Antiquity**

**of Vertical Control in the South Andes**

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One of the constants of Andean life is the establishment of economic access to

lowland resource zones by highland peoples. The nature and antiquity of this

"vertical control" has been a critical issue in Andean archaeology.

One specific form of vertical control, dubbed the "vertical archipelago" by John

Murra, has been of particular interest in the south central Andes. In this now-

familiar model, based on Garci Diez de San Miguel’s account of the Lupaqa Ay-

mara kingdoms, highlanders established an "archipelago" of colonies in lowland

valleys to cultivate lowland products such as maize, ají and coca.

At the risk of oversimplifying, we define an "archipelago" of direct colonization

by two criteria: RESIDENCE in lowland zones, and IDENTITY with highland

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polities. The archaeological correlates of direct colonization, are, therefore: a)

evidence of domestic habitation, and b) material evidence of maintained identity,

through cultural and social links to a highland center.

The failure to meet both of these conditions would signify a socio-political con-

figuration other than a colonial "archipelago". Domestic habitation WITHOUT

clear evidence of highland identity would indicate a resident population of a local

tradition. Conversely, isolated objects of highland identity without evidence of

residence would suggest non-colonial patterns such as long distance exchange.

**L SLIDE: SOUTHERN PERU MAP; R SLIDE:VALLEY VIEW**

The Moquegua Valley of southern Peru, one of the lowland valleys colonized by

the Lupaqa, is an important area for the testing of the ’vertical archipelago’ model

in prehistory. This section of the Osmore river drainage, between elevations of 900

and 2000 masl, lies midway between the altiplano and the Pacific coast. Because

of its temperate climate and access routes to coastal resources, Moquegua has long

been considered one of the most likely areas for early "vertical archipelagos" of

altiplano colonists.

**R SLIDE: PHOTO OF PAUL**

Previous research has demonstrated that colonies of Tiwanaku affiliation domi-

nated the valley in the Middle Horizon. Colonial Tiwanaku residential, mortuary

and ceremonial sites in Moquegua were found to have structure, contents, and ac-

tivities indistinguishable from those of altiplano Tiwanaku prototypes. Fulfilling

our criteria for residence and identity, Moquegua’s Tiwanaku occupation may be

considered a clear case of altiplano colonization, rather than the co-option of an

indigenous local tradition.

Today we will use new survey and excavation data to address whether the antiquity

of this sort of direct altiplano colonization can be extended to the Pre-Tiwanaku

occupation of the Moquegua Valley. We will concentrate on the earliest phases

of pottery-using agrarian society in Moquegua, known as the HUARACANE and

TRAPICHE phases.

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**L SLIDE: CHRONOLOGY**

Others have suggested that these phases represent early manifestations of alti-

plano colonization. Early reports on the Huaracane phase, citing general similar-

ities in pottery, speculated that the phase may represent colonists affiliated with

the Chiripa culture. Similarly, the Trapiche phase, distinguished by zoned-incised

painted pottery similar to the Pukara style, was thought to indicate the presence of

Pukara colonists. These associations, although they were based on very prelim-

inary information and intended as hypotheses, have nonetheless made their way

into the secondary literature.

The Moquegua Archaeological Survey, an ongoing systematic settlement pat-

tern survey in the Moquegua Valley, directed by Goldstein, with support from

the Wenner-Gren foundation, the J.M.Kaplan fund, and Programa Contisuyu, has

yielded a wealth of new evidence relevant to the definition and interpretation of

these two phases. Our 1993 and 1994 seasons have provided new information

on the distribution of material culture, settlement and mortuary patterns, religious

practice, and ritual behavior. This new survey evidence, in concert with data from

earlier excavations also directed by Goldstein, allows us to begin to revise our

conceptions of the Huaracane and Trapiche phases. Because the altiplano affilia-

tion of these phases was based on artifact similarities, we will begin with material

culture.

**MATERIAL CULTURE**

**L SLIDE: HUAR VEGETAL, ARENA PHOTOS; R SLIDE: HUAR ARENA DRAW-**

**INGS**

Vegetable fiber-tempered Huaracane pottery provided the initial indication of a

Chiripa affinity for the phase. However, our survey found that the fiber-tempered

ware, Huaracane Vegetal, accounts for only 5-10% of the surface assemblage of

Huaracane sites. The most common type, Huaracane Arena, is a sand-tempered

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plainware. Thus, the frequency of fiber temper in Huaracane ceramics has been

greatly overstated.

Huaracane vessel forms consist almost exclusively of neckless ollas, with occa-

sional bowls and small-necked jars or bottles.

**R SLIDE: HUAR. ARENA BOTTLE**

Sand tempered neckless ollas are characteristic of the Early Chiripa, or Condori

phase, but they also appear in a range of early south-coastal pottery. The Condori

Phase was replaced at Chiripa around 800 BC by the Chiripa Llusco and, later,

Mamani Phases. [L SLIDE: TYPICAL MAMANI PHASE POT] These phases

were characterized by greater use of fiber temper in plain ollas, but also included

the well-known Chiripa polychrome pottery style with its characteristic shapes,

geometric decoration and zoomorphic modeling.

No Huaracane counterpart to these ’Classic Chiripa’ vessels has been encoun-

tered.

**L SLIDE: HUAR. FINO PHOTO, EXTERIOR; R SLIDE: H. FINO PHOTOS, IN-**

**TERIOR**

The third Huaracane ware, Huaracane Fino, a polished, well-fired serving ware

consisting exclusively of open bowls, [R SLIDE: H. FINO DRAWING] has no

altiplano equivalent, and seems to represent a local innovation. Clearly, the pres-

ence of very small amounts of fiber-tempered pottery is not sufficient to identify

Huaracane sites as ’Chiripa’.

**L SLIDE: HUAR. PTS.; R SLIDE: BLANK**

Huaracane concave-base projectile points are more similar to Formative Chiripa

points than is the pottery. However, concave-based points, like fiber-tempered

pottery, are known throughout the south-central Andes over a long period of time,

and can in no way be considered diagnostically Chiripa.

**L SLIDE: TRAPICHE SHERDS; R SLIDE: PUKARA SHERD**

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The Trapiche, or Pukara-related finds from the Moquegua Archaeological sur-

vey consist of a handful of zoned-incised, painted sherds and a few fragments

of tapestry textiles. Trapiche ceramics, pictured on the left, are quite similar to

highland Pukara specimens.

**R SLIDE: TRAPICHE SITE LOCATIONS**

From the systematic perspective provided by the survey, we can now assert that

these finds were scattered among Huaracane residential and cemetery sites. No

site with a ’Trapiche’ occupation has been encountered.

In light of this association of Trapiche ceramics with Huaracane sites, and par-

ticularly, with high-status cemetery contexts, these wares must be interpreted as

valued trade objects. [L SLIDE: TRAPICHE TEXTILE] This situation is illus-

trated by a camelid wool tapestry fragment, found in association with a disturbed

Huaracane infant burial. The piece, which we believe was of altiplano origin,

had been repeatedly repaired with cotton thread, indicating that it may have been

curated as a rarity among Huaracane people.

**SETTLEMENT PATTERN AND DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE**

**L SLIDE: HUARACANE SITE LOCATIONS; R SLIDE: M19 PHOTO**

The survey has also generated previously unavailable information regarding Huara-

cane settlement patterns. While comparable in total settlement area to the later

Tiwanaku colonies, Huaracane habitation was distributed in a continuous string

of small sites, evenly spaced immediately along the margins of the irrigable ood-

plain. Huaracane residential sites were relatively uniform in size, with a mean

area of just under.5 hectares per component. Valley-wide, 161 Huaracane domes-

tic occupations have been recorded, covering a total of 74 hectares. Although

we probably are lumping an early ceramic occupation of well over 1000 years of

duration into one phase, this represents a considerable resident population.

The Huaracane pattern of small dispersed sites along the valley edge contrasts

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