

The first paradigm is an evolutionary one, from 1880-1912; the second major paradigm shift a cultural-historical emphasis from 1950-1970, and the third paradigm shift, a shift to ecosystem focus, from 1980-1980, appear in Politis' reconstruction to be periods of slow disenchantment and collapse of the previously dominant paradigm.

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Andean Archaeological History and the Popular Press

by

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The only available published reports on many archaeological sites in the Andes often are found solely in the popular press, in the daily or weekly papers of the local region where the sites occur, or in the science and culture sections of the larger dailies in departmental or national capitals. Dog-eared, faded xeroxes are passed from one generation of students to the next. Each serious scholar has a few dozen of these articles, which contain the only stratigraphic photo, the new lost stela, the diagnostic elements of the newly defined style, to be found no where else.

While most specialists feel that they probably have the bulk of the relevant materials for their area, Richard Daggett (1987a, 1987b, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1994) has produced a series of studies which show we have drastically underestimated the importance of this resources. Daggett has found not only the expected specific site information, but a rich data source of study the development of archaeological theories and schools of thought.

Daggett started out like many Andeanists, seeking to obtain a copy of a specific article relevant to a particular site, in this case for his Ph.D. research. The article in question was in the paper *El Comercio* of Lima, Peru. Finally, obtaining a microfilm reel of the periodical for the year in question, he discovered that there were many more articles dealing with his site, as well as other archaeological topics, then were cited in the literature.

What started out as a small supplemental research project has grown to be a major undertaking. From his early work, he collated new information on some specific Peruvian sites (Daggett 1987a, 1988). Lead followed lead, and Daggett tracked down one library after another from which he could acquire microfilm copies of *El Comercio*. He notes (personal communication January 30, 1995) "at this point, I began to suspect that I was onto something. I began requesting more and more microfilms until it was decided to get them all for me. To make a long story short, over the past ten years I have culled about 10,000 articles pertinent to the history of Peruvian archaeology from reels representing the years 1925-1990."

Daggett's most recent publication (1994) begins to draw upon this enormous resource base, from just one newspaper. From the newspaper articles, the picture of the active political interchanges between major Peruvianists, such as Julio C. Tello and Luis E. Valcárcel, and later between Valcárcel, and Tello's protégé, Rebecca Carrion Cachot, begin to emerge. The assistance and influence of Edgar L. Hewett and the School of American Research come as a surprise, but less so the contributions of F. Max Uhle, Wendell C. Bennett, Junius B. Bird and others.

Daggett has begun to untangle some of the threads of institutional growth, the Peruvian component of the founding of the Institute of Andean Research, the subtle shifts of government favor seen in the demise of the Museum of Peruvian Archaeology and the rise of the National Museum, the ability of Tello, for example, to secure a separate power base in the Institute of Anthropological Investigations, and the later founding of the Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology. Daggett to date has employed as his organizing principle a specific ruin, no doubt because most archaeologists still prefer articles on archaeological data to those detailing the growth of the discipline. But it is abundantly clear from the rich detail in Daggett's papers, that there is an equally interesting story about the growth of institutions, and the development of ideas, waiting to be fully explored.

In Lima, there are several other papers which have long printing histories, from which, just as with *El Comercio*, there are isolated articles referred to in the archaeological literature. During my own work in Peru, I found far more citations for *La Prensa* and *El Tiempo* than I did for *El Comercio*; hence on this basis I would expect them to be resources of far more potential than *El Comercio*, but we must not forget that archaeological materials also are printed in other dailies such as *La Crónica*, *La Tribuna*, and *El Universal*. On the one hand, the 10,000 articles that Daggett has culled from just one paper are a fantastic research resource; on the other hand, these 10,000 are just a small portion of the apparent pool of data which exists in entire suite of metropolitan papers for Lima. At this point, however, no composite microfilm inventories similar to the *El Comercio* collection that Daggett has helped centralize exist for these other newspapers in a single North American research library.

Based on what Daggett has found from just one such paper, it is clear that the Andean press as a whole has enormous potential for scholars interested in a variety of facets of the history of archaeology. Although Daggett refers in his work specifically to the Peruvian situation, similar reliance on the popular press obtain for all the Andean republics. One reason for this to occur, at least at the departmental capital level, was that there was often simply no archaeological or historical journal in which to print the results of fieldwork; the newspaper was the only publishing outlet available for many early projects. But the number of articles relating to archaeology also derives from a cultural basis as well. For example, in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* we might identify an average of one story a month on archaeology, and that story would most probably focus on a find such as the discovery of a new Lascaux in France rather than any items of local archaeology. In contrast, news stories and commentaries on local archaeology are almost "de rigueur" for Sunday supplements in the Andes, with additional stories often occurring in the national news section of the weekday press. Daggett makes an extremely important contribution by reminding us of this difference, and directing our attention to a resource that we have generally overlooked.

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