

La Real and the Middle Horizon in Arequipa

Supplemental text to “Shifting local, regional, and interregional interaction in Middle Horizon Peru: Evidence from La Real” by Justin Jennings, Tiffany A. Tung, Willy Yépez Álvarez, Gladys Cecilia Quequezana Lucano, and Marko Alfredo López Hurtado

La Real is the name of a modern village in the middle Majes Valley in the Department of Arequipa in southern Peru. The village sits on top of the lower portions of a larger archaeological site that dates from at least the Middle Horizon through Late Horizon (de la Vera Cruz 1989, Garcia Márquez and Bustamente Montero 1990; Tung and Owen 2006). The contexts discussed in this article were exposed by a bulldozer being used to expand a soccer field in the middle of the villages. Several, smaller, funerary contexts were also discovered at this time, but the salvage team focused their efforts on the cave and mortuary structure. Only the architecture for these later two contexts was recorded (see Figure 2). No Wari-style slab tombs have been recorded at La Real, with most previously recovered artefacts from the site apparently coming from cists found in the backyards of those living today at the site.

The La Real salvage excavations were undertaken from January through March of 1995. Excavations were directed by Pablo de la Vera Cruz from the Peru’s Institute of Culture (now a ministry). The assemblages from the excavations were housed in Arequipa with the Institute of Culture, but were neither analyzed nor published in the years immediately following the project. Tiffany Tung analyzed the human skeletal

remains as part of her 2003 dissertation, and a team directed by Willy Yépez Álvarez and Justin Jennings analyzed the remaining material in 2008. Until the present article, the La Real contexts were generally described in aggregate.

La Real's funerary process has been discussed extensively elsewhere (Yépez Álvarez and Jennings 2012). For this article, it is important to note that both contexts contain the remains of mummy bundles that were ripped open during the Middle Horizon with the bundles then being torn apart and their associated artifacts often broken, dispersed, and occasionally burned. Although temporally distinct, the two contexts nonetheless appear to be the result of an ongoing funerary tradition. Excavation results from inside the cave suggest multiple dispersion events, where it appears that intact bundles were placed in the cave before being destroyed. The outlying structure, in contrast, was a secondary site, where the mixed-up remains of bundles were brought on multiple occasions from another location(s). The cloth-wrapped bouquets of plants added to this context, as well as brown stains poured against the interior walls of the structure, suggest a continuing engagement with the mummy bundle remains after their transfer.

As detailed in this article, the two funerary contexts show significant Wari stylistic influence. The relationship between the Wari state and Arequipa, however, remains unclear (compare Jennings 2014 and Tung and Owen 2006). There are almost a dozen reported Wari administrative sites in the Department, but only five of these have been excavated. One of these sites, Collota, turned out to be an Inca site (Edwards 2015), another, Numero 8, appears to be a local center occupied during the Middle Horizon (Goldstein 2010). Very little was published on the excavations at the third site, Quilcapampa (Linares Málaga 1990), while new radiocarbon dates for the fourth

proposed administrative center, Sonay, have pushed the site back to the very end of the Middle Horizon (Malpass 2014). There are no publications yet for ongoing excavations at the fifth center, Millo.

If the case for Wari direct control over Arequipa remains equivocal, there is nonetheless clear evidence that the region was within the ideological orbit of the Wari state (Jennings 2014; Tung 2012:39-41). Wari style ceramics and textiles can be found at many sites in the region (Linares Málaga 1990; Neira Avendaño 1990, 1998). Most of these Wari style appear to have been manufactured locally, although neutron activation analysis suggests that more than 20% of the sampled ceramics from the site of La Real were likely made with clays from outside of the Majes valley (Bedregal et al. 2015). Other finds in Arequipa, such as famous discovery of as many as eight Robels Moqo style faced-necked jars (King 2013), corroborate the sense of imports coming into the region from the Wari heartland, as well as—and perhaps in greater volume—from the South Coast.

Wari stylistic influence and imports coincide with high levels of coastal violence and changing patterns of inter- and intra-regional exchange (Jennings 2014; Tung 2012). Agricultural terracing may have also been introduced at this time (Malpass and de la Vera Cruz 1990), as well as the use of collective open sepulcher tombs like those found at La Real. Relations with the Wari state were undoubtedly important in shaping the lives of those living in Arequipa. Our work at La Real was designed to better understand the parameters of this relationship, and this article seeks to further elucidate how this relationship may have changed over time. Yet we caution that much more work will need

to be done before scholars can confidently ascertain Wari's role in Middle Horizon Arequipa.

References Cited

Bedregal, Patricia, Pablo A. Mendoza, Marco S. Ubillús, Willy Yépez Álvarez, Justin Jennings, and Eduardo H. Montoya.

2015 Wari Influence in Southern Peru: Provenance Study of Middle Horizon Pottery from the Archaeological Site of La Real (submitted to the *Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry*).

de la Vera Cruz Chávez, Pablo

1989 Cronología y corología de la cuenca del río Camaná-Majes-Colca-Arequipa. Licenciatura thesis. Universidad Católica Santa María, Arequipa.

Edwards, Matthew J.

2015 Appendix: The Inca Occupation of Collota. In *Tenahaha and the Wari State: A View of the Middle Horizon from the Cotahuasi Valley*, edited by Justin Jennings and Willy Yépez Álvarez, pp. 213-236. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

García Marquez, Manuel and Rosa Bustamente Montoro

1990 Arqueología del valle de Majes. *Gaceta Arqueológica Andina* 18/19: 25-40.

Goldstein, Robin Coleman

2010 Negotiating Power in the Wari Empire: A Comparative Study of Local-Imperial Interactions in the Moquegua and Majes Regions during the Middle Horizon (550-1050 CE). Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Northwestern University.

Jennings, Justin

2014 Una reevaluación del horizonte medio en Arequipa. In *Los rostros de Wari: perspectivas interregionales sobre el horizonte medio*, edited by Justin Jennings and Luis Jaime Castillo Butters, pp. 165-188. Boletín de Arqueología PUCP 16. Fondo Editorial de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima.

King, Heidi

2013 The Wari feathered panels from Corral Redondo, Churunga Valley: A Re-Examination of Context. *Ñawpa Pacha* 33(1): 23-42.

Linares Málaga, Eloy

1990 *Prehistoria de Arequipa*. CONCYTEC-UNSA, Arequipa.

Malpass, Michael A.

2014 The Middle Horizon Site of Sonay: New Radiocarbon Dates (!) and Interpretations (?). Paper presented to the 33rd annual meeting of the Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory, University of Vermont, Burlington.

Malpass, Michael A., and Pablo de la Vera Cruz

1990 Cronología y secuencia de la cerámica de Chijra, valle de Colca. *Gaceta Arqueológica Andina* 18/19: 41-57. Lima.

Neira Avendaño, Máximo

- 1990 Arequipa prehispánica. In *Historia general de Arequipa*, edited by Maximo Neira Avendaño, Guillermo Galdos, Alejandro Malaga, Eusebio Quiroz, and Juan Guillermo, pp. 5-184. Fundación M. J. Bustamente de la Fuente, Lima.
- 1998 Arqueología de Arequipa. *Chronos* 1(1): 9-50. Arequipa.
- Tung, Tiffany A.
- 2012 *Violence, Ritual and the Wari Empire: A Social Bioarchaeology of Imperialism in the Ancient Andes*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
- Tung Tiffany A. and Bruce Owen
- 2006 Violence and Rural Lifeways at Two Peripheral Wari Sites in the Majes Valley of Southern Peru. In *Andean Archeology III: North and South*, edited by William H. Isbell and Helaine Silverman, pp. 435-367. Springer, New York.
- Yépez Álvarez, Willy and Justin Jennings (eds.)
- 2012 *Wari en Arequipa? Análisis de los contextos funerarios de La Real*. Museo Arqueológico José Mariá Morante, Universidad Nacional de San Agustín, Arequipa.