

Illinois in cataloging sites in the tropical forest area of eastern Peru, as noted by Bonavía.

For different reasons, I have advocated the use of river valleys (portions of river drainages) as units for cataloging sites on the Peruvian coast. This coast is largely desert, and the river valleys which cross it are obvious natural units. In a number of cases, 2 or more valleys are included in the same Peruvian province. To use provinces as cataloging units on the coast might therefore mean combining the numbers of sites from different valleys in the same number sequence. This situation would be awkward, both in assigning numbers and in organizing collections for study. I therefore numbered the valleys (and some inhabited areas between valleys) serially from north to south, using the prefix V (for valley or valle) to distinguish these numbers from those referring to political units. The Acarí Valley is 74 in this list, so the Hacha site, which was the sixth site cataloged in this valley, is numbered PV74-6.

When I made my initial survey of site designation systems in 1953, I was struck by the fact that there was relatively little discussion in print of the problems of site designation and the relative merits of different systems for particular purposes and conditions. The fact of the matter is that considerable savings in research time are possible in site survey if adequate consideration is given to the consequences of using one system of cataloging rather than another. The time for such consideration is at the start of a project. Once any considerable number of sites has been cataloged, it may be too expensive in time and money to make improvements in the system used.

LETTERS

■ The Comment section of AMERICAN ANTIQUITY recently (35:491-492) carried a note by Richard A. Diehl entitled "A site designation system for Latin America."

Here he categorically stated: "Various archaeological systems have been designed for use in the United States but *none exists for Latin America*" (AMER. ANT. 35:492; italics mine) and goes on to propose a new system.

This statement is not true, at least in regard to Peru, and Diehl is misinformed. On November 2, 1964, Peru officially adopted (Resolu-

ción Suprema No. 1156) the Rowe system for the nomenclature of archaeological sites, which has since been amplified by using Lathrap's system for the selva.

In 1966, the Museo Nacional de Antropología y Arqueología of Lima, in its series *Arqueológicas* (No. 9), published "Sitios arqueológicos del Perú (Primera Parte)" which includes the Supreme Resolution making the Rowe system official, the symbols used archaeologically to designate the countries and principal political divisions of America, suggestions for the use of the key to abbreviations and numbers used in the Rowe system for cataloging Peruvian sites, the Lathrap system for cataloging sites in the Peruvian selva, and a preliminary list of archaeological sites cataloged in the whole Peruvian territory. The second part is in preparation and will be published early in 1971.

Moreover, one must remember that various Peruvian and foreign investigators have been using systems different from ours in the past.

A summary of the Rowe and Lathrap systems follows.

Rowe's System

1. The key consists of 2 parts. The first is a list of the departments and provinces of Peru, with the abbreviations which correspond to the names of the departments and the symbols which designate the provinces. This part is for the numbering of sites in the sierra zone and "ceja de selva" (jungle fringe).

The second is a list of the coastal valleys with a designation for each one. There also appear symbols corresponding to some zones of possible habitation which lack rivers, such as San Bartolo and Paracas, and some gaps have been left in the numbering for other sections of the desert coast which have not yet been explored.

2. The border between the coast and the sierra is considered as that point where the coastal plain ends and where the irrigation characteristic of the latter zone begins. The "ceja de costa" is considered as part of the sierra.

3. Within each numbered sector, each one of the archaeological sites receives a number which corresponds to its cataloging order. For example, the number PCz2-1 designates the first site cataloged in the province of Anta, department of Cuzco; PV57-4 designates the

fourth site cataloged in the Chíncha Valley. A dash is used to separate the number of the site from the province or valley.

4. The letter P (Peru) before the number can be omitted in a study which limits itself to the archaeology of this country, if one wants to shorten the numbering more. The letters corresponding to the bordering countries are: O (Ecuador), Q (Bolivia), R (Chile), V (Brasil).

(from *Arqueológicas*, No. 9, 1966, p. 12)

Lathrap's System

In view of the fact that there is a complete lack of correspondence between the natural areas under investigation and the political entities of the jungle, and in view of the fact that the precolumbian cultures of Peru, especially those in the jungle, tended to develop along river courses, it has been decided that the most efficient unit by which to number archaeological sites would be the basin of the largest rivers.

The lowest part of this unit will be the point in which the river joins another larger one. For the rivers which have their origins in the highland valleys and run across the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes, an arbitrary demarcation of the upper limit will be made. This upper limit will be indicated in the list of rivers only in cases in which the headwaters are in the basin of the Altiplano.

A list of rivers has been set up which is generally ordered from the northeast to the southeast of Peru. It includes those courses which are most promising as centers of intensive investigation. The system is flexible and extendable to each river in which an investigation is begun, giving it its own specific designation, with the only condition being that the designation distinguishes it from another fluvial basin.

The designation which is suggested is structured in such a form that it starts with an "S" to indicate "selva" (jungle), then the first 3 letters of the name of the river (in the case that

this does not form a unique combination a fourth letter is added) and finally the number of the site. All the sites will be numbered in series, within the river basin.

(from *Arqueológicas*, No. 9, 1966, p. 17)

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Lima, Perú

December, 1970

■ *INQUA Tephrochronology Bibliography—A Call for References*. Archaeologists conducting research near centers of recent volcanic activity in North America, Mesoamerica, and adjacent islands may be interested in citing pertinent references for inclusion in the *INQUA World Bibliography on Quaternary Tephrochronology* (volcanic ash chronology), first edition.

Total range of subject matter to be covered in the bibliography has not yet been set but may include discussions of source areas, petrography, chemistry, as well as other topics of volcanic ejecta in deposits of Pleistocene and Holocene age. Other suggested categories are age-dating, archaeology, geomorphology, palynology, soils, weathering, and vegetation as specifically related to the ejecta in these deposits. A separate section will deal with methods of collecting, preparing, examining, and "fingerprinting" samples of pyroclastic material for use in tephrochronology.

Compilation is to be completed by December, 1971. People who have relevant reference titles in their files, for example articles mentioning the occurrence of a volcanic ash layer in an excavation and its stratigraphic position relative to cultural layers, are invited to send them to the following address before December 1 for selection and editing:

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