

ARCHAEOLOGY AND LINGUISTICS IN THE ANDES — A SYMPOSIUM

McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge — Thursday 11th to Saturday 13th September 2008

A CROSS-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CONTEXT

This symposium focuses on the intersection between the disciplines of archaeology and linguistics. Recent years have seen growing interest in this field; indeed the McDonald Institute in Cambridge has established a tradition of playing host to symposia on this multi-disciplinary theme. Attention has hitherto been very much concentrated on regions of the Old World, however, particularly the Indo-European and Bantu spheres (and to a certain extent also Austronesian). This symposium seeks to redress the balance by looking instead to the New World, and specifically, to one of its two hearths of agriculture and 'pristine' civilisation development: the Central Andes. Most archaeologists and linguists of the region have until now continued to work almost entirely in isolation from, if not in ignorance of, the findings of the other discipline – so prospects for rapid interdisciplinary progress are in fact all the brighter here.

In this context, and to make the most of this potential, the intention of this symposium is specifically to promote discussion, interaction and understanding between our two disciplines. In the first instance it aims to ensure that specialists in each discipline grasp the basic scenarios for the prehistory of the Andes as per the latest understandings of the other, and are aware of the issues on both sides that are relevant to the interface between them. This process will also identify the main unresolved questions, and serve as the foundation upon which we then explore them further, to move the field forward together.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS: SHORT OVERVIEWS

Given that interdisciplinary research into the prehistory of the populations of the Andes is still at such an early stage, we feel that our goal is best served not by a series of formal conference papers, but rather by a small symposium of the round table/workshop type. Numbers are therefore limited to between fifteen and twenty participants, bringing together a roll-call of established international experts in the archaeology or linguistics of the Andes. Each participant will not be asked to present a formal paper, but instead to prepare one or more basic overviews of those issues or regions in which he or she has particular expertise. (A laptop and data projector will be available.)

Each overview should form no more than a basis on which to launch the discussion of that issue: it should last not more than fifteen minutes, and be intelligible to the other discipline. The attached draft programme includes some first suggestions for which of our potential participants (shown by their initials) might prepare the overviews for which themes, though the definitive programme will of course be determined in consultation between the organisers and individual participants. For most themes, two overviews will be given on each: one by an archaeologist, one by a linguist.

ORGANISATION OF SYMPOSIUM AND DRAFT PROGRAMME

The focus of this symposium is on the core region for both disciplines, the **central** Andes, i.e. modern Ecuador, Bolivia and above all Peru. This continues another Cambridge tradition: a research cluster on the archaeology of the Andes, reflected not least in the activities of the American Archaeology Society at the Department of Archaeology, supported also by the Centre of Latin American Studies.

For this core region, the symposium programme seeks to cover all of the most significant issues where archaeology and linguistics have the most to learn from each other. Since the archaeological and linguistic scenarios do not overlap precisely by any means, drawing up the programme is necessarily a delicate balancing act between the two disciplines. The solution we have adopted is to take the issues in an approximate chronological sequence — which also coincides reasonably with a treatment by sub-region, in line with the relative geography and chronology of Quechua expansion: centre, north, south.

Although this may make this first draft programme appear slightly more linguistics-led than archaeology-led, participants may rest assured that we intend to observe strict equality between the interests of the two disciplines; indeed, sessions will be chaired by a specialist in each. It will be our guiding principle that discussion should at no point stray into purely ‘in-house’ debates, of interest and concern only to a single discipline.

SYMPOSIUM PUBLICATION AND TIMETABLE

Since the *raison d'être* of this symposium is to foster a creative synthesis between the disciplines that has been sorely lacking until now, we do *not* request participants to prepare formal written papers or presentations in advance, which we feel would be to put the cart before the horse. On the contrary, our intention is that our publication should emerge *out of* the interactions at the symposium itself. The round-table format has been deliberately chosen to give each participant the opportunity to explore and gain feedback on his or her areas of interest for a subsequent written paper. The symposium will lead directly to an edited volume of these papers.

Participants are invited (expected) to indicate their willingness to submit a contribution to this publication when confirming their attendance. Articles must relate specifically to the theme of the symposium and be intelligible to and of direct interest to **both** disciplines. Within one month of the end of the symposium, participants are to submit an abstract of their proposed paper, with the full text to follow within three months. Submissions will then enter the peer review process, to which other authors may also be invited to contribute.

WORKING LANGUAGES

The working spoken languages at the symposium will be both English and Spanish: participants may speak in whichever they prefer, though by the same token they should be ready to listen to other participants speaking in the other language too. As for the symposium publication, it is yet to be determined whether it will be possible to accept submissions in languages other than English.

DATES, COSTS AND PRACTICALITIES

Participation is by invitation only, and there will be no conference fee. We are currently applying for funding and hope to be able to contribute as much as possible to participants' travel and accommodation in Cambridge. We also plan a complimentary conference dinner.

The symposium will be held over two full days, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th September 2008, with an introductory welcome talk, wine reception and informal dinner on the preceding evening, so it is hoped that participants will be able to arrive in Cambridge by the afternoon of Thursday 11th. The formal conference dinner will be on the evening of Friday 12th, and participants will be free to leave by 5pm on Saturday 13th. Nonetheless, accommodation will be provided for international participants on the night of 13th too if desired, with the option of an accompanied tour around the city on Sunday 14th.

SUGGESTED INTERDISCIPLINARY READING

The suggestions here cover only general background reading. For participants who would like pointers to literature in the other discipline that has a bearing on their more specific interests, the organisers will be happy to provide more tailored suggestions for more targeted reading.

For linguists looking for brief overviews of the archaeology of the Andes, we suggest:

- Burger, R.L. 1989. *An overview of Peruvian Archaeology (1976-1986)*. Annual Review of Anthropology 18, pp. 37-69.
- Burger, R.L. 1992. *Chavin and the Origins of Andean Civilizations*. Thames & Hudson: London.
- Moseley, M. E. 1993. *The Incas and Their Ancestors*. Thames & Hudson: London

Established works in Andean linguistics with sections on associations with archaeology include:

- Adelaar, Willem F.H., with Pieter C. Muysken, 2004. *Languages of the Andes*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 165-91 & 259-67.
- Cerrón-Palomino, Rodolfo, 2000. *Lingüística aimara*. Cuzco: Centro Bartolomé de las Casas. pp. 273-97.
- Cerrón-Palomino, Rodolfo, [1987] 2003. *Lingüística quechua*. Cuzco: Centro Bartolomé de las Casas. pp. 22 & 323-49.
- Torero, Alfredo, 2002. *Idiomas de los Andes - Lingüística e Historia*. Lima: Editorial Horizonte / Institut Français des Études Andines. pp. 45-52 & 123-31.

Alternatively, for an introduction to the aspects of historical linguistics as relevant to archaeology, and an overview specifically of the major issues in the Andes, this pair of papers may be of interest:

- Heggarty, Paul, 2007. *Linguistics for archaeologists: principles, methods, and the case of the Incas*. Cambridge Archaeological Journal, 17.3, 311-40. (pdf at: www.languagesandpeoples.com/Eng/Papers/PublicationsHeggarty.htm)
- Heggarty, Paul, in press (to appear Feb. 2008). *Linguistics for archaeologists: a case study in the Andes*. Cambridge Archaeological Journal, 18.1, 35-56. (pdf at: www.languagesandpeoples.com/Eng/Papers/PublicationsHeggarty.htm)