

ANNUAL REPORT: MOQI (PERU) 2013 FIELD SCHOOL

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Students excavating at Moqi Bajo

GENERAL

A five-week IFR Field School at Moqi (Peru) took place between July 14 and August 17, 2013. This year marked the second season of work at Moqi, an Inka administrative center located at 2800 meters above sea level in the Locumba Valley of southern Peru. Moqi was built at the behest of the Inka during the late 15th century CE, and then abandoned shortly after the fall of the empire to the Spaniards in CE 1532. The site comprises two components: Moqi Alto, which has very typical Inka civic-administrative architecture, and Moqi Bajo, which includes both a domestic sector and an artificially flattened hilltop with a plaza surrounded by rectangular buildings that approximate Inka style and construction techniques.

Our work this year pursued three primary lines of investigation: (1) excavation of a sample of the different architectural spaces in both Moqi Alto and Moqi Bajo, headed by Dr. Zori; (2) excavation of tombs in the cemeteries found throughout the site and analysis of the human remains, under the direction of doctoral candidate Niamh Carty from University College Cork, Ireland; and (3) documentation of the standing architecture throughout the site, coordinated by our Peruvian co-director, Lic. Jesús Gordillo Begazo. Principal in the team were five IFR field school students, who hailed from various universities throughout the United States. This year, we were also joined by two Peruvian professors and five Peruvian undergraduates from the Architecture School at the Universidad Privada in Tacna, who provided us with expert analysis of the layout and construction techniques used by the Inka at Moqi.

PEDAGOGY

Lectures during the beginning of the first week—including topics such as Andean prehistory, the local ceramic assemblage, principles of mortuary analysis, and an explanation of the 2012

results and the 2013 research design— set the stage for initiating work at Moqi on Friday of that week. We then divided into three smaller teams: Dr. Zori and three IFR field school students opened excavations in several domestic and administrative buildings in Moqi Alto and Moqi Bajo; Ms. Niamh Carty and two IFR field school students began testing of Cemeteries 2, 4, and 5; and Lic. Jesús Gordillo and the architects from the Universidad Privada de Tacna mapped and documented the standing architecture in Moqi Alto and the plaza area of Moqi Bajo. The field school participants quickly became proficient in excavation techniques and carried out all on-site documentation, recording, and the drawing of plans and profiles. Students in the excavation team and mortuary team switched half-way through the season, such that each undergraduate had the opportunity to engage in both types of fieldwork.

Our daily routine during weekdays consisted of excavations from 7:30 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon, with a break for lunch in the field. We would then head back to our field house in the small town of Cambaya, where we conducted laboratory work from 5-7 pm before eating a hearty dinner prepared by the women of the community. Lab tasks carried out by the field school students included logging and weighing the day's finds; cleaning, labeling, analyzing, and drawing ceramic sherds and vessels; cleaning and analyzing human osteological remains; artifact photography; and updating the site's architectural maps. We worked a half-day in the laboratory on Saturday, and then had the remainder of the day and Sunday free. Weekend activities included a *pachamanca*, or all-day feast cooked in a traditional earthen oven; a visit a waterfall; and a field trip to explore Gran Locumba, a large multi-occupation site located mid-way down the valley. We also made a trip back to Tacna for *Fiestas Patrias*, or Peruvian Independence Day, which we celebrated with a barbeque with our Peruvian colleagues.

EXCAVATIONS IN MOQI ALTO AND MOQI BAJO

This season saw the excavation of three 2x4 m units in Moqi Alto and two 2x2 m units in the rectangular buildings lining the plaza in Moqi Bajo. In Moqi Alto, we tested two large rectangular buildings and one smaller complex of contiguous rooms. The excavations confirmed that the rectangular buildings likely served as *kallanka*, housing civic-ceremonial activities carried out by the Inka that included the preparation of large quantities of food on a periodic basis. Excavations in the complex of adjoining rooms, located on one of the side terraces, demonstrated that it was likely domestic habitation, indicating that there was at least a small population resident in Moqi Alto. An intact volcanic ash layer in each of the three excavation units confirmed that Moqi Alto had been abandoned prior to the AD 1600 eruption of the volcano Huaynaputina, and for a period of time sufficient to allow the collapse of the building roofs.

The two units excavated in Moqi Bajo during the 2013 season supported the 2012 findings that the plaza area was the location of craft production activities, particularly spinning, weaving, and sewing. Occupation surfaces and internal architectural divisions indicate that the rooms surrounding the plaza filled many public and ritual functions but were likely not inhabited as domestic spaces on a daily basis. Our excavations furthermore confirmed the 2012 findings that this part of the site was also abandoned prior to AD 1600, and that the roofs of the structures surrounding the plaza were burned prior to the departure of the site residents.

MORTUARY EXCAVATIONS

During the 2013 season, we excavated 11 test pits across Cemeteries 2, 4, and 5, encountering one tomb that had been recently looted, three that had been looted in antiquity (prior to AD 1600), and four tombs that were completely intact. The only objects that appear to have been

removed from the tombs looted in antiquity were the Inka-style ceramics, meaning that the skeleton(s) and other grave goods were completely intact.

Our mortuary sample from 2013 consists of 20 individuals: 13 adults and 7 infants and children. Although the site inhabitants were short in stature and afflicted with poor dental health and high rates of arthritis, it was a generally healthy population. The typical assemblage of grave goods associated with an individual consisted of three ceramic vessels (a local-style utilitarian cooking pot, a bowl showing evidence of use-wear, and an Inka-style vessel), a wooden spoon, small wooden boxes, combs, baskets, and, if the person was a female, weaving implements. We are particularly interested in understanding who inhabited the site of Moqi—were they people from the local valley or groups brought in by the Inka?—and so analysis this year will focus on isotope studies of the bones to determine the origins of the site residents.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Invaluable contributions to understanding Moqi's layout and the construction techniques used by the Inka were made by the team of professional architects and architecture students. Particularly exciting is the 3-D digital modeling of the site currently under preparation, with the hope of developing an interactive model of the site that can be used for research and education.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

One of our priorities is the dissemination of our research to the public and the education of the local communities regarding the value and importance of Moqi as cultural patrimony. Our efforts at community out-reach included two public lecture series in Tacna—one synthesizing the results from 2012 and another at the end of the project with a preliminary view of the 2013 results, as well as tours of Moqi, an open laboratory exhibition where we explained our methods and findings to the public, lectures given in each of the local communities (Cambaya and Boroguña) around the site of Moqi, and the presentation of copies of our 2012 report to the mayors of each of these towns.