

ANNUAL REPORT: CORRAL REDONDO, PERU 2019 FIELD SCHOOL

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The Corral Redondo Archaeological Project hosted its second IFR field school between July 14 and August 10, 2019. During this season, students participated in four modules: excavation, conservation, survey, and community outreach. This project represents the second systematic and multidisciplinary study of the Ocoña and San Juan de Chorunga river valleys. We systematically continued the excavation of Units 2 and 3 at Corral Redondo, a site which was discovered in 1943 and from which an exquisite collection of Wari feathered textiles, large imperial ceramic vessels, and high-end Inca objects typically found in capacocha rituals were recovered by local workers. In addition, newly geospatial data and drone imagery were collected and digitally compared to existing topographical, geological maps as well as declassified satellite images of selected sites recorded last year. Through this analysis, we were able to identify and register several unknown sites.

We have continued with conservation efforts and the renovation of the local museum which was moved to a new exhibit room at the Miguel Grau school in Iquipi. As our team had bilingual (English-Spanish) faculty and students, the community outreach program included participation in school and community activities throughout the season. Specifically, our team organized a full day of learning activities in the school in which students from the region and IFR members participated.

The students from the Corral Redondo Project excavated, mapped, documented, examined, and photographed archaeological remains ranging from architectural features to mortuary sites. This included remains of past as well as current ritual activities such as “pagos”. While

conducting surveys, students helped to identify archaeological sites, examine residential, ceremonial and mortuary architecture and discuss the cultural affiliation and function of each site. Pedestrian surveys were done in combination with UAV (drone) and differential GPS mapping techniques.

Students learned about conservation principles and museum development and management with a local archaeological collection from diverse sites in the area. Furthermore, IFR students had the opportunity to talk to visitors about the rich local past and the role of the museum in the community. Even more broadly, we explored the relationship between the past and the present in the formation of the identity of the current populations who live around Iquipi.

During the summer 2019 field season, IFR faculty and students continued the survey of the Ocoña and Chorunga river valleys that began in 2018. We used systematic pedestrian survey methods in combination with UAV (drone) and differential GPS mapping techniques. In addition to documenting over 12 new sites, we revisited previously recorded sites in the region to map and document them in further detail. While carrying out survey objectives, students were trained in various archaeological survey methods. As part of the survey module this year, students learned about a 3D documentation technique called structure from motion photogrammetry, a low-cost and efficient method of spatial data collection that is currently revolutionizing traditional archaeological methods of 3D data collection. The students received a lecture describing this technique, and while in the field, they practiced 3D data capture on Prehispanic architectural features.

Conservation was another module that was critical to our project. During the 2019 season, the conservation team continued working on the reinstallation of the Museo Escolar Luis Guillermo Lumbreras Salcedo. With the help of field school students, graduate conservation intern Emily Rezes and Field School Teaching Assistant Lavina Li, all objects were documented and underwent a condition assessment as part of the inventory of the museum. Minor treatments included surface cleaning to remove dust/grime, excess adhesive used to repair pieces and removal of modern paint splatters. Some ceramic vessels showed signs of damage due to soluble salts and these required more extensive/complex treatments such as consolidation and/or desalination. Due to water damage that occurred to the previous museum space, a new room was built at the school to house the museum. The constraints of the new space led to a redesign of the museum layout and the objects displayed in the cases. New cases were purchased and damaged glass display cases were replaced. Some of the highlights of the newly redesigned museum include a case focusing on ceramic chronology of the region, a case containing a wide range of materials and several closed cabinets to house more fragile material that could not be on display.

One of the main goals of this year's project was to continue with the stabilization, inventory of the archaeological collection and reinstallation of all items in the new exhibit room. As the specific origin of each of the items in the collection was not clear in most of the cases, with the assistance of local archaeologist Erika Simborth, the cultural affiliation of most items was determined, and this information was included in the labels created for the display cases. The collection included ceramic vessels from the Inca, Chuquibamba, Wari, and Ramadas tradition. Furthermore, a cache of ceramics that appear to be from Northern Peru was also reviewed. With respect to the textile collection, we identified Inca, Chuquibamba, Wari and Sigwas textiles, as well as an Inca quipu recovered from the Jarana site. The new museum will be inaugurated on December 16th with the presence of local authorities, and IFR members.

