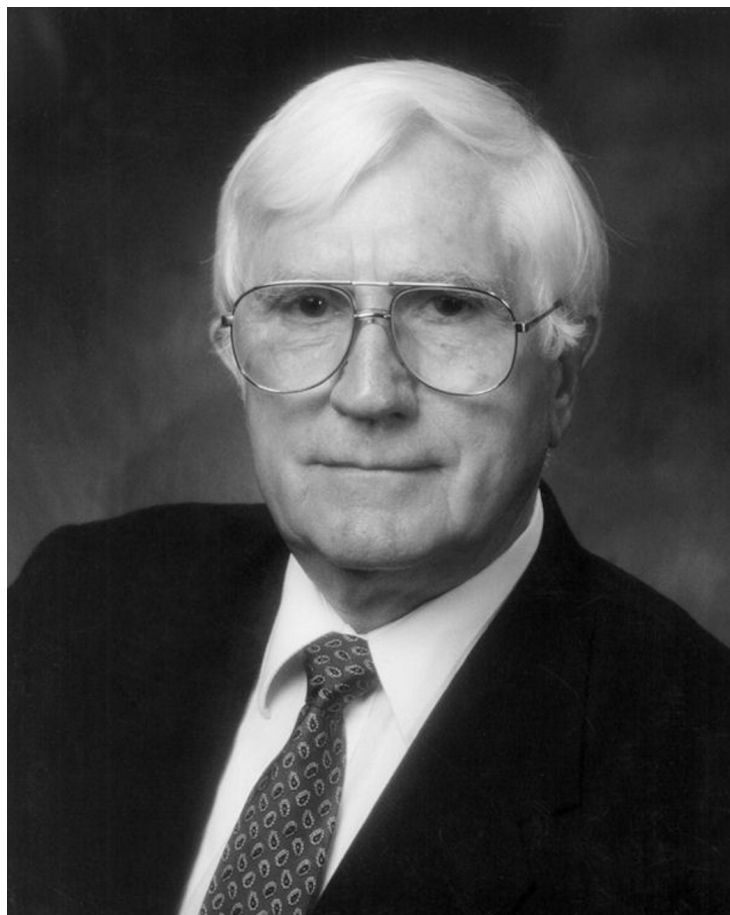


EARL HENRY LUBENSKY (MARCH 31, 1921 - MAY 1, 2009)

DEBORAH M. PEARSALL
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Portrait of Earl Lubensky courtesy of Tom Lubensky.

Earl Lubensky, New World archaeologist, charter member of the Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS; 1935-2009), and retired diplomat, was born in Marshall, Missouri, to Henry Carl Lubensky and Adele Beisemeier Lubensky. His father was of German and Polish heritage and his mother of German descent. Earl spent his early years in Marshall, graduating from Marshall High School in 1937 as a member

of the National Honor Society. Henry Lubensky died in 1938, and Earl supported himself and his family by taking over his father's wholesale beer business. He ran the business until 1942, when he was drafted into the United States army, having served in the Reserve and National Guard since 1937. Earl was on active duty through 1945, first as an enlisted man in Alaska, then after officer's training school, running a

quartermaster battalion, and later serving as a compound commander at a prisoner of war camp in Charleston, South Carolina. He returned to the Army Reserve after the war, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1981.

Earl married Anita Ruth Price of Saline County, Missouri, on June 27, 1942. His experiences in the army instilled in him a desire to help prevent future wars and help humanity, and after the war he decided to become a diplomat. He and Anita returned to Marshall, where Earl attended Missouri Valley College, graduating in 1948 with a B.A. in History and Economics. He subsequently attended the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and, in 1949, earned a B.S. in Foreign Service (International Commerce). Earl and Anita were in the Foreign Service from 1949 to 1978. Their first overseas posting was to Germany (1950-1952), then to the Philippines (1952-1954), and Spain (1955-1956). From 1956 until 1961 they were in Washington D.C. Subsequently, Earl spent most of the rest of his career in Latin America, posted twice to Ecuador (1961-1966; 1971-1973), and to Colombia (1967-1970) and El Salvador (1976-1978). He specialized in Latin American political affairs and served as Consul General in Guayaquil, Ecuador and Chargé d'Affaires ad Interim in San Salvador, El Salvador.

During their years of diplomatic service Earl and Anita raised three sons, Tom (Professor of Physics, University of Pennsylvania), Gerald (Professor of Art, University of Kansas), and John Christopher (computer business, Quito, Ecuador) and traveled extensively, always with archaeological sites on their itinerary. Earl also continued his education, earning a diploma in cost accounting and systematizing in 1949, training that served him well as treasurer of the Missouri Archaeological Society (1981-1991). In 1967 he earned a diploma from the National War College and an M.S. in International

Affairs from George Washington University, writing the thesis *Constitutionalism versus Militarism: Ecuador, A Case Study*.

Earl Lubensky began conducting archaeological research while he was in the Foreign Service, and was active in archaeology until his death. He led excavations in Ecuador at the Ayalan cemetery site (1972-1973), at the Anllulla shell mound (1973), and at two sites on the La Florida Hacienda (1979). In El Salvador he excavated two mounds at Cihuatán (1977-1978). He also led excavations at the Mendenhall sites in Missouri. These were the MAS Field exercises from 1983 until 1986 (Lubensky publications 1983c, 1983d, 1983e, 1984a, 1984b, 1986). In addition, he participated in excavations at other sites in Missouri, including the Utz site, the Historical School site in Arrow Rock, the Old Monroe project, the Conley House excavations on the University of Missouri campus, and several other digs in Boone County.

After retiring from the Foreign Service, Earl and Anita moved to Columbia, Missouri, so that Earl could attend graduate school in anthropology. In his M.A. application, Earl said his interest was "the archaeology of the Western Hemisphere", and as his professors got to know him, it became clear this was not an understatement. Dr. Richard Diehl directed his 1983 M.A. thesis, *An Oneota Pit Complex* (Lubensky 1983a, 1983b), in which Earl returned to the Utz site, where his interest in archaeology had begun. The Utz site and his early experiences interacting with members of the Missouri Archaeological Society were important to him. In his M.A. application Earl spoke of the understanding of archaeology he gained from his MAS membership.

I was a member of Earl's M.A. committee, and after Richard Diehl left the University of Missouri, Robert A. Benfer Jr. and I directed

Earl's dissertation research. "Directing" Earl was a process that involved nudging him in directions we thought useful, then running to keep up. It was an adventure, a rewarding and enjoyable one, which culminated in his 1991 dissertation, *The Ferdon Collections of Prehistoric Ceramic Vessels and Sherds from Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador*. Earl corresponded for nearly thirty years with Ed Ferdon, who documented numerous important archaeological sites in Ecuador through surface collections (see Ferdon's obituary by Earl Lubensky in *Andean Past* 8). I know it gave Earl great satisfaction to bring Ferdon's study to fruition.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANDEAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Earl Lubensky's interests in the prehistory of Ecuador ranged from the Formative to Integration Period, from the classification of Valdivia figurines, to sources of obsidian, to relationships among polities in the Gulf of Guayaquil and coastal Esmeraldas. His main contributions were made through excavations at three sites, the Ayalan cemetery, the Anllulla shell mound, and Hacienda La Florida, and notably, through his study of the Ferdon ceramic collection.

Ayalan Cemetery. The Integration Period Ayalan Cemetery site (OGES-1) is one of at least four prehistoric cemeteries located on the Hacienda Ayalan, on the west side of the mangrove-fringed Estero Salada, 55 kilometers southwest of Guayaquil. It was discovered and test-excavated by Earl Lubensky in 1972. Douglas Ubelaker of the Smithsonian Institution joined the project in 1973, and took over the excavation of urn and primary extended burials, which are reported in Ubelaker (1981) and classified as the Milagro Phase (Integration Period, ca. A.D. 500-1500).

In his 1974 *Boletín de la Academia Nacional de Historia* publication, 1982 SAA presentation,

and 2000 *Andean Past* research report, Earl discussed his study of Ayalan cemetery artifacts and site stratigraphy, which revealed that the Late Integration Period burials were dug into an earlier, Guangala or Jambelí (Regional Developmental Period, ca. 500 B.C.-A.D. 500) midden, which was, in turn, underlain by a possible Chorrera (Late Formative Period, c. 1500-500 B.C.) occupation. Earl's study of the burial urns led him to conclude that while most urns were of Milagro-Quevedo style and shape, two other types were present, and that this, with the shape of *compoteras*, some decorative motifs, and the absence of mounds, suggested affiliations to Manteño-Huancavilca (Integration Period). Based on stratigraphic position of the extended burials and earlier C-14 dates (Ubelaker 1981), as well as characteristics of grave goods, Earl suggested that the extended burials may have been affiliated with Manteño-Huancavilca as well. In drawing these conclusions, Earl supported Estrada's (1957) argument that both Milagro-Quevedo and Manteño-Huancavilca populations were present contemporaneously in the Estero Salado region, and suggested that the Ayalan Cemetery possibly lay on the border between the polities. Neutron activation analysis of five obsidian blades from the cemetery identified Yanaurco-Quiscatola as the source (Lubensky 1999).

Anllulla Shell Mound. In 1973 Earl undertook test excavations at a shell mound on the Hacienda Ayalan, which he designated the Anllulla site (OGES-2), working to determine if it was contemporaneous with the cemeteries. A summary of the ceramics and C-14 dates was published in his 2000 *Andean Past* research report; a more comprehensive discussion and detailed description and illustration of ceramics was distributed as a manuscript to colleagues in 1995. The mound, composed mostly of the oyster *Ostrea iridescens*, was located on the edge of a salt flat, some three kilometers from the

current Estero Salada shore. It has since been destroyed by shrimp pond construction.

A four meter deep test excavation documented a sequence that began in the Valdivia Period. The earliest decorated sherds, recovered from 280-140 centimeters below the surface (dated at 180-170 centimeters below the surface to 2012-1741 cal BC), fit diagnostically into Valdivia D/Valdivia VI-VII phase (six wares, following Meggers *et al.* 1965 typology), and were underlain by strata containing non-diagnostic sherds (370-280 centimeters below the surface), and aceramic deposits (400-370 centimeters below the surface). Charred maize kernels were recovered at depths of 210 centimeters and 220 centimeters below the surface in association with Valdivia ceramics, and root/tuber material occurred at 220 centimeters and below (Pearsall 2003). Interestingly, above a significant ash layer, presumably volcanic, at 140 centimeters below the surface and continuing until 70 centimeters below the surface (dated at 110-100 centimeters below the surface to 1514-1410 cal BC), two styles of diagnostic Machalilla sherds occurred with four Valdivia D/VI-VII wares. Above 70 centimeters below the surface, and a second ash fall, deposits date to the Regional Developmental-Integration Period transition.

The excavations in the main cut in the center of the mound (Cut A, 2 by 2 meters) were carried out in ten centimeters arbitrary levels. However, the natural strata lay practically horizontally in this cut, on the basis of which Earl argued that materials in each level of Cut A were roughly contemporaneous. Thus while acknowledging the problems of shell mound stratigraphy and perturbation, he proposed that the mix of Late Valdivia and Machalilla sherds from 140-70 centimeters below surface was a cultural phenomenon that required explanation. In his 1995 manuscript, Earl hypothesized that the shell mound was used

on a seasonal or occasional basis by peoples from different hinterland areas, and that those populations changed during the period represented by the overlap, with populations producing Machalilla ceramics replacing Valdivia ceramic producers.

Hacienda La Florida. In 1979, Earl Lubensky and Allison Paulsen test excavated two multiple mound sites, Estero Cecilia and Santa Marta, on the Hacienda La Florida, in western Pichincha Province 16 kilometers outside Santo Domingo de los Colorados at the confluence of the Río Toachi and Río Blanco. At least ten other sites, mostly consisting of single mounds, are located on the hacienda. Excavations and analyses were reported at the 1980 and 1999 Midwest Conferences on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory, in the Current Research section of *American Antiquity* in 1981 with Paulsen, and in Earl's 2000 *Andean Past* research report.

A test excavation in the principle mound of the Santa Marta mound group yielded ceramics that strongly resemble Chorrera examples. A single radiocarbon date of 1260-1001 cal BC is consistent with this affiliation. Test excavations in three mounds at the Estero Cecilia site yielded pottery generally characteristic of Jama-Coaque I and II. Three radiocarbon dates from the excavations yielded calibrated dates of A.D. 1023-1207, A.D. 1216-1377, and A.D. 1301-1408, corresponding to Integration Period Jama-Coaque II.

Obsidian artifacts and debitage were common at both sites. At the 1999 Midwest Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory, Earl reported that obsidian blades from Santa Marta were provenienced to the Mullumica and Yanaurco-Quiscatola obsidian sources (as reported in Villalba 1988), but affiliated to Chorrera (not, as previously reported, to the Regional

Developmental Period). Earl studied the cutting edge/mass ratio of 29 blades from Estero Cecilia, affiliated to Integration Period Jama-Coaque II, not sourced, but presumed to come also from Mullumica and/or Yanaurco-Quiscatola. With a CE/M ratio of 3.42 (standard deviation 1.74), values for Estero Cecilia fell between those for the El Inga (CE/M 1.75, standard deviation 1.00) and Ayalan cemetery (CE/M 10.54, standard deviation 6.71) sites, also studied, showing a clear relationship between distance from source (Eastern Cordillera, c. 30-40 kilometers east of Quito) and cutting edge/mass ratio. A provenance study of clay from Estero Cecilia pottery, conducted at the University of Missouri Research Reactor, indicated that some ceramics were non-local in origin.

The abundance of obsidian, presence of non-local pottery, and construction of mound complexes during both the Late Formative and Integration Periods (and perhaps the Regional Development Period), led Earl Lubensky and Alison Paulsen to speculate that Hacienda La Florida was a major exchange center, possibly with ceremonial functions. Earl further suggested a relationship between the introduction of ceramics in the sierra and the beginning of obsidian use during the coastal Chorrera Period. He hoped to map the La Florida mound complexes and conduct a detailed study of 1979 excavated materials, to facilitate comparisons between La Florida and other mound complexes on the northern Ecuadorian coastal plains and western Andes, but that project was unfortunately not funded. His 1993 research proposal (on file, University of Missouri Department of Anthropology) notes the presence of tephra deposits at the tested sites, which were earlier misinterpreted as living floors.

Ferdon Collection. Edward Ferdon conducted an extensive surface collection of 118 sites in

nine provinces during the 1940s (see Obituary by Earl Lubensky, *Andean Past* 8). Earl decided to study this collection for his dissertation, and obtained the loan of the materials from the Museum of New Mexico in Santa Fe (the collection is now curated at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque). The dissertation, completed in 1991, focused on collections from coastal Esmeraldas Province. Working from Ferdon's unpublished site forms and maps, Earl located and described thirty-five sites in six geographic clusters, and studied the ceramic collections from sixteen sites. Ferdon collected representative ceramics from site surfaces and natural or man-made cuts, including the extensive "gold-mining" operations at La Tolita. The dissertation includes topographic maps showing site locations, reproduces Ferdon's excellent site maps, and illustrates most of the sherds studied.

Earl's thesis was that one can understand the relationship among sites by analysis of ceramic attributes. Earl developed a ceramic seriation and estimated the chronology of the sites. In the study he took an attribute approach, rather than the more common typological approach, in order to expand the possible features available for ceramic classification. He did not attempt to fit the Esmeraldas ceramic collection into existing typologies, in part for the practical reason that the collection contained wares that were not yet typed, and in part to explore the power of an attribute approach.

The dissertation explains fully the process of attribute analysis of ceramics, which I will not discuss in detail here. Four major groups of attribute dimensions were developed (shape, size, manufacture, decoration), and 144 attribute dimensions used. Earl developed a nested matrix for data entry using the computer program PARADOX. He focused on decorative technique and vessel shape for the quantitative

and qualitative analyses of sixteen site collections presented in the dissertation.

In terms of chronology, Earl concluded that two sites were probably Late Formative. One site cluster was likely transitional from Late Formative to Early Regional Developmental, one cluster was Regional Developmental and strongly related to La Tolita, one cluster was Integration Period, and many sites were multi-component. The study documented that coastal Esmeraldas was occupied at least since the Late Formative, and that many sites were occupied for extended periods. The predominant site or central place shifted over time, for example, from the Esmeraldas River delta in the Late Formative, to La Tolita in the Regional Developmental Period, to Atacames in the Integration Period. Based on ceramic similarities, Earl concluded that contact was intense among sites clustered together geographically, but close interactions characterized the entire Esmeraldas coast. Methodologically, attribute analysis proved to be a highly flexible and orderly way to classify ceramics, but the system was complex to set up and required many subjective judgments in the description and delineation of attributes. The study also demonstrates the value of museum collections.

After his dissertation was finished, Earl completed the study of the entire Ferdon surface collection, presenting his findings in a series of conference papers (1992 Midwest Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory, 1992 Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory, 1993 Annual Meeting of the Institute of Andean Studies, 1994 Midwest Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISCIPLINE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Earl Lubensky's diverse legacy of scholarship and service is significant for our discipline as a whole, as well as for Andean archaeology in particular. He was an active member of both the Missouri Archaeological Society and the Society for American Archaeology and in 1989 was asked by the SAA to chair a task force on establishing an association of archaeological societies. The Council of Affiliated Societies was activated at the 1990 meeting in Las Vegas, with the goals of serving as a bond among individuals interested in American archaeology, whether professional or nonprofessional, and to foster the formation and welfare of regional and local societies. At the 1991 annual meeting in New Orleans, Earl was given the SAA Presidential Recognition Award by Jeremy Sabloff for his service to the SAA and the discipline. Earl was a vocal advocate for the role of amateurs and avocationals in archaeology, saying "... we cannot leave archaeology alone to paid professionals, but our amateurs and avocationals, especially the younger generation, must be better prepared through education and experience to work at the highest level of professionalism among all involved" (*MAS Quarterly*, Oct.-Dec., 1993:6). He exhorted collectors to plan for the donation of their collections to museums.

After completing his doctoral degree at the University of Missouri, Earl was granted adjunct research associate status in the Department of Anthropology. The department has a course called "Research Skills" in which undergraduate students work individually with a mentor to learn what research is all about. For many years Earl volunteered his time for this class, and mentored several students interested in archaeology. He taught them how to study artifacts and write up results. More than that, he gave generously of his time and life experiences

and enriched the student experiences at the University of Missouri.

In recent years my interactions with Earl included gardening, as well as discussions about the archaeological projects he wanted to finish. Earl loved his gardens, and kept meticulous records about seeds he collected, sprouted, and planted. I volunteered to help him with "the basement" (his study and research files), but somehow we always ended up working in the garden. I'm glad that's how we spent our time. Earl left detailed, well-organized records of his research, now transferred to the State Historical Society of Missouri. Among his other passions were genealogy, ham radio, and collecting stamps and coins. Earl also had a deep desire to understand the universe. Among the last books he read were ones on string theory and cosmology.

Anita, Earl's wife of over 50 years, died in 1993. In 1994 he married Margot Patterson who preceded him in death in 2008. Later that year he married Marion Reed. In addition to his wife Marion and his three sons, Earl is survived by six grandchildren.

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