

DANIEL EDWARD SHEA (November 5, 1941-June 19, 2012)

Mario A. Rivera
Universidad de Magallanes/Mineduc



Daniel E. Shea surveying at Huánuco Pampa, 1964. Photo courtesy of the American Museum of Natural History, Division of Anthropology, Junius Bird Laboratory of South American Archaeology, John Victor Murra Archive. Rollo 39, foto 3 by Gordon D. Hadden.

Daniel Edward Shea died of a heart attack at the age of seventy, in Pozo Almonte, near the city of Iquique, while leading the Beloit College Field School in the Atacama Desert in Northern Chile, with Mario A. Rivera. Dan was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He earned his bachelor's (1963), master's (1968), and doctorate (1969) degrees in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

I met Dan in 1965 at the anthropology department of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, when I came to the United States as a foreign student to pursue graduate work there. He was an accomplished and brilliant student. In 1965, at a time when financial resources were seldom available to students, Dan had one of the most important grants to do field-work in Peru under the supervision of an outstanding

team of Andean researchers that included his advisor, Donald Thompson, and John Victor Murra, director of “A Study of Inca Provincial Life”, centered on the large Inca site of Huánuco Pampa, also known as Huánuco Viejo. Other participants in the project were museum professional Gordon D. Hadden; archaeologist John L. Cotter; archaeologist E. Craig Morris and archaeobotanist Robert McKelvy Bird, the latter two graduate students at the time; Peruvian archaeologists Manuel Chávez Ballón, Luis Barreda Murillo, Ramiro Matos Mendieta, and Rogger Ravines Sánchez; Peruvian ethnologists César Fonseca Martel and Emilio Mendizábal Losack; historian Juan M. Ossio A.; and Freda Yancy Wolf de Romero, who went on to a life in Peru as a psychotherapist and editor-translator. Other project staff members who worked with Dan were Delfín Zúñiga Díaz who assisted Craig Morris for many years; and Peace Corps volunteers Peter S. Jenson, who became the proprietor of Explorama Lodges; James Stanton, a civil engineer; and Mahlon Barash, a rural development specialist and published photographer.

Dan’s incursion in Peruvian archaeology provided him with the subject for his master’s thesis, *The Plaza Complex of Huánuco Viejo*.¹ Later, he continued field-work in Peru for his dissertation *Wari Wilka: A Central Andean Oracle Site*, which he presented in 1969. This latter work contains interesting material for a subject that is just beginning to gain attention among Andeanists. However, Shea had envisioned its great research potential more than four decades ago. In his dissertation Shea provides excellent insights on the connections between Pachacamac, the great oracle on Peru’s

central coast, Catequilla in the Huamachuco area of northern Peru, and Wari-Wilka in Huancayo, in Peru’s Junín region. He emphasizes his own interpretation that a league or confederation of tribes may have used an oracle as its center, as was the case with the renowned Greek oracle of Delphi.

Dan and I both took William Denevan’s courses on cultural geography as a minor for our graduate work. It was his close association with Denevan that helped Dan develop his interest in issues related to statistics and demographics, beginning with his 1976 paper, “A Defense of Small Population Estimates for the Central Andes in 1520” (Shea 1976).

Dan was not only a friend and a guide for someone who was just beginning to walk in a completely new world, but most importantly, an inspiration to me, and for the work I was beginning in Wisconsin. We became good friends, working together on many occasions. He was so close to my family that he was around when each of our three children was born, our son in Madison, and our two daughters in Chile. Dan directed occasional field-work in Arizona, Wisconsin, and Costa Rica, but his center of interest and his obsession was Andean archaeology, especially that of Peru and Chile.

Dan began his archaeological research in Chile in 1968. He spent several sabbaticals there as we worked at many archaeological sites during the past forty-five years. Together we did archaeological survey in northern and central Chile.

Starting in 1978, Dan Shea was in Chile almost every year, working on projects such as: “Caravans, Mobility, and Adaptability of Prehistoric Populations in the Atacama Desert”, studies related to the Formative, to climatic conditions in past times, and to tree ring research based on *tamarugo* (*Prosopis tamarugo*)

¹ Editor’s note: a copy of Dan’s large-scale plan of the Huánuco Pampa *ushnu* is among the maps in the Junius Bird Laboratory of South American Archaeology in the Division of Anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History. It was not included in Shea’s thesis and at the time of writing it remains unpublished.

trees. He was also quite concerned with chronological and paleoamerican studies in northern Chile. In the 1980s he collaborated with William Denevan on the project "Cultural Ecology, Archaeology, and History of Terracing and Terrace Abandonment in the Colca Valley, Arequipa, in Southern Peru". As a result of his Colca experience, Dan edited the volume *Achoma Archaeology: A Study of Terrace Irrigation in Peru* and published several articles related to the project (Shea 1986, 1987, 1996a, 1996b, 1996c).

In 1992 we designed and co-directed the first Atacama Field School. Thereafter, and for the next twenty years, the field school received over a hundred students, many of them today's professionals. The field school took place at different times and sites, including some on the coast, such as Pisagua, Taltal, and Camarones, and some inland in the desert at Guatacondo, and Ramaditas, in the upper Loa River Valley. It also included paleoamerican sites in Chile's IV Region. Much of this research has been published, mainly in co-authorship with Mario A. Rivera (Rivera and Shea 1980; Rivera *et al.* 1995, 2010; Shea and Rivera 1995, 2004, 2005).

Dan joined the Beloit College faculty in the Department of Anthropology and the Logan Museum as soon as he graduated from the University of Wisconsin, and he kept working at Beloit for his entire professional life, becoming a well known figure among his peers.

Dan was an avid reader, interested in many and diverse subjects from classical archaeology to philosophy, and in authors ranging from Émile Durkheim to Karl Polanyi, including Louis Pasteur, Marcel Mauss, and the notable Greek philosophers, as well as Karl Popper and Charles Darwin, but undoubtedly, Jean-Paul Sartre and Bertrand Russell were his favorites. Since his high school years, Dan was impressed by philosophy, and I deduce that it was from this

interest that he became attracted to the study of anthropology. He was also obsessed with the concept of time, based on his readings of Stephen Hawking's work. Dan's other favorite authors were the Indo-Trinidadian 2001 Nobel Prize winner V. S. Naipaul and Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe. It is for this reason that his departmental colleague Rob LaFleur tells his students, "Dan Shea is the history of anthropology. It has nothing to do with age. He has read everything and is interested in everything." Complementing this description, English professor and Dan's comrade, Tom McBride said, "No one blended Dan's ferocious, if quiet, brilliance with such a droll sense of humor and pervasive, gentle kindness. He was a real character: intellectual, hunter, digger, student of popular culture, raconteur, and all around laconic good guy" (Green *et al.* 2012). Professor William Green, director of the Logan Museum added, "Dan got students excited about anthropology through field-work and engagement with museum objects, as well as through a rich array of anecdotes and an encyclopedic knowledge base" (Anonymous 2012). Another of his multiple facets was his interest in art and archaeology. His experimental course "The Object vs. the Word: Archaeology and History Compared", co-taught with Egyptologist Gene Miller, was very popular among Beloit students. Dan was also an advocate for historic preservation, and served for many years on the Beloit Landmarks Commission.

Because of his involvement with Chile, Dan acquired almost everything that had been written in recent decades about Chilean politics, especially during the regime of the dictator Augusto Pinochet. He understood Chilean domestic issues quite well, as he used to discuss them with local people.

Being this close, many anecdotes have spiced our lives. But above all, I want to highlight Dan's tremendous capacity for capturing

the essence of life through his quiet, thoughtful, and at the same time, passionate personality. Dan knew how to gain the confidence of young people. Teaching from the heart, he could spend long hours instructing students in the field, never complaining because of the hot weather, the adverse environment, or the long work hours. He was a good man, a first class friend, an ardent worker, and an excellent teacher about life.

The editors of *Andean Past* are proud to have published one of his last reports, based on his early field-work at Huánuco Pampa. This is “A Colonial Human Burial Excavated in 1965 between Portals 5 and 6 at Huánuco Pampa”, co-written with Monica Barnes, Catherine Gaither, and Robert A. Benfer, Jr. It appeared in *Andean Past* 10 (Barnes *et al.* 2012).

Dan is survived by his wife, Jennifer, his son, James Shea, his daughter, Genevieve Shea, his granddaughter, Lucy Carney, two sisters, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Beloit College President Scott Bierman, when learning about Dan’s death said, “I admit to finding some comfort in the knowledge that when he passed, Dan was in a place that he loves, doing what he does best—introducing students to the archaeological wonders of Latin America” (Anonymous 2012). Projecting his attachment to Chile, a great deal of Dan’s personal library is being shipped to Chile, where it will represent an important contribution to the Research Center and Site Museum at Ramaditas.

SELECTED WORKS BY AND ABOUT DANIEL E. SHEA

Publications, thesis, dissertation

Barnes, Monica, Catherine Gaither, Robert A. Benfer, Jr., and Daniel E. Shea

- 2012 A Colonial Human Burial Excavated in 1965 between Portals 5 and 6 at Huánuco Pampa. *Andean Past* 10:267-274.

- Rivera, Mario A., Jorge Moya, and Daniel E. Shea**
2010 Dendrocronología en la Pampa del Tamarugal, desierto de Atacama, norte de Chile. *Diálogo Andino* 36:33-50.

- Rivera, Mario A. and Daniel E. Shea**
1980 Cronología absoluta y desarrollo cultural prehispánico en el norte árido de Chile: Un método numérico para construir periodos arqueológicos, in *Temas antropológicos del norte de Chile*, by Mario A. Rivera, pp. 146-165. Antofagasta: Universidad de Chile.

Rivera, Mario A., Daniel E. Shea, Alvaro Carevic R., and Gray Graffam

- 1995 En torno a los orígenes de las sociedades complejas andinas: Excavaciones en Ramaditas, una aldea formativa del desierto de Atacama, Chile. *Diálogo Andino* 14/15:205-240.

Shea, Daniel E.

- 1966 El conjunto arquitectónico central en la plaza de Huánuco Viejo. *Cuadernos de Investigación* 1:108-116 (Universidad Nacional Hermilio Valdizán, Facultad de Letras y Educación, Huánuco, Perú).
1968 *The Plaza Complex of Huánuco Viejo*, Master’s Thesis, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
1969 *Wari Wilka: A Central Andean Oracle Site*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
1976 A Defense of Small Population Estimates for the Central Andes in 1520. In *The Native Population of the Americas in 1492* edited by William M. Denevan, pp. 157-180. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press. Republished in a second edition with minor changes (1992).
1979 El fenómeno estadístico de muestreo al azar aplicado a elementos arqueológicos. *Actas VII Congreso Arqueología Chilena, Altos de Vilches, 27 de octubre al 1º noviembre de 1977* 1:71-74. Santiago: Ediciones Kultrun for the Sociedad Chilena de Arqueología and the Sociedad Arqueológica de Maule.
1985 Comment on Charles Kolb, “Demographic Calculations in Archaeology: The Ethnoarchaeology of Mesoamerican Maize-Tilling Peasants”. *Current Anthropology* 26(5):594.
1986 The Achoma Archaeology Pilot Study. In *The Cultural Ecology, Archaeology and History of Terracing and Terrace Abandonment in the Colca Valley of Southern Peru* edited by William M. Denevan, Volume 1:313-362. (Technical Report to the National Science Foundation and the National Geographical Society, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison).

- 1987 Preliminary Discussion of Prehistoric Settlements and Terracing at Achoma in the Colca Valley, Peru. In *Pre-Hispanic Agricultural Fields in the Andean Region: Proceedings, 45 Congreso Internacional de Americanistas* edited by William M. Denevan, Kent Mathewson, and Gregory Knapp. BAR 359(1):67-88.
- 1991 Pipes Revisited: The Median is the Message. *Wisconsin Archaeologist* 72(1-2):97-117.
- 1992a Peet, Collie, and Pond: The Establishment of Beloit College Field Studies in Anthropology. In *Alonso Pond and the 1930 Logan Museum Expedition to North Africa: The 1985 Beloit College Symposium* edited by Lawrence B. Breitborde. *Logan Museum Bulletin* (new series) 1(1):25-31.
- 1996a The Achoma Pilot Study: Methods and Goals. *Achoma Archaeology: A Study of Terrace Irrigation in Peru* edited by Daniel E. Shea, pp. 23-48. Beloit, Wisconsin: Museums of Beloit College, Logan Museum.
- 1996b Discussion of the Prehistoric Settlement at Achoma. In *Achoma Archaeology: A Study of Terrace Irrigation in Peru* edited by Daniel E. Shea, pp. 49-58. Beloit, Wisconsin: Museums of Beloit College, Logan Museum.
- 1996c An Hypothesis Concerning Terrace Construction in Achoma. In *Achoma Archaeology: A Study of Terrace Irrigation in Peru* edited by Daniel E. Shea, pp. 67-73. Beloit, Wisconsin: Museums of Beloit College, Logan Museum.
- 1997 Review of *Ancient South America* by Karen Olsen Bruhns (1994). *Ethnohistory* 45(1):165-166.

Daniel E. Shea, Editor

- 1996 *Achoma Archaeology: A Study of Terrace Irrigation in Peru*, Beloit, Wisconsin: Museums of Beloit College, Logan Museum.

Shea, Daniel E. and Mario A. Rivera

- 1995-96 Reticulate Irrigation in the Atacama. *Diálogo Andino* 14/15:279-290.
- 2004 Resource Acquisition in the Atacama: At the Periphery of Pre-Tiwanaku. In *Tiwanaku: Aproximaciones a sus contextos históricos y sociales* edited by Mario A. Rivera and Alan L. Kolata, pp. 127-146, Santiago de Chile: Ediciones Universidad Bolivariana, LOM. Also circulated in the form of a CD-ROM of selected papers submitted in advance of the 51^o Congreso Internacional de Americanistas, "Repensando las Américas en los Umbrales del Siglo XXI, Santiago de Chile 14-18 July, 2003.
- 2005a Ramaditas: Caravanas del Período Formativo. In *Arqueología del desierto de Atacama: La etapa formativa en el area de Ramaditas/Guatacondo*

edited by Mario A. Rivera, pp.103-116. Santiago de Chile: Ediciones Universidad Bolivariana, LOM.

Reports for EPA and Contract Archaeology

Daniel E. Shea

- 1990 Archaeological Survey for Janesville Township, Township Park access proposal, Janesville, [Wisconsin] SHSW# 90-0609, permit number DNR# 3-SD-89-3180.
- 1992 Archaeological Survey for Portland and Eclipse Avenues, State Highway 81, and Portland Avenue Bridge, Beloit, SHSW #92-0982/Ro., I.D. #5340-03-00.
- 2002 Report to Batterman Inc., and State Burial Board Rep. Leslie Eisenberg on the 1862 Cemetery of Oxfordville, Wisconsin since voided as a cemetery and now used as an Industrial Park.

Obituaries of Daniel E. Shea

Anonymous

- 2012 In Memoriam: Daniel E. Shea, Professor of Anthropology. *Beloit College Magazine*. Summer, p. 29.
- Green, William, Mario Rivera, and Henry Moy with William Gartner and Shannon Fie
- 2012 Daniel E. Shea 1941-2012. *The SAA Archaeological Record* 12(4):57.



Beloit College Field School in Northern Chile, 2008. Left to right (back row): Rachel McTavish, Erin Martin, Dan Shea, David Simpson, Mario Rivera, Jorge Moya (dendrochronologist, Universidad Austral de Chile), James Shea; (seated on ground) Eric Koenig, and Eric Vane.

Photo courtesy of Mario A. Rivera.