

## Native Pottery Making in Quinua, Peru

DEAN E. ARNOLD

There are few studies dealing with contemporary pottery making in the Peruvian Andes. By far, the most complete study is TSCHOPIK's study (1950) of the Aymara pottery tradition. In the time that has ensued since the publication of his paper, however, little information has appeared in print concerning contemporary pottery making anywhere in the central Andes. RAVINES (1963-64, 1966) has studied pottery making in two communities in the Department of Huancavelica (Huaylacucho and Ccaccasiri). SPAHNI (1966) has written brief descriptions of pottery making in Quinua, Pucara, and Checca, as well as other communities on the coast and in the jungle. CHRISTENSEN (1955) and COLLIER (1959) made studies of pottery making on the coast. But, beyond these, we know little about contemporary pottery in the area.

This paper presents a description of the pottery making process carried out in the vicinity of the village of Quinua, Department of Ayacucho, Peru<sup>1</sup>. In particular, I will discuss the process of producing pottery for strictly utilitarian purposes, as opposed to modeled pottery presently produced largely for a tourist market but having local decorative and religious uses as well.

---

<sup>1</sup> I carried out my studies of pottery making in Quinua between February and June, 1967. The Ford Foundation for Comparative studies at the University of Illinois and a National Defense Foreign Language Fellowship supported my research in Peru. The Research Office of the College of Liberal Arts of the Pennsylvania State University provided funds for preparing the illustrations for publication. B. F. BOHOR of the Illinois State Geological Survey ran the X-ray diffraction analyses of the Quinua materials. I am grateful, as well, to R. T. ZUIDEMA and D. W. LATHRAP for opening up the horizons of Peruvian pottery making to me and providing me with the opportunities to study highland ceramic traditions. WILLIAM MITCHELL generously shared his facilities with me in Quinua and provided me with some of his data on the community. In addition, I wish to thank MAMERTO SANCHEZ C. for his hospitality in Quinua. To him and other Quinua potters (like VICTOR SANCHEZ and JUAN ROJAS) I owe a great debt of thanks for their cooperation and kindness. WILLIAM ISBELL, SCOTT RAYMOND, GABRIEL ESCOBAR, and WILLIAM MITCHELL made helpful comments on the manuscript. I alone, however, share the responsibility for the paper as presented.