Preface

STEVE BOURGET

In November 2003, the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Texas at Austin hosted the Fourth D. J. Sibley Family Conference. This three-day symposium, entitled “The Art, the Arts, and the Archaeology of the Moche: An Ancient Andean Society of the Peruvian North Coast,” brought together a number of scholars directly involved in Moche studies. In recent years, these and other specialists have made significant discoveries, carried out long-term archaeological projects, and implemented a variety of innovative techniques that have provided for a recent exponential increase in our understanding of Moche culture.

The main objective of this symposium was to discuss how the fields of archaeology and iconography have increasingly come to enrich and complement one another in Moche scholarship. A number of the presentations thus incorporated archaeological and iconographic analyses in the discussion of a wide range of subject matter. The papers further explored other pressing issues and concerns, such as Moche site chronologies, cultural identity, distribution of styles, the impact of ecology on north coast societies, and the visual expression of social change.

Fifteen papers were delivered at the meeting, and fourteen of them appear in this book. Christopher Donnan, David Scott, and Todd Bracken submitted a chapter on Moche metallurgy for publication that had not been presented at the meetings. Thus, the completed volume has fifteen chapters.

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